

# DESTINATION TRAVEL & EVENTS



Holidays at Tlaquepaque in Sedona



Canyonlands National Park, Utah

▼ **Sedona** gives visitors a true holiday experience, with its nationally recognized Holiday Central Sedona lighting up streets and hearts. Cozy up in a B&B, dine at a luxury restaurant or explore the twinkling streets of Uptown, and you will surely find a new holiday tradition at this annual series of events with glowing holiday trees, decorated storefronts and lots of holiday gift shopping options, from trinkets native to Sedona artists, to high-fashion shops and galleries. This winter wonderland experience includes more than 30 events and festivals from November 24, 2016, through January 9, 2017. | Red Rock Fantasy is a festival of nearly one million lights, a man-made marvel returning December 1 through January 1 after a four-year gap, with over two dozen displays created by community groups and businesses from throughout the Southwest. | Tinsel Town, a month-long annual event free to visitors, features animated walk-through light displays till 9pm every night in December, in the heart of Tlaquepaque Arts & Crafts Village in Uptown Sedona, with a grove of ancient Sycamore trees that dance to music every 15 minutes, with different activities nightly. | Bring in the New Year with meditation and music at a powerful and soul-nourishing retreat—Be the Peace New

Year Meditation Retreat—overnight on New Year's Eve at the McLean Meditation Institute. | For more information, visit [www.holidaycentralsedona.com](http://www.holidaycentralsedona.com). | The newly opened Marriott Courtyard Sedona is the first new build for a hotel in Sedona in 10 years, with over 120 guest rooms and a large outdoor pool, hot tub and firepit area backing up to red rocks views. The hotel has an on-site Bistro café, plus nearly 1,480 square feet of meeting space plus 1,500 square feet of event space on the rooftop.

▼ Exploring Canyonlands National Park in southeast **Utah** is touring with an edge, with carved-out canyons, sheer drop-offs and body-wide footpaths slicing through red rock. The whole park is engraved by the big, slow chisels of wind and water, where the Green and Colorado Rivers trisect the Colorado Plateau, etching Canyonlands into distinct districts. | Most visitors start at Island in the Sky, the district closest to Moab, where mesas look like a mountain range lopped off by a broadsword. You can park and gawk at the Grand View Point turnoff, or take an easy two-mile hike for even more perspective. Mesa Arch is also quick and pretty. The 100-mile White Rim Road is famous among four-wheelers, motorcy-

clists and mountain bikers. It's fairly intensive, so whether you're spending a few days doing the whole thing or tackling a section on a day trip, you'll need a permit. Check road conditions at the visitor center and make sure you're properly equipped. | The Needles, southeast of the Colorado River, is a pincushion, pointy-sides-out, with a hundred stunning hikes or world-class off-roading among grandly chopped buttes, scored sediment and carved petroglyphs. There's plenty to see on day hikes (Pothole Point, Cave Springs), or drive and camp a few days for even more (Chesler Park Loop). Research the roads, reserve your park permits, tune up your 4x4 and dig as deep into the Canyonlands map as you dare. | The gorgeously gouged gorges of The Maze are the area's (wild) west district, remote and stunning. Take extra water, extra gas, sensible shoes, a GPS and a topo map of Canyonlands. Your phone can't save you here. | In Canyonlands National Park, Utah goes wild. You'll find all of the above, plus gnarly whitewater at Cataract Canyon, life-size petroglyphs and pictographs at the Great Gallery in Horseshoe Canyon, off-roading, hiking and rafting, and permit-only camping, sleeping in true, silent darkness. ■

