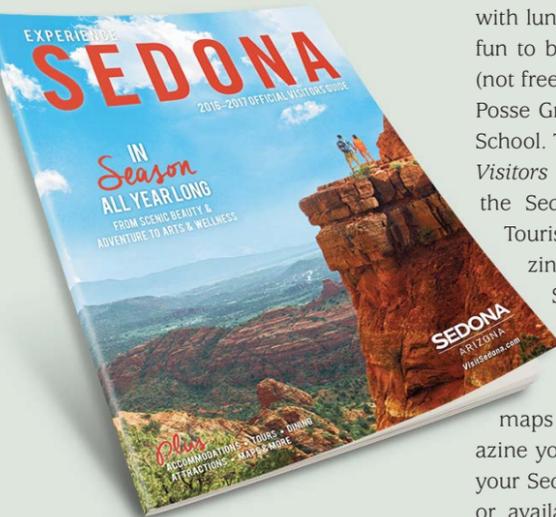


DESTINATION TRAVEL & EVENTS



▼ **Capitol Reef Resort** in Utah has been hosting travelers from around the globe for decades at the gateway to Capitol Reef National Park. And as good hosts do, they get better and more creative each year. Phenomenal views, a pool and gorgeous hotel rooms just weren't enough. So now they've gone and made a legit glamping compound that rivals any hotel. The glamping sites fill up quickly, and here are some reasons. You can stay in a tipi—complete with flat screen TV and a cushy and luxurious mattress. The desert gets hot during the day, really hot. So hike in the early morning and save the pool for the afternoon heat. If you're glamping in a tipi, there's a pool right outside your tipi flap. And if you cool off a bit too much or you find the Utah desert nights a bit chilly, there's a hot tub. For a side trip, ancient Fremont people's petroglyphs are just down the road. 2,000 years ago the Fremont and ancestral Puebloan people—mostly hunter-gatherers who lived off piñon nuts, rice grass, berries, nuts, bulbs, tubers, deer, bighorn sheep, rabbits, birds, fish and rodents—began to farm a bit in the area and lived in pithouses, and their ancient art can be found throughout the National Park. The charming town of torrey is also just minutes away, with farmers' markets, art galleries, guides and outfitters, trading posts and the Chuck Wagon. Main Street is lined with grand ol' cottonwood trees, and has seen the likes of John Wesley Powell, Butch Cassidy, Maynard Dixon and



Wallace Stegner. The locals are an eclectic mix of pioneer stalk and red-rock-country-lover newcomers. Horse corrals are also just outside your tipi flap. At dawn, your tent will warm up slightly and brighten things up so you can rise with nature. Early to rise, but you'll beat any crowds on the trails. You'll be one step ahead of

everyone all day long. First on the trails, first at the restaurants, first at the lookout points, first ready for bed. For information, visit res.windsurfercrs.com.

▼ A **Sedona** Cinco de Mayo celebration at Tlaquepaque on Saturday May 6, from 11am-5pm, features mariachis, Folklorico dancers, traditional Mexican food, free trolley from municipal parking, and free admission. The Great Sedona Chili Cook-Off is also at Tlaquepaque that day, from 11am-

4pm; proceeds go to local and international Rotary Club of Sedona projects, including the Imagination Library. On May 12, the Sedona Arts Center presents the 3rd Annual 12 x 12 Exhibition and Fundraiser, where more than 100 artists have made an original work in a 12-by-12-inch space (or 12x12x12 for 3D work), each priced at \$250. This free event starts at 5:30pm. The Illuminate Film Festival, from May 31 through June 4, aims to expand human consciousness through cinema. Community Camp Out at Sunset Park, presented by Sedona Parks and Recreation from 4pm Friday June 2 through 10am Saturday June 3, has the enjoyment of the outdoors without the challenges of camping in the wild—with food provided, activities organized, restrooms nearby, all while surrounded by the red rocks of Sedona, with tents available. 4th of July in Sedona features evening fireworks, but you can spend the day (noon to 4pm) at Wet Fest, with lunch, music, a pool and water slide fun to beat the heat, and free admission (not free lunch). The pool is located at 570 Posse Ground Road, behind West Sedona School. The free official *Experience Sedona Visitors Guide*—the official publication of the Sedona Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Bureau—is a full color magazine-style planning guide for your Sedona visit. The guide offers information on accommodations, tours, activities, restaurants and shopping. Color photos, maps and directories make this a magazine you'll want to keep as a souvenir of your Sedona trip. The *Guide* is free online or available in printed form to US residents, with delivery in 4-6 weeks. Call 800-288-7336 (Mon-Fri) or see visitse-dona.com/visitors-guide.

▼ This is about trains, but it's a drive trip. Road trippers looking for the authentic Old West can head out from Las Vegas, on a convenient loop featuring **Nevada's railway history**. Nevada's railroads were a keystone in the settling of the West, and the Silver State is still home to original depots, whistle-stops, historical sites and

museums. Highlights of your drive route include the First Transcontinental Railroad, narrow gauge railroads and remnants of the Great Railroad Race of the 1860s. Las Vegas is the perfect gateway

boom and now restored to its glory. Carson City, about three hours north, the Nevada State Railroad Museum and also a good locale for dinner and lodging. In Carson City, pick up your official *Nevada*

locomotive in the community park and featuring a gravity-powered tramway that once moved ore from the mines to the mills. Continuing south, you'll reach Caliente, with its original depot, where



for the journey: it was here in 1905 that the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake railroads arrived, connecting the city with the Pacific and the country's main rail networks. Driving north on US 95, following the route of the Las Vegas and Tonopah Railroad, brings you to Rhyolite's historic train depot and ghost town remnants, with insights into the booming potential the region once held. Next are Goldfield and Tonopah, founded when railroad companies competed to gain the most direct and exclusive access to local gold and silver mines (they were once serviced by five different railroads). Once the largest city in Nevada, Goldfield is now a glorified ghost town. The 100-acre Tonopah Historic Mining Park encompasses portions of four original mining companies and includes an underground tunnel. You can spend the night at the Mizpah Hotel in Tonopah, built at the height of the

Highway 50 Survival Guide, as you will now be headed east on US 50, "The Loneliest Road in America," trail-blazed by the original Pony Express. Get a *Survival Guide* stamp in each town, and the Governor of Nevada will issue you a Survivor's Certificate. The route takes you to Austin, Nevada, where the owner of the Nevada Central Railroad built a home to watch over his railroad and mining interests. Today, this is Stokes Castle, part of the best-preserved early Nevada mining town. Next on US 50 is Eureka, once home to 125 saloons, 25 gambling houses, five fire companies and the Eureka and Palisades Railroad (E&P), and now known for its beautifully restored Opera House. The narrow gauge E&P connected silver mines around Eureka with the Transcontinental Railroad at Palisades. Today one of its locomotives, the "Eureka"—built in 1874, owned and operated periodically at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Boulder City—still survives. Next is Ely, the apex of Nevada's railway history. Ely is home to the Nevada Northern Railway, a National Historic Landmark and the last and best-preserved standard-gauge short line railroad left in America. This expansive living museum offers stargazing train rides, train robbery reenactments, weeklong adult summer camps and the ultimate rail fan adventure: you can actually be the engineer of a steam locomotive. From Ely, head south on US 93 to the historic mining town of Pioche, a quiet community with a preserved narrow gauge steam

Union Pacific trains still roll through town on their way to Las Vegas and Los Angeles. As an option (be sure to ask about road conditions), you can leave US 93 and explore Rainbow Canyon, paralleling the Union Pacific tracks through the Canyon. In Elgin, explore the one-room schoolhouse, then head west and pick up US 93 again. Your last stop on the loop, just half an hour outside Las Vegas, is Boulder City, home to the Nevada State Railroad Museum and Nevada Southern Railway—the



original track used to bring supplies to the Hoover Dam. Today, guests can ride the train and learn more about the city responsible for building the dam. For more information, visit the Nevada Northern Railway at www.NNRY.com and on Facebook, or call 775-289-2085, .

▼ American Airlines started non-stop air service from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport to **Laughlin Bullhead City** International Airport in February, the first airline to fly a regular schedule to Laughlin Bullhead City in nearly 20 years. ■