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UTAH
LIFE ELEVATED

THE RiDE

WILD WEST TOUR

Join other RiDE readers on a brilliant specially organised trip around the American West

Exclusively for readers of RiDE, this week-long motorcycle adventure takes you to some of the highlights of the western United States. Your Harley-Davidson will take you through the states of Arizona, Nevada and Utah, from the vibrancy of Las Vegas, to the solitude of the Mojave Desert, iconic Route 66, the unforgettable impression of a sunset at the Grand Canyon, a hike into Bryce Canyon and the mystic appearance of Monument Valley.

Discover things from a different angle as you ride your bike through sweeping curves and hairpin turns at Zion National Park before you hit the gaming oasis of Las Vegas again. Seeing the West from the saddle of a motorcycle gives you a real buzz; just absorb the smells, climate, the feel, and you quickly begin to understand the magic of the place.

The itinerary has been organised specially for RiDE by *H-C Travel*. The tour runs from June 16-24.

DAY 1 UK to Las Vegas

First the hard work, getting from home to the airport, through check-in and security, then on to your plane for your direct flight to Las Vegas. Then it is Welcome to Las Vegas – where the days are hot and the nights never end! Now you know all that hard work was worth it.

We'll meet you at the airport and take you to our hotel, the Monte Carlo, right on the Strip. After you've checked in, we'll have a quick get-together to be formally introduced, and our guides will give you a few more details on the adventure ahead, how the tour is organised and what you can expect. Afterwards you're free to hit the casinos and try to win back the money for your airfare – or maybe just hit the sack because tomorrow we pick up our bikes and ride.

DAY 2 Las Vegas to Kingman

190 miles

After our Welcome Breakfast we meet in the front of the hotel and catch a ride to pick up our motorcycles at Arlen Ness's dealership. After you receive your bike we all head south to the Hoover Dam, where you can take photos and take a tour of the dam. We continue south via Laughlin, on the banks of the Colorado River, to historic Route 66 and Oatman, Arizona. Here, at this former mining town, you travel back in time to the days of the Wild West. In the centre of town is the Oatman Hotel where Carol Lombard and Clark Gable got married; the hotel also houses their honeymoon suite and a ghost! At the eastern end of town you follow in the footsteps of Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper over Sitgreaves Pass to Kingman, the 'capital' of Route 66 and our overnight stop.

DAY 3 Kingman to Grand Canyon

185 miles

Back on historic Route 66, we'll hang out at Hackberry General Store on our way to lunch in the famous Route 66 town of Seligman. After lunch we have some time to get our hands on some Route 66 souvenirs and antiques. Then we climb up the Kaibab plateau, reaching the town of Williams, where we take a brief rest stop before riding to our hotel in Tusayan, gateway to one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the

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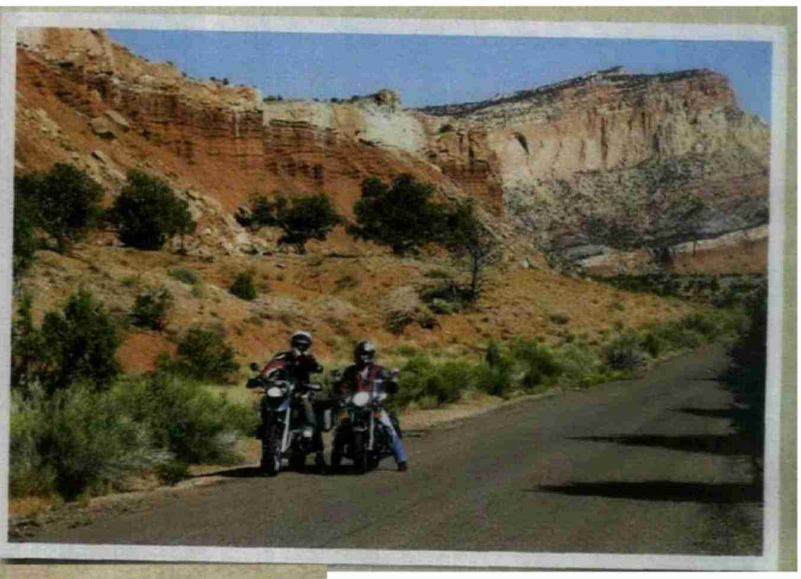
Grand Canyon. We'll arrive early enough to take a ride into the park to see the colours change rapidly during the most amazing sunset over the canyon. And if you're interested in a helicopter flight over the canyon (definitely recommended!) you can do that too, right next to the hotel.

DAY 4 Grand Canyon to Page
145 miles

Step outside and take a deep breath of fresh, cool air before we continue our adventure along the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. As we leave the National Park we approach the Cameron Trading Post and are about to enter the Navajo Nation. This semi-autonomous region has its own Navajo laws, own government and own president, which makes it an almost independent nation within a nation. We run into Page at around lunchtime, just in time for the adventure that lies ahead – slot canyoning!

We are picked up by Hummers and take off-road trails to 'our' slot canyon. From here we hike and climb down into the canyon and experience tranquility like never before. Geological masterpieces sculpted over millions of years, the canyons represent some of the most amazing sandstone formations on the Navajo Nation and indeed the whole world. Hiking through slot canyons created by wind and water, touching the striations on both sides of the canyon walls, the ebb and flow is captured in stone. And there's no one here but us and our guides – a very personal and private tour!



DAY 5 Page to Monument Valley
125 miles

This morning we visit the Glen Canyon Dam, the second largest dam on the Colorado River and the striking Lake Powell, a 179-mile-long reservoir. Back on the bikes, we're up for a ride through the Navajo Nation, to one of the most beautiful locations in the south west, Monument Valley Tribal Park. Today's low mileage means there's time for a Jeep tour into Monument Valley where you'll see places only the Navajo Indians are allowed to go. Made famous by the numerous Hollywood movies filmed here over the last 80-odd years, Monument Valley somehow looks familiar. If you look closely you can almost see John Wayne riding his horse amongst the monuments.

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DAY 6 Monument Valley to Bryce Canyon 310 miles

We start out early today on the longest day of the tour. A photo stop at the Mexican Hat Monument gives us a short break before we choose a road that seems to end right at the foothills of a massive cliff formation. But instead, the road winds its way up and into the Vermillion Cliffs, over 1000ft to the top of the Colorado Plateau from where we seek a hidden viewpoint overlooking the Valley of the Gods.

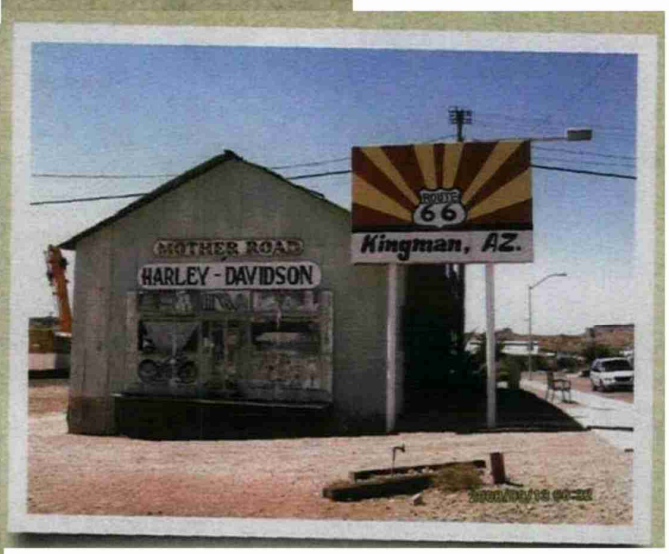
From here we continue onward through some of the most spectacular scenery the south west has to offer. We glide on our bikes through Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to our rest stop in Hanksville – it's buffalo burger time! After lunch we ride through Capitol Reef National Park, and then up and over Boulder Mountain in Dixie National Forest. This particular stretch seems to be made in motorcycle heaven and we can't really decide which is better: the perfect road or the amazing scenery. One last stop and a quick coffee settle the day before we reach our hotel at Bryce Canyon National Park.

DAY 7 Bryce Canyon to Las Vegas 250 miles

After breakfast we ride into the park for a look around and an optional short hike down into Bryce Canyon. We then cruise through Red Canyon State Park, along a sparkling river through picturesque valleys to our next destination, Zion National Park. We ride through Zion, this time with a different view of this amazing scenery as we are now in the bottom of the canyons looking up, as the winding road leads us further and further to the bottom of the park. We pull over at several viewing points in order to take photos before we take lunch just outside the park boundary at a fantastic lodge. After we've loaded on great food we continue on through southern Utah until we drop down through the Virgin River George into the desert leading to Las Vegas. We reach Las Vegas early evening and return our bikes for some more exciting Las Vegas nightlife. After our Farewell Dinner to celebrate our new found experiences and friendships, the night is yours.

DAY 8 Las Vegas departure

The morning is yours to explore Las Vegas – we'll be happy to advise you and it has a lot to offer! This afternoon we'll take you back to the airport for your flight home. Your flight will arrive in the UK the following day, and your adventure is truly over.



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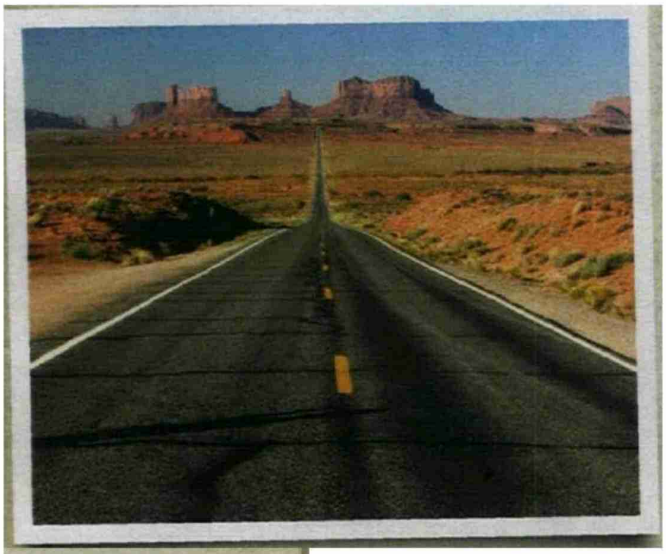

PRICES

- Rider £3245
- Passenger £1595
- Single room £595
- Manchester flight supplement £80
- Maximum number of motorcycles is 15
  Motorcycles available:
- Harley-Davidson, choice of models
- Victory, choice of models
- Honda Goldwing
- Honda 750 Shadow
- BMW R1200GS
- BMW R1200RT
- Yamaha FJR1300
- All bikes are subject to availability
- All holidays are ATOL protected and TTA insured

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Experienced local tour guide on motorcycle
- Support vehicle and driver for luggage, with toolkit, first aid kit and cold drinks, and seats for pillions
- Spare motorcycle
- Direct flights from London Gatwick and Manchester
- Group airport transfers in Las Vegas
- Motorcycle hire with maximum insurance cover (SLI and EVIP), unlimited mileage and taxes
- Twin/double accommodation in 3-4* hotels
- Welcome Breakfast and Farewell Dinner
- All breakfasts
- Slot canyon trek and Hummer ride
- Monument Valley jeep tour
- Park entrance fees
- Hotel parking fees

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

- Flight upgrades
- Flights from regional UK or overseas airports
- UK airport hotels and/or parking
- Additional nights pre- or post-tour in Las Vegas
- Travel insurance
- Hoover Dam tour (bookable with our tour guide)
- Grand Canyon helicopter flight (bookable with our tour guide)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Tips/gratuities
- Souvenirs
- Meals except where mentioned (allow about £20 per day)
- Fuel (allow about £60 for the trip)

TO BOOK

- **Tel:** 01256 770775 or 0771755
- **Email:** david.grist@hctravel.com

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