

Useful additions to 2005's Lonely Planet USA Southwest

General:

Would be useful to have some information on driving in the states. Especially what to do in case a Police car comes close, how exactly works turning right on red lights, what to do, when traffic lights are only flashing ...

Where to fill up gas best (cheapest).

What do the americans with all that ice sold everywhere?

Some comments on buying cars (as they are soooo cheap!)

How to proceed when you want to take pictures of / on private ground.

Bunch of different polite answers to „How are you?“

Where to buy useful road maps.

Some notes on Roomsaver and other vouchers for cheaper hotel/motel rates.

Notes on saving on motel rooms with AAA cards (and cards of AAA associates like german ADAC).

Remember visitors to check upfront of roads are open or closed (due to weather, flashfloods ...).

Free WIFI almost on every motel. So if you occasionally need/like to be online bring in some WIFI enabled device or buy a Sony PSP or similar device.

GSM mobile phone service still hard to find outside of bigger cities.

Some sights and campsites (espec. In National Parks and on BLM land) need a permit that you should obtain weeks if not months before. Check the NP/BLM internetpages pages upfront for more details.

Guide to the fast food chains.

Guide to the Supermarkets, Drugstores, Walmarts, Dillards, Macy's, Targets, 7eleven, phillips ... who sells what?

Las Vegas:

- There are only very few real internet cafes. Of course most hotels hav internet kiosks and some have wireless internet and some have internet in the TV set ... but if you need some real computers, then there are only three spots.
- One of them is Elysium Internet Cafe, 7875 W. Sahara Avenue (1h 6\$, 1h 9\$ if you need a computer with DVD drive)
- The AppleStore is in the Fashion Mall
- Difficult to take photos of the well known „Welcome to Las Vegas“ sign on the strip. Take care! It's in the middle of the traffic ...
- If you are looking for something really strage: go fort he Atomic Testing Museum (12\$ per adult; www.atomictestingmuseum.org/)
- Don't bring T-Shirts in your luggage – buy them there in any of the Malls or Supermarkets. Excellent quality at bargain prices.

Sights you shouldn't miss if you are in the Southwest:

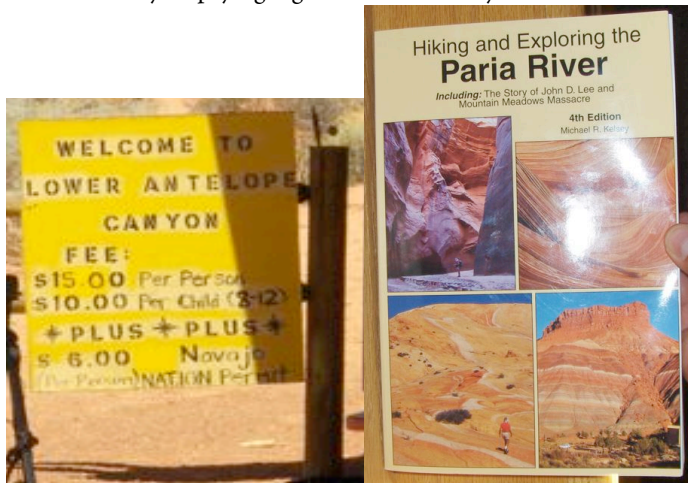
- Grand Staircase NM
- Capitol Reef NP
- Fantasy Canyon (quite a distance to drive, but worth it)
- Mining&Railroad Museum in Helper
- Route66 Car dealer on Route66 not far from Kingman when going to Oatman
- Cool roads from/to Jerome
- Nice ghost town Oatman (a lot of donkeys on the streets, quite expensive meals)
- Devils Garden near Escalante
- Luna Mesa (behind Capitol Reef)
- Roden Crater (not yet open to Public, but Sunset Crater SP near Flagstaff is impressive too)
- Searchlight, Nelson, Chloride Ghost Towns
- Every night live music in Chloride (in Yesterdays with excellent cusine and wide variety of beers)
- Glen Canyon Dam near Page, AZ – what to see (cool tours!)

Zion Park: Michael Fatalis main gallery moved to the cinema center close to the entrance of the Zion NP

Arches/Canyonlands/Moab: update some information on the uranium mine site/the UMTRA project as visitors might be curious about that strange area ... – maybe include notes on Potash as well. Could be embedded in a historical story on the Curies, as they got their radioactive materials from around that area.

Wahweep Hoodoos/Kanab: It's a very long way to go the official path. But there is some unofficial way to get there via Cottonwood road. Other visitors might prefer to go to the toadstool valley in the same area.

Page/Antelope Canyon: In the meantime both parts of antelope canyon are overrun tourist attractions and Indians charge almost the same price (about 26\$ per person as of 2007). They do a few tricks to mock the visitors, but in the end you pay a huge amount of money.



Death Valley: Badwater is boring. But there is a sign up on the hill showing the „sea level“.

Valle/Flagstaff/Grand Canyon: in Valle there is a nice and not too expensive private museum for old planes and cars that has quite an impressive collection (including a Constellation). Nearby is a Flintstones park and campground that kids might enjoy (there is a small internet cafe inside as well)

Flagstaff: Since 2004 there is an impressive oldtimer show every summer: www.flagstaffroute66days.com/
„Arizona Inn“ Motel has large and clean rooms, internet pc, free wifi and is located quite central. 50\$/night (2 people, 2 king size beds)
Overall it's worth to mention that the railroad is extremely loud every few minutes throughout the night – no matter which hotel you've chosen.

Route66/Seligman: Supai Motel has new airconditioning and new dish TV with 150+ channels. 50\$/night (2 people, 2 king size beds)

Bullhead: it's not Vegas but a „hot spot“ with a lake. Nice alternative for relaxing.

Kingman: there is an Airshow (every year?) www.kingmanairshow.com

Jerome: far more interesting than the Historic State Museum is the Gold King Mine and Ghost Town. Lots of old cars, petting zoo, curiosity, old buildings with interior of the old days and „GrandPa“ starts the engines for you if you ask. Normally he runs a steam engine that powers a saw mill but he has some cars from the earliest days that still run (and a furious old powerplant that will wake up everybody within 50 miles if pay 10\$ to start it)