

# World Pilgrimage<sup>©</sup>

## *Sedona, Canyon de Chelly and Phoenix*

May 6- 12, 2018



Join us for a week-long interfaith journey to Arizona. Visit the natural beauty of Sedona, world famous red rocks from which the spiritual power of connection date back to the beginning of Native American stories. Explore Canyon de Chelly National Monument, an interactive experience with cliff dwelling and ancient ruins, last occupied in 1275 BCE and with all things living in the canyon: Navajo families currently living in the canyons, sheep, wild horses, birds and some of the 800 plant species- all surrounded by red sandstone walls. Enjoy a thorough study of Native American grandeur at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona.



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At the heart of all things in Arizona is its landscape: stark and stunning, vast and magnificent. There is little that is “normal”—from towering snow-capped mountains to sand-scaped deserts, to wondrously deep and colorful canyons. Mountains higher than 10,000 feet, deserts with unique ecosystems, awe-inspiring landscapes that proclaim the majesty of God and the humility of humankind, all at once.

Come join us as we explore the land, cultures, and our spiritual connection to the magnificent places.

All World Pilgrims<sup>®</sup> journeys have the same goals:

- To deepen the participants’ personal faith by visiting some of the world’s most sacred sites
- To gain an appreciation of the shared elements of the three religious traditions, as well as an understanding and respect for the differences
- To establish real friendships with pilgrims from many faith traditions, even with the complexities of today’s world

All World Pilgrims<sup>®</sup> journeys operate from the same Guiding Principles:

1. A pilgrimage is a sacred journey—not a travel seminar or a tourist venture. We take time for personal and group reflection, meditation and sharing. Participants are asked to see these times as essential elements of the pilgrimage.
2. The journey will have a formal and very intentional structure. The purpose of this design is ensure that all participants achieve the goals of the pilgrimage. Each participant will be asked to make a commitment to follow the structure so that the shared goals can be met. This means exercising discipline and a willingness to place the interest of the group above the interest of the individual.
3. The focus is on understanding and accepting the other pilgrims and their traditions. During a pilgrimage, we discuss rather than debate, respect rather than judge, empathize rather than criticize. **We seek to understand each other not to change each other.**
4. As pilgrims on a common sacred journey, participants are expected to share personal thoughts, beliefs and experiences with each other, trusting the others to respect and appreciate their life stories.
5. Pilgrims are expected to make a commitment to continue their common experience after returning home.



### Program Design

1. Pre-departure: All participants are expected to attend an orientation session that includes the following elements:
  - a) Consideration of what it means to travel on an interfaith pilgrimage
  - b) An overview of the importance of the canyons in Arizona and their place in our national spiritual heritage.
  - c) Travel logistics and administration
2. Daily itinerary: The group will be together in Arizona for seven days. Group programs scheduled for each day have been designed by the Group Leaders.
  - a) Daily meditation: Time will be set aside each day for group and personal meditation. The leadership for these sessions will rotate among the faith traditions.
  - b) Worship Services: Each of the three religious leaders will identify a time and place for the entire group to participate in a worship service. Special consideration is taken for worship connected to Muslim Jummah, Jewish Shabbat and the Christian Sabbath.
  - c) Making Friends: Building friendships across faith traditions is central to the pilgrimage and is not left to chance. Therefore there is a formal structure to develop relationships, including roommate assignments, meal partners and seat mates during bus trips. It may seem to be an artificial way to get people together, but it works!
3. The return home: Pilgrims join the ranks of alumni from the 24 previous pilgrimages, who gather for reunions, times of personal joy and sorrow and to address important issues in our greater community.

## **DAILY ITINERARY** *(tentative, specific plans and activities may change)*

### **DAY 1**

**SUNDAY, May 6: Atlanta – Phoenix - Sedona**..... Meet two hours prior to our flight from Atlanta Hartsfield -Jackson Airport to Phoenix. We will be met at the Phoenix Airport by our bus and bus driver, for the two-hour drive to Sedona. After lunch, the bus will take us to Castle Rock, the site from which “the first man and woman originated” in Native American lore. After hotel check-in, we will attend our outdoor Christian vesper service around the pool. Walk to dinner at the Javelina Cantina. Overnight: Arabella Hotel, Sedona

### **DAY 2**

**MONDAY, May 7: Sedona**..... Breakfast at the hotel, before leaving for Red Rock State Park. At the visitors’ center, learn from park ranger about the area from exhibits and a film; enjoy five miles of hiking/walking trails along the scenic Oak Creek, and then a box-lunch picnic. Our bus will return us the Arabella for options to explore Sedona’s famous art galleries and shops, or a hike on trails around our hotel. Enjoy dinner on your own, then back on the bus to witness a breathtaking sunset, We’ll return to the hotel for conversation and stargazing under one of the clearest night skies in the world. Overnight: Arabella Hotel, Sedona



### **DAY 3**

**TUESDAY, May 8: Sedona – Window Rock – Canyon de Chelly**..... After breakfast, hotel check-out and load the bus for a four-hour drive with conversation to Window Rock, the capital and government site of the 29,000 square mile Navajo Reservation and home to Dine University, the only university on the Navajo Reservation. We will visit the Code Talkers Monument, honoring those who helped win WW2 by transmitting vital messages using Navajo language that was unbreakable by the Japanese. We then continue on to Chinle, at the western end of the Canyon de Chelly National Monument. Check in and dinner at the Thunderbird Lodge. Overnight: Thunderbird Lodge, at Canyon de Chelly.

### **DAY 4**

**WEDNESDAY, May 9: Canyon de Chelly**.... Breakfast and explore the 1902 Thunderbird Lodge and its surroundings, great picture taking. Explore the canyon rim by bus for different views of the Canyon. Option to follow the walking trail into the canyon on foot, to the White House (cliff dwelling) ruins, a 2 ½ mile round-trip hike. After lunch we will meet Dr. Don Denetdeal, a Navajo shaman, spiritual leader, activist, and professor of culture, history and spirituality at Dine College, who will be with us through dinner for conversations and story-telling to better understand the Navajo culture and life on the reservation. Overnight: Thunderbird Lodge, at Canyon de Chelly.

### **DAY 5**

**THURSDAY, May 10: Canyon de Chelly**.... After breakfast, we will meet our Navajo guide for 4-wheel drive adventure to the bottom of the Canyon to see wild horses, mountain goats, other desert animals and up to 800 species of flora and fauna. Visit with Navajo families living and farming on the magnificent cliffs, and see the wall art that dates back to prehistoric Pueblo settlements. Return to the Thunderbird Lodge for a relaxing afternoon, dinner and discussion. Overnight: Thunderbird Lodge, at Canyon de Chelly



### **DAY 6**

**FRIDAY, May 11: Canyon de Chelly – Petrified Forest - Phoenix**.... After breakfast, checkout and load bus for our ride through the Petrified Forest. We will find an outdoor site for the Jumamah service. We will continue on to Phoenix where we will join a Reform Synagogue for Shabbat services, dinner and conversation. Overnight: Hampton Inn, Phoenix

### **DAY 7**

**SATURDAY, May 12: Phoenix - Atlanta**.... Breakfast and checkout of our hotel and load bus with bags. With a docent, tour the magnificent Heard Museum collection of Native American life, history , archaeological finds and examples of amazing Native civilizations. With our box lunch and purchases from the gift shop, our bus will take us to Sky Harbor Airport for our flight back to Atlanta.

## TOUR TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**COST:** \$1,850 per person, double occupancy

Application with a deposit of \$900 is due by March 26, 2018. Full payment is due on April 6, 2018. Please make all checks payable to ICI/World Pilgrims or pay online at [www.interfaithci.org](http://www.interfaithci.org)

**AIR TRANSPORTATION:** Round trip economy class out of Atlanta via any IATA/ARC carrier is included based on applicable low season APEX fares. Current airfares used and subject to change as well as increases for fuel surcharges. Once airline tickets are issued they are non-refundable.

**MEALS:** Breakfast is included daily, along with some lunches and dinners (per the itinerary).

**SIGHTSEEING:** As per attached program. The schedule may have to vary the sequence of the tour or to make substitutions, if necessary. All transfers and sightseeing by private, deluxe motor coach.

**TRANSFERS/BAGGAGE:** Included is the transfer of passenger baggage allowance limited by the airlines and World Pilgrims. Delivery of the baggage by the passenger to the airline or motor coach shall be deemed a release of the tour operator from any liability whatsoever, resulting in loss, damage, theft, weather, delay in transit to any baggage, luggage, hand piece, etc, of the tour participant during any and all portions of this tour.

**TIPS/TAXES:** All service charges for meals, tips for the driver and other gratuities are included in the cost of the Pilgrimage.

**CANCELLATION:** No cancellation fee if cancelled more than 45 days prior to departure, except a \$100 administrative fee; cancellation fee of \$1,000 per person if cancelled 21 days or less prior to departure.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Items of a personal nature such as in-room service, laundry, telephone, special food or alcoholic beverages, some meals (as indicated on the schedule) and checked baggage costs

**TRAVEL INSURANCE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**

ICI/World Pilgrims  
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL JAN SWANSON AT 404-906-7109**



*Faith and Friendships Transforming the World*

### About Interfaith Community Initiatives

Interfaith Community Initiatives, Inc has the mission to transform the Atlanta metropolitan area into a model community for interfaith understanding and collaboration. We do this by developing and leading innovating, inviting programs that inspire deep engagement and interfaith appreciation. We are committed to developing long-term interfaith relations and collaborations through programs like World Pilgrims<sup>®</sup>, Interfaith Immersions, Interfaith Contemplative Groups, and the Atlanta Interfaith Leaders Fellowship.

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