Day 1 Overland Park, KS
When looking for respite from the long winter, what a better place than Arizona’s Valley of the Sun. The sunny skies and desert setting will thaw out your bones. We travel as far as Overland Park for our first overnight. Our hotel offers a 5:30 Drury Kickback tonight, featuring complimentary hot food and drinks.

Day 2 Elk City, OK
We travel to Oklahoma City to visit the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. The Outdoor Symbolic Memorial is a place of quiet reflection. The Memorial honors the victims, survivors, rescuers, and all who were affected by the tragedy of the bombing. The Memorial Museum takes visitors on a tour through the story of April 19, 1995, and the days, weeks, months and years that followed the bombing of Oklahoma City’s Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. We will enjoy a ranger tour and then have time to explore the museum. After our visit, we continue on to Elk City, where we will spend the night. Dinner is on your own this evening. (B)

Day 3 Roswell, NM
We start out this morning heading west through Oklahoma into New Mexico, the land of enchantment, and head to Roswell. Along the way we will stop for an included lunch. Upon arrival to Roswell, our adventure will be out of this world when we visit the International UFO Museum and Research Center. This museum was established to explain the events of the 1947 “Roswell Incident.” Today the museum is the leading information source of history, science, and research about UFO events worldwide. We will overnight in Roswell. There is a restaurant next door for dinner on your own tonight. (B, L)

Day 4 Tucson, AZ
Our morning starts out a little nutty as we take a step into the world of Pistachio farming at the Eagle Ranch Pistachio Groves located in the heart of the desert. This family farm is the site of New Mexico’s oldest and largest producing pistachio groves. They offer a delightful selection of fresh pistachios, wine and other delicious southwestern gourmet food items and gifts. Then its off to our next exciting attraction located at the northern end of the Chihuahuan Desert. A mountain valley known as the Tularosa Basin lies here, rising from the heart of this basin is White Sands National Park. A park ranger will board our coach for a guided tour through the park. Wave-like dunes of sand engulf 275 square miles of desert, it is home to many plants and animals. After lunch on your own, we head into Arizona, the Grand Canyon State, to our home for the next two evenings. Unpack your bags and enjoy the evening. Dinner is on your own this evening. (B)

Day 5 Tucson, AZ
We will start off the day visiting DeGrazia Gallery in the Sun, it celebrates both the life of Ettore “Ted” DeGrazia and his art. It was established in 1950. It is a Tucson tradition that is a favorite among visitors and locals. We will make a stop for lunch on your own before we ride the Sabino Canyon Tram, taking us 3.8 miles into the Santa Catalina Mountains. Sabino Canyon is a natural desert oasis located in Tucson’s Coronado National Forest and is home to spectacular desert landscapes and abundant wildlife. Our last stop of the day is Mission San Xavier del Bac, a National Historic Landmark built at the end of the 18th century. The oldest intact European structure in Arizona, the church’s interior is filled with marvelous original statuary and mural paintings. It is a place where visitors can truly step back in time and enter an authentic 18th Century space. Tonight we will have an included dinner. (B, D)

Day 6 Scottsdale, AZ
Slap on your spurs for a day of wild west fun at Old Tucson Studios, a western frontier town, where visitors are transported back to a time when fearless men with six shooters ruled the Old West. It has been the setting for more than 300 movies and television productions since 1939. We will enjoy an included lunch while here. This
Afternoon, we travel through the Tucson Mountain Park to Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. A natural history museum, zoo, botanical garden, art gallery, and aquarium, featuring 21 acres of desert landscape. It is home to more than 230 animal species and 1,200 kinds of plants. We continue through Sagurao National Park then northwest to Scottsdale, where will stay for the next two nights. (B, L)

Day 7 Scottsdale, AZ
This morning we will enjoy a guided tour. We will learn about how Scottsdale was founded as the “West’s Most Western Town.” Traveling south over Tempe Town Lake to the college town where Arizona State University and Grady Gammage Auditorium are located. Next we enjoy hearing about beautiful downtown Phoenix, home to one of twenty of the largest convention centers in the U.S. Now going north the high rises slowly disappear and we find ourselves in irrigated neighborhoods. These give way to desert living in the town of Paradise Valley where the very wealthy live. The rest of the day is at your leisure. (B)

Day 8 Scottsdale, AZ
We travel through the Superstition mountains on our way to Tortilla Flat, an authentic Ghost Town. You will have your choice of the biggest burgers, hot dogs, hottest chili, and much more as we enjoy an included lunch at the only restaurant in town. Don’t forget to save room for prickly pear ice cream for dessert. This afternoon, we will board the Dolly Steamboat for a cruise on the beautiful Canyon Lake. You may view the majestic desert big horn sheep, bald eagles and other wildlife. (B, L)

Day 9 Cottonwood, AZ
Today we head to the fertile Verde Valley to enjoy a bag lunch aboard the Verde Canyon Train. A fully-restored vintage train, you will be whisked back to a time of luxurious train travel. The train excursion takes you on a 20-mile journey through 100 years of history. This unique geological wonderland features rugged, crimson desert rock and beautiful panoramic views. Our overnight is in Cottonwood, Arizona. Tonight we will have an included chuckwagon supper at the Blazin’ M Ranch. (B, L, D)

Day 10 Grand Canyon, AZ
This morning we will take a Trolley Tour of Sedona. We will allow plenty of free time to enjoy this shoppers paradise. We drive through Oak Creek Canyon, known for its colorful rocks and unique formations. Our overnight is in Grand Canyon, Arizona tonight. (B)

Day 11 Las Vegas, NV
Today will be an adventure for all! We will travel along the rim of the Grand Canyon. We will enjoy an included lunch while here. The highlight of the tour is the stop at Desert View, an outpost 25 miles from Grand Canyon Village. Here you will find the Watchtower, re-creation of the unusual towers erected by the ancient native peoples of the Southwest. The view from atop the Watchtower is nothing short of breathtaking. We then head to Las Vegas for our overnight. You are free to try your luck at any of the casinos. (B, L)

Day 12 Bryce, UT
Our travels today take us through Bryce Canyon. This canyon is made of hoodoos—a pillar of rock left by erosion. We drive the plateau rim for miles and make a stop at the visitor center for a chance to watch a video about the park, check out the exhibits and browse the area. We will overnight in Bryce, Utah. (B)

Day 13 Grand Junction, CO
Today we will travel through Utah, stopping for an included lunch and head into Colorado, we will make our way through the Colorado National Monument. As we travel the Rim Rock Drive, we will ascend more than 2000 feet above the Grand Valley. (B, L)

Day 14 Denver, CO
This morning we travel to Denver, Colorado. We will enjoy a guided tour of Denver with a local guide this afternoon. Included will be sights such as the Historic Larimer Square, the 17th Street District, Colorado State Capitol building, Red Rocks Amphitheater and more. Tonight our hotel offers the Drury Kickback. (B)

Day 15 York, NE
We travel through Colorado and into Nebraska today. We will make a stop in Kearney to visit the Great Platte River Road Archway to experience frontier adventures from the days of the Oregon Trail to tomorrow’s information super highway. Our last night will be spent in York, Nebraska. You will be treated to an included dinner tonight. (B, D)

Day 16 Home
We will spend the day today reminiscing with our fellow travelers about all the adventures we have had these past few days. (B)