

# The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

## Our top 15 Insider Tips

### INSIDER TIP Cycling the Canyon

Live on the edge! Bicycle rentals in the Grand Canyon have opened up a completely new way to experience the panoramic views and the southern rim is closed for vehicles, making it ideal for a bicycle ride → p. 49

### INSIDER TIP Water show in the desert

Crazy Las Vegas: the Mandalay Bay Casino boasts a shark aquarium and its own private sandy beach → p. 36

### INSIDER TIP The perfect venue for sundowners

On the terrace of the Voodoo Steak & Lounge at the Rio All Suite Hotel & Casino you have the most beautiful view of the Las Vegas skyline → p. 39

### INSIDER TIP B & B in a school

At beautiful School House Inn in Bisbee you can doze off in the renovated classroom with impunity – good night! → p. 44

### INSIDER TIP Be a warrior in the land of the Apaches

On the Apache Spirit Ranch at Tombstone in southern Arizona, your childhood dreams come true: sleep in a Wild West village and ride through the mountains and countryside with Apaches and cowboys → p. 58

### INSIDER TIP Feel like a steak?

Li'l Abner's Steakhouse in Tucson was once a stop on the stagecoach route. Today the rustic adobe building houses a restaurant where thick steaks are grilled and on weekends there is typical country music → p. 60

### INSIDER TIP Experience the wilderness

At the Red Cone Retreat in Colorado you sleep in a teepee, go canoeing and live without electricity and television – just like the trappers and Native Americans once did. The retreat is set against the backdrop of the mountains north of Telluride → p. 99

### INSIDER TIP In the valley of cathedrals

Seen from afar the rock towers of the Cathedral Valley – in Capitol Reef National Park – really do look like cathedrals (photo left) → p. 66

### INSIDER TIP Read a newspaper in the Salt Lake

North of Salt Lake City the beaches of Antelope Island invite you to a relaxing swim break and some reading → p. 73

### INSIDER TIP Climb to the angels

In the Zion Narrows the ascent leads high up to the spectacular Angels Landing. It helps if you have a head for heights, at least for the last stretch of the trail → p. 75

### INSIDER TIP Back in time to the Anasazi

The ancient ruins in the Chaco Culture National Historical Park are isolated and remote and even the long drive there is contemplative → p. 82

### INSIDER TIP Native American ceramics and jewellery

The Millicent Rogers Museum in Taos showcases the magnificent ancient Native American art of the Pueblo tribes → p. 88

### INSIDER TIP Everything at a glance

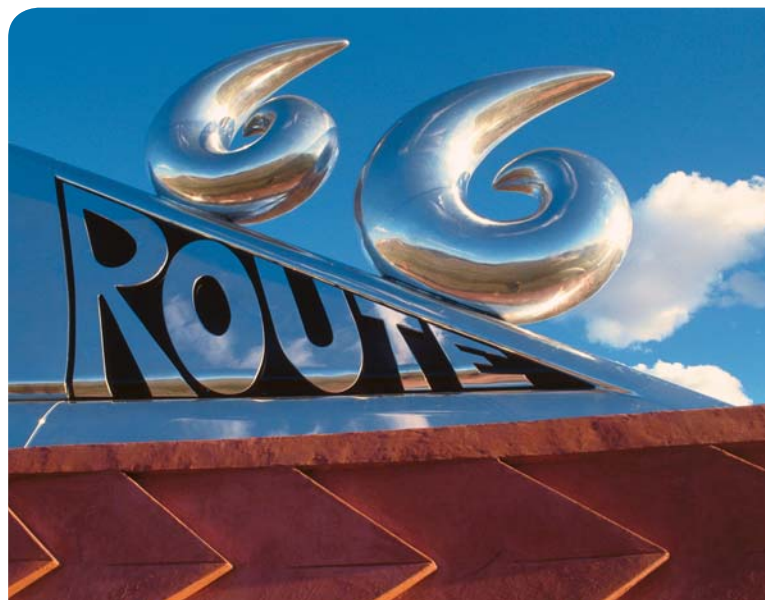
Enjoy a bird's eye-view over the Monument Valley off the beaten tourist track at Muley Point. It will make you wish you could fly → p. 103

### INSIDER TIP Highway nostalgia on Route 66

The most beautiful and original stretch of the old Route 66 runs from Kingman to Oatman (photo below). The quaint Snocap Drive-In is good for a snack → p. 50

### INSIDER TIP Water babies ahoy

An exciting wet adventure on the Salt River – let the current pull you along on inner tubes – the perfect way to cool off in the summer heat of Arizona → p. 113



# BEST OF ...

## GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

FOR FREE

### ● **Nights on the Strip**

Nevada's glitter city has numerous free attractions on the brightly lit Las Vegas Boulevard: water shows and gigantic neon signs, a smoking volcano with a light show and the spectacle of the Sirens of TI, where a ship sinks right on the *Strip* → p. 36

### ● **Understanding the Mormons**

Young Mormons take you on a tour through the *Temple Square* in Salt Lake City, free of charge. This is the centre of their religion, one that fosters particularly conservative values → p. 71, 72

### ● **New Mexico art at no cost**

The galleries along the *Canyon Road* in Santa Fe, New Mexico should actually ask an admission fee: that is how good their modern art is but luckily you can browse the galleries and enjoy the art at no cost (photo) → p. 85

### ● **Vintage nostalgia in Las Vegas**

Chevys from the 1950s, old Cadillacs and even one of Elvis' cars are on show at the Imperial Palace Hotel. And if you download a coupon from the *Imperial Palace Auto Collection* website, it's free → p. 36

### ● **On a Native American treasure hunt**

Visit the small (but excellent) *Wheelwright Museum* in Santa Fe for an interesting and informative exhibition of ceremonial objects, woven goods and the history of the indigenous people of the Southwest. There are also some contemporary Navajo art exhibits. Open seven days a week and free of charge → p. 84

### ● **Hydropower**

The size of reservoir of the Glen Canyon Dam – which is fed by the Colorado – is truly impressive. Although a guided tour of costs \$5, the informative exhibition in the *Carl Hayden Visitor Center*, about the construction and technology of the reservoir, is completely free → p. 51



● ● ● Dots in guidebook refer to 'Best of ...' tips

# ONLY IN THE SOUTHWEST

Unique experiences

### ● **View into the Grand Canyon**

When you stand at the edge of the precipice it is as if the ground suddenly dropped out from under the landscape. It plunges down 5250ft – and the ascend is just as steep and exhausting if you decide to trek back up after going down (photo) → p. 47

### ● **Enjoy a juicy steak**

First a drive or a horse ride in Monument Valley, then a steak from the barbecue right next door in the little village of *Mexican Hat*. A day in the Southwest could not be more classic than this → p. 52

### ● **Browse for jewellery**

A silver ring or a necklace with red coral goes well with a Western outfit and the Navajo and Zuni Indians in the Four Corners Region around *Gallup* make the most beautiful jewellery pieces → p. 83

### ● **Riding through the cacti desert**

John Wayne territory: thanks to the fantastic desert scenery – with 30ft Saguaro cacti – you will feel as if you are in a film at the *White Stallion Ranch* in Tucson. Horseback riding, barbecue steaks, ice-cold Margaritas – this is what makes the Wild West fun → p. 108

### ● **On the trail of the Anasazi**

Stone fortresses, miles of water pipes, multi-storey stone structures – some 800 years ago the farming people of the Anasazi left the area leaving behind many mysterious buildings. The most impressive remains are those in the *Mesa Verde National Park* → p. 99

### ● **Boating on Lake Powell**

The massive lake (1900mi of coastline!) on the Colorado River is best experienced from the water: either from a calm houseboat or from a nippy small motor boat – you do not need a driver's licence on *Lake Powell* → p. 50

### ● **Cold beer and country flair**

A good pub with beer fresh from the tap, country singers on the small stage, Harleys at the front door. This is exactly what the quaint *Rusty Spur Saloon* in the middle of elegant Scottsdale has to offer → p. 55



ONLY IN

# THE PERFECT ROUTE

Discover the many facets of the Southwest with a trip through the Canyonlands, over the Rockies to New Mexico

## LAS VEGAS, THE CANYONLANDS & THE MORMONS

Kick off with a day in **1 Las Vegas** → p. 32: visit casinos, watch shows and stroll along the Strip at night. After a good night's sleep the trip begins with the I-15 north and across the border to Utah to the first national park, the Canyonlands: **2 Zion** → p. 74 and **Bryce Canyon** → p. 64 (also see: Trips & Tours → p. 100) with their stone pillars and rock sculptures. The US89 and the I-15 lead you further into the Mormon heartland, **3 Salt Lake City** → p. 70, where a fascinating guided tour of the temple is highly recommended. Then head for the smart Western resort town of **Park City** → p. 73, site of the 2002 Winter Olympics before travelling back south to the spectacular rocky landscape around **4 Moab** → p. 67. Ideal for hiking, bicycling, off-road and rafting trips.

## IN THE ROCKIES

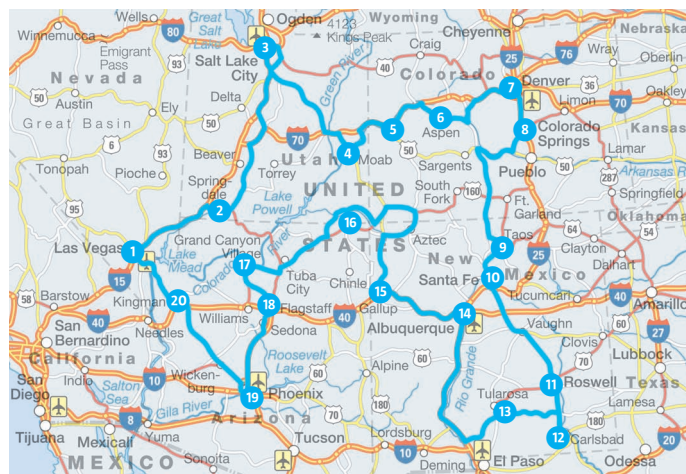
Behind **5 Grand Junction** → p. 98 the mountains start to get higher. **6 Aspen** → p. 91 is situated in the middle of the Rockies and the ride over the passes to **Leadville** → p. 92 will take your breath away either because of the stunning views or because of the thin air. And **7 Denver** → p. 94 (photo left), the capital of Colorado, is 5280 feet or exactly one mile above sea level.

## ART, UFOS & WHITE DUNES

After **8 Colorado Springs** → p. 93 (perhaps with a detour to Pikes Peak) the route takes you through the valley of the Arkansas River and past the massive dunes at Alamosa, further into the ancient Native American lands around **9 Taos** → p. 88 and to **10 Santa Fe** → p. 83, where there are countless art galleries and very fine Southwestern cuisine in the many restaurants. Time for a detour in the hot south of New Mexico. You might see a UFO land in **11 Roswell** → p. 78 (photo right) while **12 Carlsbad** → p. 81 offers some gigantic stalactite caves, and at **13 Alamogordo** → p. 78 the unreal-looking snow white dunes fit in perfectly with the space theme of the city. Richard Branson will soon send tourists into space from here.

## ROUTE 66 & MONUMENT VALLEY

Now it is time to start eating up the miles, the trip continues via Las Cruces to **14 Albuquerque** → p. 79 and then west on the old Route 66.



A nice detour is a visit to Acoma Pueblo on the steep cliffs of a mesa just before **15 Gallup** → p. 83, where, at night, its classic neon signs radiate highway nostalgia. The route now heads northwards through the massive reservation of the Navajo Indians to the ruins of Mesa Verde. Then you must make time for a trip to the famous **16 Monument Valley** → p. 52 which is instantly recognisable from countless films.

## GRAND CANYON & RELAXATION IN A LUXURY RESORT

Deserted, rocky landscapes accompany Highway 160 westwards through the Navajo reservation, then at Cameron take the turn off to the **17 Grand Canyon** → p. 47. Give yourself a few days to really experience the canyon: with a bike ride along the southern rim or a hike down the canyon. Next you head south via **18 Flagstaff** → p. 46 through the unforgettable red rock landscape to the elegant art town of **Sedona** → p. 56. Allow yourself a few days of relaxation at the end of the route in the Arizona sun: in **19 Phoenix** → p. 53 the numerous well-maintained resorts offer landscaped swimming pools and fabulous golf courses framed by the desert and cacti. From here you can then take a comfortable day's drive across **20 Kingman** → p. 50 back to Las Vegas.



Approx. 3420mi. Driving time: 63 hours  
Recommended travel time: 4–5 weeks  
Detailed route on the back cover, in the road atlas and the pull-out map