Discover America’s Canyonlands!
September 24–October 1, 2011

ZION • BRYCE • GRAND CANYON
September 24–October 1, 2011

Come join us as we explore the spectacular Canyonlands in the American West this fall! With the superb leadership of a geological expert and biologist, we will explore the dramatic wonderlands of Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, and the Grand Canyon, including a one day float trip on the Colorado River. This will be at the time of fall color, when golden leaves accent the spectacular red rock formations.

Our adventure begins in Las Vegas. We will then depart for Zion National Park and the St. George Dinosaur Discovery site where hundreds of tracks were found in 2000. A land of exceptional scenic grandeur, Zion includes an exciting desert plant community and pinyon-juniper woodland. It is the lowest in elevation of the three parks we will visit (at approximately 4,000 feet) and represents a significant chapter in the geologic story of the Southwest.

From Zion, we will head to Bryce Canyon National Park, an erosional fantasy of crumbling cliffs, spires, and pinnacles in rich colors, named after the original Mormon pioneer settler. A series of erosional amphitheatres on the southeast edge of the Paunsagunt Plateau, Bryce possesses intricate sculptures due to weathering by wind, running water, and frost. The rim at Bryce is from 8,000-9,000 feet. At night, the skies are a feast of stars because of the exceptionally clear skies.

The excitement will build today as we drive southeast from Bryce to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. We’ll drive through great forests of lodgepole and ponderosa pines as you approach the Grand Canyon. The splashes of color on the landscape en route are just a teaser of what awaits you! We’ll explore the rim and enjoy the fantastic views, with an optional mule ride part way into the canyon.

From Page, we will enjoy a one-day float trip from Glen Canyon Dam along the upper part of the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. (This is on gentle water!) We will travel on a 22 passenger inflatable motorized raft for 15 miles down the Colorado River. This river-level view of the canyon will be a delightful experience, and will include a short hike to see ancient petroglyphs.

We will also explore the geologic and ecologic significance of the Grand Canyon at the South Rim with more fantastic views and nature walks.

With interpretation and comments by our leaders, you will have a superb adventure. We invite you to join us!

Sincerely,

Robert P. Nanson
Field Operations Coordinator
Day 1  Arrive in Las Vegas
All passengers arrive in Las Vegas today by 4 pm. Transfer to the Ramada Hotel by shuttle. Welcome social, dinner, and introduction to the expedition.

Day 2  Dinosaur Discovery & Zion National Park
This morning, we will drive to Zion National Park via St. George, Utah, originally founded for cotton growing by Mormon pioneers 150 years ago. En route, we will visit the St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm (just discovered in February 2000) where a visitor center now protects this amazing find. Here we'll see hundreds of 13-18 inch long dinosaur tracks of Dilophosaurus-like dinosaurs found in 200 million year-old sandstone.

We will continue to Zion, whose cathedral-like quality inspired its name, “the heavenly city of God.” Here the red Navajo Sandstone, over 200 million years old, the colorful sedimentary strata at Zion were originally deposited by ancient seas, lakes, wind, and volcanoes. Then uplifted, and incised by the Virgin River to form a photogenic landscape of enormous red rock cliffs! Magnificent rock formations, domes, and domes tower high overhead. Enjoy an afternoon walk up the narrows of the Virgin River. Overnight at Cliffsrose Lodge and Gardens.

Day 3  Zion & Bryce Canyon National Park
This morning, we will explore Zion, including a walk along the Virgin River or up the Emerald Pools Trail. After a picnic lunch, we'll head to Bryce Canyon National Park, an erosional fantasy of crumbling cliffs, spires, and pinnacles in a rainbow of colors. Bryce consists of a series of erosional amphitheaters on the northwestern edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau and is drained by the Pinyon River. Intricate sculptures at Bryce called ‘hoodoos’ punctuate the landscape. The hoodoos believed they were the Legend People whom their trickster ‘Coyote’ had turned to stone. We will explore the park on short walks and hikes. At night, the sky is a feast of stars because a picnic lunch, we’ll head to Bryce Canyon National Park, an erosional fantasy of crumbling cliffs, spires, and pinnacles in a rainbow of colors. Bryce consists of a series of erosional amphitheaters on the northwestern edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau and is drained by the Pinyon River. Intricate sculptures at Bryce called ‘hoodoos’ punctuate the landscape. The hoodoos believed they were the Legend People whom their trickster ‘Coyote’ had turned to stone. We will explore the park on short walks and hikes. At night, the sky is a feast of stars because a picnic lunch, we’ll head to Bryce Canyon National Park, an erosional fantasy of crumbling cliffs, spires, and pinnacles in a rainbow of colors. Bryce consists of a series of erosional amphitheaters on the northwestern edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau and is drained by the Pinyon River. Intricate sculptures at Bryce called ‘hoodoos’ punctuate the landscape. The hoodoos believed they were the Legend People whom their trickster ‘Coyote’ had turned to stone. We will explore the park on short walks and hikes. At night, the sky is a feast of stars because a picnic lunch, we’ll head to Bryce Canyon National Park, an erosional fantasy of crumbling cliffs, spires, and pinnacles in a rainbow of colors. Bryce consists of a series of erosional amphitheaters on the northwestern edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau and is drained by the Pinyon River. Intricate sculptures at Bryce called ‘hoodoos’ punctuate the landscape. The hoodoos believed they were the Legend People whom their trickster ‘Coyote’ had turned to stone. We will explore the park on short walks and hikes. At night, the sky is a feast of stars because

Day 4 Bryce Canyon & North Rim of the Grand Canyon
Our first view this morning will be of the Fairyland, a colorful landscape of multi-colors in the early morning light. We will then enjoy a morning walk into the rock “hoodoo” landscape, with interpretation by our leaders as we go.

We will walk below towering spires, walls of multi-colored sandstone cliffs, highlighted by golden fall colors. We’ll also see some of the prominent rock formations of the world, the Bridgeline, pines, near the end of the road at 9,000 feet. A short walk this afternoon as we head southeast from Bryce to Kanab, Jacob Lake, and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. We will drive through great forests of lodgepole and ponderosa pines as you approach the Grand Canyon. The splashes of color on the landscape will be a delight. Watch the sunset over the Grand Canyon as it highlights the landscape, and changes the tides as the sun sets. Kaibab Lodge.

Day 5 North Rim of the Grand Canyon
This morning we’ll explore the Cape Royal and Imperial Point rock formations. We’ll hike overlooking views, take short walks to overlooks, and walk among tall ponderosa pines. We can see glimpses of bright Angel Canyon far below. On the east side of the Grand Canyon, we will walk along the edge of a stunning view of one of the most picturesque landscapes in all of the world.

Day 6  Grand Canyon Float Trip & Antelope Canyon
From Page, we will enjoy a six-hour float trip from Glen Canyon Dam along the upper part of the Colorado River into the Marble Canyon entrance to the Grand Canyon. (This is on gentle water!)
The most notable scene on the river is a 23-mile-long, ever-inflatable motorized river raft for 15 miles down the Colorado River. This river-level view of the canyon will be a memorable experience, and will include lunch and a short hike to see ancient petroglyphs. After the float trip, we will go to Antelope Canyon, a magnificent narrow slot canyon with towering cliffs over 100 feet high and only separated by a few feet. With Navajo guides, we will walk along the sandy floor of the canyon and look upward to see a thin beam of light cascading down the walls of the canyon. We will learn from the Navajos about their reverence for their homelands.

Day 7 South Rim of the Grand Canyon
This morning, we will drive to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. We will drive above Marble Canyon and along the Echo Cliffs Road, with a stop at Desert View for a commanding view of the canyon from the east. Then from the South Rim, we will walk along the edge for a stunning view of one of the most picturesque landscapes in all of the world.

See and learn about the geologic history as it unfolds on one sedimentary strata after another (as your eyes move up and down the canyon walls!). See how the sun and clouds change the colorful landscape throughout the day. Evening dinner and celebration of the wonders of America’s Grand Canyons.

Day 8 Grand Canyon to Las Vegas
After breakfast, drive back to Las Vegas, arriving at 2:00 pm.

Day 9  Depart Las Vegas
We will begin the journey home, some having flights to see the Grand Canyon Dam and the north rim of the Grand Canyon. We will drive to Las Vegas and return to the USA within the time stated. We will reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right to also be affected to elect to accept or return any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of your tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on 10(China, Japan, and Australia except for Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, not the tour operator. The tour may be subject to change due to the advance notice required by the tour operator.

Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, and American Chemical Society (ACS) are not an agent for the tour operator. The tour may be subject to change due to the advance notice required by the tour operator.

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Map by April Milne.

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Responsibility
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Costs & Conditions
Expedition Fee $2,995 per person twin share (from Las Vegas).
Expedition Fee Includes: Land transport, group airport transfers by tour vehicle, group accommodations twin share, meals as indicated, entrance fees, baggage handling, leadership, administration.
Expedition Fee Does Not Include: Airfare from your home to Las Vegas, meals, gratuities to expedition leaders, personal items such as laundry, phone calls, alcoholic beverages, snacks, or (per) meals.

What to Expect: This expedition is for travelers who would like to explore the geologic and ecological heritage of the Grand Canyons, including the spectacular national parks: Zion, Bryce Canyon, and the Grand Canyon. Traveling with a geological expert and naturalist will provide a superb experience. The group will travel from 2 to 3 hours in 15-passenger vans or a bus many days. Walks will be at a leisurely pace ($500 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable up to 60 days before departure. Any balance is non-refundable. There is no refund after the 60-day period unless your place is resold, then only the $100 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals or other expedition features.

Reservations & Deposits & Payments: To reserve a place on this expedition, please mail a deposit of $500 per person with the completed reservation form to:

Canyonlands Expedition
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

Yes! I want to join the Canyonlands Expedition, September 24–October 1, 2011, offered by AAAS Trips, ACS, Sigma Xi Expeditions. Please reserve a space(s) as a deposit. We enclose a check for $500 per person payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) ______________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State ______ Zip ______
Phone: Home: __________________ Work: __________________
Email Address: ___________________________________________________________
Membership: AAAS Sigma Xi ACS & Society for the Advancement of Science (SCIENCE)
Accommodations Preference: __ Twin Single __ Twins Share with a friend or __ assign a roommate __ Non-smoker __ Smoker __
Signature __________________________ Date ____________

Please Mail To: Canyonlands 2011
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435
Day 1 Arrive in Las Vegas
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Day 2 Dinosaur Discovery & Zion National Park
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We will continue to Zion, whose cathedral-like quality inspired its name, “the heavenly city of God.” Here the red Navajo Sandstone is laid bare over 100 million years old. The colorful sedimentary strata at Zion were originally deposited by ancient seas, lakes, wind, and volcanoes, then uplifted, and incised by the Virgin River to form a photogenic landscape of enormous red rock cliffs! Magnificent rock temples, spires, and domes tower high overhead. Enjoy an afternoon walk up the narrows of the Virgin River. Overnight at Cliffrose Lodge and Gardens, B.L.

Day 3 Zion & Bryce Canyon National Park
This morning, we will explore Zion, including a walk along the Virgin River or up the Emerald Pools Trail. After a picnic lunch, we’ll head to Bryce Canyon National Park, an eosynomic fantasy of crumbling cliffs, spires, and pinnacles in a rainbow of colors. Bryce consists of a series of erosional amphitheaters cut into the southeast edge of the Paunsaugunt Plateau and is drained by the Paria River.

Intimate sculptures at Bryce called ‘hoodoos’ punctuate the landscape. The name ‘hoodoo’ believed they were the Legend People whom their trickster ‘Coyote’ had turned to stone. We will explore the park on short walks and hikes. At night, the stars are a feast of stars because of the exceptionally clear skies. Bryce Canyon Pines or Best Western, B.L.

Day 4 Bryce Canyon & North Rim of the Grand Canyon
Our first view this morning will be of the Fairyland, a Bryce-like landscape of multi-colors in the early morning light. We will then enjoy a morning walk into the rock “hoodoo” landscape, with interpretation by our leaders as we go. We will walk below towering spires, walls of multi-colored pinnacles, then into the Bridle Creek near the end of the road at 9,000 feet. This afternoon as we head southeast from Bryce to Kanab, Jacob Lake, and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. We will drive through great forests of lodgepole and ponderosa pines as you approach the Grand Canyon. The splashes of color on the landscape will be a delight. Watch the sunset over the Grand Canyon as it highlights the landscape, and changes the tones as the sun sets. Kaibab Lodge, B.D.

Day 5 North Rim of the Grand Canyon
This morning we’ll explore the Cape Royal and Imperial Point regions of the Grand Canyon. We'll take short walks, view the Kaibab Cliffs, walk to Plateau Point, and enjoy a stop at Desert View for a commanding view of the canyon from the east. From the South Rim, we will walk along the edge for a stunning view of one of the most picturesque landscapes in all of the world.

See and learn about the geologic history as it unfolds one sedimentary strata after another (as your eyes move up and down the canyon walls!). See how the sunlight changes the colorful landscape throughout the day. Evening dinner and celebration of the wonders of America’s Grandcanyons. Grand Canyon Squire Inn, B.D.

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