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Adventure Details

Superstition Wilderness & Sonoran Desert Family Adventure

Two Custom Family Itineraries

(Sessions Begin in Nov. & Dec. 2023)

- Jan. 3 – 7
- Jan. 17 – 21
- Feb. 15 – 20
- Mar. 18 - 22

from \$2698 a person

Based Upon Double Occupancy (2 People Per Room)

This trip begins in Mesa, Arizona, on the morning of "Day One" 2024.

This trip ends at Sky Harbor International Airport after lunch on "Day Five" 2024.

(Family Special – Save Up To \$800 with Triple & Quad Occupancy – see below for details!)

SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FEATURE: Your driver and guide stay with your family during the entire trip offering parents flexibility to shorten activities or skip some entirely along the way.



Family Adventure Itinerary

Please note that the details of this itinerary including the specific hotels subject to change. Many of the planned activities are organized according to availability, events or seasonal dates, appropriate weather conditions or the discretion of our guides. We make every effort to provide the experience described in the itinerary with the understanding that some things may change.

Superstition Wilderness & Sonoran Desert Family Adventures Two Custom Family Itineraries

Join us for an unforgettable family adventure in the Sonoran Desert, led by certified autism travel professionals from Divergent Adventures. Our team consists of experienced educators and guides who have collectively spent over 50 years working with neurodiverse families. We prioritize your safety and offer in-depth insights into our beautiful state's landscapes, geology, history, and culture.

We offer two different itineraries to cater to the age of the neurodiverse individuals in your family. These itineraries vary regarding the types of adventure activities and life-skill training and education they provide. It's important to note that chronological age alone doesn't determine the best fit for your family; our categories are flexible. We primarily focus on two groups: ASD aged 7-12 and ASD aged 13-17. If your family includes multiple children with ASD, it's possible to have individuals in both age groups, as long as a parent or guardian accompanies each child during the trip.

During enrollment, our development team will work closely with you to customize your personal adventure experience, both for virtual course instruction and your visit to Arizona. Below is a basic itinerary with highlighted activities for each age group.

2023/2024 Superstition Wilderness & Sonoran Desert Family Adventure Highlights Itinerary

Day 1- Arrive in Phoenix/Mesa

- Pizza Party & Dinner- Orientation

Overnight - Mesa, AZ (D)

Day 2- Exploring the Sonoran Desert- Mesa – Superstition Wilderness

- Hike- Blevins Trail- 3.0 miles (Elevation 114 ft., Loop Trail)
- This route explores the eastern section of the Utery Mountain Regional Park and is a great, that is mostly flat.
- *Divergent Adventure Course - Family Problem Solving/Communication using Geocaching.*
- AZ Museum of Natural History & Dinosaur Mountain (ASD aged 7-12). / Bam Kazam Escape Room. (ASD aged 13-17).

Overnight - Mesa, AZ (B,L,D)

Day 3- Southern Sonoran Desert- Tucson

- Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum- Tucson
- Hike- Saguaro National Park- Tucson Mt. Distric. - Adventure Lab (ASD aged 7-12).
- Hike- Saguaro National Park- Tucson Mt. District- Scavenger Hunt (ASD aged 13-17).
- *Divergent Adventure Course - Student Problem Solving/Communication – Geocaching.*

Overnight - Mesa, AZ (B,L,D)

Day 4-- Valley Of The Sun Arizona Experience

- Walk- Activities- Riverview Park, Mesa
- I.d.e.a museum- Lunch
- Goldfield Ghost Town
- Apache Trail Jeep Tour
- Family Dinner Celebration
- *Divergent Adventure Course - Sensory Experiences*

Overnight - Mesa, AZ (B,L,D)

Day 5- Depart For Home or Extension to Sedona Red Rock Country)

- Family Walk – Mesa City Park
- Celebration Family Breakfast- Awards
- Free Time- Lunch and Travel Snacks
- Main Tour Ends- Noon Departure to Sky Harbor International Airport. (B,L)

OR- Day 1 EXT - Depart For Red Rock of Sedona (Optional Extension)

- Self-guided Walk- Historical Site- Montezuma Castle National Monument. – Camp Verde.
- Sightseeing Into Red Rock Country (Picture Stops).
- Uptown Sedona – Sedona Heritage Museum.
- Uptown Sedona – Shopping & Free Time.

Overnight - Sedona, AZ - (B,L,D)

Day 2- EXT- Red Rock of Sedona

- Self-guided Hike & Picnic Lunch- Red Rock State Park
- Red Rock Jeep Tour
- Tlaquepaque, Sedona
- Family Dinner Celebration.

Overnight - Sedona, AZ - (B,L,D)

Day 3- EXT- Sedona To Phoenix

- Free Time- Sedona
- Noon Departure to Sky Harbor International Airport.
- Arcosanti - Short walk & Site.
- Arrive Airport for home or points beyond. (B, L)

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*The "Red Rocks of Sedona" extension is an optional add-on not included in the main Adventure's price. We offer this extension to enhance your time in Arizona, which takes place during the peak tourist season. It's all about enjoying the sunshine and spending quality time together as a family. Please note that this extension focuses more on tourism and leisure rather than providing educational or life-skills experiences.

During the "Red Rocks of Sedona" extension, a Divergent Adventure host and driver-guide will accompany family groups throughout your extended stay. It's important to know that while we cater to neurodiverse families, Sedona, and our accommodations and arrangements are not certified Autism Travel Centers. Therefore, we don't offer special accommodations similar to those in the City of Mesa.

There is also a self-drive option available. Like the guided option, Divergent Adventures will make hotel accommodations, book most site visits, provide a detailed itinerary including other recommended places, and provide administrative support throughout the Adventure.

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Inclusions

This Divergent Adventure Includes:

Pre-adventure:

- **4-Week Virtual Family Adventure Learning Center Course.**
Details are listed separately from this itinerary.

On-site Adventure:

- **Adventure Host, Guide, and Educator.** Divergent Adventures hosts and guides are masters-level or higher professional educators, behavior analysts, and certified autism travel professionals. They stay with the group throughout the itinerary. Depending upon size, they frequently drive the group.
- **Adventure Learning Course** throughout the itinerary.
- **4-Day/5-Night Adventure**
- **4-Nights Hotel Accommodations** per the itinerary. *Prices based on Double Occupancy (2 people/room).*
- **Meals** per the itinerary: Breakfast-5; Lunch-4, Dinner-4.
- **Group Transportation** throughout the itinerary. (Arrival Airport to Hotel NOT included).
- **Access and entrance fees** to museums, historical & cultural sites, and parks as listed in the day-to-day itinerary.
- **Detailed "Know Before You Go" information** includes recommended websites, reading lists, packing lists, what to bring, weather, and more.

This Divergent Adventure DOES NOT include:

- All international and domestic airfares.
- Arrival Airport Transfers and all transfers outside of the itinerary schedule.
- All items of a personal nature, including beverages and shopping.
- Additional hotel stays pre- or post-scheduled itinerary.
- Early check-in or late check-out of rooms.
- Optional tours.
- Photographs or phone calls.
- Discounts/Refunds on any unused portion of the tour.
- Travel Insurance.
- Anything not expressly stated in the itinerary or on the inclusion list above.



[Click Here](#) or scan the QR Code for More Information or To Start the Registration Process!

*Single Rooms Available (extra charge)

Prices, Payments & Reservations

Reservations:

We accept reservations based on space availability, and is contingent on prior bookings. **Space is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, taking into account prior reservations.** To join the program, families need to undergo a comprehensive assessment by the Divergent Adventure Development Team. Upon acceptance, an initial deposit payment for each person is required, and this payment is subject to the program's cancellation policy. **If you would like to arrange a FREE Assessment, please click here. [\[LINK\]](#).**

Price per person:

Main Tour - Double Occupancy: from \$2698 a person. (Minimum of 6 Guests Per Group Required/Maximum 8 Guests Per Group)

Family Special

- 3 People Per Room - Save \$100 a person.
- 4 People Per Room - Save \$200 a person.
- Single Occupancy: *a limited number of single rooms are available for a \$598 supplement.*
- \$500/Person Deposit Required with Acceptance.

Optional Extension – (Hosted) Double, Triple & Quad Occupancy: from \$698 a person (Minimum of 6 Guests Required).

Optional Extension – (Self-Drive) Double, Triple & Quad Occupancy: from \$498 a person.

Deposits:

An initial deposit of \$500 a person is required to reserve your space upon acceptance into the program. Space can only be held with a complete deposit for each participant.

Payments:

Payments must be made according to the schedule & are subject to cancellation and penalty policy. Final payment is due on or before **60 days prior to the beginning of the 4-Week Virtual Family Adventure Learning Center Course.** We request that all final payments be made by wire transfer or credit card/PayPal/Venmo. Payments can be made online or by phone. We accept Mastercard, Visa, Discovery, and American Express.

Cancellation, Penalty, Credit & Refund Policies

Reservations:

We accept reservations based on a **first-come, first-served basis, taking into account prior reservations**. To join the program, families need to undergo an assessment by the Divergent Adventure Development Team. Upon acceptance, an initial deposit payment for each person is required. This payment is subject to the program's cancellation policy. **If you would like to arrange a FREE Assessment, please [CLICK HERE](#).**

Cancellation, Penalty, Credit & Refund Policies:

Should you choose to cancel your Adventure the following terms will apply.

Initial assessments. FREE.

If the Dev Team determines that our program is not appropriate for a student/family after your initial assessment and prior to the start of the class, a 100% refund of all payments.

Once you are accepted into the program, your initial deposit has been paid, and your dates are selected, for all cancellations:

-61 days or more prior to the start of the Course, a full refund less \$100 per person administrative fee.

-60 days or less prior to the start of the Course, 100% non-refundable.

Course Postponement. If a significant life event prevents a student/family from participating in the Course (with confirmation required). In that case, you have the option to reschedule for a later date within one year from the original acceptance date. However, there will be a Postponement Service Fee equal to 50% of the total payments made. The remaining 50% will be credited and applied to the new dates you select.

Reduced Participation. If your family needs to reduce the number of participants, a Service Fee equal to 50% of the price for each canceled person will be charged. The remaining 50% will be credited to your account.

Incomplete Participation or Unsuccessful Course Completion. Participation in all classes in the virtual course by one parent and the autistic student(s) is required. The knowledge and skills participants will gain in this program, as well as success on the travel portion of the course, highly depend on participation in class learning activities. To be eligible for the travel portion of the program, participants must complete 100% of the course activities with satisfactory responses and spend the required minimum time in the weekly virtual class. Course REQUIREMENTS include regular attendance, active participation in online discussions and activities, and ongoing physical training. If the standard is not met, you have the option to reschedule for a later date within one year from the original acceptance date. However, there will be a Postponement Service Fee equal to 50% of the total payments made. The remaining 50% will be credited and applied to the new dates you select.

Cancellations of your Adventure by the Development Team

(Assessments, Cancellations, Postponements, Credits, and Refunds.)

Upon acceptance into the Course, 60 days or less prior to the beginning of the Course, Divergent Adventures through its ongoing assessment and acceptance policy determines that a student/family does not qualify for the adventure portion of the Course, the following terms apply:

After the Course, prior to the Adventure. Following the completion of the Course and before the Adventure begins, if the Development Team determines that the student or family does not meet Divergent Adventures' standards and

policies, they may be eligible for a credit that can be used for a similar adventure within one year from the date of the original Course. To utilize this credit, the student and family will need to participate in another full 4-week class, at no charge for this repeat participation.

During the Adventure. If the Divergent Adventures Development Team determines that a student or family does not meet our standards and policies, poses a risk of harm or property damage, is incompatible with the group or staff, or hinders the successful operation or completion of the Adventure, that student/family may be removed from group activities. In such a case, the Development Team will arrange transportation to the host hotel and provide hotel accommodations for the remainder of the Adventure. The family will not be allowed further contact with the group and will be responsible for their remaining meals and transportation to Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. Please note that all determinations in these matters are made solely at the discretion of Divergent Adventures. No shows, no refunds. No refunds will be made for any unused portion of the Course or Adventure.

All cancellations must be made in writing and delivered to Walking Connection via e-mail and/or US Postal Service. Your cancellation date is the date your notice is received and confirmed by Walking Connection, not the date of postmark.

Travel Arrangements

Travel Roommates and Single Supplements:

There is limited availability, and a supplement will apply. Please contact us for details. If you have registered for double occupancy but don't have a travel roommate, you may be charged for a Single Supplement for any portion of the trip where you will be rooming as a single.

Air and Transfer Arrangements:

Arrival airport: Phoenix (PHX) – Upon arriving at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport on Day 1, you will transfer to the Host Hotel that is designated in your final travel instructions contained in the Know Before You Go document you will receive prior to your departure. We recommend using any of the popular ride share services. Plan on arriving early and in time for our first group gathering at 7:00pm.

Departure airport: On Day 5, there will be ONE Group Departure from the hotel to the airport immediately after lunch. This group transfer is included in the price of your Adventure. All other transfers are the responsibility of the student/family and are not included in the price of your Adventure.

BEFORE you make your airline arrangements, please make re-confirm your travel arrangements with Divergent Adventures **BEFORE** you purchase your air arrival and departure tickets.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance companies like our preferred partner, [Generali Global Assistance](#), are seasoned professionals. Their sole purpose is to ensure your health and safety. They have been insuring our guests for more than 20 years and we rely upon them not only to take great care of our guests, but we use them personally every time we travel.

Please check out their website here for a free quote: [Travel Insurance](#) - Don't leave home without it. Here is their direct URL: <https://www.generalitravelinsurance.com/?partner=81350509>

More Details

Trip Grading – Moderate:

- Each day usually consists of 3-5 hours of activities. Many are centered around walking over various terrains.
- Most days have a range of activity available. You will be accompanied by your host, and where appropriate, a hiking guide, so there are shorter hike options on most days.

- Terrain includes city streets, village cobblestone walkways, well-worn countryside paths with uphill and downhill components
- Your day pack will include a liter of water, snacks, rain gear, sunscreen, personal items, and a camera.

Gear & Personal Items:

We will provide a detailed list of personal items you will need that will make your journey safe and convenient. There is no special gear required for this trip, though you will receive a list of recommended items, including supportive hiking boots and socks. We can help with information on types, brands, and what to look for if you are purchasing new gear items for the trip.

QUESTIONS TO ASK? READY TO BOOK? If you want to get in touch, please send us an email or give us a call. We accept bookings online, by email, or over the phone. A deposit of \$750 USD is required at the time of booking to secure the trip with the balance payable 75 Days before departure. If booking less than 75 days before the trip start date, full payment of the Adventure is due with registration.

Walking Connection – Person-to-Person Guest Hotlines: Info@WalkingConnection is your best way to ask and receive information about all departures. To chat directly, please call +1 623.561.0846.

**We will do everything within our power to ensure that you have a great adventure.
Thank you for choosing the Walking Connection.
"We Know The Way"**