

Directions from Albuquerque to the Grand Canyon

One of the first Hilton Hotels was opened in downtown Albuquerque, as it is the home town of Conrad Hilton, the founder of Hilton Hotels. It is no longer a Hilton; however it has been recently restored and is a really wonderful hotel, now named La Posada. www.laposada-abq.com. It is very special. For something for the more budget minded I would recommend a very nice place, the Plaza Inn, with easy freeway access it provides clean comfortable accommodations at reasonable rates which include a complementary continental breakfast. www.plazainnabq.com. There is some great shopping in "Old Town".

Heading west on Interstate 40 about 45 minutes you will come to SKY CITY. This is a very interesting stop if you are interested in learning about Indian Culture. There is an old Indian city here named Acoma. It is located on a hill and you have to take tours to go through it. For more information: www.skycity.com. There are tours about every hour April through September. Adjoining is a modern hotel/casino. Continuing west you will come to the Petrified Forest and Painted Desert. I would take time to visit these to beautiful places. They are both located near the western town of Holbrook. There are a lot of the "chain" motels to choose from. If you would like something a little different, take a look at the **Wigwam Motel**. It has 15 units made with a stucco exterior in the shape of Tee Pees (or Wigwams). It is great if you are traveling with children. www.wigwammotel.com. There are also a couple of very good places to eat. If you are in the mood for really good Mexican Food stop by **Romo's**. A local's favorite is **Joe and Aggies** for a hearty breakfast. From Holbrook the **Painted Desert** is just a short drive going east on AZ 77. The **Petrified Forest** National Park is exit 311 about 20 miles east of Holbrook. Continuing west on Interstate 40 you are about 45 minutes from Winslow, made famous by the Eagles "Standing on the corner in Winslow Arizona". The song says it all. There is one wonderful old hotel, built by the Fred Harvey Company around the turn of the 20th century and recently lovingly restored. It has charming rooms and an excellent restaurant. It is also named La Posada Hotel. www.laposada.org. If you really like geology and/or astronomy you will want to consider stopping at the **Meteor Crater** located about 20 miles west of Winslow. Continuing west you are about 25 miles from Flagstaff. The driving time from Flagstaff is approximately 1 ½ hours to the hotel. Flagstaff is a good place to fill up your gas tank as the prices once you leave will be much higher. You might also want to pick up some things at the store and a throw away ice chest. Purchases here can be up to twice as expensive here as in Flagstaff on everything. Departing Flagstaff you will continue west on Interstate 40 about 30 miles to **exit 165** in Williams. From there you are just about an hour from the hotel. Be very careful about speeding on AZ 64 North. There are many **SPEED TRAPS**. Do not be the fastest car on the road! Upon entering Tusayan, you will see the airport on your left. We share the first driveway with the IMAX also on the left side just a couple of minutes further on. Try to make it in time for sunset which is the highlight of any day at the canyon. We have an excellent restaurant for dinner which offers both an extensive buffet and ala carte service. We also have a full service lounge. Happy Trails, Richard Milliron, Concierge, www.guestservices@cprgc.com. (928) 638-2673 X 1431