

2018 SBHC Member Trip Survey

Two years ago the hiking club did an online survey of our members. In this survey we asked a number of questions about future trips including destinations, durations, distance from home, and a variety of other general questions. As a result of this survey we now offer 2 trips per year, and we have chosen to go to the top two destinations our members chose; Page and soon a return trip to the Grand Canyon.

To refresh your memory, in 2011 we went to the Grand Canyon, in 2012 we went to Flagstaff/Sedona, in 2013 we went to Zion NP, in 2014 we went to Moab, in 2015 we went to Palm Springs, in 2016 we went to Las Vegas, and in 2017 we went to Page in the Spring and Big Bend NP in the Fall.

We believe it is time to do this survey again, with the goal of determining where you want to go next.

One of the key aspects of providing these trips is finding someone to volunteer to be the primary leader of the trip. As is typical in most clubs, just a few people are willing to step forward into these leadership roles. To aid the trip leader, we have developed a detailed outline that guides the trip leader of the process of a successful trip. In addition the club has an ad-hoc trip committee including the Assistant Chief Guide, Vice President and club member at large to advise the trip manager. Past trip managers can also offer succinct suggestions. Without our leaders these trips will not happen.

Please read the descriptions of potential destinations below, and then go to the following link to register your viewpoint. The survey should work on both computers with keyboards, and handheld touchscreen devices like tablets or smartphones. One vote per person please. It should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

Link: <https://sbhc.typeform.com/to/gYmSGp>

Trip Ideas

Death Valley NP. 520 miles away. This would be a Winter to early Spring destination. The hiking opportunities are nearly limitless with elevations ranging from below sea level to above 8000 feet. If you haven't been to Death Valley you are missing out on a real treat. The stark beauty of this desert park can be amazing. There is more than side canyons, craters, and sand dunes. Lodging would be limited, like we had at Big Bend.

Durango/Cortez, Colorado. 475 miles away. This would be a very late Spring or Fall destination. Most hikes here would be in the mountains, although we might be

able to arrange something in nearby Mesa Verde NP. Canyon of the Ancients National Monument provides numerous opportunities for some primitive off trail hikes. Spring would limit us to lower elevations, whereas Fall would let us travel and hike at higher elevations and view the fall colors. We might have the opportunity to do a steam train ride with hike combination.

Bryce Canyon NP. 535 miles away. At the highest base elevation on this list, Bryce is a Fall destination. Like the Grand Canyon, many hikes will start downhill and return back up. One of the crown jewel parks of Utah for sure. Hikes can be in the canyon, on the rim, in nearby Red Canyon, or in the neighboring National Forest. You will likely never see more hoodoos than you'll see in Bryce Canyon National Park.

San Diego. 400 miles away. A big city consisting of mesas, canyons, bays, beaches, and mountains, hiking trails can be found all over. The beach & mesa hikes at Torrey Pines Preserve are the best along the ocean. The Laguna Mountains loom to the east and rise to a cool 6000 feet. Here we find many trails including the famous Pacific Crest Trail. The foothills have plenty of hikes. Even the desert, east of the mountains, have lots of trails. September and October are the hottest months, so Spring is probably a better time of year.

Silver City, New Mexico. 230 miles away. A close destination, Silver City has a surprising number of hiking opportunities including Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument and the rebuilt famous Catwalk trail where about 1/2 mile of the trail is suspended from the walls of canyon. The Continental Divide Trail passes close to the city, and Pinos Altos Mountain is host to many trails. At 6000 feet elevation and higher, Silver City is a good Spring and Fall destination.

Blanding, Utah. 440 miles away. SE Utah is the center for petroglyphs, ancient Pueblo ruins, and Natural Bridges. The pure hiking opportunities are somewhat limited, so we would probably restrict the number of participants and concentrate our outing to Hovenweep National Monument, Natural Bridges National Monument, and the Butler Wash/Comb Ridge areas. Scenic areas enroute to Blanding include Canyon de Chelley, Monument Valley, Valley of the Gods, and Goosenecks State Park.

Zion National Park. 500 miles away. Southern Utah's popular National Park. We visited there in 2013. The scenic wonders are incredible and you might see a condor in the cliffs. To avoid the heat, early Spring or late Fall is best.

Moab, Utah. 520 miles away. Canyonlands NP, Arches NP, Dead Horse Point SP, Fisher Towers, and the Colorado River. Need we say more? Our last trip here was extremely successful. Spring or Fall works well.

Flagstaff. 250 miles away. Northern Arizona's largest city is a natural outdoor playground. We've gone there before. The San Francisco Peaks loom over the city,

and 3 National Monuments are less than 30 minutes away. Hiking trails weave through the surrounding areas, including Red Mountain and Kendrick Mountain. Even Oak Creek Canyon near Sedona is about 45 minutes away. Access to the upper reaches of Sycamore Canyon, the second largest in Arizona, is also close by.

Rocky Mountain National Park. 850 miles away, a 2 day drive or fly into Denver. This would be a late Summer to early Fall destination. An incredibly beautiful mountain location, RMNP has hundreds of trails for all different hiking abilities. Forget the elk, look for moose; if you're lucky you might see one.

Sedona. 225 miles away. One of the premier hiking destinations in Arizona. These red rocks are rumored to have spiritual qualities. Can you find your vortex? We've been here before but this would be a longer trip. We'll never run out of new trails in Sedona.

Mammoth Lakes, California. 720 miles away, 1.5 days drive for most people. At 8000 feet Mammoth is a winter ski haven, but in summer it becomes hiking heaven. Because snow can linger well in May or June, this is clearly a late Summer or Fall destination. Nearby you'll also find Devil's Postpile National Monument, which is open only in the Summer and Fall and Mono Lake. Hot Creek with its namesake springs are great for taking a dip. The famous John Muir Trail is close by.

Havasupai. 315 miles away. This would not be one of the normal Spring/Fall trips, but would be an additional trip. Hikers would have to be able to hike down 8 miles to Supai village, hike down and around the various falls, and hike back out 2000 feet over 8 miles. The club has done this in the past as a chartered guided trip, but this would be on our own.

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