

The Sundance Experience:

Bubbles & Boulders



Sundance Helicopter flies over the Grand Canyon

Once everyone is secured on board and headsets are in place on all passengers, the Sundance Helicopter tour is poised for take-off. Once airborne, the first point of interest on the tour is the Hoover Dam, even more impressive from this sky-high vantage point, and then Lake Mead. The headsets play strategically timed and themed music interspersed with an audio recording — available in nine languages — distilling facts and figures about the sights below. The friendly and knowledgeable pilot adds an interesting first-person perspective and commentary as well. Passengers really hit pay dirt amid a breathtaking approach to the Grand Canyon, flying above and within the behemoth, beautifully striated stone formations. Like a magic carpet ride, the helicopter ever-so-smoothly descends 3,200 feet to fly passengers over the Colorado River and in between the walls of the Canyon as they're bathed in the golden light of the desert sun.

There is no restaurant on the planet that can compare to a picnic on the floor of the Grand Canyon. While the company offers various picnic options, I basked in the champagne breakfast

tour that was simple yet stylish, made all the more delicious by the spectacular surroundings. Various tour groups convene at a picnic site owned and leased to Sundance by the Hualapai Nation. Amid the splendor that surrounds, photo ops abound and the pilots are happy to oblige and take pictures of you and your companions in front of the helicopter, stone crests and any other available vista of choice. The tour then continues with an after-breakfast flight through Nevada's oldest and largest state park and then finishes with a spin down The Strip itself.

With the VIP tour option you can take a complimentary souvenir pre-recorded tour DVD and personal souvenir photograph (taken in front of the helicopter before take-off) home with you. The three and a half hour tour culminates with complimentary limo service back to your hotel.

The current per-person tour cost is around \$538. Considering the high level of service, the exciting ride and the unparalleled scenery sure to leave an indelible mark on your memory as a remarkable life experience, this tour is truly priceless. www.SundanceHelicopters.com ■

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