

Dear wonderful people—concerned citizens, outdoor enthusiasts, readers, friends:

You are invited to join an extraordinary adventure in September 2020 to explore in and around some magnificent but jeopardized national monuments in Utah and Nevada. We're calling this the "Treasures in Peril" tour, and it will have three purposes: enjoyment, illumination, and inspiration.

It will also have three foci: Gold Butte National Monument in southeastern Nevada, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern Utah, and Bears Ears National Monument, also in southern Utah. The national parks of this region are more famous—Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce Canyon—but the national monuments are also magnificent and arguably more surprising. The history and politics surrounding them is more fraught and fascinating. This is the great American Southwest as few people ever see it or think about it.

The trip will be eight to ten people, plus hosts Betsy and David Quammen and Kirsten Allen and Mark Bailey, traveling within the region by chauffeured van and, for one scenic leg of the trip, the option of a small plane. Guests will be looked after by an excellent chef/concierge/sommelier, Robin Chopus, who will cater for every physical gustatory need. You will hike, explore, and navigate the twists and curves of these exquisite wild places in America's redrock country where much of Betsy's new book, *American Zion*, takes place. You'll hear stories about old miners and modern outlaws, shared during fireside chats with authors and experts, and learn about the local geology, natural history, and culture during daily talks—and even get a tour of some of the darkest, starriest skies in the lower 48 at the Torrey House-Alpenglow Observatory. You'll visit Gold Butte, a place held hostage by the illegal cattle operation of the notorious Cliven Bundy and his scofflaw family, amid threats of violence towards federal workers. (We'll keep our heads low.) And hike through Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears, both of which are being slashed in size by the current administration and jeopardized by new threats of despoliation.

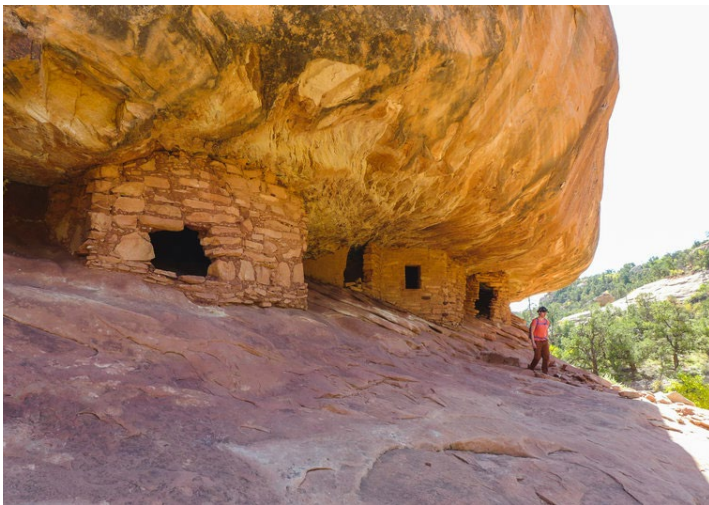


Whitney Pockets in Gold Butte National Monument

In late 2019, the Bureau of Land Management announced that areas once protected as part of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument will be opened to oil and gas drilling. This will affect the ecology of the region (home to over 600 bee species, among other biological diversity) and devastate a thriving tourism economy. The current administration has also reduced the monument in

area by 46 percent, leaving previously included lands without essential protection. The politics of it are distressing but not hopeless; individuals and organizations, such as Blake Spalding (co-owner of Hell's Backbone Grill, the acclaimed eatery in Boulder, Utah) and Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners are fighting the boundary reductions in court. You will meet with Blake, tour her farm, and dine on her extraordinary cuisine. For a highly literate account of her work as an activist, chef, and employer, see Kathryn Schulz's recent article in [The New Yorker](#).

Bears Ears National Monument has also been reduced—by 85 percent, for uranium mining and increased road building. This threatens sacred Native sites and undoes the efforts of five tribal nations who worked together to create this monument. You will hear from Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, the former Co-Chair of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, about these sacred landscapes and the ongoing battle to protect them. You'll tour the gorgeous landscape of Bears Ears and learn more about the natural and cultural history of this extraordinary area with archaeologist Ralph Burrillo.



House on Fire in Bears Ears National Monument



Mule Canyon in Bears Ears National Monument

Betsy and David and Kirsten and Mark are keen to share all of this, and some aspects of their own work on it and related matters, with you. Betsy's new book will be published in March 2020—*American Zion*, an account of the Mormon history of the region, the militia networks that have arisen, and the ongoing Bundy family feud over public lands—and this trip offers a unique opportunity to experience the stories and issues from her book in the landscapes where they happen. Each participant will get a signed copy of the book. (As preview, here's an Op Ed she wrote for [The New York Times](#) about the Bundy war and its rationale.) David is an author of

many books and articles (here's his latest in [The New York Times](#)) as well, and was sole writer of the May 2016 special issue of *National Geographic Magazine* on Yellowstone and its meaning as America's first national park. Each person will get a copy of his book *Yellowstone: A Journey through America's Wild Heart*, the book version of this Yellowstone special issue. He'll talk about the Last Wild Places initiative of the National Geographic Society, for which he is writing five magazine stories and eventually a book. (He promises not to discuss molecular phylogenetics, or the ecology of emerging diseases such as Ebola—two of his recent book topics—unless asked.)

Guests will also be joined by Kirsten Johanna Allen and Mark Bailey, executive director and founder, respectively, of Torrey House Press, publisher of Betsy's book. Sixth-generation Utahns with a home near Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Mark and Kirsten established the press to tell important stories about the people, issues, and landscapes of the American West and our ever-changing planet. As the only nonprofit literary publisher in the intermountain West, Torrey House Press is filling a cultural gap in the literary landscape with its mission to promote conservation through literature, and this trip will benefit this extraordinary nonprofit. Mark and Kirsten also serve on several conservation group boards, and they will share their intimate knowledge of the landscapes and issues affecting Utah's imperiled national monuments as we explore these world-class wonders. Mark is also proprietor of Torrey House-Alpenglow Observatory, and he'll be our guide to the stars.



The Torrey House-Alpenglow Observatory outside of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

This beautiful trip will be a pilgrimage to these amazing and at-risk sites. We will visit with people who are working to protect them, and we will savor our time within them, some of the greatest and most threatened landscapes the Southwest has to offer. As we visit these rugged lands, we'll enjoy comfortable lodgings and delectable, chef-prepared meals, all inclusive, for \$6500 per person for double occupancy or \$7000 per person for single occupancy, including a \$1500 tax-deductible portion that will support the critical work of Torrey House Press.

American public lands, as you already know, are severely threatened right now. We hope to help you fall more in love with these places, as we have, and join the ranks of their admirers and advocates. This trip is a fundraiser for Torrey House Press, a stalwart publisher that amplifies the voices of conservationists in the region, but it's also an adventurous outing to some wondrous, little-known,

and imperiled wild places. Our goals are to provide a great experience, ignite your enthusiasm and your concern, and invite you to find ways of adding your own energy to protecting American public lands. It's a cause that needs you, and a journey that you will love.

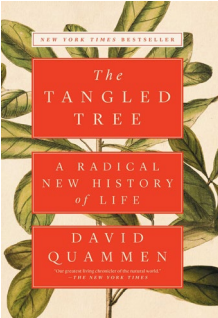
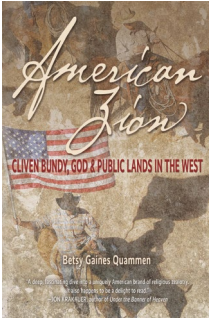
With warm regards,

Betsy and David Quammen

Kirsten Allen and Mark Bailey



Betsy Quammen



David Quammen



Kirsten Allen



Mark Bailey

**Treasures in Peril Tour
Itinerary
September 12 – 20, 2020**

September 12 (check out 13th): Begin in St. George, UT

- Stay at Inn on the Cliff
- Dinner at Cliffside Restaurant
- Fireside chat with Betsy and David Quammen who will introduce the tour and their books

September 13 – 14 (check out 15th): Boulder, UT

- Breakfast at Cliffside Restaurant
- Drive through Zion National Park and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
- Lunch stop at Mossy Cave Trailhead
- Optional hike: Upper Calf Creek Falls (2 ½ miles)
- Stay at Boulder Mountain Guest Ranch
- Dinner at Boulder Mountain Guest Ranch
- Fireside chats with David Quammen (science and American public lands) and Betsy Gaines Quammen (Mormon settlement and the Cliven Bundy saga)
- Breakfast at Boulder Mountain Guest Ranch
- Guided geology hike in Escalante slot canyons
- Dinner at the world famous Hell's Backbone Grill (see this wonderful piece in [The New Yorker](#))
- Star party with Mark Bailey, Alpenglöw-Torrey House Observatory

September 15 – 16 (check out 17th): Bears Ears National Monument

- Breakfast at Boulder Mountain Guest Ranch
- Drive through Capitol Reef National Park to Bears Ears National Monument
- Lunch stop at Mule Canyon Ruins
- Hike to House on Fire Ruins (2 miles)
- Stay at Valley of the Gods in Bears Ears National Monument
- Dinner at Valley of the Gods
- Fireside chat with Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk, Co-Chair of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition (The Story of Bear Ears)
- Guided hike and lunch with archaeologist Ralph Burrillo
- Evening cocktails at Muley Point

September 17 – 18 (check out 19th): Gold Butte National Monument

- Breakfast at Valley of the Gods
- Private flight from Bluff to Mesquite, NV
- Stay at Mesquite condos
- Dinners and lunches TBA
- Tour of Gold Butte National Monument—hikes and petroglyph walls with Steve Dudrow, Friends of Gold Butte

September 19-20 (check out 20th): St. George

- Stay at Inn on the Cliff
- Dinner at Cliffside Restaurant
- Afternoon author event with Betsy and David Quammen at the Book Bungalow
- Fireside chat with Tamra Borchardt-Slayton, chair of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah
- Breakfast at Cliffside Restaurant
- Depart



Trip Costs: \$6500 per person/double occupancy or \$7000 per person/single occupancy (\$1500 tax deductible)

- Deposit of \$3500/person due April 30, 2020; balance due August 31, 2020

Payable

by check to
Torrey House Press
150 State St. #100
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

OR

by credit card
via [PayPal](#)