

After meeting with True Mother Cranes Club tours the American west

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With an early morning start on December 22, Cranes Club participants visited the Cheon Hwa (Heavenly Dwelling Place) Gung, where True Mother warmly greeted them. She laughed and joked with everyone and was so happy to see them all. After an intimate talk with her, they hit the road to Zion National Park in Springdale, Utah. Grabbing new friends and old, they ate lunch in small groups and excitedly explored the winding road that wraps around the canyon. Red and tan hues of Navajo Sandstone effectively added to the dramatic beauty there. They capped off their day with a stop at Horseshoe Bend, a horseshoe-shaped groove of the Colorado River near Page, Arizona. Walking a sandy path, the travelers arrived at steep cliffs overlooking the river. With panoramic views in every direction, they experienced even more of the profound beauty of our Heavenly Parent's Creation.



The next day was another early rise—this time at 4 a.m. But everyone was wide awake and the bus was full of chatter as they headed to the Grand Canyon! And indeed, it is GRAND. Carved by the Colorado

River, the canyon is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and stretches 277 miles (446 km). Years of mineral deposits have embedded several layers of colorful sediment in the rock. The views were sweeping and incredible, and the travelers huddled along a protective rail, completely captivated by the unbelievable beauty before them. A family of deer was spotted in a wooded patch nearby. A trail offered new yet equally stunning views of the canyon. The temperature was freezing, but they were too caught up in this amazing moment to care. They piled into the bus again, this time to visit a theater showing an IMAX film about the canyon, followed by an airplane tour. They boarded a small plane in groups and gazed out at the spectacular scene below. Their day was packed, though, and soon they continued on to Sedona, Arizona, with its famous red sandstone formations. A quick trolley ride later and they were atop a red-rock cliff where the Chapel of the Holy Cross sits against the tranquil Sedona backdrop. There was a welcoming prayer and meditation area—where True Father once prayed—and a gift shop downstairs. It was very peaceful here, and large orange and red sandstone formations dotted the skyline, casting a unique beauty all their own.



The final day of the tour took the group to Death Valley National Park, which at 3.3 million acres of land in California and Nevada is the largest national park in the lower 48 states. It is the hottest and driest place in North America. The country was arid and stark with surreal-colored sand dunes. Then the bus turned around and took everyone back to Las Vegas. The trip may have been short, but it was filled with the unforgettable beauty of God's creation and the amazing opportunity to make new brothers and sisters from across the pond.

