

Seeing the sights in Sedona, Ariz.

Q. We are planning a trip to Sedona, Ariz., in mid-September. Can you suggest hotels, restaurants and sights to visit in the area?

A. As with any popular destination, Sedona, famous for its red-rock formations, has many accommodations in all categories: hotels, resorts, bed-and-breakfasts. It's the same with the plethora of restaurants.

I haven't been to Sedona for a while, and places to stay and eat change, so your best bet would be to go to Sedona's Web site. It will allow you to take a virtual tour of the city and its surrounding areas, and it details accommodations and restaurants. Check it out at www.visitsedona.com.

Sightseeing is glorious in this desert region, both outdoors and indoors. One of the highlights is Oak Creek Canyon Drive, which began as a cattle trail and then became a rough wagon road. Many tour compa-



Madelyn Merwin
Travel Q and A

nies include this drive in their itineraries. Because Sedona is the starting point for scenic excursions through the rugged Red Rocks, you'll have no trouble finding one to suit your

needs. The Jeep tours are fun and can go where some of the other vehicles can't.

About three miles out of town is the Chapel of the Holy Cross on a small mountain on Chapel Road. Built in 1956, it stands between two huge red sandstone peaks with access by a ramp leading to the entrance. A 90-foot cross dominates the structure. There is no charge to see the chapel and the visit takes about 30 minutes.

Sedona Trolley may be boarded at various trolley stops

and will give you an overview of the city, complete with narration. Art galleries, specialty shops and restaurants can be found at Tlaquepaque, about a half-mile south of town. Other areas featuring galleries and shops are Hillside, Hozho and Sigagua. This is just a sampling of things to see and do. The Web site will give you much more, or you can call the Sedona Chamber of Commerce at (928) 204-1123.

Q. Each year we take two grandchildren on a four-day trip. This year we want to take the two boys, ages 11 and 15. We are considering Puerto Rico. Do you have any feelings on that? Is it safe and is there a lot to do?

A. Puerto Rico is a lovely destination, and you'll have no trouble finding things to see and do, from enjoying the wonderful beaches to exploring Old Town.

As for safe, I believe it's as safe as anywhere one can travel today. However, caution is the byword whether in the United



COURTESY OF ARIZONA OFFICE OF TOURISM

Jeep tours of the red-rock country are popular with visitors to Sedona, Ariz.

States or abroad. Travelers have always been targets for dishonest people. Always be alert and aware of your surroundings, especially in crowded areas, and stay away from questionable neighborhoods.

Check Puerto Rico's Web site at www.puertorico.com for an overview, and call (800) 223-6530 for brochures and other

information.

• Send your questions at least six weeks prior to travel to Madelyn Merwin in care of Travel, Daily Herald, P.O. Box 280, Arlington Heights, IL 60006, or e-mail merwin@favoravi.com.

