

TT West 2026 – The Best of TT West in Utah and Arizona

You drive your TT next to a 20 foot sandstone boulder weighing about 300 tons for a photo op. The boulder sits precariously on the smallest of pedestals like it could roll off and crush your TT any second but it has probably been that way for centuries. This photo op in Vermillion Cliffs National Monument is one of the many amazing sites along Route 89 and 89A in Utah and Arizona.

From 2002 to 2023, TT West has often visited one or two attractions along this scenic route. This year's 850 mile trip revisited all of those great places of the past in a single drive, traveling through the most beautiful country in the USA. In addition to the grandeur and driving challenges of the road itself, we also visited nearby National and State Parks and Monuments that included Cedar Breaks, Bryce, Zion, Coral Pink Sand Dunes, Grand Canyon, Vermillion Cliffs, Wupatki and Tuzigoot ancient Native American stone village ruins, an old western fort, a ghost town, and picturesque Sedona.

TT West 2026 started Sunday May 31 in Cedar City UT with a drive to Parowan Gap ancient petroglyphs. Seemingly in the middle of nowhere, these images pecked into natural flat panels of sandstone represent the largest concentration of petroglyphs in southwest Utah. This "rock graffiti" began with native people around 500 AD who carved clan symbols, geometric designs, and wild game images into the rocks. Later markings were added by Spanish explorers and 19'th century pioneers who passed by. We then returned to Cedar City with a TT parade down Main Street.

The Monday drive focused on Utah's spectacular hoodoo rock formations. Hoodoos are a collection of rainbow colored pinnacles found in geologic cliff "amphitheatres" that are hundreds to thousands of feet deep. The drive started with challenging twisties to the summit of Brian Head Mountain (11,300') on our way to the hoodoos of Cedar Breaks National Monument. Then we drove through ancient lava beds on our way to explore Bryce National Park. While Cedar Breaks had about a mile of hoodoo vistas, Bryce offered 17 miles of these spectacular sights.

Our Tuesday drive began by exploring the western end of Zion National Park known as the checkerboard area because of the pink and white checkerboard designs in the sandstone canyon walls. Bighorn sheep prowl the canyon tops. The road through Zion itself is interesting. It was completed in 1930 and features a mile long stone tunnel through one of the mountains. It was quite an engineering feat in its time.

Our next stop was the 50 foot dunes at Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park. The dunes are believed to be over 10,000 years old and are still shifting as winds along the region's red sandstone make their deposits there. In a few million years this area will be just like Zion. Our last attraction of the day was Pipe Springs National Monument which is an old western frontier fort.

From Pipe Springs we went to our hotel in Kanab UT following the old Mormon Honeymoon Trail. It got its name from nineteenth century young Mormon pioneers who settled in Northern Arizona and had to trek 200-300 miles to the nearest Mormon Temple in Saint George UT to get their marriage consecrated. Kanab and Pipe Springs were waystations for the travelers.

Wednesday started by visiting the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. The original plan was to spend the morning at the North Rim Lodge but the Lodge, and most of the North Rim facilities, was destroyed by a forest fire last Fall. Fortunately, the Park Service chose to allow visitors to the eastern vistas but there was no gas, food, or water. So we packed a picnic lunch and enjoyed a meal with the view that beat any restaurant we visited all week,

After lunch we had one of the most beautiful drives in the United States, starting from the evergreen forests of the North Rim mesa to the twisties down the mesa to get to the desert floor below and rejoined the Honeymoon Trail heading south. We followed Vermillion Cliffs National Park which is like driving through the Grand Canyon and where we had the photo stop with the boulders previously mentioned. We then stopped at Lee's Ferry which was the only place within hundreds of miles to cross the Colorado

River in the old days. When we left Lee's Ferry, we entered the Navajo Nation and drove to our lodging at the Historic Cameron Trading Post. To finish the day we had a round trip evening drive after supper to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon to watch the sun set.

On Thursday we continued south on Rout 89 to Wupatki National Monument which features 900 year old Native American stone village ruins. Next, we drove through an area of extinct volcanic cinder cones in Sunset Crater National Monument.

After Sunset Crater we head south on Route 89 which comes along with historic Route 66 through Flagstaff. (There was a Route 66 100 year celebration in Flagstaff and many other cities the following weekend.) TT West has traveled over several sections of historic Route 66 in Arizona over the years and this adds another chapter as we paraded through downtown. After lunch in Flagstaff, we followed Rt 89A south through the spectacular Oak Creek Canyon to end of day in beautiful red rock town of Sedona.

Friday's route was a "there and back" journey to enjoy the Rout 89A mountain twisties south of the ghost town of Jerome AZ twice in the same day. We began the drive by visiting 1000 year old Native American village ruins of Tuzigoot National Monument, then attacked the twisties on our way to the Phippin Museum of Western Art near Prescott. We returned over the same twisties to Sedona where we had our farewell dinner.

The mix of cars this year followed the trend of recent years with mostly Mk 3 models participating, with one Mk 1 and three Mk 2. Over the years we have had examples of every TT special edition participate, starting with the 2000 Neiman-Marcus Christmas Catalog Edition. This year we had a 20'th Anniversary TT and a Final Edition TT. The majority of the cars were base TT with 4 TTRS and 1 TTS.

On a personal closing note, it has been an honor for me to be an integral part of TT West planning and execution for the past 25 years, and the leader of the event for most of the last half of that timeframe. TT West 2026 was my last stint as the leader, as I am passing the baton to Saul & Jeff Rivkin of Colorado for TT West 2027 which I plan to attend.

For you Audi owners who do not have a TT but would like to enjoy a TT West drive experience, Jeff & Saul are also considering an inaugural Audi West drive in 2027. Details will be announced on the ACNA web site and Facebook page.

TT West began in 2001 when a group of Southern California TT owners wanted to test their new cars which had only recently been imported to North America. The first TT West was held in Graeagle, California and has been held annually since then, making it the longest running Audi drive event in North America.

TT West is an Audi Club of North America sanctioned event and all drivers must be members at the time of registration. All drivers and passengers must be at least 18 years of age at the start of the drive. For the latest information on the dates and location of TT West 2027, and to get on the TT West mailing list to sign up for TT West 2027 before it is announced to the public, you are encouraged to visit our web site at www.tt-west.org and then periodically visit the [TT West Facebook page](#).