



Candy Johnnie, on behalf of herself and her husband, Dan, is just about breathless with excitement when speaking of the couple's absolutely most, *most* favorite fly-in destination...so favorite, in fact, the Johnnies, formerly of Southern California, have made it their new home. "Oh!" says Candy, and takes a breath. "Since we retired from work as chemical engineers and in 1997 moved our life here, we built a new home and have fallen in love with the red rocks, blue water, great fishing and remoteness; we're at 4,200-feet so there are high-desert cool evenings and warm to hot summer days, and so many possibilities for play, and we are so incredibly happy with the beauty and peacefulness of our new home and..."

*Candy! Candy!* we interrupt. *Slow down.* "Well, she laughs, "I guess you can tell. We have a wonderful life."

The "wonderful life" of Candy and Dan Johnnie is playing out in the town of Page, a mesa-top metropolis whose backyard is Arizona's amazing Lake Powell, the 160,000-acre man-made water park that is 186 miles long and features 1,960 miles of shoreline – more than the entire U.S. west coast. The lake, set like a glittering jewel in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, is a spectacular wonderland of stark contrasts: parched desert, deep azure water, dazzling red rocks of ancient sculpted sandstone. And grace of the day in 1956 when the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation began damming the Colorado

River, and the Glen Canyon Dam and Power Plant became a hydro-electric project to bog-gle the very being of these Navajo Tribal lands, Candy and Dan have thrilled to the result: a life that Candy, for one, is ecstatic to share with her fellow aviators.

"Fly in to Page Municipal Airport (PGA) in the morning," she says and goes on to spin out a tale of the perfect Page/Lake Powell day. "Walk to get a great bite to eat at Ranch House Grill, where the locals go, then stroll 100 yards to the John Wesley Powell Museum ([www.powellmuseum.org](http://www.powellmuseum.org)) – it's fascinating – and then maybe catch Overland Tours' tour of the incredible slot sandstone canyons (you can take a wonderful hike here); take your camera because you can get beautiful photos..."

*Candy!* we interject. Shouldn't we also taxi out to Wahweap Marina for a boat tour through the lake's Antelope and Navajo canyons, with maybe a picnic on the water? Enjoy cocktails at the splendid Wahweap Lodge? Dine on steaks at the Glen Canyon Steak House, and dance ourselves dizzy at either Ken's Old West or the Dam Bar/Gunsmoke Saloon...maybe both? Surely we should catch a Navajo show of native performance on the lawn of City Hall?

"Yes," Candy says, and the next day do it again (you'll find it is that much fun). Or, she suggests, awe the dinosaur tracks on Antelope Island, poke around the old trading post at Lee's Ferry (you'll need to rent a car

for the 30-minute drive), and, if there's time, motor by boat 100 miles up-lake to explore the Ancestral Puebloan (also called Anasazi) ruins of Defiance House. Absolutely don't miss, she adds, the Rainbow Bridge National Monument, a natural sandstone arch that not only is sacred to the Navajo, but also is one of the seven Natural Wonders of the World. Mesmerizing. Then there is fishing, swimming, waterskiing, sun basking and of course a tour of the dam. "Really," says Candy, "this is the most gorgeous place you'll ever find in remote northern Arizona."

We're sold. *Hey, Candy,* we ask, *is there anything else about Page and Lake Powell we and our readers need know?* "You won't want to go home," she says (after all, she and Dan never did). But if you must, "upon taking off from Page Municipal, don't forget to fly north-east up over the water to take in one last breathtaking view of Lake Powell, then turn to the west for a final great view of the dam." *Yes, ma'am. Sounds like a fly-in favorite we can't wait to delight in as well. (We'll check-out [www.visitlakepowell.com](http://www.visitlakepowell.com) to learn more.)* ✕



**Candy and Dan Johnnie delight in their new and wonderful lakeside life**