



Dear Parks & Recreation Traveler:

We are excited to finally have the information for the “*Mt. Rushmore & Crazy Horse Memorial*” trip **September 8 – 17, 2010** available to our travelers. Join us as we motor west to the beautiful Black Hills area of South Dakota with visits to the Badlands National Park, Mt. Rushmore National Monument, Crazy Horse Memorial, the historic frontier town of Deadwood and much more. We complete our trip through Nebraska which has long been an important link in America’s frontier route to the West. Its pioneer trails indeed are often referred to as “highways to history”. As always this trip is subject to change without advance notice.

Please note that registration for this trip is on a FIRST COME-FIRST SERVE basis.

We motor coach north with an overnight stop in Omaha, NE before arriving in Mitchell, SD for a visit to the *Corn Palace*, an outstanding structure which stands as a tribute to the agricultural heritage of South Dakota and is decorated each year with thousands of bushels of corn, grains and native grasses. Evening activities will include a visit to the *Dakota Discovery Museum*, with several exhibits of historic artifacts from a time when the way of life came from the land itself.

Begin day three of the trip with a stop at *Wall Drug*, a family-owned business since 1931 that has evolved into a 76,000 square foot wonderland of FREE attractions that attracts an average of 10,000 visitors per day. This American experience includes a shopping emporium of 26 stores, The Western Mall, Western Art Gallery and a restaurant that seats 520. Continuing on, drive through *Badlands National Park* with breathtaking views of 244,000 acres of sharply eroded buttes, pinnacles and spires that is considered one of the world’s richest mammal fossil beds. Arrive in Rapid City, SD for a four night stay in the scenic Black Hills area of South Dakota.

On Saturday visit *Mt. Rushmore National Memorial* to include the Lincoln Borglum Museum which has exhibits on the carving of Mount Rushmore, a 13-minute film “Mount Rushmore—The Shrine”, and an information desk for any question you may have. After lunch visit *Big Thunder Gold Mine* for an adventure into Black Hills gold mining history, geology and museum curiosities before actually trying your hand at gold panning in Battle Creek. Board the “*1880 Train*” powered by a vintage Steam Locomotive for a one hour train ride through the beautiful Black Hills countryside to Hill City for an afternoon of shopping in historic downtown Hill City. Return by coach to Mt. Rushmore National Memorial for the “*Evening Light Show*” at the memorial itself.

Day five begins with a self guided tour of *Crazy Horse Memorial*, the world’s largest mountain carving now in progress and a tribute to all Native Americans. The Lakota leader Crazy Horse is being carved on the mountain as a heroic symbol for honoring all North American tribes. After a short drive north, visit “*Tatanka: Story of the Bison*”. Through a Native American Interpreter learn the history of the bison and their relationship to the survival of the Lakota people. Tatanka’s centerpiece is a larger than life bronze sculpture of 14 bison being chased by three Native American riders on horseback depicting the “Buffalo Jump”. After some free time for sight-seeing & shopping in the historic frontier town of *Deadwood*, enjoy an evening at *Fort Hays Chuckwagon Supper & Cowboy Music Show* for a supper served on tin plates & cups along with some evening entertainment—Cowboy Style.

Begin Monday with a short guided tour of *Mt. Rushmore Black Hills Gold Factory* where Black Hills gold is made into fine jewelry & accessory pieces. Next visit *The Journey Museum* which will take us on an incredible trek through time, from the violent upheaval that formed the mystical Black Hills several billion years ago to the continuing saga of the Western Frontier. After some free time for shopping in historic downtown Rapid City, head south to *Custer State Park* with over 71,000 acres of spectacular terrain and an abundance of wildlife. Enjoy a “*Buffalo Safari Jeep Tour*” as we get up close and personal with a resident herd of over 1500 bison that roams freely throughout the park, often stopping traffic along the 18-mile Wildlife Loop Road. These majestic animals can weigh as much as 2,000 pounds and historically the animal played an essential role in the lives of the Lakota (Sioux), who relied on the “tatanka” for food, clothing and shelter. Dinner this evening is in the State Game Lodge at Custer State Park.

Our last stop in the Black Hills area will be at “*The Mammoth Site*”, the country’s largest left-as-found mammoth fossil display where large Columbian and woolly mammoths became trapped in a spring fed, slippery-sided sinkhole more than 26,000 years ago. From overhead walkways, visitors can see bones still in the sediment of this rich and active paleontological dig. As we make our loop and head for home we overnight in Scottsbluff, NE.

On Wednesday visit the *Stuhr Museum* described as a “crossroads in time”. It is a glimpse of the history & heritage of rural Nebraska communities in early pioneer days. The museum’s many indoor exhibits of period rooms, tools, household articles and furnishings introduce us to Nebraska’s history by tracing pioneer lifestyles from 1880 to 1920. After a delicious dinner at the *Chances R Restaurant* we overnight in York, NE.

Thursday visit *Wessels Living History Farm*, a 145 acre farm complete with house, barn, out buildings and farm equipment as it looked in the 1920’s,--a true memory lane experience. After a stop in Lincoln, NE at the “*Historic Haymarket*” for some shopping & sight-seeing, we overnight in Merriam, KS. On the last day of the trip visit the *Arabia Steamboat Museum* to witness a remarkable discovery of some long lost buried treasures and artifacts before heading home.

The tour includes 9 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 9 dinners, all attractions & admissions, train ride, buffalo safari jeep ride, step-on-guides, lodging, baggage handling, all gratuities, escort & motor coach transportation.

The brochures in this packet are for illustrative purposes only. Times and dates as well as restaurant menus are subject to change due to the large lead time before the actual trip.

Participants should be aware that this trip will include moderate walking with some periods of standing. Travelers will be negotiating some stairs during portions of the trip.

Participants will be restricted to one piece of checked luggage and one carryon bag to be carried inside the motor coach. Luggage tags & final itinerary will be provided closer to the actual departure date of the trip.

Participants who register must also complete a consent waiver form which will detail emergency contacts and any current and pertinent medical or medicinal information. This form will be sent at a later date.

Fee Schedule:

The cost of this wonderful trip will be **\$1595** per person (double occupancy). The single traveler fee is **\$2060** (includes a single traveler supplement of **\$465** per single traveler). This price is all inclusive and includes gratuities. We are asking you to pay in increments due to the cost of this trip. You can make payments as often as you like, but we will need a minimum amount paid as follows:

Payment Schedule:

Immediately: \$50 per person deposit (non-refundable). All refunds will be subject to a \$50 refund fee.

Friday, February 5, 2010: a minimum of \$500 must be paid

Friday, April 2, 2010: a minimum of \$500 must be paid

Friday, June 11, 2010: remaining balance of trip must be paid in full

Monday, August 6: After this date no refunds of any kind will be given for cancellations due to our commitment to the various vendors involved with this trip (see the information on travel insurance, highly recommended).

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Many of you have inquired about travel insurance for our extended trips. Travel insurance is a method of providing you a means to recoup your costs should you have to cancel at the last minute or become sick on the trip. We do not endorse any particular product, but after searching the internet we came up with a couple of sources for travel insurance.

Travel Insurance Services, 1-800-228-9792 or www.travelex-insurance.com

Travel Guard International, 1-800-826-4919 or www.travelguard.com Several of our travelers have used this provider.

Or compare several plans at once at www.InsureMyTrip.com 1-800-487-4722 or www.squaremouth.com

1-800-240-0368. With either service you can purchase online or over the phone. Please make sure you understand what you are purchasing. Buying the travel insurance is totally up to you and making any claims with the carrier is the total responsibility of the person purchasing the insurance.

Please note that registration for this trip is on a FIRST COME-FIRST SERVE basis
This trip is now open for registration

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call 636-949-3372.

Thank you for considering traveling with us.

Sincerely,

Carl Herr
Trip Coordinator

John Pike
Trip Planner