



‘Mount Rushmore & Yellowstone National Park’ September 8-17, 2021

Dear Parks and Recreation Traveler:

Join us as we make our way west and visit for the first time in our trips program two of America’s most popular and beautiful National Parks—*Yellowstone National Park & Grand Teton National Park!* Also planned on the tour will be a visit to *Mount Rushmore National Memorial* as well as a stop at *Crazy Horse Memorial* both located in the Black Hills of South Dakota. We visit *Minuteman Missile National Historic Site* followed by a scenic drive 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—*Badlands National Park!*

The first day of our trip is pretty much a travel day with a stop in Cedar Falls, IA for dinner at *Montage Restaurant*, a locally owned and operated restaurant since 1999. This upscale eatery offers lavish décor with an exceptional menu and world-class wines. Our first overnight on the trip will be in Clear Lake, IA.

On day two of our tour, we begin with a guided tour of the world’s largest RV production plant operated by the industry leader—*Winnebago!* The motor-home production lines are in a building, employees affectionately call “Big Bertha.” From our vantage point on the catwalk, we’ll see the developing motor homes creep down three 1,032-foot-long assembly lines at 21 inches per minute. We finish our day with a visit to the world’s only corn palace in Mitchell, SD. The Palace is redecorated each year with naturally colored corn and other grains and native grasses to make it “the agricultural show-place of the world.”

On Friday we visit the *Minuteman Missile National Historic Site* and learn the history and significance of the Cold War, the arms race, and intercontinental ballistic missile development. This National Historic Site preserves the last remaining Minuteman II ICBM in the United States. We then make our way through *Badlands National Park* with breathtaking views of sharply eroded buttes, pinnacles and spires and witness the world’s richest mammal fossil beds. We finish our day with the first of a three-night stay in the Black Hills of Rapid City, SD.

We begin Saturday morning with a visit to *The Journey Museum & Learning Center*. Along with Black Hills history and Native American cultures, *The Journey Museum & Learning Center* is also home to the vast collection that shows humanity’s journey through time, from creation all the way through current life. After a stop at *Prairie Edge & Sioux Trading Post* for some retail therapy, we visit *Crazy Horse Memorial*. Sitting 6,532 feet above sea level on a mountain made of pegmatite granite is the world’s largest sculptural undertaking—a Memorial of Lakota leader Crazy Horse! We will also visit the *Indian Museum of North America* featuring a large collection of art and artifacts reflecting the diverse histories and cultures of over 300 Native Nations.

Sunday, we visit *Mount Rushmore National Memorial*, a massive sculpture carved into Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills region of South Dakota. Completed in 1941 under the direction of Gutzon Borglum and his son Lincoln, the sculpture's roughly 60-foot-high granite faces depict U.S. presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. We finish Sunday with a visit to *Fort Hays Old West Town & Dinner Show* for a chuckwagon meal served on handmade tin plates & tin cups followed by a variety show performed by *The Fort Hays Wranglers*.

Day 6 of our trip is pretty much a travel day as we over-night in Cody, WY. This evening we walk across the street from our hotel to *The Cody Cattle Company* for Dinner & Entertainment—*Cowboy Style!* After a feast of Beef Brisket, BBQ Chicken and all the cowboy sides, we enjoy the entertainment of award-winning musician *Ryan Martin and the Triple C Cowboys Band!* These incredibly talented performers will keep you clapping for more as they sing, dance, and lots of fun banter between songs. Ryan and his band have entertained thousands of people from around the world.

On Tuesday we visit the oldest national park in the United States and one of the most popular parks in the country—*Yellowstone National Park!* The park is famous for its spectacular scenery, diverse flora and fauna, and fascinating geothermal wonders. One of the star attractions of Yellowstone, the geyser known as *Old Faithful* is named for the regularity with which it erupted, shooting columns of water high into the air. Today, witnessing this incredible sight is one of the most popular things to do in the park, though eruption intervals are not quite as regular as in the past. They now vary from 35 minutes to 120 minutes, with an average interval of about 92 minutes.

As we leave *Yellowstone National Park* heading south, we meet one of Wyoming's most stunning destinations—*Grand Teton National Park!* Without much warning, the Grand Tetons rise 7,000 feet almost straight up from Jackson Hole Valley. The range's serrated granite peaks are so perfectly proportioned they seem born of a landscape artist's imagination rather than Mother Nature. These are the youngest mountains in the Rockies and certainly the most handsome. Tonight, we over-night in the picturesque western town of Jackson Hole, WY. Dinner this evening will be at the historic—*Mangy Moose!*

Wednesday we head east and over-night in Cheyenne, WY with dinner at the *Rib & Chop House* in downtown Cheyenne. Thursday evening, we will stay in the Omaha, NE area with dinner at *Upstream Brewing Company* in Omaha. On Friday we continue heading east with a lunch stop in Kansas City before arriving back home in St Charles.

The tour also includes 9 Dinners, 9 Breakfasts, attractions, admissions, lodging, all gratuities, escort & deluxe motor coach transportation. As always, this itinerary is subject to change without advance notice.

Our coach will have full time Wi-Fi during the duration of our trip.

Participants should be aware that this trip will include moderate to heavy walking. Travelers will be negotiating steps/stairs on & off and up & down at various sites and motor coach during portions of the trip.

Participants will be restricted to one piece of checked luggage and one carryon bag to be carried inside the motorcoach. One piece of checked luggage and one carryon bag will be allowed on the motor coach. Luggage tags & final itinerary will be provided to you 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.

It will be the responsibility of the traveler to be punctual when the itinerary states a departure or group meeting time. In order to meet our itinerary commitments and to be fair to our fellow travelers, we will not hold the bus because someone is late. It will be the responsibility of the traveler to rejoin the group.

Fee Schedule:

The cost of this wonderful trip will be **\$2150** per person (double occupancy). The single traveler cost will be **\$2850** (Includes a single traveler supplement of **\$700** per single traveler). The Triple traveler cost will be **\$1950** per person (triple occupancy). This price is all inclusive and includes all 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, May 21, 2021: a minimum of \$700 must be paid.

Friday, June 25, 2021: a minimum of an additional \$700 must be paid.

Friday, July 23, 2021: remaining balance of the trip must be paid in full.

Friday, July 23, 2021: 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).

This trip will close out for registration on Friday, July 23, 2021

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Many of you have inquired about travel insurance for our extended trips. Travel insurance is a method for providing you a means to recoup your cost should you have to cancel at the last minute or become sick on a 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 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 or www.quotetravelinsurance.com With either service you can purchase on line 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 claim with the carrier is the total responsibility of the person purchasing the insurance.

If you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to call 636-949-3372 or John's direct line at 636-949-3580.

This trip is now open for registration and will be conducted on a FIRST COME-FIRST SERVE basis

Thank you for considering traveling with us.

John Pike
Trip Planner