

# Rocky Mountain 12-Day, Four-State Tour



## South Dakota-North Dakota-Montana-Wyoming

- Day 1 Denver – Rapid City, SD area
- Day 2 Rapid City area
- Day 3 Rapid City – Bismarck, ND
- Day 4 Bismarck, ND – Washburn, ND
- Day 5 Medora, ND
- Day 6 Medora – Billings, Mt
- Day 7 Billings – Nevada City/Virginia City or Billings – Bozeman/Big Sky
- Day 8 Montana-Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming
- Day 9 Yellowstone National Park
- Day 10 Yellowstone National Park – Cody, WY
- Day 11 Cody, WY – Rapid City, SD area
- Day 12 Rapid City, SD area – Denver



## Itinerary suggestions

### Day 1

From Rapid City and travel to Badlands National Park via I-90 east to Exit 110 at Wall. Travel on Highway 240 (Badlands Loop Road), a state scenic byway through Badlands National Park, a 244,000 acre wilderness area formed during the Oligocene age. This fossil-laden sea bed offers spires, pinnacles and wide views. Stop at a few of the scenic overlooks to see the vistas. (1 ½ hours) Morning and evening are the best time for photo opportunities.

Return to the Black Hills via Hwy 44, then south on Hwy 79 and west on Hwy 40 to Keystone.

Contact: Bonnetta Eich

Keystone Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 653  
Keystone, SD 57751  
Ph: 605-666-4896

[www.keystonechamber.com](http://www.keystonechamber.com)

### Accommodation suggestions:

Mount Rushmore Presidents View Resort  
Speck Road  
Keystone, SD 57751  
Ph: 605-666-4212  
Fax: 605-666-4805

Mount Rushmore's White House Inn  
115 Swanzey Street  
Keystone, SD 57751  
Ph: 605-666-4917  
Fax: 605-666-4805

Rushmore Express  
Hwy 16A  
Keystone, SD 57751  
Ph: 605-666-4483  
Fax: 605-666-4883

Rushmore View Inn  
610 Hwy 16A  
Keystone, SD 57751  
Ph: 605-666-4904  
Fax: 605-666-4425

### Day 2

Tour Mount Rushmore National Memorial, offering a visitor center and museum, amphitheater used for the evening lighting ceremony in summer months, the presidential walking trails, gift shop and restaurant which serves 3 meals daily.

Contact: Mike Pflaum

Mount Rushmore National Memorial  
PO Box 268  
Keystone, SD 57751 Ph: 605-574-2523

Depart Mount Rushmore for Crazy Horse Memorial via Highway 244 and Highway 385 S. You might catch a glimpse of mountain goats along the road as you depart Mount Rushmore.

Crazy Horse Memorial is the largest mountain carving taking place in the world at this time. The face has been completed and work has begun on the horse's head. First stop is the theater, where a short film will show you the progress and work on the carving. Also offered are the Indian Museum of North America, sculptor's home, gift shops and a restaurant which is open during summer months.

Contact: Ruth Ziolkowski

Crazy Horse Memorial  
Avenue of the Chiefs  
Crazy Horse, SD 57730 Ph: 605-673-4681 Fax: 605-673-2185

Depart Crazy Horse on Highway 385 S. for Custer State Park. Travel east on Highway 16A. You will see the turnoff for the wildlife loop about ½ mile past the State Game Lodge, one of five lodging facilities located in Custer State Park.

Tour the Custer State Park wildlife loop and watch for bison, pronghorn antelope, deer, elk, prairie dogs, coyotes, mountain goats and bighorn sheep in this 73,000 acres wildlife preserve that is the second largest state park in the U.S.

Contact: Craig Pugsley

Custer State Park  
HC 83, Box 70  
Custer, SD 57730 Ph: 605-255-4515



Turn north onto Highway 87, then west on Highway 16A through Custer, then north on Highway 385 to Deadwood.

Deadwood, an Old West town started with the gold rush of 1876. Highlights in Deadwood include historic tours which depart from Main Street every hour in summer months which tell you the history and legends of characters such as Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane, Poker Alice and Potato Creek Johnny. Other highlights include the '76 Museum which contains the old buggies and wagons from early days, the Adams Museum, the historic Franklin Hotel with rooms named after those who stayed there and historic Main Street itself. Gaming was brought back in 1989, but has always been a part of Deadwood history. Tatanka: Story of the Bison commissioned by Kevin Costner, with an interpretive center and 17 larger than life bronze sculptures, including three Indian hunters on horseback chasing 14 rampaging bison off a cliff, the Adams Museum and House, Mount Moriah Cemetery - where Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane are buried, Saloon #10 - the only museum in a bar where Wild Bill Hickok was shot. In Lead there is Presidents Park, Black Hills Mining Museum and Homestake Visitor Center.

Contact: Philys Reller

Deadwood Convention and Visitors Bureau

735 Main Street

Deadwood, SD 57732

Ph: 605-578-1876

[www.deadwood.org](http://www.deadwood.org)

Accommodation suggestions:

Comfort Inn

225 Cliff Street

Deadwood, SD 57732

Ph: 605-578-7550

Fax: 605-578-2836

First Gold Hotel

270 Main Street

Deadwood, SD 57732

Ph: 605-578-9777

Fax: 605-578-3979

Historic Franklin Hotel

700 Main Street

Deadwood, SD 57732

Ph: 605-578-2241

Fax: 605-578-3452

Super 8 Lodge

196 Cliff Street

Deadwood, SD 57732

Ph: 605-578-2535

Fax: 605-578-3604

Day 3

Depart Deadwood for Bismarck, North Dakota (215 miles) via Spearfish Canyon Scenic Byway.

Day 3-4

Bismarck-Mandan Area

For more information, contact the Bismarck-Mandan Convention and Visitors Bureau

701.222.4308 [visitnd@bismarckmandancvb.com](mailto:visitnd@bismarckmandancvb.com)

<http://www.bismarckmandancvb.com>

**FORT ABRAHAM LINCOLN STATE PARK:** (7 miles south of Mandan on Highway 1806): 977-acre park located on the Missouri River banks including:

- **ON-A-SLANT INDIAN VILLAGE:** (Located in the Fort Lincoln State Park): Take a walk to the reconstructed earthlodges of the Mandan Indians.

- **THE CUSTER HOUSE:** (Located in the Fort Lincoln State Park): Tour the home of General George & Libbie Custer, commissary storehouse, granary and barracks and stables.

- **FORT MCKEEN BLOCKHOUSES:** (Located in the Fort Lincoln State Park): These infantry blockhouses set high on the bluffs.

Contact – Fort Lincoln State Park: 701-667-6340 or [falsp@state.nd.us](mailto:falsp@state.nd.us). Fort Lincoln Foundation: 701-663-4758 or [www.fortlincoln.com](http://www.fortlincoln.com)

- **FORT LINCOLN TROLLEY:** A restored trolley car offers a round-trip ride to Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park. Trolley departs from the 3rd Street Station

- **FIVE NATIONS ARTS DEPOT:** (401 Main Street West – Mandan): Restored Great Northern Railroad Depot and featuring authentic American Indian wares.

Contact - Fort Lincoln Foundation: 701-663-4758 or [www.fortlincoln.com](http://www.fortlincoln.com)

**NORTH DAKOTA CAPITOL BUILDING:** The 19-story Capitol Building, built in the early 1930s, often referred to as the "Skyscraper of the Prairie."

**NORTH DAKOTA HERITAGE CENTER:** This State Museum has one of the largest collections of Plains Indian artifacts, second only to the Smithsonian.

Contact – 701-328-2666 or [www.discovernd.com](http://www.discovernd.com)

**FORMER GOVERNOR'S MANSION STATE HISTORIC SITE:** (320 Avenue B East): Restored to late Victorian era, housed North Dakota's governors from 1893 to 1960.



Contact – 701-328-3015 or 701-328-2672. or [jmosset@state.nd.us](mailto:jmosset@state.nd.us). [www.discovernd.com](http://www.discovernd.com)

DAKOTA ZOO: (Adjacent to Sertoma Riverside Park): Home to more than 500 reptiles, birds and mammals.

Contact – 701-223-7543 or [director@dakotazoo.org](mailto:director@dakotazoo.org) [www.dakotazoo.org](http://www.dakotazoo.org)

LEWIS & CLARK RIVERBOAT: This paddle-wheeler features twin decks and a 70 foot-cabin and offers dinner cruises.

Contact – 701- 255-4233 or [lewisandclark@uswest.net](mailto:lewisandclark@uswest.net) [www.lewisandclarkriverboat.com](http://www.lewisandclarkriverboat.com)

PRAIRIE KNIGHTS CASINO & RESORT: (46 miles south of Mandan on Highway 1806, approximately 1 hour drive time): 600 gaming machines, reel slots, video slots, video poker, video keno, blackjack, craps, Let it Ride, Spanish 21 and Three Card Poker.

Contact – 701-854-7777 or [dsnider@prairieknights.com](mailto:dsnider@prairieknights.com) [www.prairieknights.com](http://www.prairieknights.com)

#### Day 4

Washburn Area (41 miles north of Bismarck on Highway 83, approximately 1 hour drive time)

LEWIS & CLARK INTERPRETIVE CENTER: (Just north of Highway 200A at the junction of Highway 83): This is a world-class interpretive site along the route Lewis and Clark traveled almost 200 years ago.

- Bergquist Gallery features a rare set of the printed artworks of Swiss artist Karl Bodmer.
- Viewing of a 12-minute informational video on Lewis & Clark and Corp of Discovery.
- Fort Clark Exhibit presents information on steamboats, frontier trade and American Indian culture.

FORT MANDAN: (2 miles west of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center on McLean County Highway 17): Reconstructed site of Fort Mandan, winter home of Lewis and Clark in 1804-1805.

Contact – 701-462-8535 [www.fortmandan.com](http://www.fortmandan.com)

Stanton Area (23 miles west on Highway 200A and 5 miles north on Cty. Road 37, approx.30 minutes drive time)

KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE: (2 miles north on Cty. Road 37)

- Visit the ruins of an ancient Indian village last occupied in 1845 by the Hidatsa and Mandan. This is where Lewis and Clark met Sakakawea in 1804.
- Replica Earthlodge with exhibits.
- Video presentation American Indian life on in the village.
- Museum & artifacts.
- Contact - 701-745-3300 [Terrance\\_L\\_O'Halloran@nps.gov](mailto:Terrance_L_O'Halloran@nps.gov) [www.nps.gov/knri](http://www.nps.gov/knri)

#### Day 5

Medora Area (132 miles west of Bismarck on Interstate 94, exit 27)

For more information on the region contact:

Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation

P.O. Box 198 Medora, ND 58645 [medora@medora.com](mailto:medora@medora.com)

Phone: 1-800-633-6721

Medora Chamber of Commerce: PO Box 186, Medora, ND 58645, 701-623-4910

HISTORIC MEDORA: Medora is the gateway to the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. This authentic Old West cow-town was founded in 1883 by the Marquis de Mores and named for his wife. Medora offers a musical extravaganza, trail rides, mountain biking, hiking, museums, many gift shops and restaurants are bustling during the summer season.

CHATEAU DEMORES STATE HISTORIC SITE:

- Elegant 26-room home of the famous French nobleman who founded Medora
- Built in 1883. It is one of the three mansions on the prairie.

Contact - (701) 623-4355, or email: [drogness@state.nd.us](mailto:drogness@state.nd.us) [www.discovernd.com](http://www.discovernd.com)

DOLL HOUSE MUSEUM: A collection of antique dolls and toys housed in the VonHoffman House built by the Marquis de Mores.

NORTH DAKOTA COWBOY HALL OF FAME: Interpretive center for the history of Native Americans, ranching, rodeo, and the western lifestyle of the plains and Badlands. See Sitting Bull's headdress!

BULLY THE PLAY: One-man performance on the life of Teddy Roosevelt.

PITCHFORK FONDUE: A unique western steak meal served at the Tjaden Center on the bluffs overlooking Medora.

MEDORA MUSICAL:

- Colorful production at the spectacular Burning Hills Amphitheater.
- Western entertainment and a patriotic salute are part of each show.
- Broadway-style variety show.

Contact – 701-623-4444 or [medora@medora.com](mailto:medora@medora.com) [www.medora.com](http://www.medora.com)

SOUTH UNIT THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK:

- North Dakota Badlands provide the scenic backdrop to this park.
- Named for the 26th President, it memorializes his contribution to conservation.



- Visitor's center and Theodore Roosevelt's cabin from the Maltese Cross Ranch.
- The loop drive could provide a view of buffalo, deer, elk, big-horn sheep, wild horses, mule deer and prairie dog towns.

Contact – South Unit Information 701 623-4466 North Unit Information 701 842-2333; [www.nps.gov/thro/](http://www.nps.gov/thro/)

#### OTHER OPTIONS

- Trail rides through the Badlands on the marked trails or the Maah Daah Hey Trail
- Mountain biking through the Badlands on Maah Daah Hey Trail
- Hiking along trails through the Badlands to see nature and wildlife
- Canoeing through the Theodore Roosevelt National Park on the Little Missouri River.

#### Suggested Montana Itinerary

#### Day 6 - Montana

Medora to Billings, MT to overnight; drive time is 4 to 4 1/2 hours, so there is time for a couple of stops along the way.

Here are some suggested stops, there is not time to do them all, but it depends on what your clients are interested in:

#### **Glendive**

Makoshika State Park, suggested time here is 1-2 hours

Makoshika (Ma-ko-shi-ka) The name is a variant spelling of the Lakota phrase meaning bad land or bad spirits. Today the badlands of Makoshika are set aside for visitors to see and enjoy. In addition to the pine and juniper studded badlands formations, the park also houses the fossil remains of such dinosaurs as tyrannosaurus and triceratops. A Visitor Information Center at the park entrance houses a triceratops skull and other badlands interpretive displays. Included within the park are archery and shooting ranges as well as scenic drives and nature trails, a campground with 16 sites, a group picnic area, an outdoor amphitheater and many picnic sites. The largest of Montana's State Parks encompasses 11,531 acres at an elevation of 2,069 feet.

The park offers a visitors center, both flush and vault toilets, grills/fire rings, picnic tables, outdoor amphitheater and group use shelter, trash cans, drinking water, interpretive displays, a Frisbee golf course and special events throughout the summer. A golf course and museum are located nearby in Glendive. Visitors may camp 14 days during a 30-day period with a fee.

1301 Snyder Avenue

PO Box 1242

Glendive, MT 59330

Phone: 406-377-6256      406-232-0900      Fax: 406-377-8043

<http://www.fwp.state.mt.us/parks/parksreport.asp?mapnum=5>

Email: [makopark@be.quik.com](mailto:makopark@be.quik.com)

Miles City: The Range Riders Museum; suggested time here is 1-2 hours.

The Range Riders Museum was built on the site of the 1876 Fort Keogh containment and was opened in August of 1941. This privately financed museum is located on the site where General Nelson A. Miles constructed Cantonment #1 to secure the area in the aftermath of the Custer Battle.

The Range Riders Organization was founded in 1939 by a group of cowboy-stockmen who wanted the area's history preserved. They started the museum so the following generations would know who they were, what they were, what they did, and what they used. The museum has grown in 55 years to include nine buildings that house thousands of artifacts commonly found in the area. It portrays the authentic personality of men and women during the most difficult time in the life of a pioneer. It's the largest western museum in the area.

The hub of the complex is the original log building completed in 1941. It has a wealth of displays including pictures of early day settlers, the famed Coggs hall saddle, ladies' side saddles, antiquated cameras, patchwork quilts, and household utensils. Immediately adjacent is the Pioneer Memorial Hall with over 700 plaques commemorating the region's pioneers. Vast historic records are found in the stories of these people. Honoring these pioneers is the museum's tradition.

The Bert Clark Gun Collection features over 400 firearms. The Fort Keogh Officers' Quarters, Coach House, Homestead House, and One-Room School are full of donated artifacts. Many other special exhibits are displayed in the Heritage Center and Coach House: works of three early photographers - Huffman, Morrison, and Barthelmess; a frontier town with eleven different shops presenting a rendition of Old Main Street in Milestown; Indian artifacts from the region representing Sioux, Cheyenne, and Crow tribes; Charles



Russell Gallery; Carol's Hattery; three large reproductions of early day military, Indian and ranch life in the Fort Keogh, Lame Deer and L.O. Ranch replicas and Milwaukee shops replicas.

Route 1 Box 2003  
Miles City, MT 59301  
Phone: 406-232-6146

From Interstate-94, turn south on Route 47 to Hardin, then east on Interstate-90 to the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, about 15 miles southeast of Hardin; suggested time here is 2 hours.

Located in southeastern Montana, Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument memorializes the site of the Battle of the Little Bighorn which took place on June 25-26, 1876 between the United States Seventh Cavalry Regiment led by Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, and the Sioux and Cheyenne under the political and spiritual leadership of Sitting Bull.

A visitor center and museum contains exhibits relating to the 1876 Battle of Little Bighorn in which 210 US Cavalrymen, led by Colonel George A. Custer, were wiped out by Sioux and Northern Cheyenne warriors. The Museum features exhibits of the history of the battle, Custer, weapons, archaeology, Plains Indian life, and a walking tour with interpretive markers. It is wheelchair accessible. Adjoining the visitor center is Custer National Cemetery, which includes interments from abandoned frontier military posts, the world wars, Korea and Vietnam.

A 4.5 mile self-guiding tour road connects two separate battlefields, the Custer Battlefield and the Reno-Benteen Battlefield. Handicapped parking is located at these two locations and at the visitor center. Ranger programs are scheduled throughout the summer, and bus tours of the battlefield operate from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. During the off-season a 17-minute documentary film is shown at the visitor center.

PO Box 39  
Crow Agency, MT 59022  
Phone: 406-638-2621 Fax: 406-638-2623  
<http://www.nps.gov/libi/> Email: [LIBI\\_Superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:LIBI_Superintendent@nps.gov)

#### Day 7 – Montana

**OPTION 1:** Travel from Billings to Virginia or Nevada Cities to overnight. Drive time is about 3 and ½ to 4 hours. From Bozeman, take Route 84 to Route 287 to Virginia City and Nevada City. Spend the afternoon and evening here to relive the Old West. Tours, restaurants, shopping and lodging are available here.

Virginia City/Nevada City was born with the discovery of gold in Alder Gulch in 1863. A boom-town of the post-Civil War era, Virginia City served as the Montana Territorial Capital for 10 years, until the gold ran out. Just a mile away lies Nevada City, a western town created from a collection of buildings from other ghost towns. Both towns have been largely restored and preserved as they once stood living examples of the real Old West. The Montana Historical Society has certified 150 authentic buildings. Original buildings, dating from the Territorial days, are filled with merchandise and implements used when gold camps flourished in the West. Boardwalks, mechanical music machines, a penny arcade, antique automobiles and even a two-story outhouse add to the Old West atmosphere. The majestic Madison River Valley, just west of Nevada City, features some of the world's finest trout streams, as well as a beautiful mountain backdrop.

Museums, shops, accommodations; in Virginia City, you can shop, dine and sleep without leaving the atmosphere of the 1860s. Dine in the Wells Fargo Coffee House or the Star Bakery and bend an elbow in the Bale of Hay Saloon or Gilbert's Brewery. Modern, overnight accommodations in a charming, 19th-century atmosphere are available.

**Alder Gulch Short Line:** take the train to Nevada City on an authentic narrow-gauge railroad. Travel between the two mining camps on the Alder Gulch Short Line Railroad. At the Nevada City end of the line, visit the Alder Gulch Short Line Steam Railroad Museum with its collection of equipment and stock from railroading's gold rush era.

**OPTION 2:** This option would appeal to your clients who enjoy recreation and/or dinosaurs. Travel from Billings to Bozeman on Interstate-90, then west on Route 80 to Highway 191, still traveling south to the Big Sky area to overnight. Drive time is approximately 3 hours.

If there are dinosaur fans in the family, stop at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, which has a fantastic paleontological exhibit. The curator here is Jack Horner, on whom the lead character in Jurassic Park was based.

There's always something new to see at the Museum of the Rockies, Montana State University-Bozeman. You'll travel through 4 billion years of Earth's history beginning in the geology hall, Landforms/Lifeforms. Your next stop is One Day 80 Million Years Ago, a recreation of the dinosaur nesting colonies discovered by Jack Horner, the Museum's Curator of Paleontology. Travel on through exhibits about Montana's Native Americans and the state's recent history. And don't miss the world-class Taylor Planetarium for a new perspective on Montana's Big Sky. During the summer, visit a living history farm and see what life was like a century ago on a



Montana homestead. And each summer, the Museum features a new exhibit.

600 West Kagy Boulevard  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, MT 59717  
Phone: 406-994-2251  
or 406-994-Dino                      Fax: 406-994-2682  
<http://museumoftherockies.org>      Email: [wwwmor@montana.edu](mailto:wwwmor@montana.edu)

There are many activity and lodging options in the Big Sky Area.

Activities include horse back riding, hiking, mountain biking, fly-fishing (there are several outfitters in the area), white water rafting on the Gallatin River, gondola rides to the Summit at Lone Mountain Peak at Big Sky, golf, shopping and spa activities.

For more information, contact either the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce or for resort-specific questions, contact Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort.

Big Sky Area Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 160100  
Big Sky, MT 59716  
Phone: 406-995-3000                      Toll Free: 800-943-4111      Fax: 406-995-3054  
<http://www.bigskychamber.com>      Email: [info@bigskychamber.com](mailto:info@bigskychamber.com)

Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort  
1 Lone Mountain Trail  
PO Box 160001  
Big Sky, MT 59716  
Phone: 406-995-5000                      Toll Free: 800-548-4486      Fax: 406-995-5001  
<http://www.bigskyresort.com>                      Email: [info@bigskyresort.com](mailto:info@bigskyresort.com)

#### Day 8

Travel to Yellowstone National Park through the West entrance, West Yellowstone, MT. Drive time is about one hour.

Suggested stops in West Yellowstone:

Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center: Open all year the Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center appeals to visitors of all ages. Children have the opportunity to help staff hide food for the bears and learn proper food storage while in bear country. Graphics and up-to-date wildlife information is available for the curious visitor. Early morning and evening visitors may witness the active wolf pack as they howl majestically. Live bird-of-prey and other presentations by Karelian Bear Dog and other staff fill the visitor with the awe that Yellowstone wildlife is so popular for. The history of the bear (truth or not?) comes to life as you stroll through the newly opened Bears: Imagination and Reality Exhibit. The bears at the Center had to be removed from the wild because they were becoming dangerously comfortable around humans. Their stories help share a valuable lesson of how humans can take proper steps to ensure bears stay forever wild. The wolves at the Center are ambassadors providing a greater understanding of this predator in the Yellowstone ecosystem. Admission is good for two consecutive days ensuring that you have the time to experience it all.

201 South Canyon Street  
PO Box 996  
West Yellowstone, MT 59758  
Phone: 406-646-7001                      Toll Free: 800-257-2570      Fax: 406-646-7004  
<http://www.grizzlydiscoveryctr.org>                      Email: [info@grizzlydiscoveryctr.com](mailto:info@grizzlydiscoveryctr.com)

IMAX Theatre: The Yellowstone IMAX® Theatre boasts a 6-story high screen and 12 thousand watts of digital quality surround sound. The theatre is conveniently located beside the West Entrance of Yellowstone National Park and the Chamber of Commerce visitor center on 101 South Canyon. The theatre is open year round.

Other services include an exhibit of props from six historical scenes in the movie; a geological exhibit on the effects of the Hot Spot, a gift shop for those special souvenirs. Taco Bell Express, Geyser Grounds Espresso Bar and concessions are also available.

101 South Canyon Street  
PO Box 504  
West Yellowstone, MT 59758  
Phone: 406-646-4100                      Toll Free: 888-854-5862      Fax: 406-646-4101  
Email: [imax@wyellowstone.com](mailto:imax@wyellowstone.com)



## DAYS 9-10

WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT – YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, WY – CODY, WY

A pair of binoculars is a must for viewing the wildlife. Opportunities are also available to hike, see backcountry geysers, and take photographic tours in the wee hours of the morning.

Enter the West Gate of Yellowstone National Park at West Yellowstone, Montana. Drive east to Madison. Go south at Madison to Old Faithful. Driving time is one hour. Stop and see the world-famous Old Faithful geyser erupt.

Take some time to stroll through the National Historic Landmark, Old Faithful Inn, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. The rustic-style lodge, with log and wood shingle exterior, is located adjacent to Old Faithful Geyser. The original part of the Inn, known as the "Old House," was completed in 1904 and includes an immense lobby with a huge stone fireplace. The east and west wings were added between 1910 and 1920, with many rooms having been remodeled during the winters of 1992-1994.

Drive east from Old Faithful to West Thumb. Go north at West Thumb, and follow the shore of the beautiful Yellowstone Lake to Fishing Bridge. At Fishing Bridge, continue north toward Canyon. Just before reaching Canyon, you will want to follow the signs to view the beautiful Lower Falls, with a 308-foot (94 M) drop. Total driving time is 1-1/2 to 2 hours.

(Note: Due to construction, the road from Canyon to Roosevelt is closed.)

Drive west at Canyon to Norris Geyser Basin, the hottest and most changeable thermal area in Yellowstone. Driving time is approximately 20 minutes. You may want to visit the Norris Museum. The museum houses exhibits relating to the origins of the geothermal features found at the basin. Two walking loop trails leave from the museum. They provide a safe route for viewing the Porcelain Basin and Back Basin. Travel north from Norris to Mammoth Hot Springs. Driving time is 45 minutes to one hour.

Following your visit to Mammoth Hot Springs, return south to Norris, east to Canyon, and south back to Fishing Bridge. From Fishing Bridge, you will go east to exit the park. Fishing Bridge to Cody is approximately a two-hour drive.

Rick Hoeninghausen  
Yellowstone National Park Lodges (Xanterra Parks & Resorts)  
Email: [rhoeninghausen@xanterra.com](mailto:rhoeninghausen@xanterra.com)  
Website: [www.travelyellowstone.com](http://www.travelyellowstone.com)

## MID-DAY DAY 10 CODY, WY

In Cody, visit the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, known as the Smithsonian of the West, with five museums and galleries: Draper Museum of Natural History, Plains Indian Museum, Cody Firearms Museum, Whitney Gallery of Western Art, and Buffalo Bill Museum. Take in the Cody Nite Rodeo, with performances every night from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

There are many hotels in Cody. Check the Park County Travel Council website for a list of accommodations.

Claudia Wade  
Park County Travel Council  
Email: [pctc@codychamber.org](mailto:pctc@codychamber.org)  
Website: [www.pctc.org](http://www.pctc.org)

DAY 11  
Cody WY – Rapid City, SD  
From Cody, travel east on Highways 14/16/20 to Greybull. On this road, when you get to Emblem, look north. There is a very good chance you may see wild Mustangs.

Follow Highway 14 to Ranchester. The road, known as the Big Horn Scenic Byway, climbs to over 9,000 feet in elevation at Granite Pass. On the western side of the pass, where the most spectacular scenery is found, is Shell Creek Canyon and Shell Creek Falls. From Ranchester, get on Interstate 90 and go south.

Stop for lunch at Sheridan or Buffalo. This area is famous for some of the fiercest and bloodiest battles between the Indians and military in the 1800s, as well as the Johnson County Range Wars.



Sheridan Convention & Visitors Bureau

Email: [cvb@sheridanwyoming.org](mailto:cvb@sheridanwyoming.org)

Website: [www.sheridanwyoming.org](http://www.sheridanwyoming.org)

Buffalo Chamber of Commerce

Email: [buffalochamber@wyoming.com](mailto:buffalochamber@wyoming.com)

Website: [www.buffalowyo.com](http://www.buffalowyo.com)

Follow Interstate 90 through Gillette and the largest open pit coal mines in the world to Moorcroft. If you have time, go north at Moorcroft to Devils Tower Junction for a quick photo stop. Devils Tower is the first National Monument in the United States. The hike around the base of the volcanic feature takes over one hour. From Devils Tower Junction, go south on Highway 14 to Sundance, where you will get back on Interstate 90. Follow Interstate 90 east into South Dakota to Rapid City. Driving time from Cody to Rapid City (without stops) is about seven hours.

Devils Tower

Website: [www.nps.gov/deto](http://www.nps.gov/deto)

Days 11-12

Arrive Rapid City

Contact: Michelle Thomson

Rapid City Convention and Visitors Bureau

444 Mount Rushmore Road

Rapid City, SD 57701

Ph: 605-343-1744

[www.rapidcitycvb.com](http://www.rapidcitycvb.com)

Within The Journey Museum you will see a collection of five area museums depicting the history of the Black Hills from the American Indian and white man's perspectives. This museum contains the entire collection of the Sioux Indian Museum also.

Contact: Ray Summers

The Journey Museum

222 New York Street

Rapid City, SD 57701

Ph: 605-394-6923

Fax: 605-394-6940

Another nice stop in Rapid City is the Prairie Edge Indian Art Center located at 6th and Main Street in Rapid City. They have many unique traditional style Lakota items, many one of a kind American Indian art pieces, a trading post, an Italian bead collection and many styles of artwork.

Contact: Colleen Miller

Prairie Edge Trading Company

606 Main Street

Rapid City, SD 57701

Ph: 605-342-3086

Fax: 605-341-6415

At Black Hills Reptile Gardens you will see the largest collection of reptiles in the world.

Contact : John Brocklesby

Black Hills Reptile Gardens

8955 S. Hwy. 16

Rapid City, SD 57701

Ph : 605-342-5873

Fax : 605-342-6249

See skilled artisans crafting Black Hills Gold jewelry at Mount Rushmore Black Hills Gold and Diamond Factory Outlet.

Contact : Wes Shelton

Mount Rushmore Black Hills Gold and Diamond Factory Outlet



2702 Mount Rushmore Road  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
Ph : 605-343-2226  
Fax : 605-343-8653

Accommodation suggestions :

Alex Johnson Hotel  
523 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
Ph : 605-342-1210  
Fax : 605-342-7436

AmericInn Lodge & Suites  
1622 Rapp Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
Ph : 605-343-8424  
Fax : 605-343-2220

Best Western Ramkota Hotel  
2111 N. LaCrosse Street  
Rapid City, SD 57703  
Ph : 605-343-8550  
Fax : 605-343-9107

Comfort Inn & Suites  
916 Fairmont Blvd.  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
Ph : 605-343-2226  
Fax : 605-343-8653

Country Inn & Suites  
2321 N. LaCrosse Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
Ph : 605-394-0017  
Fax : 605-394-0182

Hampton Inn  
1720 Rapp Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
Ph : 605-348-1911

Holiday Inn Express  
645 E. Disk Drive  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
Ph : 605-355-9090