Wade’s Wild West Adventure

August 6 – 22, 2017

Visit Badlands, Yellowstone and the Grand Teton – three National Parks in the American West, plus Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Custer State Park, and so much more.....come with us on a road trip West and bring history to life. Travel across this wild country in search of wonder and imagination of the dreams and sacrifices that pioneers made carving their way west.....

Day 1 – Sunday, August 6, 2017

Our discovery of America commences with a pleasant drive westward across the Empire State past the shores of Lake Erie spending our first night away from home in Toledo, Ohio

Day 2 – Monday, August 7, 2017

Continuing westward, we’ll stay the night in Davenport Iowa, a city located along the Mississippi River. Tonight, you’ll enjoy a dinner cruise on the Celebration Belle River Cruise.

Breakfast & Dinner

Day 3 – Tuesday, August 8, 2017

This morning we journey across Iowa with a stop at The Amana Colonies, a treasure on the Iowa prairie for over 150 years. Motoring along I-80 enjoy the patchwork quilted pastures of corn and soybean fields. Today we will cross the Missouri River and arrive in Omaha, Nebraska for 2-nights.

Tonight, our Wild West Adventure begins with Cowboys, Old Fort Omaha and a Frontier Dinner where you will meet the General and his wife Mary in their historic General Crook House. Includes a guided tour of the house.

Breakfast & Dinner

Day 4 – Wednesday, August 9, 2017

Today we begin in Omaha with a Lewis & Clark Presentation by a National Park Ranger followed by a City Tour to include Father Flanagan’s Boys Town, a National Historic Landmark. Next, enjoy a visit to The Durham Museum, Omaha’s 1930’s Train Station with a box lunch served in the 1930’s Soda Fountain. Return to your hotel to refresh and enjoy an 1860’s Irish Immigrant Presentation, dressed in period costumes tells the story of an actual immigrant who came to Nebraska from Ireland in 1860.

What would a visit to Omaha be without a Steak Dinner at Brother Sebastian’s Steak House?

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 5 – Thursday, August 10, 2017  Westward HO!

Follow the path of the American west along one of the nation’s busiest migration and transportation routes, the Great Platte River Road. A vast region of great diversity, this region will delight and inspire you and remind us of the hardships these early pioneers faced. Follow their footsteps and their spirits as you go on your own pioneer journey across the great state of Nebraska.
Our first stop along I-80 in Central Nebraska is near Kearney, **The Archway**. You can’t miss it because it was built across the highway, a log bridge arch designed to represent a bridge connecting the past to the present and on to the future! It may be the only monument over a highway in North America!

Next, visit the **Buffalo Bill State Historical Park** and the man who made the Wild West world-renowned. Nobody personifies the frontier spirit better than William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody, the west’s most colorful showman. Enjoy a guided tour of his home and Scout’s Rest Ranch show barn.

Continuing westward through the Cornhusker State, arriving late afternoon in the beautiful state of Wyoming. A land of breathtaking craggy mountains, vast plains, hot springs, geysers and rodeos! A fine place to “tie up our horses” and rest for the night in Cheyenne, WY.

**Breakfast**

Day 6 – Friday, August 11, 2017

Today we will cross the Continental Divide en route to Jackson Hole Wyoming, the Wild West town with its wooden sidewalks and wild saloons including the fabled Million Dollar Cowboy Bar. Check in for an enjoyable two-night stay at the Elk Country Inn with the remainder of the day free to explore on your own followed by a casual dinner with our traveling friends!

**Breakfast & Dinner**

Day 7 – Saturday, August 12, 2017 **JACKSON HOLE, WY**

A scenic cruise on **Jenny Lake** is sure to be one of the highlights of your trip to Grand Teton National Park. You will cruise along on this beautiful glacier-fed lake with a knowledgeable guide and learn about the history and geology of the area as well as the flora and fauna around the lake. Its 13,770-foot-high ridges are crested with snow most of the year. Think about the wonderful photo opportunities you’ll have to remember the scenery and beauty of Jenny Lake and the Grand Teton.

Return to the Inn and enjoy a leisurely afternoon exploring the shops and museums of historic downtown Jackson Hole. Stroll along the old-time boardwalks and have lunch at a historic saloon.

Tonight, enjoy a barbeque cookout and a wonderful Wild West show, taking you back to the spirit of the old west with a relaxing atmosphere, rib stickin’ meal and authentic cowboy entertainment.

**Dinner**

Day 8 – Sunday, August 13, 2017 **GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK – YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK**

Travel the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway traveling through **Grand Teton National Park**, one of America’s last preserves of wild solitude with scenic stops along the way including Jackson Lake Lodge. Enter the south entrance to **Yellowstone National Park** - America’s first national park is on everyone’s bucket-list destination where wild animals roam freely in vast meadows and forests. You’ll see the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone with its Upper and Lower Falls and view many of Yellowstone’s geothermal sites, including Old Faithful Geyser. Be watchful for “bear jams,” traffic backups caused by bears crossing roads or blissfully hanging out, tempting shutterbugs!
Enjoy several photo stops on the way to your hotel, including Old Faithful to see an eruption. Checking in at Kelly Inn West Yellowstone Hotel for 2-nights. You’ll enjoy a relaxing dinner at your hotel.

Dinner

Day 9 – Monday, August 14, 2017  YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - LAMAR VALLEY WILDLIFE TOUR

The single best place to watch the wild things in Yellowstone is Lamar Valley, habitat for bears, wolves, elk, bison, pronghorn, eagles, and bighorn sheep. Travel through Norris geyser basin, mammoth hot springs and enjoy a picnic dinner before exploring the Lamar Valley in the evening when animals are most active. While we can’t promise which wild animals will appear, we can promise your interpretive guide will have great stories to tell about the wildlife and the larger story of why they still abound here, in the most wild part of the Wild West....keep the cameras ready!

Breakfast & Dinner

Day 10 – Tuesday, August 15, 2017  YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK - CODY

We check out and return to Yellowstone National Park for another great day of sightseeing including the “Grand Canyon of Yellowstone” with both Upper and Lower falls and scenic Hayden Valley. Proceed through Shoshone National Forest to Cody, WY - the Rodeo Capital of the World!

This frontier town takes its name from the town founder, Buffalo Bill Cody - enjoy a visit at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, see amazing exhibits that tell the authentic story of the American West—past and present, history and myth, art and culture.

Tonight, we hang our cowboy hat at The Cody and enjoy a leisurely dinner before an exciting event at The Cody Nite Rodeo, it is the longest running and the only place that rodeos every night for 76 years of fun western entertainment. You’ll meet the clowns & bullfighters, and lots of photo opportunities.

Breakfast & Dinner

Day 11 – Wednesday, August 16, 2017  HISTORIC DEADWOOD

Continue our journey thru Shell Falls Canyon and over scenic Granite Pass (8900’) in the Bighorn Mountains. Arrive in the cattle town of Sheridan for a lunch at the Historic Sheridan Inn, one of Wyoming’s most storied destinations, rich in history, legend and lore. Once the stomping grounds of William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody and his Wild West Show. He would audition acts from the front porch of the Inn. Annie Oakley, a renowned markswoman, became a star of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.

Traveling to our overnight destination at The Lodge at Deadwood, the area’s newest gaming resort.

Breakfast & Lunch

Day 12 – Thursday, August 17, 2017  RAPID CITY – KEYSTONE, SOUTH DAKOTA

The discovery of gold in the Black Hills in 1874 set off one of the last great gold rushes in the country and Deadwood boomed with gold seekers, attracting outlaws, gamblers and gunslingers to this tiny “gold camp.” You’ll enjoy a guided tour of this Old West town and Boot Hill, hearing stories of the famous and infamous like Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane, that made this town legendary.
Following our tour, depart for Rapid City, South Dakota, The City of Presidents with life-sized bronze sculptures of our past US presidents. Enjoy free time and picture taking with the presidents!

A place where the spirit of the Old West lives on, deep in the heart of the Black Hills, is the friendly town of Keystone, South Dakota and our 2-night lodging at the K Bar S Lodge. Time to relax and enjoy a nice leisurely dinner before departing to an evening event at Mount Rushmore to see the stunning granite faces, a giant monument to four great American presidents: Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt. Join a park ranger in the park's outdoor amphitheater for an inspirational program focusing on the presidents, patriotism and the nation's history. Beginning with a ranger talk, this program continues with the film Freedom: America's Lasting Legacy and culminates in the lighting of the memorial.

Breakfast & Dinner

Day 13 – Friday, August 18, 2017  
**CUSTER STATE PARK**

Today you’ll enjoy a visit to see **Crazy Horse Memorial** - The World's Largest Mountain Carving, dedicated to preserving & honoring the North American Indian living culture. Henry Standing Bear was an Oglala Lakota Chief who invited sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski to carve a memorial honoring all North American Indians. The Indian Museum of North America features American Indian art and artifacts from tribes across North America and offers the opportunity for guests to be hands on. Lunch will be on own.

Travel into the backcountry to **Custer State Park** for a Buffalo Safari, explore the granite peaks and open ranges of the second-largest state park in America on a guided jeep tour. The Off-Road Buffalo Safari Jeep Tour allows us to go where no “bus” can go, deep into the buffalo herds!

Inside Custer State Park is located the historic **State Game Lodge**, a gracious native stone and wood lodge built in 1920, served as the “Summer White House” for Presidents Calvin Coolidge and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Dinner will be enjoyed here at the Lodge, a casual yet elegant ambiance that harkens back to the state dinners of the 1927 summer White House.

Breakfast & Dinner

Day 14 – Saturday, August 19, 2017  
**BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK**

After check-out, our tour departs for a trip through the historic **Badlands National Park** with stunning landscapes that are often compared to a moonscape. The Lakota gave this land its name, “Mako Sica,” meaning “land bad.” Consists of 244,000 acres of sharply eroded buttes, pinnacles and spires blended with the largest protected mixed grass prairie in the United States. Visit the Ben Reifel Visitor Center to watch a park video, tour exhibits and browse the gift shop.

Remember when we crossed the Missouri River heading west? Well now we are heading east through South Dakota where we will cross the Missouri River again on I-90 with a popular stop along the way at Al’s Oasis, a South Dakota tradition. Our last night in South Dakota staying in Sioux Falls.

Breakfast

Day 15 – Sunday, August 20, 2017  
**DUBUQUE, IOWA**
Nicknamed the Masterpiece on the Mississippi River, situated on majestic bluffs with the most spectacular views in the Midwest. For one of the best views in the tri-states, Ride the Rail – the shortest, steepest railway in the world, a bragging point for locals. It’s a must-see and must-do! Dubuque is a real treat and you’ll get to sample one of those treats, made by the nuns at Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey. Get your taste buds ready for a sumptuous dinner this evening.

**Breakfast & Dinner**

Day 16 – Monday, August 21, 2017  **TOLEDO, OHIO**

Overnight once again in Toledo at the Country Inn & Suites and our final evening.

**Breakfast**

Day 17 – Tuesday, August 22, 2017  **JOURNEY HOME**

Return home after sharing miles of amazing scenery making memories that will stay with you forever!

**Breakfast**

Cost per person based on double occupancy; $3,650.00

Tour Highlights;

16-nights deluxe accommodations;  **27 meals:** (11) dinners, (2) lunches, (14) breakfasts

Celebration Belle dinner cruise
Lewis & Clark Presentation
A frontier dinner with tour and entertainment
Buffalo Bill State Historical Park
Scenic cruise on Jenny Lake
Barbeque cookout and wild west show
Yellowstone National Park wildlife tour
Buffalo Bill Center of the West
The Cody Nite Rodeo
Tour of Historic Deadwood
Mount Rushmore illumination program
Crazy Horse Memorial
Guided jeep tour through Custer State Park
Badlands National Park

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518.355.4500  800.955.WADE