

Yellowstone National Park/Grand Teton Range/Mt. Rushmore

Fri., June 8th – Sat., June 16th, 2018

Developing Itinerary

Day 1 (Friday) - Arrive at St. Christopher parking lot (147th & Karlov) at 7:30am, prepare for 8am departure time. In this trip we'll see some of America's Grandest Sites! Our western adventure begins with traveling across Illinois and Iowa and a stop for a farmer's lunch in Iowa. We'll continue through Iowa and ride along the Missouri River. As we enjoy the scenery we'll continue with all the enjoyment we have on the bus as we travel to our stop for the night in Sioux City, IA at the Stoney Creek Inn. We'll get a Northwood's welcoming, gather for dinner after checking in at the Inn for the night and enjoy getting further acquainted with our travelers. (CB, L, D)

Day 2 (Saturday) – After breakfast at the Inn we'll continue to travel westward passing through Sioux Falls, IA and entering into South Dakota Territory. Our westward afternoon stop for lunch is at Al's Oasis. After lunch we continue traveling west and enter The Badlands, where 35 million years of erosion have sculpted a jumble of strange & striking shapes. The park was once described as *"Hell with the fires burned out."* Afterwards we'll visit the most famous Wall Drug, definitely an authentic Americana must see. We'll also make time for an (optional) evening vigil mass. Our stay tonight is at the Comfort Suites in Rapid City, SD. (B, L)

Day 3 (Sunday) – Following breakfast we'll board to tour the Black Hills region including Keystone and Mount Rushmore. Keep your camera ready for incredible photo opportunities. We'll allow time at Mt. Rushmore before heading toward Yellowstone. Our next 2 nights are in Cody, WY (B, D)

Day 4 (Monday) – After breakfast we'll be joined by our tour guide for Yellowstone National Park. Established in 1872, Yellowstone became the 1st National Park in the world. Now, over 90 countries have National Parks. This 2,219,766 acre park contains almost 300 geysers and over 10,000 hot springs, fumaroles and bubbling mud pots. We'll look for moose, elk, bison, bears and wolves. Today we visit major attractions of the Northern Loop, the area of the park which stands on a broad elevated plateau 7,800 feet above the level of the enclosed tableland. We'll visit the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River and see plunging waterfalls twice as high as Niagara. We'll enjoy our lunch there with a scenic picnic lunch. We'll continue with hot springs, bubbly paint pots, steam vents and geysers and areas

famous for wildlife viewing. We'll loop back to Cody where we'll enjoy tonight's dinner and Rodeo! (B,L, D)

Day 5 (Tuesday) –After our morning breakfast we check out of our hotel/lodge and enter back into Yellowstone. We'll travel the Southern side of the Yellowstone Natl. Park and far more gorgeous scenery and wildlife en route to the Old Faithful Inn Lodge and have lunch overlooking the famous "Old Faithful Geyser". Every 90 minutes, Old Faithful shoots thousands of gallons of steaming water into the air. After, is maybe the most picturesque journey of our tour as we pass through The Grand Tetons National Park we'll see the jagged, soaring, Teton Range with peaks over 12,000 ft. en route to Jackson Hole. Our lodging in Jackson for the next 2 nights is at The Rustic Inn. (B,L)

Day 6 (Wednesday) -After breakfast we again visit Grand Teton National Park, where (conditions permitting) we'll experience an unforgettable float trip which awaits us on the Snake River. Wildlife viewing opportunities abound! In the afternoon we'll have free time for downtown Jackson, a true Wild West town where 3000 elk horns form the arch over Main Street; swinging door saloons, shoot-outs, dinner and a wonderful evening at The Rustic Inn. (B ,D)

Day 7 (Thursday) – After breakfast we leave our resort to once again gaze at the mountains and the open grazing land of Wyoming. We head back toward our Rapid City area hotel. (B,D)

Day 8 (Friday) – We'll view the Badlands eastward and visit the amazing Sioux Falls for dinner & return to Stoney Creek Inn, Sioux City, IA. (B, D)

Day 9 (Saturday) – As we make our journey home we'll enjoy the famous Machine Shed meal in Iowa and share our memories of the great National Parks(B, L)