

# BLACK HILLS & YELLOWSTONE

September 26, 2017 - 15 Days



a world to experience



## Fares Per Person:

**\$4155** double/twin

**\$5430** single

**\$3795** triple



- > Please add 0.1% GST
- > **Early Bookers:** \$200 discount on first 15 seats; \$100 on next 10
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 87 points from this tour.  
Redeem **87 points** if you book by **July 27**.

## Includes

- Transfers to/from Victoria Airport
- Flight from Victoria to Kelowna and return
- Coach transportation for 14 days
- 14 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Fairmont Hot Springs pools
- Canadian Museum of Rail Travel
- Amtrak train from Whitefish to Glasgow, MT
- Fort Peck Dam Interpretive Center
- Locally-guided tour of Roosevelt National Park
- Journey Museum
- Black Hills Central Railroad
- Mount Rushmore National Memorial
- Rushmore Borglum Center
- Crazy Horse Memorial
- Chuckwagon dinner with entertainment
- Badlands National Park
- Wind Cave tour
- Mammoth Site
- Grand Tetons National Park
- Yellowstone National Park
- Yellowstone Imax Theatre
- Grizzly Discovery Center
- Montana Historical Society Museum
- Last Chance Tour Train in Helena
- Cataldo Mission
- Knowledgeable tour director
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **28 meals:** 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 3 dinners

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## Black Hills & Yellowstone wonders

One of the first highlights is travelling through the Rockies and across Montana by train. In the Black Hills, we view two incredible mountain carvings, Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse, admire the strange formations of Badlands National Park, stroll the vast Wall Drugstore, and go underground at Wind Cave. Later, we are awed by the soaring peaks of the Grand Tetons and the erupting geysers, bubbling mud pots, and roaring waterfalls of Yellowstone. The fall foliage of the Black Hills, the brilliant colours of the Badlands, and the multitude of hues around the geyser basins all combine to create a kaleidoscope of colour. We visit seven national parks and monuments, ranging from famous to obscure: Glacier, Theodore Roosevelt, Mount Rushmore, Badlands, Wind Cave, Grand Tetons, and Yellowstone.

### Itinerary

#### Tuesday, September 26:

An afternoon transfer is provided to the airport. We fly from Victoria to Kelowna and stay overnight at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel.

#### Wednesday, September 27: *Meals: L,D*

We meet the Interior passengers during pickups through the Okanagan Valley. We travel east across Rogers Pass through Glacier National Park, then south along the Rocky Mountain Trench to **Fairmont Hot Springs Resort**. Tonight, soak in the hot pool where the water temperature ranges from 104 to 110 degrees F.

#### Thursday, September 28: *Meals: B*

We take a guided tour of the **Canadian Museum of Rail Travel** in Cranbrook. It features a wonderful collection of railroad passenger cars including the 1927 Strathcona, the 1907 Curzon plus 11 other restored cars. Continuing south, we cross the border into Montana and stay overnight at the Red Lion Hotel in **Kalispell**.

#### Friday, September 29: *Meals: B,L*

We board **Amtrak's Empire Builder train** at nearby Whitefish and follow the Middle Fork of the Flathead River east through the Montana Rockies, bordering the U.S. Glacier National Park. At Marias Pass, we top the **Continental Divide** at 5,213 feet. For the rest of the day, we cross the Blackfoot Indian Reservation and journey across the plains of northern Montana. We get off the train at Glasgow and stay overnight at Cottonwood Inn.

#### Saturday, September 30: *Meals: B,L*

**Fort Peck Dam** stretches across the Missouri River for four miles and backs up a reservoir that is 134 miles long. We stop at the Interpretive Center which tells the story of construction during the 1930s. We enter **North Dakota** and a local guide conducts a drive through **Theodore Roosevelt National Park**. It is dedicated to President Roosevelt, a one-time resident who devoted his efforts to conserving the Dakota Badlands. We stay at the Rough Rider Hotel in Medora.

#### Sunday, October 1: *Meals: B,L*

We head south through the Little Missouri National Grassland and past White Butte, highest point in North Dakota. In **Rapid City**, South Dakota, we take a high-tech trip through 2½ billion years of Black Hills history at the Journey Museum. We stay three nights at the Holiday Inn.

#### Monday, October 2: *Meals: B,L,D*

The day is devoted to touring the **Black Hills**. First we ride the Black Hills Central Railroad in antique cars pulled by an 1880s steam locomotive. Next, we view the famous carvings of the Presidents at **Mount Rushmore** and an interpretive film at the Borglum Center. We also visit **Crazy Horse** where a mountain is presently being carved into a giant memorial to native Americans. Dinner with entertainment is included at the Chuckwagon.

#### Tuesday, October 3: *Meals: B*

An amazing shopping experience awaits at **Wall Drug**, a family-run store which covers over an acre and sells almost everything. In the 1930s, founder Ted Husted erected billboards along the highways advertising free ice water, and today two million people visit Wall Drug each year. In the afternoon, we explore **Badlands National Park** which contains spectacular examples of erosion and the fossils of many creatures.

#### Wednesday, October 4: *Meals: B,L*

At Hot Springs, we see the **Mammoth Site** where dozens of prehistoric bones have been unearthed and archeological discoveries are continuing. Next is a walk through the caverns and passages of the exquisite **Wind Cave**. Our night stop is in Casper at the Hampton Inn.

#### Thursday, October 5: *Meals: B,L*

Our first stop is Hells Half Acre, an extraordinary collection of coloured spires. The road climbs steadily into the Gros Ventre Range and suddenly we see the **Grand Tetons** ahead — spectacular rugged peaks which tower to almost 14,000 feet.

Numerous films have been shot in this valley and one popular location is the Oxbow Bend of the Snake River. In **Jackson**, we stay overnight at the downtown Lexington Inn which is convenient to browse the shops and galleries of the Town Square.

**Friday, October 6:** *Meals: B,L*  
Entering **Yellowstone National Park**, the USA's oldest national park, we stop at West Thumb Geyser Basin, stroll the boardwalks beside huge Yellowstone Lake, and watch an eruption at famous **Old Faithful Geyser**. Lunch is included at exquisite Old Faithful Inn, one of the largest log buildings in the country and noted for its vast lobby with an 80 foot ceiling. This afternoon, we view the dramatic film at the Yellowstone Imax Theatre and visit the Grizzly Discovery Center, home to bears and wolves. We stay two nights at the Stagecoach Inn in West Yellowstone.

**Saturday, October 7:** *Meals: B,L*  
Our sightseeing drive around Yellowstone Park continues with stops at Norris Geyser Basin with its many fumaroles and spouts, **Mammoth Hot Springs** where boiling water cascades off travertine terraces, mighty **Yellowstone Falls**, and the colourful Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

**Sunday, October 8:** *Meals: B,L*  
We pass Quake Lake, created by the landslide from the 1959 earthquake, and see the headwaters of the Missouri River. Our destination is **Helena**, capital of Montana. Gold was discovered here in 1864 and the city has retained much of its heritage. To better appreciate its long history, we visit the Montana Historical Society Museum and take a ride around town on board the Last Chance Tour Train. We stay overnight at the Best Western Great Northern Hotel.

**Monday, October 9:** *Meals: B,L,D*  
Happy Thanksgiving! We again cross the Continental Divide and follow the Clark Fork River west through Missoula, then across the panhandle of Idaho. A stop is made at historic **Cataldo Mission**, Idaho's oldest building. Our last night is at the Red Lion Inn at the Park in **Spokane**. A farewell dinner (and Thanksgiving dinner) is planned so you can reminisce about the many highlights of Montana, the Dakotas, and Wyoming.

**Tuesday, October 10:** *Meals: B,L*  
We drive across the volcanic plateaux of central Washington past immense Grand Coulee Dam. At the border, there is a stop at the Duty-Free Store, then we head up the Okanagan Valley. We fly home to Victoria this evening.

## Tour Policies

**Payments:** A deposit of \$400 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due July 27, 2017.

**Discounts:** Early bookers receive \$200 discount on first 15 seats and \$100 on next 10 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 27.

**Cancellation Policy:** Up to June 27, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From June 28 to July 27, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From July 28 to August 25, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From August 26 to September 6, the cancellation charge is 70% of the tour fare. After September 6, there is no refund.

**Fare Changes:** Changes to taxes and surcharges from railroads and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until departure.

**Travel Insurance:** A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

**Home pickups and dropoffs** may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and the size of the chartered vehicle. Decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

**Photo Credit:** National Park Service



**Activity Level:** Light activity including short distances to walk at places such as Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Badlands, and Yellowstone. There are steps getting on and off the trains. The Wind Cave tour utilizes an elevator with 150 steps during the one-hour underground tour. If you think you may have difficulty participating in Activity Level 1, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance.

**e-points:** This tour earns 87 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until July 27.

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