

# The Backroads of Wyoming

## The Wild & Wonderful West



Sheridan - Cody - Teton - Taramie - Cheyenne



September 17 - 28, 2018 (12 days)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- \* Autumn in Wyoming - The absolutely best time!
- \* Stunning Scenery
- \* Devils Tower National Monument
- \* The Ranch at Ucross
- \* Kings Saddlery - King Ropes
- \* Circle A Ranch Brinton Museum
- \* Scenic Bighorn Mountains
- \* Buffalo Bill Center of the West
- \* Dan Miller Music Revue
- \* Heart Mountain World War II Site
- \* Historic Irma Hotel
- \* Great Western Dining
- \* Chief Joseph Scenic Byway
- \* Amazing Wildlife Sightings
- \* Yellowstone National Park
- \* Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
- \* Old Faithful Geyser
- \* Jackson Lake Lodge
- \* Grand Teton National Park
- \* Sinks Canyon
- \* Snowy Range Scenic Byway

- \* Wyoming Territorial Prison
- \* Cheyenne, WY Tour



Bighorn Mountains - beautiful backroads await!



Wyoming is the 44th state admitted to the Union, the 10th largest by area, and the least populous

Wherever your travels take you during your visit, you have a **real western adventure** in store! The Wyoming state insignia, a cowboy waving his Stetson Hat while riding on the back of a bucking horse says it all. This is **classic cowboy country**, a land of wide open grasslands stretching for miles in every direction. There are fewer than a half million people that inhabit an area nearly 100,000 sq. miles. For visitors the main attractions of Wyoming are in the northwestern corner where the twin spectacles of **Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks** attract some three million visitors annually.

We know what's in store as you travel the state: great places, people and memories. **Wyoming** is home to some of the best national parks and monuments. Wyoming is home to the world's first National Park, Yellowstone; the first National Monument, **Devils Tower**; the first National Forest, Shoshone; the picturesque, Teton Mountain Range; and deeply rooted Western Culture and spirit.

Wyoming is a place where you can roam free and experience what it's like to be somewhere truly **forever West**. This spirit not only lives on in the wide open spaces and views, but also in Wyoming citizens. Wyoming is truly what **America once was**. It is said to be the **wild, wholly west** at its best! It has the largest intact ecosystem in the lower 48 states meaning that all of the species that have roamed this sweeping mountain plateau are still in residence. Yellowstone was signed into being by President Ulysses Grant in 1872, and covers 2.2 million acres. **Lamar Valley** is known as the "Little Serengeti" of North America, it's magnificent in its wildness and uniquely American.



Autumn in Wyoming!



The Ranch at Ucross - R&J Travelers riding horseback in scenic splendor

### Day 1 - Home to York, NE

"Go West" they told us, so that's exactly what we'll spend our day doing. Make special note of the changing landscape out the motorcoach windows as we travel through the forested rolling hillsides, into rich, open farmland of southern Minnesota and Iowa before we cross over to the flat prairie of Nebraska. We'll travel westward to York, NE, our resting place for the night.

**Included Meals: Dinner**

**Hotel: Holiday Inn Express**

### Day 2 - York to Cheyenne, WY

Continuing our travels west today we travel along I-80 which follows the paths that early pioneers followed. We'll make a stop in the town of Ogallala for lunch right on Main Street where back in the days cattle drives traveled! This afternoon we cross into Wyoming and make our first stop at Cheyenne for the night

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

**Hotel: Hampton Inn**

### Day 3 - Cheyenne to Laramie, WY

After a hot breakfast at our hotel, a local step-on guide will give us a quick tour that includes the State Capitol Building, Governor's Mansion, and Historic Union Pacific Train Depot. No trip to Cheyenne would be complete without visiting the Cheyenne Frontier Days and Old West Museum. After an included lunch stop, we continue our journey. What awaits us in Laramie is fascinating. The Wyoming Territorial Prison Historic Site. This 1872 prison is rich with tales of its "violent & desperate outlaws," the most famous of which was Butch Cassidy. We will tour the prison and then enjoy dinner here, complete with great musical entertainment.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Hotel: Hampton Inn**

### Day 4 - Laramie to Lander, WY

After a restful night and a hot breakfast at our hotel we begin our scenic drive up over the mountains. We leave the interstate and take the backroads across the Medicine Bow Mountains and over Snowy Range Pass, an elevation of 10,847 ft. The vistas from the top are unbelievable! We'll take plenty of time for stops and pictures and breathing in that fresh mountain air! As we come down off of the mountain pass we have a wonderful lunch awaiting us at the Silver Saddle Restaurant in

## WYOMING TRAVEL TIPS

- 1) Plan to bring layers - Jackets and rain gear are a must.
- 2) Plan to disconnect - Connections to the outside world are fairly limited.
- 3) Keep your eyes open - Bring cameras and binoculars.
- 4) Keep at least 25 feet away from the wild animals - Remember they are wild!



Jenny Lake - located in Grand Teton National Park, this Lake was named after a Shoshone Indian woman who married an Englishman

the Saratoga Hot Springs Resort. We continue on towards Lander and visit Sinks Canyon of the Wind River Range. The canyon is named for a unique geologic formation, The Sinks, where the river vanishes underground only to resurface a quarter mile downstream in a dark blue trout infested deep pool. We can clearly observe this phenomenon. Overnight is at the beautiful, new Holiday Inn Express in Lander. A pizza party at the hotel enables us to share the highlights of the day.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Hotel: Holiday Inn Express**

### Day 5 – Lander to Jackson, WY

Following another hot breakfast, we say goodbye to Lander and continue west, making our way towards the majestic Grand Teton National Park. Get your cameras ready! First we travel up over Togwotee Pass and cross the Continental Divide. Ahead of us the Grand Teton Mountain range awaits and our first stop is at Jackson Lake Lodge for a lunch at the historic Mural Dining Room. Here you will enjoy a stunning view of the majestic Tetons beyond. This afternoon we continue our viewing of the Tetons as we travel through the National Park with stops at Jenny Lake and many photo opportunities along the way, as well as a visit to the Park's Visitor Center. We'll end our day in the town of Jackson where we check into our hotel. This evening you will be able to enjoy some time in the downtown area for a meal and some shopping.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

**Hotel: Hampton Inn**

### Day 6 – Jackson to West Yellowstone, MT

Another great day is ahead of us, so after breakfast we board the motorcoach for a drive along the foot of the Tetons and into Yellowstone National Park. Making numerous stops you'll have ample opportunity to soak in the magic of this special place. Sightings of elk, moose and bison are very possible in the morning mist. We'll enter through the South entrance of Yellowstone National Park and

cross the continental divide 3 times as we make our way along the beautiful park roads to Old Faithful Geyser basin. Here we'll wait for this iconic geyser to spew forth its beauty as it's been doing for hundreds of years. We'll enjoy lunch here and then continue our scenic drive through the geyser basin area of the park and past the Firehole River as we travel towards West Yellowstone for the night.

**Included Meals: Breakfast**

**Hotel: Grey Wolf Inn and Suites**

### Day 7 – West Yellowstone to Cody, WY

Across the park from west to east we travel this morning as we make our way to the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone and the picturesque Lower Falls viewing area at Artist Point. The 300 ft Lower Falls from Artist Point is one of the most recognizable pictures in all of Yellowstone. We'll stop in Canyon Village where you will have an opportunity to enjoy lunch and pick up a park souvenir or two. Then it's up over Dunraven Pass at a height of over 8850 ft for more spectacular views. We descend towards Tower Falls and then we drive across the Lamar Valley where we will watch for buffalo, elk and maybe a pack of wolves. Up we go towards the North East Exit of the park where we will take a break in Cooke City before we travel the picturesque Chief Joseph highway. We'll be traveling down through the beautiful Absaroka Wilderness as we look for elk, antelope, and maybe a bear on our way into Cody.

**Included Meals: Breakfast**

**Hotel: Comfort Inn (2 nights)**

### Day 8 – Cody, WY

We spend the entire day exploring in and around Cody. Cody is a "western paradise." Just outside of town we visit Heart Mountain, a National Historic Landmark site where more than 14,000 Japanese Americans were confined during World War II. A fascinating part of our history we know little about. Then back to town for lunch at Buffalo Bill's Historic Irma Hotel. You'll have time following lunch to browse the many shops surrounding the Irma on Main Street.



Buffalo Bill Center of the West



Old Faithful



Wyoming Territorial Prison



Sinks Canyon - remarkable!

After some browsing time, we go directly to the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. This is a world renowned Smithsonian destination for millions – No other place like it in the world! The Center is comprised of 5 incredible museums: Buffalo Bill Museum, Cody Firearms Museum, Draper Natural History Museum, Plains Indians Museum and the Whitney Western Art Museum. This is self-guided and you may explore them all. We are guests at the Dan Miller Music Revue Dinner Show right at the Center this evening. Dan is a Nashville artist, and along with his Empty Saddles Band, plays smooth, easy listening music you will surely enjoy.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

### Day 9 – Cody to Sheridan, WY

This morning following breakfast in the old Saloon we travel to “Old Trail Town”. Here we experience a collection of 26 authentic buildings from the mid to late 1800’s that have been relocated to the original town site of Cody. You’ll discover original cabins of well-known mountain men and outlaws such as Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid; a rare “window” into life in the Old West. We depart Cody mid- morning and begin our travels towards the Bighorn Mountain range. We’ll travel a beautiful mountain road with many magnificent vistas along the way. A stop at Shell Falls will show us the impressive power of water as it plummets over the falls and cuts out a magnificent canyon. Later among the pine trees at the top in a classic mountain setting, we find lunch at Bear Lodge. Our destination this afternoon is Sheridan, a gem of a city nestled in the foothills of the Bighorn Mountains. Sheridan’s main street is one of the most vibrant we’ve seen and authentically western. Here we find King’s Saddlery, a genuine western store for the American cowboy and rancher. This is also where you can witness the legendary King Ropes (cowboy lariats) being made. These aren’t toys or a hobby, these are the real thing! Don King’s Western Museum is where you can touch, smell, feel and learn about the western lifestyle.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

**Hotel: Fairfield Inn**

### Day 10 – Sheridan to Ucross, WY

This morning following breakfast at our hotel we will visit “Trail End” which will provide us with an elegantly different aspect of Sheridan’s rich and colorful history. The Sheridan Inn, a Registered Historic Landmark, is our setting for an included lunch. You will absolutely love it! This afternoon we are invited to the Quarter Circle A Ranch and the Brinton Museum at the foot of the Bighorn Mountains. We tour the Ranch House & Gardens and view some of the finest American Indian and Western Art in the country before we travel the short distance to the Ucross Ranch. As we journey on to our truly authentic experience for the evening, note the “big sky” and awesome wide open landscape – you may see more antelope than trees! The Ranch at Ucross, one of America’s most unique and superb “dude ranches,” is western hospitality at its very best!

Just relax and enjoy the setting, ranch meals, cowboy singer and comfortable accommodations.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Hotel: Ucross Ranch**

### Day 11 – Ucross to Rapid City, SD

Enjoy a hardy ranch breakfast and a leisurely morning before we depart. Our destination today is Rapid City; however, we’ll make several stops along the way. First to Gillette, one of those free spirited western boom towns. To give us a little clearer understanding of the area, we’ll visit the Rock Pile Museum. Next, we travel through the unknown, forgotten but scenic Bear Lodge Mountains to imposing Devils Tower. Rising 865 feet above the surrounding prairie, it can be seen up to 50 miles away on a clear day. Recognized as one of America’s most identifiable natural landmarks, the Tower was designated as the country’s first National Monument by President Teddy Roosevelt in 1906. Our “backroads” experience continues with a stop at the historic Aladdin General Store for some treasures. Built in 1896, it’s still operating and not much has changed since then. We’ll continue our journey and when we see the dark silhouette of the Black Hills we know we are close to our resting place for the evening, Rapid City. Tonight we’ll enjoy a farewell dinner at a local steakhouse.

**Included Meals: Breakfast & Farewell Dinner**

**Hotel: Comfort Suites**

### Day 12 – Rapid City to Home

We rise early this morning and travel east into the rising sun as we journey home today. We travel across South Dakota and into Minnesota enjoying the company of our traveling companions and sharing the stories of a great Backroads adventure to Wyoming.

**Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

## The Backroads of Wyoming



## 2018 DATES & PRICES

<b>DATES:</b>	<b>September 17 - 28, 2018 (12 Days)</b>	
<b>PRICE PER PERSON:</b>	<b>\$2,999 Double</b>	<b>\$3,949 Single</b>
	<b>\$2,799 Triple</b>	<b>\$2,589 Quad</b>
<b>PRICE INCLUDES:</b>	<b>25 Meals, Hotels &amp; Activities as stated in brochure, Luxury Motorcoach</b>	
<b>DEPOSIT DUE PER PERSON:</b>	<b>\$100 pp deposit at time of reservation, Full payment due 30 days prior to departure.</b>	
<b>OPTIONAL TRAVEL PROTECTION P/P:</b>	<b>\$184 Double (per person) / \$254 Single</b>	
<b>R&amp;J TRAVEL BUCKS</b>	<b>\$40 Travel Bucks Earned with this Tour</b>	
<b>TOUR PACE:</b>	<b>Moderate Walking</b>	

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