

Wildlife Expedition

15 Days / 14 Nights

From Salt Lake City, Utah to Denver, Colorado

Highlights:

- * Spectacular number of wild animals
- * Yellowstone, Teton, Badlands National Parks
- * Custer State Park and Mount Rushmore (South Dakota)
- * Antelope Island near Salt Lake City
- * National Wildlife Refuge (Idaho)
- * optional fossil hunting, Kemmerer (Wyoming)
- * Salt Lake City, Utah's Capital



USA - Wildlife Expedition

Wildlife of the American Northwest

From Colorado, through South Dakota and Wyoming, to Utah.

On this small-group tour we take you to the best wildlife viewing areas in the west, where you will discover a multitude of animals that flourish in the protected landscapes of state and national parks. This adventure tour through Utah, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Colorado introduces you to buffalo, pronghorn antelope, deer, and--with some luck--moose, bears, wolves, bighorn sheep, and coyotes. Small, furry and adorable wildlife including prairie dogs, marmots, three types of squirrels and chipmunks are everywhere, offering constant photo opportunities. We will also observe mustangs and burrows (donkeys), which were domesticated a hundred years ago, but have reverted to the wild. Protected wetlands areas offer viewing of more than 100 species of native birds, many of which are migratory and only visit for a fleeting moment. The West today still remains mostly wilderness with its natural ecosystems intact.



Bull elk



Porcupine in Yellowstone N.P.



Prairie Dog

Yellowstone – The Oldest National Park in the US

Yellowstone National Park is part of the Rocky Mountains, with an average elevation of 8,000 feet (2440 meters). Established in 1872, the park is famous for its geothermal activity-- explosive geysers, brilliantly-colored hot springs, and bubbling pits-- and its plentiful wildlife-- bison, grizzlies, wolves and elk. Since 1978 a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its diverse flora, fauna, and multifaceted geothermal activity.



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Day 1: Arrival in Salt Lake City

The group meets 5pm in the Salt Lake City hotel. A visit to the Mormon Temple grounds precedes welcome dinner, where you get acquainted and receive travel materials.

Day 2: Capitol – Red Butte Garden – Antelope Island S. P.

Visit Utah's imposing capitol building, then explore Red Butte Botanical Gardens. Afternoon hiking and picnicking at Antelope Island State Park, habitat for much wildlife, including pronghorn antelope and bison.

Day 3: Park City – Fossil Butte N.M. – Kemmerer, WY

Visit to 2002 Winter Olympics Park, with Alf Engen Ski Museum. Next, see rare fossils of fish, leaves, turtles and more amid wildlife at Fossil Butte National Monument. Night in Kemmerer, Wyoming.

Day 4: Kemmerer, Wyoming - Soda Springs – Blackfoot Reservoir – Alpine

Visit Soda Springs with the highest-spewing geyser in America; view wagon wheel ruts remaining from Oregon Trail pioneers. Afternoon at Blackfoot Reservoir, home to a large colony of white pelicans. Night in Alpine on the Snake River.

Day 5: Jackson – Grand Teton – Yellowstone – Gardiner, MO

Stroll through Jackson with its art galleries, and gift shops. Optional white water rafting or floating trip on Snake River. Walk along beautiful Jenny Lake at Grand Teton National Park. Drive to Old Faithful Geyser in Yellowstone. 2 nights in Gardiner or West Yellowstone, Montana

Day 6: Yellowstone Park – Mammoth Hot Springs

Today we observe the wildlife of Yellowstone National Park, where the densest contiguous north american animal populations exist. Explore beautiful travertine terraces at Mammoth Hot Springs, then on to Tower Falls and hike at Lower Falls of Grand Canyon Yellowstone. On the way, see bison, elk, deer, antelope, possibly coyotes, eagles, and-- with lots of luck-- a grizzly or black bear, wolves, and more.

Day 7: Norris Geyser Basin – Old Faithful – Pahaska Tepee

Today we visit Norris Geyser Basin, the most active geothermal area of Yellowstone. We then explore the area around Old Faithful followed by a walk along Lake Yellowstone. We eat lunch at Pahaska Tepee, Buffalo Bill's hunting lodge. Night in or near Pahaska Tepee.

Day 8: Buffalo Bill Reservoir – Cody, WY

In the morning you may take an optional horseback ride or relax. In the afternoon we visit five museums under one roof at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming. Evening in Cody

Day 9: Mustangs – Bighorn Mountains – Sheridan, Wyoming

Participate in an optional jeep tour led by a local guide to the prairie outside of Cody to view wild mustang horses. Then drive over the Bighorn Mountains and stop at Shell Falls for a walk. Night in historic Sheridan, WY.

Day 10: Fort Phil Kearny – Devil's Tower N.M. – Black Hills – Deadwood:

Learn about Bozeman Trail history at Fort Phil Kearny. Then drive to see a stunning volcanic formation at Devil's Tower. For the evening we drive to the Black Hills. Night in Deadwood, South Dakota

Day 11: Crazy Horse - Custer State Park - Mount Rushmore – Wall:

Today's highlights include two mountain monuments, Crazy Horse Memorial -- still under construction -- and Mt. Rushmore, which immortalizes in granite the heads of four American presidents. Also hike to view wildlife in the magnificent rocky landscape of Custer State Park. 2 nights in Wall, South Dakota.

Day 12: Badlands N.P.

Badlands National Park is filled with north american wildlife, including bison, bighorn sheep, rabbits and snakes.

Day 13: Hot Springs - Fort Robinson - Lusk, WY:

In Hot Springs we visit a rare mammoth dig. Our route leads through Oglala National Grassland. A cultural highlight is a short visit to Fort Robinson in Nebraska. Night in Lusk, Wyoming

Day 14: Fort Laramie – Register Cliff – Wild Animal Sanctuary – Denver, CO:

Explore famous Fort Laramie and learn about history of the West. Then stop at Register Cliff where immigrants of the Oregon Trail left their mark in the second half of the 19th century. Visit the Wild Animal Sanctuary near Denver. We spend our last evening and the night in Denver.

Day 15: Tour ends today in Denver

individual travel or fly home.