

Wildlife Expedition

15 Days / 14 Nights

From Denver (Colorado) to Salt Lake City (Utah)

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: Welcome to Denver, the capital of Colorado. Meet driver and guide at 5:30 pm in hotel lobby. TDW invites you to an appetizer and drink. Afterwards, we get to know each other at dinner, and you receive travel materials.

Day 2: Wild Animal Sanctuary – Register Cliff – Fort Laramie: Visit Wild Animal Sanctuary, with its near-to-nature environment. Experience western history at Fort Laramie and at Register Cliff. Night in Lusk, Wyoming.

Day 3: Fort Robinson – Hot Springs – Badlands N.P. - Wall Enjoy a cultural highlight with a visit to Fort Robinson State Park. Our route then leads through the Oglala National Grassland, where one can often view antelope. In Hot Springs we visit a rare mammoth dig. 2 nights in Wall, South Dakota.

Day 4: Wall - Badlands N.P. – Wall Wounded Knee Museum in Wall and Badlands National Park are today's highlights. The park is habitat for much north american wildlife, including bison, bighorn sheep, and prairie dogs.

Day 5: Wall – Mt. Rushmore – Custer State Park – Crazy Horse Today's highlights include two mountain monuments, Mt. Rushmore, which immortalizes in granite the heads of four American presidents and the yet unfinished Crazy Horse Memorial. Custer State Park with its wild burros and bison will also be an experience. Night in Deadwood.

Day 6: Deadwood – Devil's Tower – Fort Phil Kearny – Sheridan The mystical Devils Tower with its prairie dog colony is always worth a visit. Learn about Bozeman Trail history at Fort Phil Kearny. Night in Sheridan, WY.

Day 7: Sheridan – Bighorn Mountains – Cody Our journey leads us over the Bighorn Mountains and we stop at Shell Falls for a walk. Participate in an optional jeep tour, led by a local guide, to the prairie outside of Cody, Wyoming to view wild mustang horses. Night in Cody, Wyoming

Day 8: Cody, WY Enjoy the wild west town of Cody. In the afternoon, visit five museums under one roof at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. 2nd night in Cody.

Day 9a: Coulter Pass –NE entrance Yellowstone – Lamar Valley – Gardiner Traveling through the wildlife-rich Lamar Valley, with luck we will see bear, and with certainty, bison. View Fort Yellowstone and the travertine terraces at Mammoth Hot Springs. 2 nights in Gardiner.

Day 9b: Buffalo Bill Reservoir – Lake Yellowstone – Gardiner We drive via Buffalo Bill Reservoir to Lake Yellowstone and Mammoth Hot Springs. 2 nights in Gardiner.

Day 10: Yellowstone N.P. On short hikes throw-out the day you will be amazed by the multifaceted natural wonders of Yellowstone N.P.

Day 11: Gardiner – Yellowstone – Grand Teton – Jackson – Alpine Hike in Grand Teton National Park, home of elk and eagles. **Optional** white water or raft trip on Snake River. Stop in Jackson, Wyoming, an art-oriented town with many shops and galleries. Night in Alpine.

Day 12: Blackfoot Reservoir – Soda Springs – Kemmerer Visit to Blackfoot Reservoir with its large colony of white pelicans. Depending on the season, visit Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, stopover for many migratory birds, including the rare sandhill crane. Stop in Soda Springs. Night in Kemmerer, Wyoming.

Day 13: Kemmerer – Fossil Butte N.M. – Park City – Salt Lake City Hike in Fossil Butte National Monument, with its rare fossils of turtles, fish, leaves, and more. Stop at the 2002 Winter Olympics Park, with the Alf Engen Ski Museum. Night in Salt Lake City.

Day 14: Capitol – Red Butte Garden – Antelope Island S. P. Visit the state capitol building of Utah. Stroll through Red Butte Botanical Gardens. Afternoon hiking and picnicking at Antelope Island State Park, an island in the Great Salt Lake, and habitat for countless water birds, antelope, and bison. Adventurous souls can bathe in the Great Salt Lake.

Day 15: End of Tour Fly home or continue traveling on your own.