

# OUR NATIONAL PARKS

INCLUDES -BADLANDS, MT. RUSHMORE, YELLOWSTONE, GRAND CANYON, ZION & BRYCE CANYONS



16 Days/15 Nights  
September 7 - 22, 2024  
Tour includes 30 Meals  
& 6 National Parks!



**Day 1:** Join Ionosphere Tours as we begin our MOST POPULAR tour of the West. During the next **16 days** we will be visiting **18 states** and seeing some of the country's most beautiful **National Parks**. Today we leave the South behind and travel through Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky enroute to **Illinois** and our overnight accommodations in **Marion**. **Lunch will be included** today. (L)

**Day 2:** Today we find ourselves crossing the **Mississippi River** as we pass through St. Louis, Missouri, the "Gateway to the West". Missouri, the Show Me State, is rich in history and celebrities, bringing to mind Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, the Sante Fe Trail and Harry S. Truman. By late afternoon we arrive in the **Council Bluffs, Iowa** area, where we spend the night. **Lunch will be included** today. (B,L)

**Day 3:** Following breakfast we continue our journey, spending much of the morning in **Iowa**, before turning westward into **South Dakota**. This afternoon we take the loop drive through **Badlands National Park**, making a stop at the Visitor's Center. **Dinner tonight will be included** in **Wall, South Dakota**, home to the famous **Wall Drug Store**--a most unusual place. Following dinner we continue on to **Rapid City**, where we have accommodations for the next two nights. (B,D)



**Day 4:** Following breakfast, a full day of breathtaking scenery and historical points of interest is in store for us. Our **guided tour** will include **Mount Rushmore National Memorial** and **Custer State Park**. Next, we will step back in time at the Fort Hays Old West Town Square. Here we will stroll along the boardwalk and take a free, self-guided tour of the Dances With Wolves film set. We will have an **included Chuckwagon Supper & Branson-style Music Variety Show** here as well. (B,D)

**Day 5:** We get an early start and travel into **Wyoming** this morning. We head toward Sheridan in the **Big Horn Mountains**, the scene of many fierce battles between the U.S. Cavalry and the Sioux, Cheyenne and Crowe Indians. Our overnight stay is in Buffalo Bill's frontier town of **Cody, Wyoming**. Our included dinner tonight will be at **Buffalo Bill's historic Irma Hotel** in Cody. (B,D)

**Day 6:** Following breakfast we'll experience one of the highlights of our tour as we drive through the **Shoshone National Forest**, enroute to **Yellowstone National Park**. We arrive late in the morning and welcome our **Park Service Guide** onboard for a tour of this magnificent park. Established in 1872 and covering 3,472 square miles, Yellowstone was the world's first National Park. Along the way on our tour, we'll marvel at the picturesque Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, Yellowstone Lake, the Paintpots, and Old Faithful. **Lunch will be included today**. Our accommodations are in **West Yellowstone, Montana**, at the western entrance to the Park. (B,L)



**Day 7 :** This morning's journey carries us into the even more spectacular scenery of **Grand Teton National Park**. Few mountain ranges have a greater variety of glaciated canyons than the Tetons. We'll stop at the Coulter Bay Visitor Center, Jenny Lake, and the Chapel of Transfiguration, as we travel through the Park. We continue on to **Jackson, Wyoming**, where we have free time this afternoon to explore this city, the center of activity for ranchers and vacationers in Jackson Hole country.

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We continue westward into **Idaho**, where we will spend the night in **Idaho Falls**, following an **included Dinner. (B,D)**

**Day 8:** Following breakfast we head south into **Utah**. Just outside of Salt Lake City we will visit **Antelope State Park**. Rich in scenic beauty and natural features, Antelope Island State Park is the perfect place to view the Great Salt Lake and get a taste of the vast open country found in the Great Basin. Next, we head into **Salt Lake City**, where we have accommodations tonight. Founded in 1847 by the Mormons under the leadership of Brigham Young, the city first became the capital of the Mormon settlement and then of the state of Utah. This evening we'll have an **included meal** at one of the area's favorite restaurants. **(B,D)**



**Day 9:** We depart Salt Lake City this morning and ride through the sagebrush landscape of southern Utah. By lunchtime we arrive in Bryce, Utah, where we'll enjoy an **included lunch at Ruby's Inn Restaurant and Steakhouse**. As we enter **Bryce Canyon National Park**, we welcome our **Park Guide** onboard as we explore this area that includes some of the earth's most colorful rocks. Bryce is not a true canyon, but series of horseshoe-shaped amphitheaters carved in the edge of a plateau by tributaries of the Paria River. An Indian name for the area translates, as "red rocks standing like men in a bowl-shaped canyon". We'll spend the night at **Ruby's Inn**, where we will have the evening free to explore the hotel and have dinner on our own. **(B,L)**

**Day 10:** Following breakfast we'll head south to **Zion National Park**, enjoying a **narrated tram tour** of this beautiful area that was once a refuge for Mormon pioneers. Desert terrain and huge, sculpted rock formations co-exist with waterfalls and hanging gardens. Gigantic stone masses seem to guard the canyon floor and spectacular gorges. As we depart the park we'll stop for a rest stop at the Thunderbird Lodge at Mt. Carmel Junction, before heading south into **Arizona**. **Dinner will be included** tonight at the **Cameron Trading Post**, near the Desert View entrance to **Grand Canyon National Park**. By early evening we arrive at the south entrance of Grand Canyon, spending the next two nights in **Tusayan**. **(B,D)**



**Day 11:** We have an entire day to experience the magic of one of the world's most outstanding spectacles--**Grand Canyon National Park**. In form glowing color and geological significance, the Grand Canyon is unsurpassed. We begin the day with a **guided tour of the Park**. The remainder of the afternoon is free to explore on our own as we take advantage of the free minibus service along the West Rim Drive to many scenic points. **Dinner will be included in the Park** tonight followed by a **sunset tour** along the south rim of the Grand Canyon onboard the Park Transportation bus. **(B,D)**

**Day 12:** Following breakfast this morning, we turn east toward **New Mexico**. Our destination is **Albuquerque**, where we have accommodations for the night. Spread out before the dramatic Sandia Mountains, Albuquerque is the metropolis of New Mexico, where past and present mingle. Lunch will be included today in the Gallup, New Mexico area. **(B,L)**

**Day 13:** Following breakfast this morning, we're off for an exciting ride on the **Sandia Peak Tramway**, an aerial tram which lofts passengers to the top of 10,000-foot Sandia Peak. The 2.7 mile ride is the longest clear and unsupported span in North America. The view, both east and west, is spectacular! Next, we'll have free time and lunch in **Old Town**, the original Albuquerque founded in 1706. Old Town clusters around a plaza and San Felipe de Meri Church. The warmth of aged adobe adds a special charm to its shops, galleries, restaurants and hidden patios. We can look here for bargains on silver and turquoise jewelry. Our destination today is **Amarillo**, in the Texas panhandle. Dinner will be included at the World Famous **Big Texan Steak Ranch**, home of the free 72 oz. steak challenge. **(B,D)**



**Day 14:** We continue our journey today as we head southeast and enter the "**Sooner State**"-- **Oklahoma**. By late afternoon we arrive in the Capital City, **Oklahoma City**. Despite a sleek and sophisticated appearance, Oklahoma City has not forgotten its Western and Indian heritage. The 39 Indian tribes still represented in the state hold regular tribal activities in and around the city.

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We'll make a stop at the **Oklahoma City National Memorial**. The Outdoor Symbolic Memorial is a place of quiet reflection. This Memorial honors the victims, survivors, rescuers, and all who were changed forever on April 19, 1995. It encompasses the now-sacred soil where the Murrah Building once stood, as well as the surrounding area devastated during the attack. We spend the night here, where cowboys still practice their trade at the horse and cattle ranches in the surrounding area. **Dinner will be included** tonight. (B,D)

**Day 15:** We head for **Tennessee** this morning as we journey eastward. We arrive in **Memphis, Tennessee**, area where we have accommodations for the night. **Lunch will be included** today. (B,L)

**Day 16:** We'll spend our last day of this tour traveling through the beautiful mountains of Tennessee as we turn our thoughts toward home. As we near home we are reminded of the words to **America, the Beautiful**. What a wonderful journey we have shared! (B)



**\$4195 PP Double / \$3740 PP Triple**

**\$3285 PP Quad / \$6000 Single**

**Deposit/Payment Requirements:**

**\$800.00 Deposit Per Person due with reservation**

**Plus cost of travel protection (rates for persons 80 & under), if desired  
(travel protection offers insurance benefits & non-insurance services)  
cost per person\* from: \$257 Double - \$236 Triple - \$189 Quad - \$431 Single**

**\* subject to change - additional cost for persons 81+**

**Final Payment Due by July 1, 2024**



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