9 Days of Spectacular Scenery & Lodges

NATIONAL PARKS & LODGES OF THE OLD WEST

JULY 9-17, 2020

with optional
JACKSON HOLE POST-TOUR
Howdy, Ags!

Join former students and friends on a journey that celebrates the American West’s magnificent National Parks, tracing legends and storied monuments along the way.

From Mount Rushmore to Old Faithful and from Spearfish Canyon to the Snake River, you will see the best of the Old West, and traverse its beautiful vistas in style and comfort. Wonderfully historic hotels and lodges are a highlight of this program, including landmark lodging within the parks themselves.

Experience ranch life in the Big Horn Mountains. Indulge in the geological phenomena of hot springs in South Dakota, and journey through Badlands National Park, known as nature’s surreal masterpiece, where impressive herds of bison roam, and dazzling, dramatic pinnacles rise over the largest undisturbed mixed-grass prairie in the United States.

Space is limited. With significant savings of more than $600 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly, so be certain to reserve your spot today. Share this brochure with family and friends who may be interested in traveling with you.

Please reserve online at texas-am.orbridge.com, by calling (866) 639-0079 or by returning the enclosed reservation form.

Gig ‘em,

Jennifer Bohac
Director of Travel
Outreach and Engagement
The Association of Former Students

Marisa Liles
Director of Travel Operations and Customer Service
The Association of Former Students

Free Expedition Library
AN EARLY RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve your space by March 20, 2020, to receive the FREE Orbridge Expedition Library we’ve assembled for this program.

This exclusive gift is to thank you for joining us early. Guests who reserve after the specified date may purchase libraries. Call for details.

Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Starting in 2019, we will annually plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an on-going initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts.
Trace the legends and natural splendors of the American West—an awe-inspiring expanse filled with beautiful scenery, abundant wildlife, hiking, storytelling, and incredible historic lodges you will write home about.
Your 9-Day Itinerary (subject to change)

Day 1: Arrive in Rapid City, SD (D)
Settle in, welcome dinner
Overnight: Hotel Alex Johnson

Day 2: Rapid City / Badlands National Park / Custer State Park (B,D)
Buffalo safari, canyon cookout
Overnight: Custer State Game Lodge

Day 3: Custer State Park / Hot Springs / Custer State Park (B,D)
Mammoth dig site, Crazy Horse Memorial
Overnight: Custer State Game Lodge

Day 4: Custer State Park / Mount Rushmore (B,D)
Monument exploration
Overnight: Spearfish Canyon Lodge

Day 5: Clearmont, WY / Cody (B,L)
Ranch at Ucross, Bighorn Mountains
Overnight: Holiday Inn Cody-At Buffalo Bill Village

Day 6: Cody / Yellowstone National Park (B,D)
Buffalo Bill, Old West, Old Faithful
Overnight: Yellowstone Lodging

Day 7: Yellowstone National Park (B,D)
Geothermal highlights, park sightseeing
Overnight: Yellowstone Lodging

Day 8: Grand Teton National Park (B,D)
Scenic drive: western plains and mountains
Overnight: Jackson Lake Lodge

Day 9: Grand Teton National Park / Jackson / Depart Jackson (B)

(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)

Activity Level: The majority of the program’s activities will take place outdoors and a fair amount of walking on varying terrain is to be expected. Many of the parks have dirt trails, but they are usually fairly smooth for walking, some do have paved pathways and boardwalks. It is our expectation that guests on this program are able to walk a mile at a moderate pace, get in and out of a motor coach, and walk up a flight of stairs without assistance. Also keep in mind that you will experience varying altitudes, rising up to 9,000 feet, to which you may not be accustomed.

Program Highlights

• Experience the diverse wonders of our national parks accompanied by an Orbridge Expedition Leader.

• Overnight in landmark lodges that are national treasures themselves.

• Enjoy a chuck wagon cookout during a visit to Custer State Park—a wildlife reserve with scenic lakes, dramatic granite spires, and lush grasslands where bison herds roam.

• Visit the world’s largest mammoth site, where scientists are excavating remains of Columbian and woolly mammoths from 26,000 years ago.

• Marvel at the grandeur of Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorial.

• See the dramatic effects of Yellowstone’s volcanically active caldera with visits to otherworldly geothermal sites including Fountain Paint Pot and Old Faithful Geyser.

• Explore Grand Teton National Park—host to flora and fauna that date back to prehistoric times.

• What's included: 8 nights hotel and lodge accommodations; 8 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 7 dinners; full guiding services of an Orbridge Expedition Leader; all activities as described in the program itinerary; admission to national parks; private deluxe motor coach with air conditioning and comfortable seating; luggage porterage; all gratuities; and airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.
Orbridge

Your Expedition Leader:
From identifying a wildflower to recalling details about Mt. Rushmore’s making, the company and keen eyes of an expert Orbridge Expedition Leader will make all the difference in your educational experience. Enriched by their wealth of expertise, you’ll bring home a deeper understanding of the flora, fauna, natural history, and cultural narrative of the Old West.

Accommodations (subject to change)

HOTEL ALEX JOHNSON
Located in downtown Rapid City, this historic hotel features a casual Irish pub, fitness center, and rooftop bar overlooking town.

CUSTER STATE GAME LODGE
Set in a beautiful mountain valley in Custer State Park, it served as the “Summer White House” for President Calvin Coolidge and was visited by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

SPEARFISH CANYON LODGE
Nestled alongside lofty pines and spectacular limestone cliffs, this property features heavy log walls and a 40-foot stone fireplace. Follow the hiking trails that meander through the forest to a Black Hills waterfall or the canyon rim.

HOLIDAY INN CODY-AT BUFFALO BILL VILLAGE
Near the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Old Trail Town, and other local attractions, this hotel offers well-appointed rooms with all the comforts of home as well as an outdoor pool, bar/restaurant, and lounge.

YELLOWSTONE LODGING
Confirmed by the National Park Service, you’ll stay at one of the following Yellowstone facilities: Old Faithful Inn, Old Faithful Snow Lodge, or Canyon Lodge & Cabins.
Each offers comfortable lodging and modern amenities.

JACKSON LAKE LODGE
Embrace breathtaking views from the comfort of Jackson Lake Lodge’s lobby featuring 60-foot floor-to-ceiling windows that frame pristine Jackson Lake and the majestic Teton Range.
With two additional days in Jackson Hole, enjoy the area’s vibrant cultural offerings, jaw-dropping scenery, abundant wildlife, and outdoor activities.

Post-Tour Itinerary (subject to change)

Day 9: Jackson
Wildlife experts will guide you to the park’s viewing hotspots while also providing details about the area’s history, landmarks, and geography.

Day 10: Jackson (B)
National Museum of Wildlife Art, wildlife viewing, various outdoor activities, or relax at the property.

Day 11: Depart Jackson (B)
After breakfast, guests departing during the suggested times take a complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home.

What’s Included

• Two nights accommodations at Rustic Inn at Jackson Hole Creekside Resort & Spa (shown below) or similar, with breakfast each morning
• A half-day scenic Snake River float trip, including transportation to and from the hotel
• Admission to and docent-led tour of the National Museum of Wildlife Art, including transfers to and from the hotel
• Luggage porterage
• Airport transfers for guests departing during the suggested times
Special group rate; limited offer. Rates are per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Airfare not included. Single availability limited. **A complement to the educational component of this journey, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and not included. Single availability limited. **A complement to the educational component of this journey, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and not included. Single availability limited. **A complement to the educational component of this journey, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and
What Guests Are Saying...

Every Traveling Aggies trip that I have taken, I have made a “new” Aggie friend.
~Henry Presnal ’57

We will forever cherish our amazing memory of trips taken with the Traveling Aggies, as well as wonderful new friendships we have made! Now, whenever we travel on ‘non-Aggie’ trips, we realize nothing can compare!
~Randy ’74 and Gail Parker

Traveling Aggie trips are always “special” whether in large groups or small and we look forward to our next one soon.
~Will ’71 and Carolyn ’81 Dierksen

Traveling Aggies
The Association of Former Students
505 George Bush Drive
College Station, TX 77840

We strongly suggest purchasing travel insurance. Travel insurance information will be sent to you with your confirmation letter from the Traveling Aggies. For more information, contact Orbridge at (866) 639-0079 or you may call the Traveling Aggies at (979) 845-7514. No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.