



2018 America's Western Majesty



Blue Lakes Charters & Tours

Tour Dates: August 9-21, 2018 #4958

Day 1 – Perrysburg - Madison (8/9 Thu)

Departing Ohio and Michigan this morning enter **Illinois** following I-80. Continue through Illinois on the way to **Madison**, the capital city of Wisconsin for our overnight stay. It's known for the domed Wisconsin State Capitol, which sits on an isthmus between lakes Mendota and Monona. Enjoy dinner on your own tonight. (386mils)

Hampton Inn, Madison, WI

Day 2 – Madison - Mitchell (8/10 Fri)

Today you will cross the upper Mississippi River as you reach the Great Plains on your way through Minnesota and finally to South Dakota with rest stops and lunch on your own along the way. Continue on to **Mitchell** for overnight. Visit the famous **Corn Palace**, Mitchell's premier tourist attraction. Some 500,000 tourists come from around the nation each year to see the uniquely designed corn murals. Dinner is on your own tonight. (502mils)

Hampton Inn, Mitchell, SD (B)

Day 3 – Mitchell - Mt. Rushmore (8/11 Sat)

Continue west crossing the Missouri River to **Badlands National Park** for sightseeing where fantasy shapes and colors provide a surreal experience in this unusual park. Stop at world famous **Wall Drug** with free time to explore and have lunch on your own. This block-long store from 1936 came up with an ingenious marketing campaign. Realizing travelers going through the hot, dusty prairie would be thirsty; they put up signs along the highway offering free ice water. Tours have been stopping here ever since. Arrive in **Rapid City** to meet your Western Leisure tour director, and check into your hotel. This evening, travel to Mt. Rushmore National Monument for dinner on own. Then join the group for a wonderfully patriotic and inspiring event as you attend the **Mt. Rushmore Evening Lighting Ceremony!** (313mils)

BW Ramkota Hotel, Rapid City, SD (B)

Day 4 – Black Hills (8/12 Sun)

This morning, return to **Mt. Rushmore National Memorial** for a daytime view. There will be time to walk around, photograph, and explore the monument. The four figures carved in stone on Mount Rushmore represent the first 150 years of American history. The ideals of these presidents laid a foundation for our nation as solid as the rock from which their figures are carved. Next make your way to **Crazy Horse Monument** for sightseeing of the yet unfinished mountain carving and insight into the Lakota culture. The work was begun in 1948 by sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski at the request of Native Americans. Enjoy time to explore the museum, art gallery and to view the world's largest sculpture. Then take a short drive to **Custer State Park** and the historic State Game Lodge with free time for lunch on own. After lunch, get up close and personal with the residents of this park as you head out on a **Wildlife Jeep Safari** to view the buffalo herds and much more. This afternoon, return to **Rapid City** with some free time to explore the downtown area including the Walk of Presidents, Main Street Square, art galleries shops and restaurants. (86mls)

BW Ramkota Hotel, Rapid City, SD (B)

Day 5 – Devils Tower – Cody (8/13 Mon)

Today you are on your way to Buffalo Bill country! Leave South Dakota behind this morning and travel through the prairies of Eastern Wyoming. You will see the mighty stone monolith, **Devil's Tower National Monument**, our country's first National Monument. Hear stories about the famous battles between the U.S. Army and the legendary Sioux Nation. Next cross the scenic Big Horn Mountains and see beautiful Shell Falls and Shell Canyon before descending into the Big Horn Basin and the Old West town of **Cody**. This evening join the group for some genuine cowboy food, entertainment and fun. Start off with a tasty **chuck-wagon dinner** and western entertainment at the **Cody Cattle Company**. For those who wish to continue their Cowboy experience further into the evening, you the option of attending a real Western Rodeo. You'll overnight in Cody. (417mls)

Comfort Inn, Cody, WY (B,D)

Day 6 – Cody – Yellowstone (8/14 Tue)

Cody is home to the **Buffalo Bill Center of the West**, and this morning you will have time to browse through its amazing displays of old west memorabilia. Included in the collection is the Whitney Art Gallery, the Plains Indian Museum, Winchester Gun exhibit and The William Fredric Cody Wing. See many of the personal belongings of the famous buffalo hunter. Later this morning, we enter the world's first national park, **Yellowstone National Park**, *A UNESCO World Heritage Site. Begin your Yellowstone experience by skirting crystal clear Yellowstone Lake, and then follow the Yellowstone River through Hayden Valley, home of large herds of North American Bison (Buffalo). Arrive at the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone to see the magnificent 309 foot Lower Falls. After viewing the wonders of Yellowstone, travel to **West Yellowstone**, Montana for your overnight accommodations. Evening is free to explore on own. (148mls)

Gray Wolf Inn, West Yellowstone, MT (B)

Day 7 – Yellowstone (8/15 Wed)

This morning return to **Yellowstone National Park** for a full day of sightseeing. You will be traveling the upper loop including Norris Geyser Basin, Mammoth Hot Springs for a walk through the colorful terraced formations of calcium carbonate, Roosevelt Country, Tower Falls and Dunraven Pass. Your expert guide will help you locate and view a wide variety of wildlife along the way. After an unforgettable day in Yellowstone, return to **West Yellowstone** with the evening free to explore on your own. There are wonderful shops and restaurants along with museums and the Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center. (126mls)

Gray Wolf Inn & Suites, West Yellowstone, MT (B)

Day 8 – Yellowstone - Grand Teton (8/16 Thu)

Begin your day exploring more of **Yellowstone National Park**! First stop is the colorful **Fountain Paint Pots**, with one of the most complete collections of thermal features in the park, before arriving at Yellowstone's famous landmark, **Old Faithful**. There will be plenty of time to enjoy the geyser's regular display, explore the area and have lunch on own. Depart Yellowstone through the south gate and enter **Grand Teton National Park** for an afternoon of unsurpassed scenic beauty. Travel through the Tetons and see America's youngest and most rugged mountains piercing the clouds in majestic splendor. Stop for pictures at magnificent **Jackson Lake Lodge** and other scenic view points along the way. Arrive in the Old West town of **Jackson** this afternoon. This old cowboy town is now home to hundreds of art galleries, shops, attractions and restaurants but still maintains an old west charm. Dinner will be included at a local restaurant. (151mls)

49'er Inn & Suites, Jackson, WY (B,D)

Day 9 – Snake River – Grand Teton (8/17 Fri)

Start the day early as you return to **Grand Teton National Park** and enjoy a **Scenic Float Trip on the Snake River**. With this giant mountain range as a backdrop, you will see the wildlife, the flora, and the sheer magnitude of nature. Your river guide will point out wildlife, explain the geology of the area and tell stories about local history and folklore. It will be a morning to remember. Then have lunch on your own. After lunch, travel south along the inner road with picture stops at various scenic view points along the way including Jenny Lake which offers unique photo taking opportunities. In the late afternoon, return to **Jackson** after an amazing day in the Tetons! The evening is free on own. (Less than 100mls)

49'er Inn & Suites, Jackson, WY (B)

Day 10 – Jackson – Cheyenne (8/18 Sat)

Depart Jackson and travel along the Hoback River through the impressive **Wind River Mountains** and pass by Garnett Peak, the highest point in Wyoming, towering 13,804 feet above sea level. Soon you will be back in the Prairie Land of South Central Wyoming as you travel along many of the same routes our pioneer forefathers traveled during the Great Western Migration of the 1800s. Tonight your accommodations are in the frontier city of **Cheyenne**, the capitol of Wyoming. After a short city tour, check into your hotel. Evening free for dinner on own. (432mls)

Little America, Cheyenne, WY (B)

Day 11 – Cheyenne – Lincoln (8/19 Sun)

After an enjoyable breakfast, say a goodbye to your Western Leisure tour director and depart Cheyenne traveling east with a rest stop along the way. Arrive in Kearney, a gateway to the west on the Platte River where the Oregon & Mormon Trails met. Enjoy touring of **The Great Platte River Road Archway Monument** where we'll learn of the westward migration history from a historical figure. This afternoon, continue east to **Lincoln**, your overnight destination. (445mls)

Country Inn & Suites, Lincoln, NE (B)

Day 12 – Lincoln – Moline (8/20 Mon)

After breakfast, continue east with rest stops along the way. In the afternoon, arrive in **Moline** and visit the **John Deere Pavilion**, the world's largest agriculture museum, celebrates the past, present, and future of agriculture, as well as the history of the company. The 14,000-square-foot Pavilion is like one you'd see at a fairground, except the walls are made almost entirely of glass. Tonight join the group for a **farewell dinner cruise** on the Mississippi. (358 miles)

***Mississippi dinner cruise is based on availability and requires a minimum of 30 pax.**

Radisson On John Deere Commons, Moline, IL (B,D)

Day 13 – Home (8/21 Tue)

Today enjoy a final day on the road as you travel home with rest stops along the way. Arrive back in Adrian at 4:30pm, Perrysburg at 5:30pm (382mls)

(B)

Tour Includes

12 nights accommodations

Services of a Western Leisure tour director (Rapid City – Cheyenne)

12 Breakfasts, 3 dinners

*Entrance fees to attractions, National Parks and Monuments as mentioned in itinerary

Tips for included meals

Luggage handling (one suitcase per person)

Customary gratuities for local guides and outfitters

*****Hotels or similar.*****

Not Included

Meals (other than mentioned in the itinerary)

Items of a personal nature (i.e., room service, telephone, liquor, etc.)

Customary gratuities for the tour director, guide and the drive

Price

\$3625.00 double

Single: Add \$1,090.00

Triple: Deduct \$325.00

Payment Schedule:

- Deposit of \$500.00 is due at the time of Booking
- Final Payment is due June 1st
- Once Final Payment is paid your tour become totally nonrefundable
- Trip Cancellation is available at many sites on line.

Reservation Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

in your party _____ Names: _____

Preferred Room Type: 2 Doubles __ (_____)__ or 1 King __ (_____)__

Departure point Adrian _____, Perrysburg _____, Fremont _____

If you wish to pay by credit card please fill in the following information:

Credit Card Number: _____ **Exp. Date:** _____ **V-Code:** _____

Amount to Be Charged: _____ **Signature of Cardholder:** _____

To Make a Reservation Call: 800-282-4287 EXT# 1402 / 419-874-4225 # 1402

**Mailing Address: Blue Lakes Charters & Tours
12418 Williams Rd. – Perrysburg, OH 43551**