

The Rockies, with Yellowstone



Discover the most legendary places of the **West** starting from **Denver**, in **Colorado**: the parks of **Arches** and **Canyonlands**, then **Salt Lake City** and the parks of **Grand Teton** and **Yellowstone**. Then head for the **Black Hills** and **Deadwood**, in **Sioux** territory, with **Mt Rushmore** and the **Crazy Horse Memorial**. After a detour to the beautiful national parks of the **Badlands** and **Rocky Mountain**, return to **Denver**, in the heart of the **Rockies**. **French-speaking** accompaniment. GW/ROA



Day 1

Arrival in Denver in the afternoon or evening, the 'Mile High City' at the foot of the Rockies.

Welcome by your tour leader and transfer to the hotel.

Check in at the hotel in Denver.

Overnight in Denver (near the airport).



Day 2

Orientation tour of Denver, the metropolis of Colorado and a city born of the gold rush (with its Mall and the Capitol).

Cross the superb landscapes of the Rockies, where the film *Thelma & Louise* was shot.

Continue to Georgetown where you board a steam train straight out of the gold rush era.

Lunch on your own en route.

Arrive in Grand Junction, on the Colorado River, at the edge of Utah.

Check in at your hotel at the end of the day; enjoy the pool to relax.

Dinner included and overnight in Grand Junction.



Day 3

Depart for Dead Horse Point, near Canyonlands National Park, one of the largest parks in the country.

Canyonlands features superb rock formations and canyons, as well as the Colorado and the Green River.

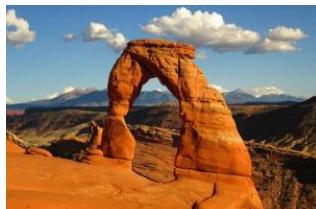
The park covers 1,366 km².

It offers visitors a series of colorful landscapes shaped by erosion—truly unique in the American West!

Picnic lunch.

Optional: a jetboat excursion on the Colorado, or go deeper into Canyonlands by 4x4 along the impressive Shafer Trail (subject to availability).

Dinner on your own and overnight in Moab.



Day 4

A full day devoted to one of the most beautiful natural sites in the USA: Arches National Park, with more than 2,000 natural sandstone arches, including the famous Delicate Arch, Landscape Arch and Double Arch.

Arches also features rock formations with surprising shapes, such as Balanced Rock or The Three Gossips.

Lunch on your own. Dinner included and overnight in Green River, in the Moab area.



Day 5

Depart for Capitol Reef National Park.

The region contains many cavities carved into the rock by erosion.

The remnants of the dome appear as a series of long parallel ridges, topped by a jagged cliff of which Capitol Reef is the most prominent expression.

Lunch en route.

Arrival in Salt Lake City, founded by the Mormons and a hub for genealogical research.

Quick orientation tour with Temple Square and the State Capitol, a Corinthian-style building housing the government of Utah.

Dinner on your own and overnight in Salt Lake City.



Day 6

This morning, depart for Antelope Island State Park, north of Salt Lake City.

Enjoy a walk and superb views over the Great Salt Lake.

Visit a 1848 ranch, to discover pioneer life and the region's activities at the time.

Picnic lunch.

Early afternoon, continue to Rexburg, in Idaho.

The city is known for its potatoes and its Mormon temple.

Check in at the hotel.

Dinner on your own and overnight in Rexburg.



Day 7

Depart for Grand Teton National Park. Stop at the Chapel of the Transfiguration for a superb view of the Teton Range, which rises to 4,195 m (13,766 ft)!

Walk around Jenny Lake, one of the park's prettiest lakes. Lunch on your own.

Arrival in Yellowstone, one of the most beautiful places on Earth! You may witness an eruption of the famous Old Faithful geyser, the park's best-known. Discover the park, the oldest in the United States (created in 1872), nicknamed the 'Land of the Yellow Stone'.

The park is home to herds of bison, deer and elk, antelope, as well as bears and grizzlies. Discover the magnificent basins, geysers and colorful hot springs (Grand Prismatic Springs), as well as the vertiginous Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and its impressive waterfalls.

Dinner included and overnight in West Yellowstone.



Day 8

Last crossing of Yellowstone from west to east, heading to Cody, the town of the famous Buffalo Bill.

Visit Cody, including Old Trail Town, following in the footsteps of the Western pioneers .

Lunch in Cody. Continue to Billings, the most populous city in Montana.

Check in at the hotel at the end of the day. Dinner on your own and overnight in Billings.



Day 9

Head east to discover the superb Devils Tower site, sacred to many Native American tribes.

This monolith—an ancient volcano rising 265 m (867 ft) and 60 million years old—stands in the Black Hills, in Sioux territory. Steven Spielberg filmed 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' here.

Lunch.

Arrive in Deadwood, a key place of the gold rush and the Black Hills mining boom in the 19th century.

Calamity Jane is buried here and Billy the Kid was killed here.

Try your luck in the city's casinos, or have a drink in Kevin Costner's bar.

Dinner on your own and overnight in Deadwood.



Day 10

Depart for the magnificent and lesser-visited Badlands National Park, famous for its impressive and unusual geological formations—spires and crumbly ravines.

The park is also known for its wildlife , including bison, prairie dogs and antelope. Photo stops.

Lunch on your own.

In the afternoon, depart for the Crazy Horse Memorial. Still unfinished, this giant sculpture should measure 205 m long and 180 m high (the chief's head is 70 m high, compared with 'only' 18 m for President George Washington at Mt Rushmore).

Late afternoon at leisure in Rapid City.

Dinner included and overnight in Rapid City.



Day 11

Visit Mount Rushmore, where the faces of four U.S. presidents are carved into the mountain : Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt. Lunch.

Visit Fort Laramie, a former trading post where Native Americans and trappers sold their beaver furs before it was taken over by the army.

Continue to Cheyenne, a city of trains and rodeo. Dinner on your own and overnight.



Day 12

Cross Cheyenne , then depart for Rocky Mountain National Park, shaped by vanished glaciers.

Here you can admire outstanding landscapes of valleys and mountains, dotted with conifer forests, flower meadows, lakes, waterfalls and tundra. Its wildlife—abundant and diverse—includes bighorn sheep, squirrels, marmots, elk, other deer species and bears.

Lunch on your own.

Continue the stage and visit Buffalo Bill's grave near Denver.

Continue to Denver.

Farewell dinner (included) at the Hard Rock Café (or similar).

Overnight in Denver.



Day 13

Free morning to discover Denver at your own pace.

Transfer to the airport and flight back to Europe.

Arrival the next day.

Contact us for any stay extension

Accommodation