America’s Natural Wonders

Join Kathryn Larsen, VP Broadcast Services with Buffalo Toronto Public Media for this spectacular adventure to eight of America’s most beloved National Parks and the wild beauty of the west. Enjoy breathtaking vistas, majestic wildlife and millions of years of natural history, seen in the landscapes carved by nature. From Yellowstone, America’s first National Park, to the Grand Canyon, this journey will create memories to last a lifetime.

INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS:

• 11 Nights Hotel Accommodations
• 19 Meals: 11 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches & 5 Dinners
• Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation per Itinerary
• Entrance fees to attractions, National Parks and Monuments as outlined in Itinerary
• Roundtrip Airport Transfers
• Baggage Handling for (1) Bag per guest at each of our hotels
• Professional local Tour Director
• AAA/HCT Tour Director
• Gratuities: Coach Driver, Tour Director and for included meals
• Applicable Taxes & Fees
• $200 Donation per person to Buffalo Toronto Public Media

For more information or to book, please contact:

AAA of Western and Central New York Group Department
Toll-Free: at 1-855-641-6266
JUNE 4–15, 2021

YELLOWSTONE & THE GRAND CANYON

ITINERARY:

DAY 1: Friday, June 4 - Arrive – Please arrive at Denver Airport by 1:45 PM local time
The Mile-High City welcomes you as you arrive at the Denver International Airport. Once you arrive you will meet your Tour Director and head north toward the Cowboy State! Soon you will arrive in Cheyenne, the Capitol of Wyoming. After checking into your hotel, join the group tonight for dinner to get acquainted with your fellow travelers.
Fairfield Inn & Suites, Dinner Delancey Ranch, Cheyenne, WY (D)

DAY 2: Saturday, June 5 – Terry Bison Ranch – Covered Wagon - Casper
This morning we’ll depart the hotel for our short ride to the Terry Bison Ranch. All Aboard for a Bison Train Tour. You’ll get a chance not only to see the Bison Herd but also ostriches, camels and other fun farm animals. After a fun ride through the wilderness we’ll reboard our motorcoach and head to Casper. We’ll stop for lunch at Casper’s historic downtown at a classic car themed restaurant. This afternoon we will head up to the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center. The Center explores legendary Western history and we’ll learn about the Oregon, California, Mormon and Pony Express Trails. The museum has hands-on exhibits where it captures the real-life drama that over 400,000 pioneers experienced as they followed these trails. Then we’re in for a real treat – Here, the group will transfer to handmade covered wagons to experience the Wild Wild West. We’ll end the experience with a traditional Dutch-oven cookout. Then we’ll return to Casper for our overnight stay at a traditional log cabin-type hotel.
C’mon Inn, Casper, WY (B, L, D)

DAY 3: Sunday, June 6 – Casper – Lander
After breakfast we will head west passing by Independence Rock, Mormon Handcart Site and Devils Gate before arriving at Sinks Canyon State Park for a rest stop and an opportunity to take some pictures of some of Wyoming’s beauty. The site is named after distinct geologic phenomena in which the Popo Agie river disappears into a limestone cavern and reappears a quarter mile down canyon in a placid pool filled with 8 - 12 lb. rainbow trout. The site has a variety of natural habitats which creates diversity of flora and fauna. Then we will head to Lander for a chance to eat some lunch on your own and maybe shop around at all the local downtown shops. Next, we are off to the Wild Horse Sanctuary. We’ll see real wild mustangs up-close, and learn about Native American culture, and experience life on a working ranch on the Wind River Indian Reservation. After our tour through the sanctuary we will visit The National Bighorn Sheep Interpretive Center, located in Dubois, Wyoming, where we can see the largest, healthiest population of Bighorns in the world. Your destination this evening is the wild and wooly town of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where the night life is still as exciting as it was 100 years ago. After checking into your hotel, you are free to wander the streets of Jackson.
49er Inn, Jackson, WY (B)

DAY 4: Monday, June 7 – Grand Teton National Park – Yellowstone National Park
Today we enter Grand Teton National Park. We’ll stop at the historic Jackson Lake Lodge which is listed on the National Historic Register and boasts 60-foot windows that perfectly frame the Tetons. An agreement between the U.S. and Soviet governments signed here in 1989 led to an end of the cold war. There will be time to enjoy the view, explore the lodge, and do some shopping. Continue north and enter Yellowstone National Park* A UNESCO World Heritage Site for sightseeing. The world’s first national park is a wonderland of natural beauty and geologic oddities that has delighted visitors for over 100 years. It is a mysterious land of steaming geysers, fumaroles and bubbling mud pots. A land so amazing that the first explorers to bring back tales of Yellowstone were called liars. Today you will visit the centerpiece of the park, Old Faithful! There will be plenty of time to explore the area and witness an eruption of the world’s most famous geyser. After enjoying Old Faithful, explore more of the geyser basins including Fountain Paint Pots. Then travel along the beautiful Madison River as we head toward our accommodations in West Yellowstone.
Kelly Inn, West Yellowstone, MT (B)

DAY 5: Tuesday, June 8 – Yellowstone National Park
Begin your day exploring more of Yellowstone National Park. Visit some of Yellowstone’s most famous highlights today starting with Mammoth Hot Springs. It was created over thousands of years as hot water from the spring cooled and deposited calcium carbonate (over two tons flow into Mammoth each day in a solution). Although these springs lie outside the caldera boundary, their energy has been attributed to the same magmatic system that fuels other Yellowstone geothermal areas. Then see the awe-inspiring “Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone,” with a chance to see both the Canyon’s Upper and Lower falls, where the mighty Yellowstone River has cut its way through sheer rock to cascade down hundreds of feet to the foaming torrents below. Continue back to West Yellowstone where the afternoon and evening are free to explore, enjoy an IMAX movie, or visit the Grizzly & Wolf Center.
Kelly Inn, West Yellowstone, MT (B)

DAY 6: Wednesday, June 9 – West Yellowstone – Salt Lake City
This morning we will leave West Yellowstone, traveling south where we will enter Idaho and the Island Park region. Soon you will be descending into Idaho’s fertile farmlands. Pass through the areas where Idaho’s most famous crop is grown, the Idaho potato. Stop in Pocatello, Idaho’s second largest city, for a scatter lunch. Pocatello is named after the Indian chief of the Bannock tribe. After lunch, traveling south, we will be returning to the Beehive State, and drive along the shores of the Great Salt Lake. Arrive in Salt Lake City for a tour of the city including downtown, Temple Square, the State Capitol and more. After checking into your hotel and some time to freshen up, join the group for a special dinner at The Roof restaurant overlooking Temple Square.
Hotel RL Salt Lake City, UT (B, D)
DAY 7: Thursday, June 10 – Salt Lake City – Arches – Moab
This morning depart Salt Lake and arrive Dead Horse Point State Park for one of the most spectacular scenes in the southwest. You will see the expanse of Canyonlands National Park stretching to the south and the mighty Colorado River 2,000 feet below. Enjoy a picnic lunch with an incredible view. Next enjoy sightseeing of nearby Arches National Park. The 18,000 square-foot visitors center will introduce you to the unique geologic forces that created the highest concentration of natural arches in the world with over 2,000 named arches within its 73,000-acre boundary. Visit all the park highlights including Park Avenue, Balance Rock, The Windows and Delicate Arch. In the late afternoon arrive in Moab, check into the hotel and enjoy some time to relax and refreshen up. This evening join the group for dinner and enjoy some entertainment with the interesting versus from a cowboy poet.
Red Cliffs Lodge, Moab, UT (B, L, D)

DAY 8: Friday, June 11 – Capitol Reef National Park – Bryce Canyon National Park
Today you will awaken with the anticipation of seeing some of Utah’s most spectacular scenery. Leave Moab and drive through the town of Green River, skirt the San Rafael Swell, and arrive at Capitol Reef National Park to enjoy a picnic lunch before sightseeing ancient petroglyphs, beautiful rock formations, deep canyons and pioneer history. After touring in Capitol Reef, enjoy a drive on one of America’s most spectacular roads. Scenic Highway 12 has been designated as an “All American Road,” the crown jewel of the Scenic Byways system. First, drive over Boulder Mountain reaching elevations over 9,000 feet with spectacular views of the Water Pocket Fold and beyond. Travel through Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monument, with vast expanses of cream-and rose-colored Navajo sandstone. There are dramatic cliffs, high mesas, beautiful streams and deep canyons in multi-hued colors across the 1.9-million-acre monument. In the late afternoon, arrive Bryce Canyon National Park for sightseeing and optional hiking. The hues and intricate shapes of Bryce Canyon carry even the most mature adult away into a fairyland fantasy. The Paiute Indians used a word to describe Bryce Canyon that translates into, ‘red rocks standing like men in a bowl-shaped canyon.’ Mormon settler Ebenezer Bryce, for whom the canyon was named, described it as “a hell of a place to lose a cow.” After an afternoon of exploration, check into the hotel located just outside the park.
Best Western Plus Bryce Canyon, Bryce Canyon City, UT (B, L)

DAY 9: Saturday, June 12 – Zion National Park – Lake Powell Dinner Cruise
Continue your journey this morning through Color Country to Zion National Park, Utah’s oldest and most famous national park. Zion contains some of the most colorful deep canyons, sheer rock walls, and unique formations in all of the West’s plateau country. You will also see the spectacular buttes and mesas which are literally land-locked islands in the sky. After lunch, you are on your way to Lake Powell. After checking in to your hotel return to the lake for an evening on the water as you depart on a Sunset Dinner Cruise.
Hyatt Place, Page, AZ (B, D)

DAY 10: Sunday, June 13 – Grand Canyon
This morning we start our journey to one of nature’s greatest masterpieces: Grand Canyon National Park. On the way, stop in the heart of the Navajo Indian Reservation at the Cameron Trading Post for time to browse for authentic Indian jewelry, blankets, pottery, rugs and sand paintings, all produced by local Indian artisans. Then we continue the rest of the way to the south rim of the awe-inspiring Grand Canyon National Park. The Grand Canyon captures everyone’s imagination. Look into it and find yourself mesmerized - maybe by its grandeur, maybe by its color, or maybe by the unbelievable realization that its vastness is a result of water erosion. This afternoon enjoy free time to pursue one of the many optional activities available here at the park like ranger talks, shuttles around the park or whatever you choose to do. You’re sure to be enthralled by what nature and the Colorado River have been carving out of the earth over millions of years.
Best Western Squire Inn, Tusayan, AZ (B)

DAY 11: Monday, June 14 – Grand Canyon National Park – Las Vegas
This morning we’ll reenter Grand Canyon National Park for one last chance to take in its breathtaking beauty. After touring all the best viewpoints, we’ll depart and travel on what was once Route 66 as we head west through northern Arizona. Enter Nevada and arrive in the “Entertainment Capitol of the World,” Las Vegas. Enjoy a driving tour on the way to our hotel located on the famous Las Vegas strip. The rest of the evening is yours to take in a show or test your skills against lady luck in the casinos.
Tropicana or similar, Las Vegas, NV (B)

DAY 12: Tuesday, June 15 – Check out of hotel – Home – Book flights after 8:00 AM or later local time.
Sadly, our trip ends today as you board your transfer to the airport. What an amazing time through the west! (B)
PRICING

DOUBLE .......................... $4799
TRIPLE ............................. $4399
SINGLE ............................. $6199

Rates are per person based on occupancy. $500 per person deposit due at time of booking. Final payment due March 19, 2021. Airfare is additional. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Ask for a quote at time of booking. Minimum 25 passengers.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

CANCELLATION POLICY: AAA recommends the purchase of Allianz Global Assistance products to protect your trip investment.

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SINGLE OCCUPANCY: If a single room must be assigned for any reason, even at the last moment or while on tour, the single room supplement, or prorate thereof, must be collected since hotels make no allowances.

NOT INCLUDED: Roundtrip airfare, personal items (room service, telephone, liquor, etc.).

PLEASE BE ADVISED: Proper documentation must be shown upon check-in prior to departure or boarding will be denied and no refunds given. Arrival and departure times are subject to change based on weather, traffic and border conditions. Pick up locations are subject to change based on parking availability. Pricing, inclusions, itinerary and availability are subject to change. AAA is not responsible for typographical errors on this flyer. Should the minimum number of passengers required to operate the tour not be met, AAA has the right to cancel the tour. In this case, any monies collected from passengers would be refunded.

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ACTIVITY LEVELS: Group travel requires a unique blend of adventuresome spirit, physical and mental alertness, and a capacity for accepting situations as they exist. To help you choose the AAA vacation that is best for you and to ensure the most efficient operation of our tours we feel our activity level scale located on the front of this brochure will help you select the pace that’s right for you.

1 = Easy – Very leisurely pace, minimal physical activity, stepping on and off the coach, and shorter touring days
2 = Moderately Easy – Easy pace, some stairs and standing, three to four blocks of walking at a time on level terrains
3 = Active – Moderate pace, good mobility needed, stairs and prolonged standing, includes city walking tours, some shorter and some longer days
4 = Moderately Challenging – Fast pace, some strenuous activities, walking on varied terrain and up to two miles at a time
5 = Challenging – Vigorous pace, frequent strenuous activities, extensive walking and longer touring days