



Exploring the Dakotas

August 25 - September 3, 2009

(10 days - 9 nights)

Tue, Aug 25
Liberal, KS

With much

excitement in the air our motorcoach will take us northward through the panhandle of Texas, across a small portion of Oklahoma and into Kansas.

Wed, Aug 26

Valentine, NE

Today we continue across the Sunflower State and into Nebraska, a land with rugged pioneer history. It is said to be a 77,000-square-mile museum without walls. We will overnight in a town that brings romantic thoughts to mind, Valentine, NE.

Thu, Aug 27

Rapid City, SD

As we enter the Badlands National Park of South Dakota you will see the result of 37 million years of wind and water erosion that have carved saw-edged spires and multi-colored grassy-topped buttes out of the vast prairies. A refreshing stop will be in Wall, SD at the world-famous Wall Drug. Built in 1931, the world's largest drugstore survived the depression by advertising free ice water to travelers. Rapid City was founded in 1876, 2 years after gold was discovered in the Black Hills, and will be our home for the next 2 nights. This evening enjoy the Fort Hays Chuckwagon Supper and Show. While there take a look at the film site from the movie "*Dances with Wolves*". Weather permitting we will continue to Mount Rushmore for the lighting ceremony.

Fri, Aug 28

Rapid City, SD

Today will be a day to remember as we return to Mount Rushmore where the heads of four American Presidents have been carved in granite. Continuing through the Black Hills we will also visit the Crazy Horse Memorial to check on its progress. When finished it will be the world's largest mountain carving at 563 feet high and 641 feet long.



Highlights Include:

- North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska
- Mount Rushmore
- Black Hills
- Deadwood
- Crazy Horse Memorial
- Wall Drug
- Badlands National Park
- Golden Spike Tower
- South Dakota Heritage Center
- Great Platt River Road Archway Memorial
- Fort Lincoln State Park
- Buffalo Bill Historical State Park
- General George Custer Home
- Fort Hays Chuckwagon Supper & Show
- *Dances With Wolves* Film Set

Sat, Aug 29

Medora, ND

Before leaving the state we have included a visit to Deadwood, a town with only one main street—all that space permits on the floor of Deadwood Gulch. It is filled with reminders of its lively past as a gold rush

boomtown and haven for well-known gunfighters and gamblers. Legalized gambling returned to Deadwood in 1988 and you will have time to try your luck, if so desired. A stop is planned at Tatanka, the Story of the Bison. With larger than life bronze sculptures featuring 14 bison pursued by 3 Native American horseback riders, the foundation was begun by Kevin Costner.

Traveling to the north we enter North Dakota, a state with river valleys, huge ranches and vast prairies. We

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will overnight in Medora with its population of 100, near the ranch Theodore Roosevelt established in 1883 and now preserved in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Sun, Aug 30

Bismarck, ND

Moving eastward across the state will soon have us arriving in Bismarck. From a distance you will be able to see the 19-story State Capital Building, known as the "skyscraper of the prairie". Just outside Bismarck is Fort Lincoln State Park. It was from here that Lt. Col. George Custer led 265 men in the 1876 Battle of the Little Bighorn. While at the State Park, we will also visit the home of the Custers.



Mon, Aug 31

Valentine, NE

Turning to the south we will return to South Dakota where we stop in Pierre, the capital of the state to visit the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center. Located on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, its exhibits pertain to pioneer and American Indian history.

Tue, Sept 1

Kearney, NE

Our first stop today will be in North Platte at the Golden Spike Tower. The 8 floor tower and visitor center allows us to experience the world's largest railroad classification yard. Buffalo Bill State Historical Park is located nearby and our tour of his home and barn will allow us a glimpse into the life of the man who made the Wild West world renowned.

Wed, Sept 2

Liberal, KS

Before leaving Kearney we will stop at the Great Platt River Road Archway Monument, built over I-80, where visitors relive America's Trailblazing yesterdays. The pioneer's westward journey is re-created with a variety of interactive exhibits.

Thu, Sept 3

Return home

As we board our motorcoach this morning we realize our tour is rapidly coming to an end. It will be a time to sit back and reminisce of the natural and diverse beauty we have experienced and the new friendships made. Everyone will long remember our tour featuring North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska.

Thank you for traveling with Bilbrey Tours!

Price Includes:

- Roundtrip motorcoach transportation from: **Abilene, Big Spring, Midland and San Angelo**
- 9 nights accommodations
- Baggage handling for one piece of luggage
- Admission to included attractions per itinerary
- Meals: 9 continental breakfasts, 7 lunches or dinners
- Services of a tour escort
- Gratuity for motorcoach driver

**Cost: \$1699 per person (2 people per room)
\$2169 per person (1 person per room)**

**\$100 deposit + \$123 insurance (optional)
due upon booking**

Final payment due July 14

Travel Protection Insurance is available at a cost of \$123 per person. A complete outline of coverage is available upon request. Insurance is optional and may only be purchased with initial deposit. We strongly urge you to purchase this insurance to protect yourself in the event of a **medically related cancellation. All cancellations must be reported to Bilbrey Tours, Inc. within 72 hours of the problem causing the need to cancel. All claims must be completed by attending physician.**

Luggage tags and a detailed itinerary will be provided 2-3 weeks prior to tour.

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