National Parks of the West

THE NATURAL SPLENDORS OF THE AMERICAN WEST

June 21 to July 1, 2014
The vast wilderness that beckoned early American pioneers ever westward still exists in our nation’s great parks; they are filled with beautiful scenery, abundant wildlife and remarkable landscapes found nowhere else on earth. Ferdinand Hayden, Yellowstone’s first and most enthusiastic advocate, believed in “setting aside the area as a pleasure ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people,” and on March 1, 1872, our nation’s first national park was established. Come with us as we explore this and some of the other, lesser-known extraordinary treasures that can be found in our own backyard. Along the way, we’ll be joined by naturalists, local guides and other experts who broaden our understanding and appreciation of the cultural, historical and natural diversity we encounter in these extraordinary lands.

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

WITNESS the vestiges of one of America’s greatest migrations as you observe roaming herds of bison in Custer State Park.

EXPLORE the incredible geothermic hotbed that is Yellowstone National Park and take in the bubbling, boiling and spraying activity of this caldera.

RELAX and soak up the scenery from the sprawling porches and giant windows of the great lodges of the American West.

COVER: SOUTH DAKOTA BLACK HILLS
Itinerary

SATURDAY, JUNE 21
HOME / RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA
Fly on independent flights from home to Rapid City and gather with fellow travelers for a welcome reception at our hotel. ADOBE ECO HOTEL.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22
RAPID CITY / BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK / CUSTER
Head east to Badlands National Park, which features some of the most spectacular scenery in the region. Travel into the backcountry and enjoy a buffalo safari and a chuck wagon cookout. Tonight, stay at the State Game Lodge in the Black Hills near Custer. The lodge, built in 1920 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, served as the “Summer White House” for President Calvin Coolidge in 1927 and was visited by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953. CUSTER STATE GAME LODGE (B,D)

MONDAY, JUNE 23
CUSTER / HOT SPRINGS / CUSTER STATE PARK
This morning, travel south to the town of Hot Springs to visit the world’s largest mammoth dig site. After a short tour, stroll on the boardwalk over the dig area and visit the paleontology laboratory. Then head north to the Crazy Horse Memorial, which has been under construction since 1948. When it’s completed it’s likely to be the world’s largest sculpture. The remainder of the day is ours to enjoy exploring Custer State Park. CUSTER STATE GAME LODGE (B,D)

TUESDAY, JUNE 24
CUSTER / MOUNT RUSHMORE / SPEARFISH CANYON
Today visit one of the world’s largest stone monuments, iconic Mount Rushmore. Between 1927 and 1941, sculptor Gutzon Borglum and more than 400 workers sculpted the 60-foot-high carvings of U.S. presidents Washington, Jefferson, (Teddy) Roosevelt and Lincoln into the granite face of Mount Rushmore. These four presidents were chosen by Borglum to represent the first 150 years of American history because of their roles in preserving the Republic and expanding its territory. Spend tonight deep in the heart of Spearfish Canyon, located on the edge of Black Hills National Forest and one of the most breathtakingly beautiful canyons in the world. SPEARFISH CANYON LODGE (B,D)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25
U-CROSS RANCH, WYOMING / CODY
Journey through scenic Spearfish Canyon and across the grassy plains of Wyoming. Enjoy lunch at an authentic western ranch, then cross the Bighorn Mountains to Buffalo Bill’s Wild West town of Cody. THE CODY HOTEL (B,L)

THURSDAY TO SATURDAY, JUNE 26 TO 28
CODY / YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
Visit the Buffalo Bill Center of the West and step into the
region’s rich past to learn about Western and Native American history, the life of W.F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody, Yellowstone and old firearms. Pass through Shoshone National Forest en route to Yellowstone National Park, established as the world’s first national park in 1872. Enjoy two full days in the park, with plenty of time for exploring and relaxing amid the rustic, yet grand, architecture and ambience of Old Faithful Inn. Watch in awe as Old Faithful Geyser erupts to heights of up to 185 feet. Take a guided walking tour of Fountain Paint Pots Nature Trail to witness all four types of geothermal features found throughout the world, including bubbling mud pots. Also visit Mammoth Hot Springs, where steamy limestone terraces and hot springs overlook the visitor facilities, and perhaps visit the Albright Visitor Center and Museum. OLD FAITHFUL INN OR SIMILAR (6/26: B,D; 6/27–6/28: B,L,D)

SUNDAY, JUNE 29
GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK / JACKSON
Head south this morning through a vast unspoiled wilderness to Grand Teton National Park, its jagged mountain peaks forming a perfect backdrop rising above Jenny and Jackson lakes. Continue on to our cozy lodge. JACKSON LAKE LODGE (B)

MONDAY, JUNE 30
JACKSON
Spend all day today exploring independently. Choose, perhaps, to take a shuttle into town and wander around Jackson’s lively town square and browse the local art galleries and boutiques, or take part in a wide range of optional outdoor activities including horseback riding, fly fishing or a float trip down the Snake River. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner with fellow travelers. JACKSON LAKE LODGE (B,D)

TUESDAY, JULY 1
JACKSON / HOME
Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for independent flights home. (B)
Trip Information

DATES
June 21 to July 1, 2014 (11 days)

SIZE
Limited to 44 participants

COST *
$5,995 per person, double occupancy
$6,895 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $200 per person

INCLUDED
10 nights of hotel and lodge accommodations
■ 10 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 7 dinners
■ Welcome reception and farewell dinner
■ Bottled water on excursions ■ Gratuities to guides, drivers and porters for all group activities ■ All park fees, tours and excursions as described in the itinerary ■ Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days ■ Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance ■ Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information ■ Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
Airfare ■ Meals and beverages other than those specified as included ■ Independent and private transfers ■ Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance ■ Excess-baggage charges ■ Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
Airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare from San Francisco to Rapid City, South Dakota, and return from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, is approximately $600 as of September 2013 and is subject to change without notice.

WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this program to be mildly active. Most of our touring is done by motorcoach, and some excursions involve short walks of up to half a mile. Hotels and lodges may offer optional longer walks or hikes for participants who wish to be more active. At times, our journey requires several hours of travel by motorcoach, the longest drives being up to eight hours (with stops). Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space for this program. Complete and return the attached reservation form or place your deposit online. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. We strongly recommend that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in September 2013 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
Faculty Leader

DAVID DINTER, ‘82, MS ‘82, is a professor of geology at the University of Utah. He discovered the magnificent mountain scenery of the American West and became intrigued with its stratigraphic and structural history as an undergraduate at Stanford during a 10-week summer field geology course, then the final requirement for a geology degree. His interest endured and grew through years of research into the tectonic evolution and natural hazards of the western Cordillera. He has taught summer field geology to undergraduates in this region for the last 15 years and eagerly anticipates the opportunity to explore and discuss with Stanford travelers the geologic stories behind the spectacular scenery of the Badlands, Black Hills, Yellowstone and Tetons.

- BS, geology, and MS, geophysics, Stanford University
- PhD, geology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Twice recipient, Geology and Geophysics Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award, University of Utah

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**Reservation Form**
National Parks of the West

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**ADDRESS**

**CITY / STATE / ZIP**

**PHONE** CELL / WORK / HOME

**EMAIL ADDRESS**

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them.

**SIGNATURE**

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:
- [ ] I wish to have single accommodations.
- [ ] I plan to share accommodations with: [Name]
- [ ] I'd like to know about possible roommates.

**BED PREFERENCE:**
- [ ] Twins  [ ] Double

Here is my deposit of $_______ ($1,000 per person) for ____ space(s).
- [ ] Enclosed is my check (payable to Stanford Alumni Association) OR
- [ ] Charge my deposit to my:  [ ] Visa  [ ] MasterCard  [ ] American Express

**CARD #**

**EXPIRATION DATE**

**CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE**

**DATE**

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?west2014. Submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.
National Parks of the West

The Natural Splendors of the American West

June 21 to July 1, 2014

“Perfect in every way.”

Jane and Garth Russell, National Parks of the West, 2005

Stanford Alumni Association