

'THE MARVEL OF MT. RUSHMORE'

(LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD - BLACK HILLS, - CODY NIGHT RODEO - YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK)

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

Day 1 - Sunday, August 23, 2009

Arrive Billings, Montana

Today we will depart southern Alberta on an air conditioned motor-coach and arrive in Billings, Montana later in the afternoon. Tonight we will meet our fellow travelers during a welcome reception at our hotel.

Hotel: Country Inn & Suites- 1 night

Day 2 - Monday, August 24, 2009

Billings - Deadwood

For many people the name 'Custer's Last Stand' tells the tale of foolishness in the face of the enemy, but this morning we will learn the true and fascinating story of this historic event at the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. This is the site of the June 25, 1876 battle between the U.S. Army's 7th cavalry and several bands of Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho. The Battle of the Little Bighorn, near Crow Agency, Montana, also serves as a memorial to those who fought in the battle: Custer National Cemetery, on the battlefield, is part of the national monument. The site of a related military action led by Marcus

Reno and Frederick Benteen is also part of the national monument. Tonight we arrive in Deadwood, South Dakota. Deadwood started off illegally, as its location was, at the beginning of its history, part of Native American territory. The Treaty of Laramie of 1868 had guaranteed ownership of the Black Hills to the Lakota people. However, in 1874, Colonel George Armstrong Custer led an expedition into the Hills and announced the discovery of gold on French Creek near present-day Custer, South Dakota. Custer's announcement triggered the Black Hills Gold Rush and gave rise to the lawless town of Deadwood, which quickly reached a population of around 5,000. Now an exciting town of gambling saloons and dancehalls which celebrate its wild west history - we will be thrilled as we seem to step back in time.

Hotel: AmericInn Hotel & Suites - 6 nights

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Day 3 - Tuesday, August 25, 2009

Deadwood

This morning a tour of Deadwood's Adams Museum is planned. Considered the Black Hills' oldest history museum. Artifacts on display from Deadwood's infamous past reflect the powerful legends of Wild Bill, Calamity Jane and Deadwood Dick. From a one-of-a-kind plesiosaur, the Thoen Stone and W.E. Adams' love letters to a lively folk art collection, Lakota bead and quill work and Potato Creek Johnny's gold nugget; the Adams Museum exhibits capture the mysteries, the tragedies, the bawdiness and the dreams found in the history, art and natural history of the Black Hills. After lunch we will be taken on a city tour to "Find our inner outlaw". We will visit Mount Moriah Cemetery, also known as Boot Hill, where Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane are buried. We will learn all about the history of this frontier town and its other colorful inhabitants. The town, boasts 80 historic casinos and gambling halls, Deadwood has become THE destination for those seeking a Wild West experience. Later this afternoon we will experience a re-enactment of the shooting of Wild Bill Hickok at Saloon #10. This is the only museum in the world with a working bar. At \$1.00 a beer - this is the wildest museum in the west. To finish the day we will witness the trial of the assassin John McCall. We may be called to jury duty!!!

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Day 4 - Wednesday, August 26, 2009

Deadwood

This morning we will depart Deadwood and drive through beautiful scenery on our way to two of the highlights of this tour. A spectacular sight awaits us, as we visit the Crazy Horse Memorial. Sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski and Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear officially started Crazy Horse Memorial June 3, 1948. The Memorial's mission is to honour the culture, tradition and living heritage of North American Indians. Progress continues on the world's largest mountain sculpture, carving a memorial to the spirit of legendary Lakota leader Crazy Horse and his culture. We will continue on to the famous Mount Rushmore National Memorial. "Until the wind and the rain alone shall wear them away" - those are the famous words Sculptor Gutzon Borglum used to describe the length of time his most famous work, Mt. Rushmore, will endure. The mountain itself was originally named after Charles E. Rushmore, a New York lawyer investigating mining claims in the Black Hills in 1885. Gutzon Borglum chose this mountain due to its height (5700' above sea level), the soft grainy consistency of the granite, and the fact that it catches the sun for the greatest part of the day. The presidents were selected on the basis of what each symbolized. The carving of Mt. Rushmore actually began on August 10, 1927, and spanned a length of 14 years. The total cost of the project was \$900,000. Work continued on the project until the death of Gutzon Borglum in 1941. No carving has been done on the mountain since that time and none is planned in the future. We will also stay and enjoy the evening show - when the monument is slowly lit up. An awesome sight!

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Day 5 - Thursday, August 27, 2009

Deadwood

Another amazing day is planned in this unique area. We will depart in the morning and make our way to another highlight - a most improbable mountain, sticking up a thousand feet in the air above the surrounding valley like some giant, prehistoric tree-stump. Native Americans from ancient times designated it a sacred place. Stephen Spielberg used it as a backdrop to his blockbuster movie Close Encounters of the Third Kind. The name of this strange geological formation is Devil's Tower. Devil's Tower rises 1,267 feet above the nearby Belle Fourche River. What makes the mountain so striking is its sharp, near-vertical cliffs with regular, furrows and flattened top. Time will be allowed to hike around the base for those who are able. It is a must do if possible. This evening is free to explore and perhaps visit one of the many Casino's.

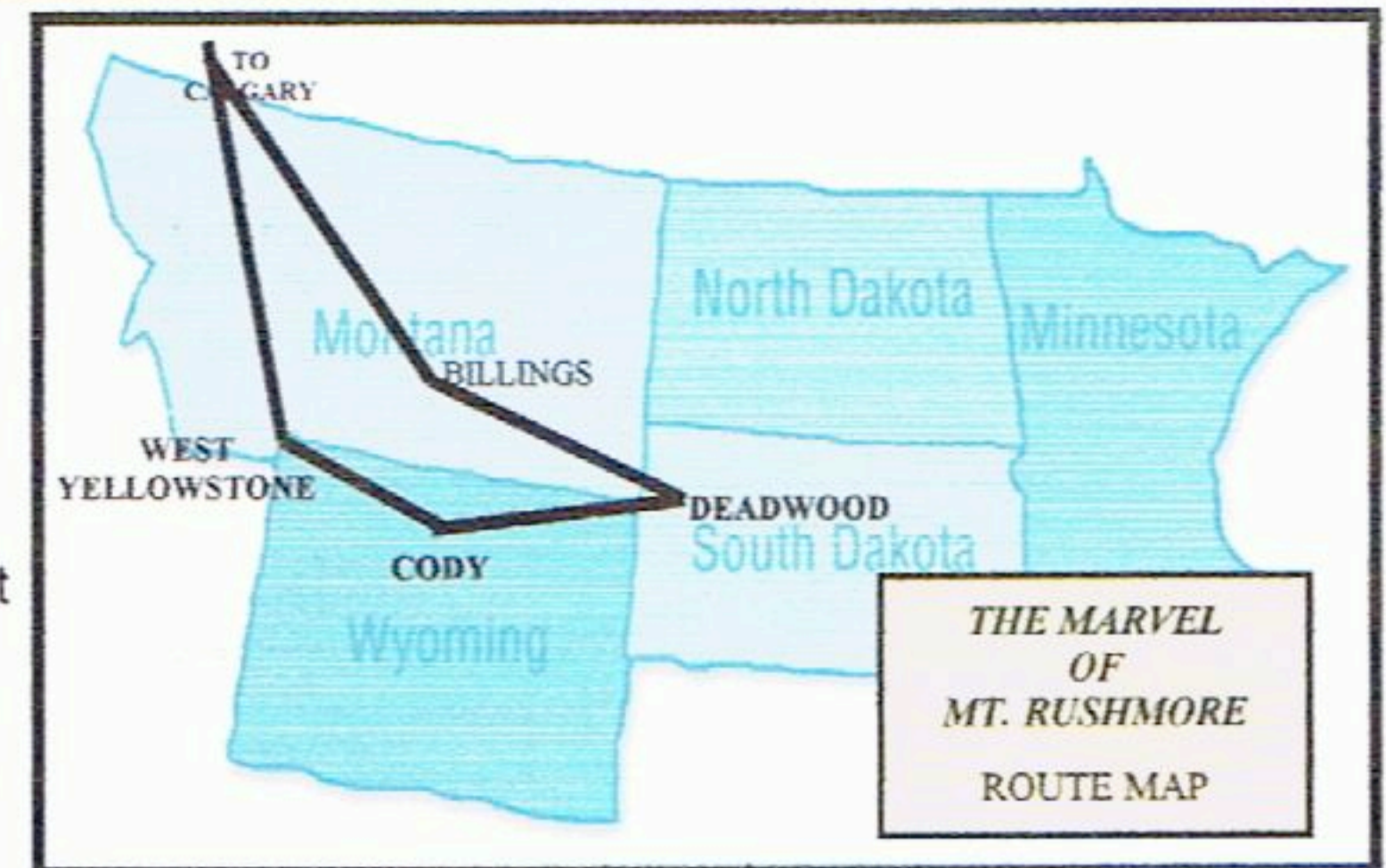
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Day 6 - Friday, August 28, 2009

Deadwood

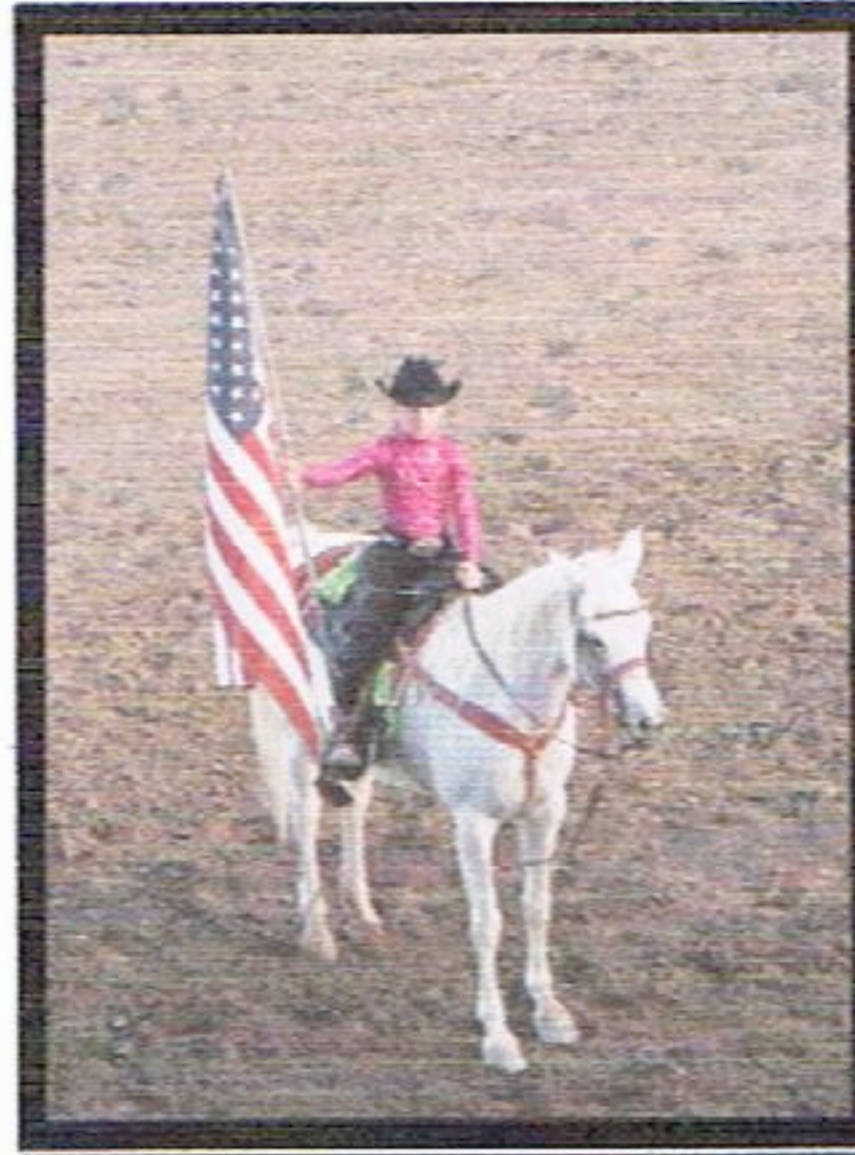
A completely different day is planned as we travel to the badlands of South Dakota. Millions of years of wind, water and erosion have created the chiselled spires, deep canyons and jagged buttes of Badlands National Park. On-going rains, freezes and thaws have revealed millions of years of sediment that paint a colourful landscape on the prairies of south western South Dakota. When the Lakota first encountered the striking, moon-like landscape, they aptly called the area "Mako Sica" or "bad land." Early French trappers also described the area as "bad land" after difficult travels over the rugged terrain. We will spend some time at the world famous Wall Drug Store. A sprawling tourist mall that occupies the majority of downtown Wall, used to be known by locals as "the geographical center of nowhere." Tonight a special evening of good 'chuck' and good music is planned at the Circle B Ranch.

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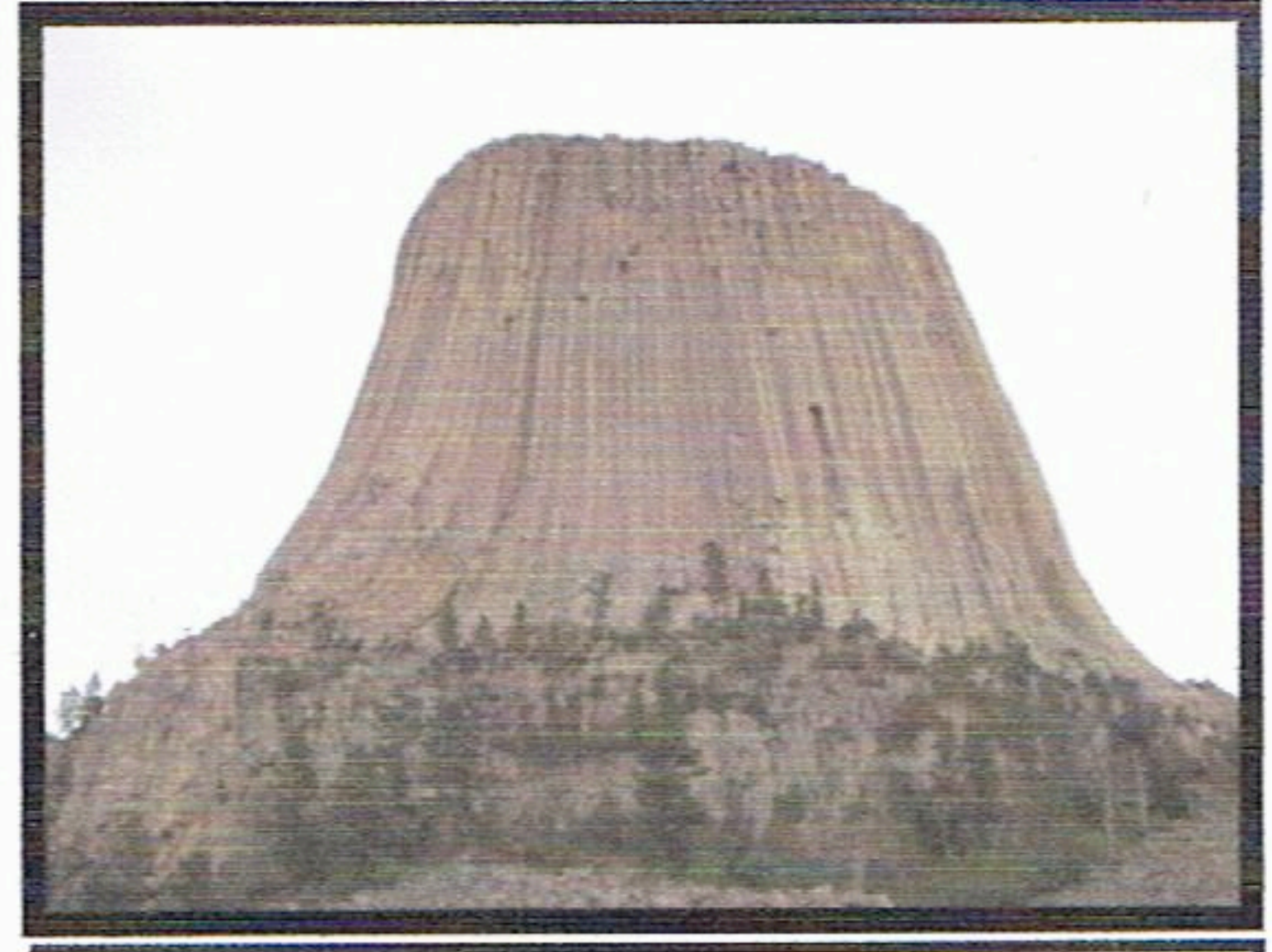




OLD FAITHFULL, YELLOWSTONE



CODY NIGHT RODEO



DEVIL'S TOWER

Day 7 - Saturday, August 29, 2009

Deadwood

Once again we will be amazed as we take an all day tour. Driving through rock tunnels and winding past rock spires, the **Needles Highway** was labelled impossible when it was constructed in **1919**. The highway curves and winds through 14 miles of magnificent rock formations called 'needles.' One of the most prominent rock formations on the Highway is the **Needles Eye**, reaching 30 to 40 feet in the air with a 3 foot wide slit. We will enjoy a **buffet lunch** and a visit to a **local winery**, before continuing on to the **Iron Mountain** - another spectacular area in the **Black Hills**.

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Day 8 - Sunday, August 30, 2009

Deadwood - Cody, WY

This morning our adventure will continue as we leave **South Dakota** and drive to **Cody, Wyoming**. A very special thrill tonight. We will attend the famous **Buffalo Bill Cody Night Rodeo**. Top cowboys from across the continent come to Cody for the **Stampede Rodeo**, one of rodeo's **crown jewels** that contestants often call "Cowboy Christmas".

Hotel: The Cody

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Day 9 - Monday, August 31, 2009

Cody - West Yellowstone, MT

And now another fabulous day is planned as we drive to **West Yellowstone** travelling through the world renowned **Yellowstone National Park**. Established by the **U.S. Congress** as a national park in **1872**, it is located primarily in the U.S. state of **Wyoming**, though it also extends into **Montana** and **Idaho**. The park was the first of its kind, and is known for its **wildlife** and its many **geothermal features**, especially **Old Faithful Geyser**, one of the most popular features in the park. It has many types of ecosystems, but the sub-alpine forest is dominant. Hundreds of species of mammals, birds, fish and reptiles have been documented, including several that are either endangered or threatened. The vast forests and grasslands also include unique species of plants. **Grizzlies**, **wolves**, and free-ranging herds of **bison** and **elk** live in the park. Paved roads provide close access to the major geothermal areas as well as some of the lakes and waterfalls.

Hotel: Kelly Inn - 1 night

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Day 10 - Tuesday, September 1, 2009

West Yellowstone - Calgary

This morning we will leave **West Yellowstone** and start our journey home. Later this afternoon we will arrive back in **Alberta** where our fun and informative travels began. We will have many 'tales' to tell, and lots of wonderful memories of our trip - 'The Marvel of Mt. Rushmore'.

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FEATURES OF THIS PACKAGE:

- Transportation on an air conditioned wash-room equipped motor coach
- 9 breakfasts / 1 lunch / 1 dinner
- Experienced tour directors
- All accommodations / all taxes
- Little Bighorn National Monument
- Mt. Rushmore Monument and evening show
- S.D. Badlands / Wall Drug Store
- Devil's Tower
- Cody Night Rodeo
- Yellowstone National Park



RATES PER PERSON:

- Double Occupancy \$1,995.00 per person
- Single Occupancy \$2,595.00 per person

The rates quoted are in Canadian currency and are those in effect at the time of printing - should the tariff or exchange rates vary at any time prior to date of your deposit we reserve the right to change the stated rates without notice.

RESERVATIONS:

deposit of \$500.00 per person is due within 48 hours of booking
final payment is due June 26, 2009

CALL:

1-403-734-3998

1-888-927-8473