

# 10 Day Black Hills

Featuring North and South Dakota

2018

Tour #18119

June 22-July 01

2019

Tour#19119

June 21-30

## 1 ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI

We begin our journey today traveling west through Tennessee and Kentucky before arriving in St. Charles, Missouri, for our first overnight. St. Charles was Missouri's first state capital between 1821 and 1826, while a permanent capital city was in the planning and development stages in Jefferson City. It is the third oldest city west of the Mississippi and is located on the Missouri River just northwest of St. Louis.

## 2 SIGHTSEEING TOUR OF ST. CHARLES / YORK, NEBRASKA

This morning a local guide, in period dress, will take us on a quick drive through St. Charles. We will see the first State Capitol Historic Site, Lewis & Clark Statue and more. The ten-block, 200-year-old Historic Main Street is Missouri's first and largest historic district. It lies closest to the Missouri River and Saint Charles' frontier history. The brick paved street leads to more than 125 one-of-a-kind shops. After lunch in the Columbia area, we continue to York, Nebraska for our next overnight.

## 3 LUNCH AT OLE'S BIG GAME STEAKHOUSE / CHEYENNE TOUR

Our journey continues through Nebraska to Paxton for lunch at Ole's Big Game Steakhouse, a great experience and a delicious meal. We continue to Cheyenne, Wyoming, the capital and most populous city of the state of Wyoming. It was named for the Native American Cheyenne nation, one of the most famous and prominent Great Plains tribes. A local guide will give a fully narrated historical tour of Cheyenne including the Old West Museum, Governor's Mansion, State Capitol, Botanic Gardens, State Museum and more. We spend the night in Cheyenne. **L**



## 4 MOUNT RUSHMORE / BEAR COUNTRY USA / EVENING CHUCKWAGON DINNER AND SHOW AT FORT HAYS

We continue north through Wyoming to the Black Hills of South Dakota to Mount Rushmore. We view the faces of four great American Presidents carved on a 6,000 foot mountain in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Visit Bear Country USA, a refuge for bears, wolves, bison, and many other wild animals, and enjoy a leisurely 3-mile drive through this unique North American Wildlife park nestled on 250 acres of Black Hills Beauty. Visit the Dances With Wolves film set at Fort Hays this evening before the dinner bell rings calling all cowboys and cowgirls to bring their appetites for a delicious Chuckwagon dinner and show featuring the Fort Hays Wranglers. **D**



## 5 MEDORA, NORTH DAKOTA / PITCHFORK FONDUE AND OUTDOOR MUSICAL

Traveling north through South Dakota crossing into North Dakota, we soon arrive in the historical town of Medora. In the evening we will enjoy a unique western meal with a magnificent North Dakota sunset as a backdrop. The Tjaden Terrace is a beautiful open air shelter and terrace with a spectacular view of the North Dakota Badlands and the town of Medora. Here you will enjoy an 11-ounce rib-eye steak cooked "Cowboy Style" on the end of a pitchfork—a Medora treat you won't soon forget. After dinner we will see the greatest show in the west, The Medora Musical. The North Dakota Badlands provide a spectacular backdrop for the Burning Hills Amphitheatre, home to this world-famous musical. **D**



## 6 BISMARCK / FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

This morning we will make a photo stop just east of Medora at Painted Canyon situated in Teddy Roosevelt National Park which is referred to as "The Badlands of North Dakota". We continue to Bismarck to visit the Capitol—a 19-story white limestone and black granite skyscraper looming above the plains. Memorial Hall, on the ground floor, boasts 40 foot bronze pillars, black marble and yellowstone travertine walls as well as a marble floor. On the Capitol grounds, the statue of Sakakawea commemorates the "Bird Woman" of the Shoshone tribe. She was an invaluable guide and interpreter with the Lewis and Clark expedition and in obtaining horses from the Shoshone for mountain crossings. After lunch, we continue to Fargo, North Dakota for the night.



**7 REDLIN ART CENTER / SIOUX FALLS PARK / LUNCH AT FALLS OVERLOOK CAFE / OMAHA, NEBRASKA / FRONTIER DINNER WITH MARY AND GENERAL GEORGE COOK**

Today, traveling south through North Dakota and back into the state of South Dakota, we make a stop at The Redlin Art Center in Watertown, South Dakota. Terry Redlin's interest in out-of-doors themes can be traced to his childhood in Watertown. Few artists can rival the standards of excellence achieved by Master Artist Terry Redlin over the past 25 years. He is truly one of the country's most widely collected painters of wildlife and Americana. We continue to Sioux Falls—bordering Iowa and Minnesota, Sioux Falls is in the "Heart of America" located on the banks of the Big Sioux River and is South Dakota's largest city. After lunch, it is a short drive to Omaha, Nebraska for a two night stay. Upon arrival in Omaha, we will visit the Old 1857 Florence Bank, now a museum. After checking into our hotel, we will enjoy an entertaining Frontier-style dinner as a re-enactor who portrays Mary Cook welcomes us into her home for dinner. Before dinner, she talks about the life on the frontier fort and her famous husband, General George Cook, Commander of Indian Affairs in the Great Plains. The Victorian home is fully restored to represent the time period of when the Cook family lived in the home. **L D**



**8 MORMON TRAILS CENTER AT WINTER QUARTERS / LEWIS & CLARK LUNCHEON CRUISE / 1885 SQUIRREL CAGE JAIL & UNION PACIFIC MUSEUM**

The Mormon Trails Center is a museum which examines the hardships of the 1840's winter quarters for the Mormon pioneers. The state of the art museum examines the Mormon pioneer encampment in the area during the harsh winters of 1846 and 1847 and concentrates on the topic of the Mormon Trail. Next, we enjoy a luncheon cruise with Captain William Clark –re-enactor from the Douglas County Historical Society. Dressed in full military uniform, Captain Clark will talk about the journey up the Missouri River. We cross the Missouri River to Council Bluffs and visit the 1885 Squirrel Cage Jail and Union Pacific Museum. This 1885 unique "rotary" jail is one of three remaining examples of the Lazy Susan jails in the United States. Wedge-shaped cells form a drum, which rotated all prisoners at once. Next door is the Union Pacific Railroad Museum with exhibits from the long history of the Union Pacific Railroad. We return to Omaha for dinner included in one of Omaha's fine restaurants. **L D**



**9 O'FALLON, ILLINOIS**

We depart Omaha traveling northeast through Iowa, often referred to as the "American Heartland". Iowa is bordered by the Mississippi River on the east; the Missouri River and the Big Sioux River on the west. The southern border is the Des Moines River. We continue through St. Louis to O'Fallon, Illinois for our last night.

**10 HOMEWARD BOUND**

All good things must come to an end, so this morning we will be on our way home with our newly found friends and many good memories of our tour.

**7 MEALS INCLUDED**

B - Breakfast • L - Lunch • D - Dinner

**Price Per Person:**

**Single \$2850    Twin \$2150    Triple \$2010**

11 day tour from these cities departing one day earlier: Attalla, Decatur and Huntsville, AL and Lexington, KY. Add \$130 to the above prices for twin and triple and \$150 for single.