

Cowboys & American Indians | Fly Drive Holiday

Holiday Duration: 16 Nights



Overview

Cowboys and American Indians

The American Indian tribes of the Great Plains were the first residents in the west of the Rocky Mountains and it is still their home. This fascinating fly-drive holiday covers both North and South Dakota as well as a bit of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.

The region is home to sixteen Native American nations and with Frontier America you will be able to explore the history, the culture and see their artwork as you meander through their homelands. Learn about the Lewis & Clark expedition at Custer's Last Stand, drive part of the Native American Scenic Byway, visit the Sitting Bull Monument and the Crazy Horse Memorial, cross the Badlands of South Dakota and have a few days on a ranch: after all, without the horses, this area would have a very different history.

This itinerary is flexible and can be tailor-made to suit you; if you want to add extra days in one area, extend the holiday or maybe change the direction of travel. Talk to one of our experts about how to make this holiday the perfect one for you.

Here's a day-by-day guide to your itinerary. Feel free to ask us to add other days or ideas and excursions by contacting us directly, so we can give you the best price.

Days 1-2



Denver

Fly into Denver and experience the city's vibrant culture, excellent shops and restaurants. The Denver Art Museum and its neighbour, the Native American Trading Company have what is often acknowledged as the world's greatest collections of American Indian art work, representing all of North America's tribes.

2 nights in Denver

Day 3



Denver to Cheyenne

Collect your car this morning and drive to Cheyenne for an overnight stay where we suggest you visit the Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum, the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens and the Terry Bison Ranch where you can take a train through the ranch to see not only around 2500 American bison, but also ostriches and camels!

1 night in Cheyenne

Days 4-5



Cheyenne to Custer

You have a 4-hour drive today, but we suggest you break the journey at the Fort Laramie National Historic site originally established as a private fur trading fort in 1834 and also at the Red Cloud Heritage Center on the Pine Ridge American Indian Reservation which celebrates the Lakota culture and has a significant collection of Native art. We suggest you spend some time in Custer State Park with its large bison herds, elk, mountain goats as well as bighorn sheep and the elusive mountain lions. But you are also very close to the Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the Crazy Horse Memorial so you might want an extra day here.

2 nights Custer

Day 6



Custer to Pierre

Your drive today will take you through the extraordinary scenery of Badlands National Park whose history stretches back around 12,000 years. Fossils abound in this mixed-grass prairie and it is full of wildlife. You can expect to see bison, pronghorns and the enchanting prairie dogs (nothing to do with canines but a member of the squirrel family). It is worth taking a short detour to Chamberlain where the 4,890 feet Chamberlain Railroad Bridge across the Missouri River makes for an interesting photo opportunity and the Akta Lakota Museum has fascinating displays introducing you to the culture and traditions of the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota people.

1 night in Pierre

Day 7



Pierre to Bismarck

After a visit to the Pierre Culture Heritage Center, follow the Native American Scenic Byway as it winds its way following the Missouri River north. You will be able to visit the H.V.Johnson Lakota Cultural Centre as well as the Sitting Bull Monument on your way to Bismarck, the capital city of North Dakota. You might want to visit the Heritage Center and State Museum or the former Governor's Mansion dating back to the late 19th century.

1 night Bismarck

Day 8



Bismarck to Rapid City

A cross country drive through the Standing Rock Indian Reservation and small towns with names like Isabel, Faith and White Owl to Rapid City where you might like to visit the Journey Museum and Learning Center which explores Black Hills and Native American culture as well as stores of the early pioneers. Within the museum is the Sioux Indian museum.

1 night Rapid City

Days 9-11



Rapid City to Bighorn Mountains

Now is the time for you to play Cowboy at the Ranch at Ucross in the Bighorn Mountains. Enjoy traditional activities like hunting, fishing and horseback riding from this cosy ranch where Old West comes alive. After a busy few days, this is your chance to kick back and enjoy the countryside.

3 nights at The Ranch at Ucross

Day 12



Bighorn Mountains to Cody

When you leave the ranch you will continue your journey onwards towards Cody, perhaps detouring to see the site of Custer's Last Stand at Little Bighorn. You should allow time to visit Buffalo Bill Center museum of the West an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution where you can enjoy the story of the American West. Nothing epitomises the Old West quite like a rodeo: from June to August Cody hosts to an evening rodeo and Frontier America can arrange tickets for you. You are also close to Yellowstone National Park so you might want to extend your time in Cody or better still spend a couple of nights in the park.

1 night in Cody

Days 13-14



Cody to Lander

Both the Shoshone and Arapaho tribes share the Wind River Indian Reservation near Lander, Wyoming. All sorts of activities are available in the area such as fishing and horseback riding and you will also want to drive the Wind River Canyon Scenic Byway.

2 nights in Lander

Day 15



Lander to Pocatello

Pocatello, with its majority Mormon population, is known for its mountain biking and hiking trails. It is also known for nearby Fort Hall built in 1834 as a fur trading post. Nothing remains of the original Fort, but a replica has been built in Pocatello. The tribal museum and trading post is also well worth a visit. The tribes host the Sho-Ban American Indian Festival each year during the second weekend in August: if you can make your holiday coincide with that, it will be a sight to remember.

1 night Pocatello

Day 16



Pocatello to Boise

It is a three and half drive from Pocatello to Boise airport, so you might want to spend one extra night in Boise, capital of Idaho. On the way, do visit the Shoshone Falls: taller than Niagara and much less crowded!

If you are interested in a holiday to America please contact us on 020 8776 8709 to discuss your plans with a USA expert, or send an email to america@frontier-travel.co.uk with your requirements and we will put together your ideal itinerary and quotation. Let us take you there.