

Close Encounters of the Yellowstone Kind!

12 Day Self-Drive Tour

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Salt Lake City • Jackson Hole • West Yellowstone • Cody • Deadwood • Cheyenne • Denver • Steamboat Springs • Salt Lake City

ITINERARY

Day 1: Salt Lake City

Fly to Salt Lake City from the UK and on arrival pick up your hire car. Upon check in; please ask the hotel reception for your ATI Tour documentation pack which will include your tour essentials. Visit the famed Temple and the Tabernacle. **Accommodation stay – 1 night Salt Lake City.**

Day 2: Salt Lake City – Jackson Hole

Arrive in Jackson by early evening. Enjoy exploring the rustic Old West with a walk around the old-fashioned town square of Jackson. **Accommodation stay – 1 night in Jackson Hole.** Driving distance 491 kilometres.

Day 3: Jackson Hole – West Yellowstone

The short drive today gives you the chance to leisurely explore Grand Teton National Park. In Yellowstone, explore the diverse geothermal features of America's first national park. Old Faithful and Mammoth Hot Springs are the most famous sights of the park. Yellowstone's wildlife roam the park freely, so prepare yourself for bison, deer, elk, moose and possibly a bear. **Accommodation stay – 2 nights in West Yellowstone.** Driving distance 130 kilometres.

Day 4: West Yellowstone

Today, take an unforgettable journey into America's first national park and nature's wonderland – Yellowstone. Here, the Earth is in action with geysers, mountain ranges and rivers, waterfalls, and ancient volcanoes. The iconic spots – Old Faithful, Mammoth Hot Springs and Yellowstone Canyon – will be familiar from photographs, but seeing them in person is a humbling experience. They're not just as good as you've heard – they're better. In addition to its superb scenery, the park is one of the world's principal wildlife preserves. Home to eagles, grizzly and black bears, buffalo, elk and much more, you're bound to see wildlife wherever you go.

Day 5: West Yellowstone - Cody

Founded in 1896 by the living legend "Buffalo Bill," Cody offers visitors a taste of the real American West. Upon arrival we suggest visiting the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. In the evening, enjoy attractions that include rodeos, gun fight re-enactments and Western dinner shows. **Accommodation Stay – 1 night in Cody.** Driving distance 172 kilometres.

Day 6: Cody - Deadwood

Travel through the grasslands of South Dakota to Badlands National Park, once home to the buffalo and antelope, and filled with colorful rock formations. Continue on to the Black Hills, sacred to the Plains Indians and home to Mount Rushmore, monument to four great American presidents: Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln & Roosevelt. **Accommodation Stay – 1 night in Deadwood.** Driving distance 612 kilometers.

Day 7: Deadwood - Cheyenne

Continue to Cheyenne, Wyoming's capital city that embodies the spirit of the Old West. Considered the nation's railroad capital, Cheyenne is home to a collection of steam engines, including Old Number 4004, the world's largest steam locomotive and one of the eight remaining Big Boys on display throughout the country. **Accommodation Stay – 1 night in Cheyenne.** Driving distance 484 kilometres.

Day 8: Cheyenne - Denver

Today you'll want to get out and explore some of the city's must-sees. Larimer Square remains the heart and soul of the city, and according to some it's the place to start your Denver experience. The hip district of Uptown is where you'll find Denver's largest green space, City Park. The gold-domed Colorado State Capitol with its "Mile High" marker on the 13th step overlooks downtown, and a visit to

Cherry Creek Shopping Center will round out your Mile High experience. **Accommodation Stay – 1 night in Denver.** Driving distance 180 kilometres.

Day 9: Denver – Steamboat Springs

Today, you have the day to explore Rocky Mountain National Park. After crossing the Continental Divide of the Rockies, continue to the quaint ski resort of Steamboat Springs. **Accommodation stay – 1 night in Steamboat Springs.** Driving distance 260 kilometres.

Day 10: Steamboat Springs – Salt Lake City

En route to the Mormon State of Utah and its capital, Salt Lake City. The followers of Brigham Young built one of the best-planned cities in the country. See the State Capital building and visit famed Temple Square and the Tabernacle before arriving at the hotel for the evening.

May we suggest dinner at the Rooftop Restaurant for panoramic views of Temple Square (optional)? **Accommodation stay – 1 night Salt Lake City.** Driving distance 590 kilometres.

Day 11-12: Salt Lake City Departure

Return your hire car to the airport prior to your flight back to the UK.

This tour is based on a Room only basis

***Denotes local charge** – Optional trips and excursions suggested on the itinerary are bookable and payable locally.

This is a set tour itinerary, if you have booked any pre/post or optional tour arrangements please refer to your separate vouchers and final documents.

All hotels & locations are subject to change based on availability, final hotel list will be confirmed 25 days before departure.

TOUR NOTES

For current departure dates and prices please check our website

Pre/Post Tour information

If you would like to extend your trip or make the tour part of a longer holiday, we can easily add on a pre or post night stays for you. Our Sales Team will work with you to arrange the best connecting flights and book any additional hotel stays. Simply tell us what you'd like and we can arrange it.

Time difference

Eastern Time Zone: GMT -5 hours

Pacific Time Zone: GMT -8 hours

Mountain Time Zone: GMT -7 hours

Central Time Zone: GMT -6 hours

Tour inclusions

- Accommodation listed above
- Welcome phone call from American Tours International on Day 1
- Virgin Holidays branded rucksack with tour documentation and Atlas, please ask when you check in at your first hotel for your 'ATI Pack'
- Beach Blanket
- Starbucks gift card

Tour exclusions

- All Flights and airport transfers in the UK
- Travel Insurance
- Car hire and insurance unless this has been booked by the sales consultant
- Items of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry, tips & gratuities, video camera fees at monuments
- The required ESTA application
- Anything not detailed on the itinerary.

Dining inclusions

Room Only

Accommodation

Accommodation in the itinerary will be a mix of "V" rated properties based on availability. Please note some tours are up to 3 weeks in duration and there may be some nights when staying in remote locations e.g. the National Parks, when the 'V' rating may vary. Hotels are subject to change up until 30 days prior to departure, but you will be advised of any changes.

Visa requirements

It's mandatory for everyone travelling to or transferring through the US, under the Visa Waiver Program, to obtain approval to travel no later than 72 hours prior to travel by completing an online process ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) scheme). Failure to obtain an ESTA could result in the passenger being denied boarding by the airline. The cost of an ESTA is currently approx \$14 per person and can be obtained by visiting <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>. Once completed & approved, the ESTA application is valid for two years and allows multiple visits without the need to reapply – simply update your details on the same website. Travelers can apply for an ESTA even if they have no firm plans to travel to the US. If you need any further information on the ESTA or you have any other visa queries, then try the Visit USA Website at www.visitusa.org.uk where further information on the scheme and up to date fee can also be found. The ESTA is very similar to the automated visa that you purchase to enter Australia and is completely paperless

Currency

The official unit of currency in the US is the US dollar. Optional excursions will need to be paid locally by cash to the tour guide. Major credit cards and debit cards will be accepted within the US.

Electricity

If you bring any electrical appliance to the USA, you may need an adaptor to fit the US electrical receptacles. You may also need a converter to change the voltage from 110 volts to 220 volts.

Tipping

Tipping is a big part of the USA's service economy and their taxation system, all visitors should understand that this is a part of the local culture; please see below a list of useful suggestions for tipping:

- Waiters/Waitresses: 15% - 20% for average - good service, more for exceptional service.
- Bartenders: \$1 - \$2 a round -or- 15% to 20% of the tab, with a minimum of 50 cents per soft drink, \$1 per alcoholic drink.
- Room Service: 15% - 20%
- Taxi driver: Varies depending on locality. Assume 15% will be enough; an extra \$1 to \$2 for help with bags.
- Hotel doorman: \$1 per bag for help with luggage; \$1 per person for hailing a cab.

Recommended vaccinations

We advise you to discuss your individual requirements for the USA with your GP at least 6-8 weeks prior to travel.