

MOUNT RUSHMORE & The Black Hills of South Dakota

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Travel Is Fun Tours

919 Tyrone Boulevard (WWW.TIFTOURS.COM)

St. Petersburg FL 33710 (727) 347-1600



August 28, 2019 – Sept. 11, 2019 15 DAYS

Includes: 24 Meals (14B & 10D), The Johnny Morris Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium in Springfield MO, visit Pony Express Museum in St. Joseph MO, the Corn Palace in Mitchell SD, visit Mt. Rushmore National Memorial & the amazing Crazy Horse Memorial, tour Wildlife Loop Road at Custer State Park, Guided tour of Deadwood SD, visit unique Journey Museum & The Arabia Steamboat Museum.

Day One - The destination for our first day of travel is **Morrow GA**, just south of **Atlanta**, where we will have one-night at the **Drury Inn**. Drury Inns are offering their guests an incredible array of amenities, to include: arrival refreshments, complimentary in-room coffee, deluxe continental breakfast (hot & cold), free long-distance calls (60 minutes per room, per night) also, evening beverages and the **FREE 5:30 KICKBACK** from 5:30 – 7:00 PM. Drury has increased their evening food offerings to always include salad and baked potato bar, nacho bar, snack mix, chips, carrots, celery and dip. There will also be items such as broccoli cheddar soup, macaroni and cheese, breaded chicken strips, boneless chicken wings, and chili-dogs offered on a rotating basis. We will call this our "Drury Dinner". The delicious, very deluxe continental **breakfast** Drury has always offered includes eggs, sausage, self-serve waffle maker, yogurt, fresh fruit, juices, milk & cereal, bagels, biscuits and gravy and more.

Day Two – This morning, after we enjoy our **Drury Breakfast**, the motor coach departs and there is much to see. The sightseeing today will include views of Chattanooga & Nashville TN as well as Paducah KY. We will cross the Mississippi River near Cairo Illinois, notable as the location of the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Our hotel for tonight is the **Pear Tree Inn** in **Sikeston Missouri**. Pear Tree Inns are a part of the Drury Inn Family of Hotels. There are evening drinks (beer, wine & soda) as well as **light snacks**. Next, we will have an included **dinner** at **Lambert's Café – The Only Home of Throated Rolls**. You will enjoy the delicious down-home cooking and fun atmosphere at this meal. Our hotel also provides a very deluxe continental **breakfast** similar to Drury Inn.

Day Three – After a good **breakfast**, our motor coach will depart for an interesting drive to **Springfield MO**. Today, we'll travel through a portion of the Ozarks and some of the nation's finest farmland. Springfield is home to the nation's first **Bass Pro Shop**. This location features **The Johnny Morris Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium** and your admission is included. Wonders of Wildlife consists of an all-new 1.5-million-gallon aquarium showcasing 35,000 live fish, mammals, reptiles and birds, and an immersive wildlife museum that brings visitors eye-to-eye with the greatest collection of record-setting game animals ever assembled. Our home for tonight is the **Drury Inn in Springfield Missouri**, with the usual amenities as listed in Day One.

Day Four – After your delicious, nutritious **Drury Inn breakfast**, we will continue our travels through **Kansas City MO**. We will make a stop in **St. Joseph MO** for a visit to the **Pony Express National**

Museum. This is a transport museum documenting the history of the Pony Express, the first fast mail line across the North American continent, from the Missouri River to the Pacific coast. This fascinating museum is housed in the surviving portion of Pike's Peak Stables, the starting point of the journey for the brave riders of the Pony Express in operation in 1860-61. Our home for tonight is in **Council Bluffs Iowa** at the **Microtel Inn by Wyndam**. This hotel has a nice array of amenities including a hot breakfast, high speed WIFI internet access, fitness center, a heated indoor swimming pool and each room has a 32-inch flat-screen television, coffee/tea maker and hair dryer. Just about all the comforts of home.

Day Five – After our hot, Microtel **Breakfast** the tour rolls on as we will cross the **Missouri River** and enter **Omaha Nebraska!** Many of our travelers have told us that Nebraska is one state they've not been to, this is your chance. This route was part of **Lewis & Clark's Expedition** to explore the west from 1804 – 1806. The adventure continues as we travel to **Mitchell SD** – Home of the **Corn Palace!** The world's only Corn Palace, est. 1892, is Mitchell's Premier tourist attraction. 500,000 tourists come from around the nation each year to see the uniquely designed corn murals. Our hotel tonight is **The Kelly Inn**, with the appearance of a beautiful, western lodge. You'll marvel at the rustic-looking stone work and the western theme represented throughout the hotel. You'll enjoy the included, hot **breakfast**, indoor swimming pool and whirlpool, rooms feature coffee maker, iron & board, hair dryer, refrigerator & microwave and best of all – pillowtop beds! Of course, whether specifically mentioned or not, we will always make appropriate meal stops throughout the tour.



Days 6 - 9 of this tour have been planned in conjunction with **Diamond Tours**, features are as follows:

As we depart **Mitchell SD** there is much to see: a beautiful photo-op in **Chamberlain SD**, high on a bluff overlooking the **Missouri River**. This beautiful photo-op is seen during a stop at **Al's Oasis**, a unique destination Restaurant/Store you'll long remember. Continuing our journey toward Deadwood, we'll pass through the **Badlands of South Dakota** with stops for photo-ops. One last stop before Deadwood, the world-famous **Wall Drug** – they offer everything you never even knew you needed. Our destination for time spent in the legendary **Black Hills of South Dakota** will be **Deadwood South Dakota**. Our hotel for four nights will be the **First Gold Gaming Resort and Hotel**. During our stay in Deadwood all **Breakfasts and Dinners** are included. Hotel Rooms feature: TV'S, refrigerators, microwaves, coffee makers, iron and board and hair dryer. While here, in South Dakota there is much to see and do! Activities will not necessarily occur in the order listed. *Visit the **Borglum Historical Center**, where you will learn the story of **Gutzon Borglum**, the sculptor of **Mt. Rushmore**. Then, visit the **Mount Rushmore National Memorial**, America's "Shrine of Democracy" and a symbol of the nation's rich history, rugged determination and love of freedom. Also enjoy a tour of **Wildlife Loop Road** at **Custer State Park**. This road takes you through rolling prairies and pine covered hills, offering one of the best spots in the region to view native animals in the wild. Enjoy this evening's dinner and entertainment! * Another exciting day of touring will include: the **High Plains Western Heritage Center**, touring in **Deadwood South Dakota** – **the former home of Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane!** It is now the location of gaming establishments in beautifully restored historic hotels and saloons. Enjoy a **guided tour of Deadwood** and some gaming excitement. * Now the tour will take you to the unique **Journey Museum**, which tells the complete history of the mystical **Black Hills**. Prepare yourself for an inspirational sight at the magnificent and spectacular **Crazy Horse Memorial**, destined to be the world's largest memorial upon completion. You'll also learn about sculptor **Korczak Ziolkowski**, his vision, and the loving family who continues his life's work. Our final night in Deadwood is sure to be a treat with **Dinner and Entertainment!**



Day Ten – This morning, after **breakfast**, we depart Deadwood and make the journey to **Sioux City South Dakota**. Our hotel for tonight is the very nice **Hampton Inn**. The hotel features WIFI, indoor pool and whirlpool, Hampton's hot Breakfast and comfy and clean Hampton beds.



Day Eleven – After a nice, hot **Hampton Breakfast**, we depart for today's destination, **Independence Missouri**. We'll have a fascinating visit to the **Arabia Steamboat Museum – 200 Tons of Treasure** located in **Kansas City Missouri**. When the mighty steamboat Arabia sank near Kansas City on September 5, 1856, she carried 200 tons of

mystery cargo. Lost for 132 years, its recovery in 1988 was like finding King Tut's Tomb of the Missouri River. Remarkably preserved clothes, tools, guns, dishware and more were found. The discovery was truly a modern-day treasure-hunting story at its best. After enjoying the museum and the story of the Arabia, we continue to our home for the night, **Drury Inn** in Independence Missouri, hometown of **President Harry Truman**. While we would really have enjoyed visiting the Truman Library, it is closed for remodeling until 2020. Enjoy the usual Drury amenities.

Day Twelve – After another satisfying Drury Inn **Breakfast**, our day gets started as we travel to **Paducah Kentucky**. We will pass through **St. Louis Missouri** today, with great views of the famous St. Louis Arch – Gateway to the West! Tonight's home is the **Paducah Drury Inn** with amenities as listed in Day One.

Day Thirteen – After another great Drury **Breakfast**, we continue our journey toward home. We will pass by Nashville Tennessee, with great views of the downtown area. You'll see the **foothills of the Appalachian Mountains** as well as crossing the scenic **Tennessee River**. Tonight, our home is the **Fairfield Inn & Suites Chattanooga South**. You'll experience a fresh, vibrant welcome at this newly renovated hotel. Rooms are equipped with WIFI, a refrigerator & microwave, iron & board, hairdryer and premium beds and bedding. Breakfast is an extended continental with hot & cold items.

Day Fourteen – After breakfast, our travels continue as we trek all through the state of **Georgia** from north to south. Enjoy the views of downtown **Atlanta**, as we travel to our home for tonight, **Drury Inn in Valdosta GA**. Enjoy the usual amenities, **5:30 Kickback!** and hot breakfast. This hotel is perfectly positioned for a reasonably early arrival home on our final tour day, tomorrow.

Day Fifteen – After one last **Drury Breakfast** on this tour, we depart **Georgia** and before too long we'll cross the **Florida State Line!** An appropriate stop will be made for lunch today, as well as a stop at the **Russell Stover Candy Outlet** with its great **Ice Cream Counter** – a favorite of many. Enjoy the last bit of this tour with your travel mates, sharing some of your favorite moments from this Journey. Thank you for choosing **Travel is Fun Tours** and we hope to travel with you again real soon.



COST: \$1959 per person twin, Or \$2599 per person single

Travel Protection is offered through our office at \$104 twin pp or \$153 single.

Please pay deposit of \$100 to secure a seat, balance due June 28, 2019

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