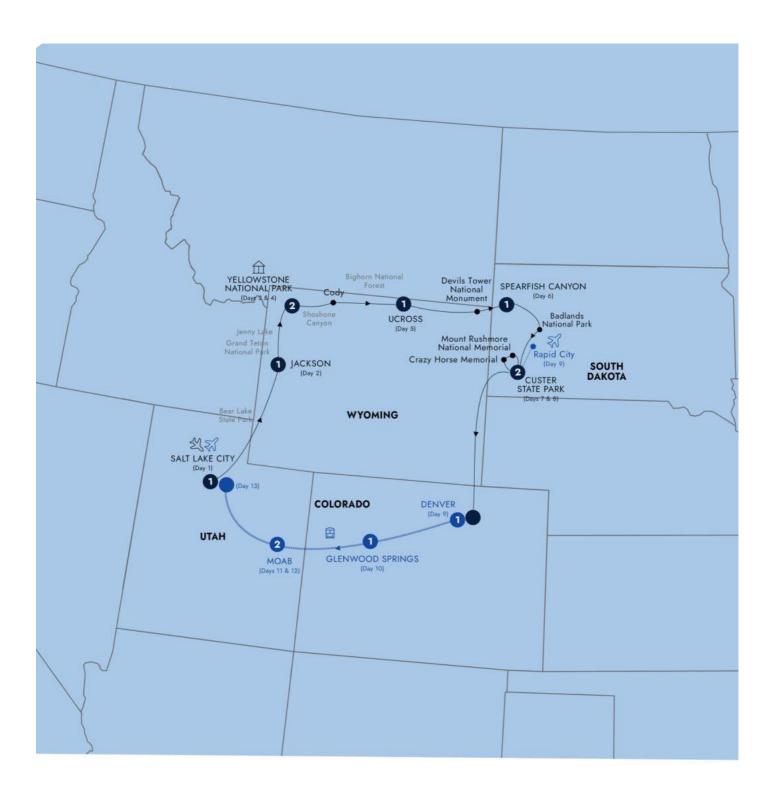
# **INSIGHT VACATIONS**

# American Parks Trail with Rocky Mountaineer



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# KEY



#### Day 1 Arrive Salt Lake City



Welcome to Salt Lake City, the capital of Utah. Situated between Wasatch Range and the Great Salt Lake, this mountainous city is perfect for lovers of the outdoors, with a strong focus on skiing and hiking. Savour a dinner accompanied by wine in the company of your fellow travellers.

Meals: Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Sheraton Salt Lake City

Day 2 | Jackson and the Tetons



Before leaving Salt Lake City, take in the State Capitol building. Drive along the scenic Logan Canyon, over the Wasatch Mountain Range, and up to the Bear Lake. Stop for lunch near Bear Lake offering views of beautiful turquoise waters. Then, head north across the Oregon Trail to historic Jackson. Have your cameras ready for the famous elk antlers at central square, while eager shoppers will find a number of charming traditional boutique galleries to browse. Enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure, with your hotel located only a short walk away from Jackson's Town Square.

#### Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Elk Country Inn, Jackson Hole



Wake up to a mountainous view like no other and witness the striking Grand Tetons thrust skyward 13,775 Ft (4,199 m) from the valley floor. This morning, you have the opportunity to partake in an optional scenic float down the Snake River inside Grand Teton National Park. In keeping with today's rustic country charm, you'll enter Yellowstone, the world's first National Park. Known for its unique geothermal activity, spectacular landscapes and abundant wildlife, you'll experience Wyoming in all its glory. Keep an eye out for black bears or wolves. Tonight you'll stay in one of Yellowstone's National Park Lodges, allowing you to experience the park after hours, in its natural habitat.

#### Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Yellowstone National Park Lodges

## **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

**Snake River Float Trip Through Grand Teton National Park -** Ready for relaxation? This gentle 10-mile float trip inside Grand Teton National Park covers the most scenic stretch of the Snake River in the Jackson Hole Valley. As you kick back on the gentle waters, learn how the Snake River is a lifeline to the park's bison, elk, moose, beaver, pronghorn, deer, bear and 300 different species of birds, including osprey and eagles. Your experienced guide offers in-depth information on the geology of the Grand Tetons and the habitats of the local animals.

#### Adult: 100.00 USD

\* Please Note: this optional experience is weather permitting.

\*\* Please Note: this optional experience operates late May – mid September.

\*\*\* Please Note: This optional experience requires a signed liability waiver.



Day 4 Geysers and Colourful Mudpots

Savour the surreal surroundings of Yellowstone with a relaxed start. Walk among the rainbow tinted hot springs and watch the erupting geysers as you take in the history of the park on an informative stroll with your Travel Director. Catch the renowned colourful bubbling mud pots and observe Old Faithful geyser shooting water over 120 feet (37 metres) into the air. In the afternoon, enjoy the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone as you take in stunning natural wonders. While driving through Hayden Valley, famous for its wildlife, keep an eye out for wolves, bears, elk and hundreds of bison. The rest of the evening is at leisure for you to relax.

#### Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Yellowstone National Park Lodges

Day 5 | The Ranch at Ucross



Set off on your travels through the stark Shoshone Canyon and Absaroka Rocky Mountains, leading you to the Wild West Town of Cody. Channel your inner showman and learn more about America's great Western legends at the Buffalo Bill Centre, known for its Western art collection, firearms, and natural history. Travel through the Bighorn National Forest to the Ranch at UCross. Take in the rustic charm as you're hosted at a traditional Wyoming Family ranch. Start off the evening with a cocktail hour in the historic Ranch House bar. After a home-cooked dinner, enjoy a fire pit with live entertainment, including country, folk and bluegrass music.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner with Wine **Hotel:** Ranch at UCross, Clearmont

Day 6 Devils Tower into the Black Hills



Live the American frontier dream and begin your day with a scenic country horseback ride accompanied by a Ranch Hand. If playing cowboy isn't your thing, perhaps go fishing, or merely relax and take in your beautiful surroundings, the choice is yours. Make your way to Devils Tower, an astounding geological feature that protrudes out of the surrounding Black Hills. You'll learn why this symbolic landmark is considered sacred to the Lakota and other local tribes. Experience Spearfish Canyon, a favoured spot among wildlife enthusiasts, and one famous for its elvish woodland beauty. The limestone palisades of this creek-carved gorge are more ancient than the Grand Canyon itself.

#### Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Spearfish Canyon Lodge

#### Day 7 | Custer and the Wild, Wild West



A day for those looking to explore the Wild West, try to spot the fastest mammal in North America, the pronghorn antelope as you cross the great high plains to the Black Hills of South Dakota. Our first stop this morning is the Oglala Lakota Living History Museum for a one-of-a-kind MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Visit Badlands National Park in South Dakota, 244,000 acres of sharply eroded buttes, pinnacles and spires blended with the largest protected mixed grass prairie in America. A hidden gem in the national park system, the unique beauty of the Badlands landscape is unlike any other.

#### Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: State Game Lodge, Custer State Park

### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

**Buffalo Safari & Chuckwagon Cookout -** Custer State Park is known for its beauty and serenity, but it is also a wildlife reserve that is home to a famous herd of 1,500 free roaming bison plus elk, mule deer, white tailed deer, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, mountain lions and feral burros. On this 90-minute scenic tour of the back country, you'll get up close and personal with herds of buffalo and other species as your jeep driver and guide offer historical and educational information about the park and wildlife. Start with a guided off-road buffalo safari jeep tour through the park in search of pronghorns, elk, and the noble buffalo. Along the way, guides will share historical and educational facts about the park and wildlife—and help you spot the animals. Then head to the Chuck Wagon Cookout in the mountain canyon for a chuck wagon feast and live entertainment with some Western flair. You'll also get your own souvenir cowboy hat and bandanna to play the part. Vegetarian option is also available. *This Optional Experience is subject to availability.* 

\* Please Note: This optional experience requires a signed liability waiver.

Day 8 | Mountain Monuments of the Black Hills



This morning, see the granite faces of Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Later, you'll experience the Crazy Horse Memorial - the world's largest mountain carving in honour of the Lakota warrior. With exclusive access not available to the general public, guests ascend 563 feet (172 metres) and have the opportunity to face the monument up close. Tonight, celebrate your travels over dinner with your Travel Director and new found friends.

#### Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: State Game Lodge, Custer State Park

#### Day 9 | Depart for Denver



Today you'll say goodbye to your fellow travellers and head to Denver. Prepare to continue your adventure on the Rocky Mountaineer as you enjoy a relaxing evening at your hotel before embarking on the rail journey of a lifetime the following morning.

#### Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: The Westin Denver Downtown

Day 10 | Denver to Glenwood Springs on the Rocky Mountaineer



Rise early this morning and make your way independently to Union Station where you will Check in and board a coach for a quick transfer to the Rocky Mountaineer train. Hop on and get comfortable as you wave goodbye to Denver and cross the Continental Divide. Take in the spectacular views of rugged canyons and the Colorado River through panoramic windows. Enjoy the staff's commentary and comradery of your newfound friends while indulging in the menu and service. Perhaps you'll even choose to step out onto the vestibule to get a breath of fresh air and experience the many tunnels that have been carved into the mountains before arriving at the resort town of Glenwood Springs where you will disembark and enjoy an overnight stay.

#### Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

#### Hotel: Assigned by Rocky Mountaineer

Day 11 | Glenwood Springs to Moab



Return to the Rocky Mountaineer this morning and leave charming Glenwood Springs behind. Another day of aweinspiring sights awaits as you make your way across the Colorado-Utah border. Stunning mountain views, red sandstone landscapes and even occasional wildlife such as pronghorn emerge as you approach Moab, the gateway to Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. Part ways this afternoon and transfer to your Moab hotel. The rest of the day is yours to do as you please.

#### Meals: Breakfast

#### Hotel: Assigned by Rocky Mountaineer

Day 12 | Moab



Enjoy the day exploring Moab at your own leisure. Known as the Adventure Capital of Utah, there is no shortage of activities to choose from in Moab.

Hotel: Assigned by Rocky Mountaineer, Kamloops

Day 13 | Moab and depart Salt Lake City

Your adventure with Rocky Mountaineer ends as you transfer from Moab to downtown Salt Lake City ending at the Grand America Hotel. Make your own way to the airport or book another night in town on your terms.