# America's Wild West South Dakota

Mount Rushmore, The Black Hills and Badlands Featuring Superliner Rail and Mississippi River Cruise

## Presented by Rocky River Senior Center 7 days – June 24 – 30, 2023

This unforgettable adventure includes spectacular sightseeing and colorful landscapes. Discover some of America's best National Parks out west on this summertime vacation!

#### HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

Amtrak's Empire Builder Train ~ Mississippi River Cruise Rapid City ~ Badlands National Park ~ Crazy Horse Memorial Custer State Park ~ Historic Deadwood ~ Mount Moriah Cemetery Mount Rushmore National Memorial ~ Chuckwagon Supper & Show The Corn Palace ~ Wall Drug ~ State Capitol Tour Des Moines Minnesota ~ Wisconsin ~ Iowa ~ Illinois

#### **TOUR INCLUDES**

- > Amtrak daytime rail transportation
- > Deluxe motorcoach transportation
- Six nights lodging in hotels (4 nights in South Dakota)
- > 10 meals four dinners & six breakfasts
- > All sightseeing, entrance fees, luggage handling and most gratuities
- Professional Tour Manager

#### **TOUR FARE:**

\$1849.00 per person based on double occupancy \$2449.00 per person based on single occupancy

**Payment Policy:** A \$200.00 per person deposit is now due to secure your reservation with the balance due by May 10, 2023. Make checks payable to Wendt Touring and send to: Rocky River Senior Center, 21014 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River, OH 44116. Attention Deb Huff. For more information, contact Rocky River Senior Center at (440) 333-6660. All are welcome.

**Refund Policy** Full refund on all monies paid on cancellations made by May 10, 2023. If you wish, optional trip cancellation insurance is available thru numerous travel companies (on your own) including Travel Insured International: (866-684-0218). Wendt Touring ID #46057

Travel arrangements made by Wendt Touring

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1: <u>Cleveland ~ Amtrak Rail ~ La Crosse, Wisconsin</u>

Take a deluxe motorcoach to Chicago. Board Amtrak's famous "Empire Builder" train for a memorable journey on cross country Superliner equipment. This splendid rail excursion will take us past sparkling lakes, dairy farms, wheat fields and quaint towns. Enjoy a meal in the full-service dining car and witness breathtaking scenery from the panoramic observation car. First class hotel accommodations (right on the Mississippi River) in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

#### Day 2: <u>La Crosse, Wisconsin ~ Mississippi River Cruise ~ South Dakota</u>

This morning we experience a classic River Cruise on the Mighty Mississippi aboard an authentic paddle wheeler! Our historic boat ride takes us thru wooded bluffs, unique outcroppings and memorable wildlife areas. Later, we travel west thru Minnesota – Land of 10,000 Lakes, enroute to South Dakota – home of the Wild West and amazing wonders.

#### Day 3: <u>Black Hills ~ Mount Rushmore ~ Crazy Horse Memorial ~ Custer State Park</u>

Enjoy the morning at Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Carved into the face of the mountain are the gigantic sculpted heads of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt. This afternoon we visit the imposing Crazy Horse Memorial. This sculpture represents the North American Indians of all tribes. Learn more about Cowboy and American Indian lore as we adventure through the High Plains. Later today enjoy a scenic ride through Custer State Park which is the habitat of one of the world's largest free-roaming bison herds. Hotel in Rapid City, South Dakota for a 2-night stay.

#### Day 4: <u>Deadwood ~ Western Dinner Show</u>

Today we motor into the northern section of the Black Hills. Experience pioneer, ranch and rodeo history of the Wild West. Later this morning we head south to historic Deadwood. Enjoy free time for lunch, shopping and browsing on own along Main Street. Later this afternoon embark on a guided tour of Deadwood with a stop at Boot Hill, burial site of Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane. This evening enjoy a traditional western meal followed by live entertainment. Overnight again in Rapid City, South Dakota.

#### Day 5: <u>Badlands National Park ~ Wall Drug ~ The Corn Palace ~ Sioux Falls, South Dakota</u>

Visit Badlands National Park, known for its colorful jaw-dropping geological rock formations. Later, stop at famous Wall Drug which covers an entire city block and employs one-third of the town's residents. This afternoon we arrive in Mitchell and to The Corn Palace. Enjoy a guided tour through this most unusual building. Continue to Sioux Falls for dinner and overnight.

#### Day 6: Sioux Falls, South Dakota ~ Des Moines State Capitol ~ Quad Cities, Iowa

Journey along the historic Lewis and Clark Trail and the picturesque Missouri River. In Des Moines, Iowa we tour the magnificent State Capitol Building. The main dome, flanked by four smaller domes (and monuments), is covered with 23-karat gold leaf. An architectural marvel. The interior features paintings, statues, war flags and ornate decorations throughout. Farewell dinner. Final overnight, back near the Mississippi River, in the Quad Cities, Iowa area.

#### Day 7: <u>Quad Cities, Iowa ~ Cleveland</u>

Today our Wild West Adventure comes to an end. We return with fond memories of this exciting and beautiful trip. Rest and meal stops will be made on our journey home to Ohio.