



Yellowstone, Big Sky & Paradise Valley Family Vacation ★ 4.92 173 Reviews

## Yellowstone, Big Sky & Paradise Valley Family Vacation

6 Days

18 People Max



*Rally the kids, don your favorite cowboy hat, and get ready for an action-packed, all-inclusive Montana family vacation.*

From gurgling geysers to lofty mountaintops, discover the perfect backdrop of your next family photo on this intimate journey through Big Sky Country. Explore pine-studded forests, raft the Yellowstone River, and ride horseback across pristine meadows with fourth-generation cowboys. Each day, you'll enjoy the finest in western hospitality and regional fare with comfortable lodgings to relax and rest up each day. Get away from the crowds and explore Yellowstone National Park, Big Sky, and Paradise Valley in an unparalleled way. From backcountry hiking to rafting to ziplining, your family will have their hearts pumping with excitement and their hearts filled with memories on this Montana family vacation.

Austin Adventures operates in part under a special use permit with the Custer Gallatin National Forest and is an equal opportunity provider.

### Trip Highlights

- Hiking - Grand Prismatic Spring
- Hiking - To Ousel Falls
- Hiking - The Grand Canyon of Yellowstone
- Plus ... - Horseback riding
- Plus ... - Hayden Valley Wildlife
- Plus ... - Chico Hot Springs Resort
- Plus ... - Gallatin River Zipline
- Plus ... - Raft the Yellowstone River

## Our Active Adventures Assurance

We value loyalty, and appreciate that it goes both ways. So when you book with us we'll make a few assurances to you so you can book with complete confidence, no matter what's happening in your life (or the world).



### COVID-Ready Certified: Safe Travel for our Guests Travelling Overseas

Active Adventures has received the World Travel and Tourism Council's Safe Travels stamp, which guarantees you that we'll follow all ATTA and WTTC health and safety guidelines on all our trips. See how our small group, off-the-beaten-track adventures are perfect to start exploring again.

## *Yellowstone, Big Sky & Paradise Valley Family Vacation ~ Itinerary*

### DAY 1

#### Bozeman Creek walk, zip line tour across Gallatin River

Your adventure begins with an easy hike to stretch your legs along Bozeman Creek. Wander along the old logging trails that run parallel to the creek before enjoying a tasty lunch. You'll then set off for Gallatin Canyon to your "zip base" where you'll get ready for a zip line tour across the Gallatin River. As you make your way from base to base, behold towering limestone cliffs, pine-studded forests, and the rushing river below.

#### **320 Guest Ranch, Gallatin Gateway (Lunch, Dinner)**

**Hiking:** 3 miles (5 kilometers)

### DAY 2

#### Ousel Falls and Big Sky Exploration

Venture into the heart of Big Sky on a hike that will lead you over three Gallatin River bridges and to the base of Ousel Falls. The cascading falls will welcome you at the end of the trail, framed by lush greenery and terraced rock. In the afternoon take the easy way up Big Sky Resort's hilly terrain with a chairlift ride midway up the mountain. From here, you'll walk through flower-dotted alpine meadows and pine-laden forests as you explore the beauty of the Montana mountains from up high. Enjoy a night on your own with a shuttle to Big Sky by your guides or choose to stay back at the ranch.

#### **320 Guest Ranch, Gallatin Gateway (Breakfast, Lunch)**

**Hiking:** 1.5 miles (2.5 kilometers)

### DAY 3

#### Shuttle to Yellowstone, hike near the Grand Prismatic Hot Spring

Shuttle to Yellowstone for a hike alongside Midway Geyser Basin to an unforgettable overlook of Grand Prismatic Hot Spring. A short drive away is Old Faithful and the Upper Geyser Basin, home to the largest collection of geysers in the world. Take some time to explore this area with your knowledgeable guide before a delicious picnic lunch. Transfer to Canyon, stopping along the way to take in the astonishing West Thumb Geyser Basin, located on the shores of Yellowstone Lake. This evening, enjoy dinner at Canyon Lodge.

#### **Canyon Lodge & Cabins (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

**Hiking:** 1 mile (1.6 kilometers)

### DAY 4

#### Hike along the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, raft down the Yellowstone River

Embark on a backcountry hike along the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, ending at a viewpoint of the incredible 308-foot Lower Falls. Shuttle to Gardiner where we enjoy lunch at the historic Roosevelt Arch. Load into rafts for a beautiful and splashy ride down the Yellowstone River before enjoying dinner in the quaint town of Gardiner. Then we drive through Paradise Valley to Chico Hot Springs Resort and Day Spa.

#### **Chico Hot Springs Resort & Day Spa (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

**Hiking:** 2.5 miles (4 kilometers)

**Rafting:** 2 hours

## DAY 5

### Horseback ride in the Absaroka Mountains, soak in natural hot springs

Shuttle to the Flying Diamond Ranch and mount up for a leisurely morning horseback ride high into the Absaroka Mountains. Our picnic lunch spot boasts spectacular mountain views. A short afternoon hike to a Pine Creek Falls will set the stage for a perfect evening. Back at Chico, soak in a natural hot spring-fed pool before feasting on a candlelit farewell dinner.

#### **Chico Hot Springs, Chico (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

**Horse-back Riding:** 2 - 3 hours

**Hiking:** 2 miles (3.2 kilometers)

## DAY 6

### Farewell, back to Bozeman

Take a morning hike to a nearby trout pond or enjoy a last morning soak in the pool. Return to Bozeman airport and area hotels.

#### **No Accommodation (Breakfast)**

## Useful Info

### Where does the trip start?

On the first morning of the trip, our two pick-up locations are [Best Western GranTree Inn](#) at 9am or [The Element Hotel](#) at 9:15am. You are welcome to book your pre-trip stay at either of these hotels directly or any other hotel in Bozeman, though you must make your own way to one of the two pick-up points at the pre-designated times.

### Where does the trip end?

Your trip ends with a drop-off at either the Bozeman Airport at 11:30am in time for flights below or at a hotel of your choice in Bozeman around 12pm.

### What flights would you recommend?

**Arrival:** We recommend arriving in Bozeman at least the day before your trip starts. Many guests like to arrive a day or two early to accommodate potential flight delays and/or explore the city prior to your trip start.

**Departure:** Flying out on the last day of the trip, we recommend departing from Bozeman after 1:30pm. Earlier flight times will require a separate transfer booked at your own expense.

### Will I have contact with my guides before the trip starts?

Your guides will call your cell phone the night before your trip begins to touch base on the first day's plan. If they don't get through to you, they will leave a voicemail on your cell phone with all the details you need to plan for your first morning.

### What should I bring with me on the first day?

When you speak with your guides the night before your trip, they will give you a detailed description of what to bring with you on Day 1. Typically, this includes a day pack with your rain jacket, sunglasses, hat, camera, etc. Anything you want easy access to during the day should go in your day pack as the rest of your luggage will go in the locked cargo trailer pulled behind the van. Your guides will provide you with a water bottle on the first morning of your trip and will always have water available for refills. There will be snacks available at all times in the van. Your guides will also have bug spray and sunscreen accessible for you to use.

### What are your recommended guide gratuity guidelines?

You will have 2-3 guides on your Austin Adventure (depending on group size). We recommend USD\$20 per day, per guest, per guide. Typically, gratuities are offered by check or cash in local currency on the final morning of the trip and can either be given to each guide individually or to one guide to be equally distributed. Most of our guides these days also accept gratuities via Venmo (please note this app does not work in Canada). All dining, housekeeping and activity tips are included in your trip price.

## How do rooming arrangements work?

Trip prices are based on shared arrangements (typically two guests per room), unless otherwise stated. For solo travelers, we'll pair you with another person of the same gender to share rooms and if there's no one suitable to share with, there's no forced single supplement. However, if you specifically request your own rooms, you can opt to pay the single supplement. Solo travelers who book within 90 days of departure, where there are no other solo travelers willing to share, will be required to pay the single supplement.

For Family Vacation bookings, families consisting of four guests traveling with children aged 17 and under will be automatically assigned one shared room. However, the following alternative rooming allocations are available:

Families consisting of four guests with all children aged 13 and above are welcome to opt for additional rooms as per advertised double occupancy adult rates.

Families consisting of four guests with at least one child aged 12 and under are automatically assigned a shared room. However, families can opt to pay the adult rates for all guests in their family to have an additional room.

The same principles apply for families consisting of more than four guests.

Rooming preferences are subject to availability and must be communicated in writing at time of booking. Automatic assignments as per this policy will be applied in the absence of any specification provided by guests. Any request for additional rooms during trips will be at guests' own expense and subject to rates made available by the accommodation provider at the time. All minors (guests aged 17 and under) must be accompanied by at least one adult.

## What is not included?

Flights to and from trip start/end points

Pre/Post Accommodation

Optional extra activities

Travel insurance

Gratuities for your guides

## General Trip Information

You can find details on recommended flights and fitness, as well as trip start and end in the 'Useful Information' section above.

### Excluded

- Transportation (air and land) to and from start/end points
- Travel insurance
- Alcoholic beverages
- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides

### Outdoor Experience

Our trips allow you to make the most of the backcountry, whether you're relatively new to hiking or a seasoned trekker. Our highly trained and experienced guides will be at your side, safely guiding you to magnificent places you wouldn't get to on your own. The challenges are there, if you're looking for them. All we ask is that you're energetic and in reasonable shape and we guarantee you'll have an incredible time. You don't need experience kayaking to enjoy paddling on the water and you don't need to be a serious biker to enjoy the rides we do. In fact, we have so many options available you don't need to paddle or ride at all if you'd rather hike or just laze around!

### Itinerary Updates

We update our itineraries regularly, so please check our website for the most up-to-date itineraries and pricing. We make every effort to ensure itineraries are updated as necessary, though changes may occur without prior notice due to unforeseen circumstances

### Accommodation

You'll love the interesting places we've discovered over the years. You'll visit really spectacular and off-the-beaten track locations and stay in comfortable bed and breakfasts, lodges, apartments and hotels for the most part. Keep in mind the most remote locations have limited accommodation options, but 5-star scenery!

### Included

- Our own highly experienced guides, with you from start to finish
- Industry-leading Guest-to-Guide ratio (averaging 6:1)
- Your own 'Travel Wallet', an online space with everything required for your trip
- Our knowledgeable Customer Service Team to answer your queries - just a phone call, email or chat away
- Customer Service pre-trip phone calls to ensure you're 'trip ready'
- All accommodations for the duration of your trip
- All meals except where indicated in the itinerary
- Unlimited snacks to keep you fueled
- Special 'Wow!' moments you'll never forget
- All activities outlined in the itinerary
- All necessary equipment (well-maintained and safe) for activities
- All gratuities for hotels, restaurants, and activities
- All park and other entry fees
- Transportation in our air-conditioned vans - safe, clean, modern, and comfortable!