



Yellowstone Family Vacation ★ 4.93 315 Reviews

## Yellowstone Family Vacation

6 Days

18 People Max



*From Old Faithful to quiet backcountry trails, America's first national park is yours for exploring on this Yellowstone National Park family vacation.*

Discover the wilds of Yellowstone and Paradise Valley from the helm of a raft and on the back of a horse. Enjoy wildlife and wildflowers with your kids as they use their Junior Ranger skills in identifying elk, bison, and bear. Share giggles over the belches and burps of Mud Volcano and savor the grandeur of the world's first National Park before relaxing in a soothing natural hot spring. With a variety of heart-pumping activities each day, every member of the family will have their fill of adventure on this Yellowstone family vacation. Join us to explore our own beloved back yard and weekend playground – Yellowstone National Park.

### *Trip Highlights*

- Hiking - Grand Canyon of Yellowstone
- Hiking - Upper Geyser Basin
- Hiking - Old Faithful
- Plus ... - Horseride Absaroka Mountains
- Plus ... - Chico Hot Springs
- Plus ... - Ziplining adventure
- Plus ... - Raft the Yellowstone River
- Plus ... - Drive Lamar Valley

## 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 Family Vacation ~ Itinerary*

### DAY 1

#### Bozeman pickup, zip-line tour across Gallatin River, explore Yellowstone and Old Faithful

Your trip begins with a pickup in Bozeman and shuttles to Big Sky, Montana where you'll start your adventure with a zip line tour across the Gallatin River. After lunch, it's time to explore Yellowstone! Upon arrival at the Upper Geyser Basin, we'll hike in a back way, traversing through a less crowded area of bubbling hot springs to the main attraction – Old Faithful. After checking into your home for the night, enjoy dinner at the historic Old Faithful Inn where you'll have a chance to watch Old Faithful erupt under the stars. Designated as a national historic monument, Old Faithful Inn was built in 1903-1904 with local logs and stone. With its long history, stunning stone fireplace, and proximity to its namesake, it's easy to see why this rustic lodge is the most requested lodging in Yellowstone National Park.

#### **Old Faithful Inn or Old Faithful Snow Lodge (Lunch, Dinner)**

**Hiking:** 2-3 miles (3-5 kilometers)

### DAY 2

#### Hike Upper Geyser Basin, explore Lake Yellowstone

After a hearty breakfast we'll start the day with a hike through the Upper Geyser Basin to Observation Point, from here we'll have amazing panorama views of the geysers below. We'll enjoy a tasty guide-prepared picnic lunch before embarking on another extraordinary hike. This hike takes us along the northern shore of Lake Yellowstone. You'll stroll through flower-dotted meadows and lodgepole pine forests until you reach Yellowstone's largest lake with its wide-open views of the Absaroka Mountain Range. After, we'll make our way to the north where your rustic accommodations allow for the opportunity to step back from technology and embrace lodging in the country's oldest national park.

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

**Hiking:** 4-6 miles (6-9 kilometers)

### DAY 3

#### Hike Grand Canyon of Yellowstone

This morning we'll check out the Yellowstone River's Upper Falls where the water flows powerfully over the brink. From there we can appreciate the waterfall's power and spend time here. We'll set off on a hike on the Wapiti Trail - this hike will bring us to the rim of the 10,000-year-old, 1,000-foot deep Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River. As we carefully make our way along the canyon wall, at every bend the pinks, yellows, reds, and oranges of the rock appear all the more bright as you walk to the grand finale of Artist Point, the most spectacular viewpoint of the Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River. We'll enjoy lunch here before making our way down Uncle Tom's trail.

#### **Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel or Canyon Lodge (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

**Hiking:** 4-6 miles (6-9 kilometers)

### DAY 4

#### Lamar Valley Wildlife Drive, raft down the Yellowstone River

Wake early to catch the sunrise and prime wildlife viewing in Lamar Valley. Enjoy some time this morning to explore the white, orange, and yellow travertine terraces at Mammoth Hot Springs before lunch at Arch Park. Set off on an exciting whitewater rafting adventure on the

Yellowstone River. Dinner is on your own tonight in Gardiner.

#### **Ridgeline Hotel at Yellowstone (Breakfast, Lunch)**

**Rafting:** 2 hours

**Hiking:** 2 miles (3 kilometers)

### **DAY 5**

#### **Yellowstone Hot Spring Soak, horseback ride the Absaroka Mountains**

Today we'll have a leisurely morning with breakfast at the hotel followed by a Yellowstone Hot Spring Soak. Relax under incredible views while soaking in the steaming waters of the hot plunge or take an invigorating dip in the cold plunge. Or choose to bask in the soothing 102-degree F average of the main pool. After a picnic lunch, we'll drive through Paradise Valley to the Flying Diamond Ranch. The Flying Diamond Ranch is a fifth generation family-owned and operated commercial cattle ranch located in eastern Montana. Here we'll saddle up for an unforgettable horseback ride into the Absaroka Mountains alongside the fifth-generation ranchers. Afterwards, we'll head to the historic Chico Hot Springs Resort, this resort is located in the heart of Paradise Valley, nestled in the foothills of the breathtaking Absaroka Mountain Range. Here we can soak in the rejuvenating mineral waters before gathering in the resort's dining room for a celebratory gourmet dinner in one of Montana's finest restaurants.

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

**Horse-back Riding:** 2 hours

### **DAY 6**

#### **Chico Hot Springs, farewell!**

After a sleep-in and leisurely morning at the resort, we'll take a stroll through the gardens or you can opt for a scenic hike to Trout Pond before heading back to either the hotel or the airport. This is the end of your trip and we'll leave you refreshed and invigorated from the good food, exercise, rest, and great times you'll have had with us!

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

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

## Useful Info

### Where does the trip start?

On the first morning of the trip, our two pick-up locations are [Best Western GranTree](#) at 8:15am or [The Element](#) at 8:30am. 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!