

WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM

A Journey through America's Northern Great Plains and
Majestic National Parks with WWF's Kevin Ellison, Ph.D.

September 15–23, 2019



**PARTNERS
IN CONSERVATION**

As a **WWF Partner in Conservation**, you're invited on an exclusive adventure to explore WWF's work to protect the Northern Great Plains, one of only four remaining intact temperate grasslands in the world.

This special journey, led by WWF experts, offers an opportunity to explore majestic grasslands, meet members of the tribal community who are partnering with WWF to restore wildlife to their lands, and immerse yourself in the worlds of our field staff and partners on the ground.

Come explore the best of the natural world and see how together we are making a difference for our planet.

Where the Buffalo Roam

Montana and Wyoming | September 15–23, 2019



Join us to explore the Northern Great Plains, one of the world's most threatened ecosystems, and two of America's greatest natural treasures: Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks. Learn how WWF is partnering with tribal nations to restore bison and the black-footed ferret. Discover Yellowstone National Park, the world's first national park and home to the largest herd of wild bison in the US. Venture into magnificent valleys to spot bears, elk, eagles, and coyotes, and learn about Yellowstone's important role in plains bison conservation efforts. Witness Old Faithful's thrilling eruptions and peer into the abyss of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Visit Glacier National Park, a spectacular ecosystem encompassing nearly 1,600 square miles of snowcapped mountains, emerald-hued lakes, forests, and rivers.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Join grasslands and wildlife expert, Kevin Ellision, Ph.D., WWF-Northern Great Plains Program Officer.
- Travel with Partners in Conservation and expert guides across dramatic landscapes by private vehicle, small aircraft and train.
- Explore Yellowstone National Park, learn about its unique role in restoring North America's largest mammal—the plains bison—to its former glory, see Old Faithful and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.
- Visit reservations in northern Montana where WWF is working with tribal nations to restore bison populations, enhance the prairie's biodiversity, and secure benefits for communities.
- Experience the grandeur and spectacular mountain views of Glacier National Park, named for its dramatic landscape that was carved by glaciers eons ago.

To register or if you have questions, please contact Cary Costello at Off the Beaten Path (406) 414-8934 or caryc@offthebeatenpath.com



WWF-US

A Message From Kevin

Please join me on this special trip to two of our nation's most beautiful national parks and a lesser-traveled region of Montana for an exciting look at WWF's work in the Northern Great Plains. Partnering with local communities to conserve the vast rolling grasslands of this region has been one of the most rewarding parts of my 25-year career in conservation and ecology. As WWF Program Officer for the Northern Great Plains, I work with ranchers and communities across the region to help sustain their stewardship of the land and prevent conversion of grasslands to land unsuitable for wildlife. I am proud to be a part of the prairie's story and so excited for the opportunity to share the region's vibrant cultures, exquisite wildlife, and rich natural beauty with WWF's closest supporters.

ITINERARY

Day 1, September 15: Arrive Bozeman, Montana— Our journey begins in Bozeman, Montana, with an overnight at the Element Bozeman Hotel located in the historic downtown. Staff from the Northern Great Plains team will join us for a briefing and welcome dinner.

Day 2-4, September 16-18: Yellowstone National Park and Beartooth Pass— We set out for Yellowstone National Park by driving through the aptly-named Paradise Valley. Entering through the north entrance, we'll view the fascinating and beautiful travertine terraces of Mammoth Hot Springs and discuss Yellowstone's unique contributions to global conservation as the world's first national park and its role in protecting North America's largest mammal, the plains bison. Following lunch, we'll explore the dramatic canyon and waterfalls of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, where two staggered falls spill water twice the height of Niagara. We will



GEORGE SANKER

stay at the newly-constructed Canyon Lodge inside the park.

A full day will be spent touring through the broad Hayden Valley—one of the best places in the park to view the resident wildlife, including bison, elk, bears, coyotes, and a host of other species. We'll continue to the Upper Geyser Basin, home to Old Faithful, where we'll learn about the bizarre and fascinating world of geysers, hot pools, and mud pots. This area holds more active geysers than the rest of the world combined.

We'll then travel through the wildlife-abundant Lamar Valley before exiting the park near Cook City. The steep zigzags and switchbacks of the Beartooth Highway will take us over the 10,947-foot-high pass and on to Billings, Montana, for our afternoon flight to the Northern Great Plains of Montana.



GERAD COLES

Day 5-6, September 19-20: Northern Great Plains— In the Northern Great Plains, we will stay at the Cottonwood Inn in Glasgow, and split the next two days between two of Montana's most interesting Indian reservations. Here, WWF is working with tribal nations to restore bison populations, enhance the prairie's biodiversity, and secure benefits for communities.

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THOMAS LEE / WWF-US

Fort Peck Indian Reservation is home to the largest herd of Yellowstone bison outside of Yellowstone National Park and is a leader in bison conservation efforts. We will take a special guided tour to visit the Yellowstone herd and learn how Fort Peck is creating the model of a culturally, ecologically, and financially sustainable buffalo program.

At Fort Belknap Reservation, we'll enjoy the breathtaking vista of the surrounding plains, and visit teepee rings and other culturally-important sites.

We'll see bison, visit an active prairie dog town that supports black-footed ferrets, and learn about the challenges of restoring an endangered species. We'll continue onto Havre, where we will catch a ride on Amtrak's Empire Builder towards the Rocky Mountains to East Glacier, on the doorstep of Glacier National Park.

Day 7-8, September 21-22: Glacier National Park— We have two full days to explore the spectacularly beautiful Glacier National Park. From Glacier Park Lodge in East Glacier, we will set out for scenic drives and short hikes to enjoy the massive mountains, active



JYEBERN CHENG

glaciers, sparkling lakes, and abundant wildlife of the park. We will continue our journey westward through Glacier over the Going-to-the-Sun Road. This marvel of



MARC POUTRE

engineering takes travelers up and over the 6,646-foot Logan Pass and clings precariously to high altitude rock faces that provide epic views at every turn. Once we finish the drive on the west side of the park, we'll continue to the gateway resort town of Whitefish. Here we'll celebrate the memories from the week at a festive farewell dinner and overnight at Grouse Mountain Lodge.

Day 9, September 23: Depart Whitefish, Montana— Travelers can fly home at their leisure today.

Reservation Information & Trip Details

Dates: September 15-23, 2019

Price: \$5,895 per person, based on double occupancy
Single supplement: \$1,350

Group size: Limited to 14 guests

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worldwildlife.org/partneradventures

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The majesty of the Northern Great Plains is undeniable. The biodiversity is amazing, and our country's cultural and natural heritage are deeply rooted in this remarkable place.

—Brenda Davis, WWF Board of Directors



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