## NATIONAL PARK SPECTACULAR! August 21 - 27, 2020 7 days / 6 nts





\* Stay on one hotel! Unpack only once....
\* Mount Rushmore - including nighttime lighting ceremony!
Badlands National Park \* Crazy Horse Memorial
\* Devils Tower National Monument \* Custer State Park \* Deadwood

Day 1: Fly Hartford/Bradley to Rapid City, SD. Welcome to Rapid City, long known as the gateway to the Black Hills. Welcome dinner featuring a Native American chronicler who shares stories about the Lakota & Sioux way of life. (D)

Day 2: Learn the history of some enterprising Westerners during a visit to the Chapel in the Hills. Then, **visit Crazy Horse Memorial** & learn the story behind the world's largest, still-inprogress mountain sculpture. The memorial includes the Indian Museum of North America, the Native American Cultural Center, the sculptor's studio, orientation center and theaters. Next, **head for mighty Mount Rushmore** to spend some time with the epic figures of Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt and Lincoln as you stroll along the Presidential Trail that offers the closest access to this iconic sculpture. This evening, return to Mount Rushmore to see the nighttime lighting ceremony. (*B*)

Day 3: Today we **explore the Badlands National Park.** Stop at the visitor center to introduce you to this area. You'll explore the Badlands Loop Road, a marvel of vibrant colors and rock formations created by mineral deposits. Afterwards, enjoy a stop at the legendary Wall Drug, a store that has barely changed since 1936. Do a little browsing, have a seat at the soda fountain, and take some time for lunch. (*B*)

Day 4: Get your bearings as we head to the Geographic Center of the Nation in Belle Fourche. Then, cross state lines into the northeast corner of Wyoming to view the country's first national monument, Devils Tower. You choose... Hike the 1.3 mile Tower Trail around the base of the monument **-OR-** explore the exhibits at the visitor's center to learn about the natural and cultural history of the park. While it was made famous as the backdrop in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind,* the tower is sacred to many Northern Plains tribes. (*B*, *D*)

Day 5: Learn more about Black Hills gold on a tour through Riddle's Black Hills Gold & Diamond Factory. Watch skilled artisans handcraft South Dakota's official state jewelry. Time to shop for some unique items. **The Needles Highway is calling your name**. Travel through 14 miles of magnificent rock formations, curving tunnels and steep spires. We **continue our road trip through Custer State Park** where you just might spot a buffalo, a band of bighorn sheep or a herd of majestic elk. (*B*)

Day 6: We explore one of the Old West's most iconic settlements -Deadwood. This National Historic Landmark comes alive – it is as if you've stepped onto the set of an old-fashioned Western. A local guide introduces you to the city's history during a tour that includes a visit to Mount Moriah Cemetery, where Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane rest. We will also make a stop at Kevin Costner's *Tatanka: Story of the Bison*. This interpretive center features large, awe-inspiring sculptures depicting the relationship of bison and the Lakota. Tonight, it's our final roundup, a memorable dinner & Western show at the High Plains Heritage Center. (*B*, *D*)

Day 7: Return to airport for flight home! (B)



Includes: Motorcoach to Bradley, Round trip air flights from Hartford, 6 Breakfasts, 3 dinners, Sightseeing & admissions per itinerary, Professional Tour Director upon arrival in Rapid City and more... **DEPOSIT:** \$900 pp with reservation to secure your space. Any air seats not confirmed with deposit by January 20, 2020 will be released and subject to availability and current rates at the time of reservation. Space is subject to availability at the time of reservation.

## FINAL PAYMENT: Due by May 20, 2020

FOR RESERVATIONS: Call Barbara at Friendship Tours to check availability and to make a reservation. 860-243-1630 or 800-243-16230

<u>CANCELLATION POLICY</u>: If a passenger cancels from deposit to May 20, 2020 fee of \$600 pp; May 20, 2020 to June 20, 2020, fee of \$1500 pp; no refunds if canceled after June 20, 2020. All cancellation are plus any non-refundable air fees.

<u>Trip Protection Coverage</u> is strongly recommended. Aon Affinity administers the NTA Travel Protection plan designed specifically for members of the National Tour Association. The

Pre-existing medical condition exclusion can be waived by purchasing the Enhanced Plan within 14 days of your deposit or initial payment. Purchase of the plan within this time period also provides eligibility for the Financial Insolvency benefit. Traveling companions / roommates are required to take the same plan (Basic or Enhanced) in order to be properly covered. Premium is non-refundable once paid. Three ways to enroll:

- 1. Website: <u>https://nta.aontravelprotect.com</u> Tour Operator Location #076068. You can also view plan details on this site.
- 2. Call Aon 1-800-388-1470. Tour Operator Location #076068. Customer service agents can also answer questions about each plan.
- 3. Call Friendship Tours / The Ship Shop 860-243-1630 or 800-243-1630

<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>: Friendship Tours arranges the components of the tours and does not own or operate the independent suppliers of services including motorcoaches. Trips cancelled because of weather conditions are handled on a per trip basis. Refunds will depend on timing of the cancellation and supplier policies. Tickets to theaters / events are non-refundable. Friendship Tours reserves the right to adjust cost based on fuel surcharges.

