



**Carolina  
Alumni**  
TRAVEL

MAY 29 - JUNE 6, 2026

with optional  
Jackson Hole Post-Tour

# NATIONAL PARKS & LODGES OF THE OLD WEST

Orbridge



Dear Carolina alumni and friends,

Join fellow Tar Heels and friends as you step into the heart of America's Old West on an extraordinary journey led by a premier guide from Orbridge's Expedition Leader team—many of whom have served as U.S. National Park Rangers—along with experienced local guides whose expertise brings the landscapes, wildlife and history of this region to life. This immersive tour blends breathtaking scenery with rich narratives, offering a deep connection to the land, its people and its past.

Stand in awe before the rugged beauty of Badlands National Park, explore the rolling plains of Custer State Park teeming with bison and elk and experience the cultural significance of the Black Hills with visits to the striking Crazy Horse Memorial and the iconic Mount Rushmore. Our journey extends far beyond the surface featuring exclusive opportunities to engage with Native American history through music, storytelling and meaningful discussions that bring the region's heritage to life.

In Yellowstone you won't just visit—you'll overnight within the park itself, a rare and coveted experience that allows you to awaken near Yellowstone's geothermal wonders and magnificent wilderness.

From the dramatic peaks of Grand Teton National Park to the Western charm of Jackson Hole, each day is an opportunity to connect, learn and explore in ways few travelers ever do.

With limited space and unparalleled experiences that set our journey apart, we encourage you to reserve your spot today at [unc.orbridge.com](http://unc.orbridge.com) or by calling (877) 962-3980.

Go Heels and travel the world,

*Audrey, Catherine and Douglass*

Audrey Liles '13, Catherine Nichols '89 and Douglass Payne '04  
Carolina Alumni Travel Office

Participation in this tour is a Carolina Alumni member benefit. Join or renew today at [alumni.unc.edu/join](http://alumni.unc.edu/join).

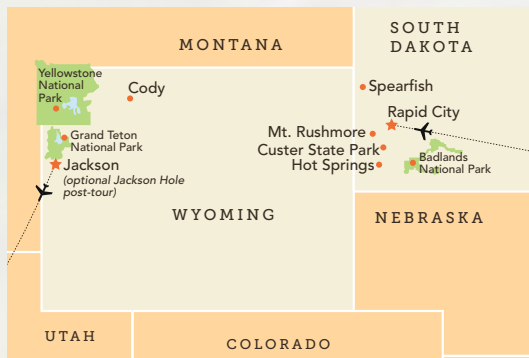
# National Parks & Lodges | Itinerary Highlights *(subject to change)*

**Day 1** **ARRIVE IN RAPID CITY, SD** Upon arrival an Orbridge Expedition Leader will be waiting to assist with your transfer to the hotel. Nicknamed "The City of Presidents," Rapid City features a series of life-sized bronze statues of our nation's past leaders throughout its downtown. Later join the group for a welcome dinner and tour briefing.  
Overnight: Hotel Alex Johnson (D)

**Day 2** **RAPID CITY | BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK | CUSTER STATE PARK** Set out for Badlands National Park. Rich in fossil beds, the park provides a fascinating glimpse into the area's history. Continue to Wall for lunch on your own. Nestled in the Black Hills is Custer State Park renowned for its diverse wildlife and population of bison, elk and pronghorn. Climb aboard a safari Jeep for a thrilling wildlife tour through the active roadways.  
Overnight: State Game Lodge (B,D)

**Day 3** **MAMMOTH SITE | CRAZY HORSE | CUSTER** Travel to Hot Springs to visit The Mammoth Site—a paleontological research center and museum that contains the largest concentration of mammoth remains in the world and earns recognition worldwide for its interpretation and exhibits. After a short tour stroll the boardwalk over the dig site and see the paleontology laboratory. Next visit the base and museum of Crazy Horse Memorial—a monumental work still in progress. Under construction since 1948, crews are drilling, sculpting and removing rock more than 70 years later. While there view an audio-visual program featuring artist Korczak Ziolkowski and his sculptures that illustrate the culture, tradition and living heritage of Native Americans. This afternoon is yours for a leisurely lunch and time to explore on your own before rejoining the group for dinner.  
Overnight: State Game Lodge (B,D)

**Day 4** **CUSTER | MOUNT RUSHMORE | SPEARFISH CANYON** Today stand in awe before iconic Mount Rushmore. Pass through the Avenue of Flags peering upward to capture sight of four influential presidential faces each approximately 60 feet high. Following lunch on your own, perhaps explore the Visitor Center or Sculptor's Studio or hike the 422-stair Presidential Trail that loops around the base of the monument. Continue the journey to picturesque Spearfish Canyon in the northern Black Hills.  
Overnight: Spearfish Canyon Lodge (B,D)



**Day 5** **SPEARFISH CANYON | CODY, WY** Today is a scenic travel day to Cody, stopping at The Ranch at UCross for lunch. After a late-day arrival in Cody enjoy the evening and dinner on your own.  
Overnight: Holiday Inn Cody-At Buffalo Bill Village (B,L)

**Day 6** **CODY | YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK** Visit the Buffalo Bill Center of the West that features five museums, a research library and special exhibitions. Continue to Yellowstone to see Old Faithful erupt and explore the Upper and Lower Falls. Take time to spot for wildlife in Hayden Valley—grizzly bears, bison, wolves, coyotes, elk, moose and dozens of bird species live here.  
Overnight: Yellowstone Lodging (B,L,D)

**Day 7** **YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK** Enjoy a full day for independent park touring. Perhaps stroll Fountain Paint Pot Trail, see Mammoth Hot Springs, or visit the Albright Visitor Center and Museum with its interactive displays, great animal wildlife exhibits, orientation area and educational ranger talks.  
Overnight: Yellowstone Lodging (B,D)

**Day 8** **YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK | GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK | JACKSON** Head south through vast unspoiled wilderness to Grand Teton National Park. Lunch is planned at Pioneer Grill at Jackson Lake Lodge. Tonight gather with fellow travel companions to celebrate the adventures of the past week at a farewell dinner.  
Overnight: Rustic Inn at Jackson Hole Creekside Resort and Spa (B,D)

**Day 9** **DEPART JACKSON** After breakfast transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)

## What's Included

- 8 nights accommodations at inspiring landmark properties including 2 nights lodging within Yellowstone National Park
- 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 7 dinners including special welcome and farewell meals
- Full guiding services of an Orbridge Expedition Leader as well as expert local guides
- All activities as described in the 9-day itinerary
- Admission and park fees
- Private deluxe motor coach with air conditioning and comfortable seating
- Luggage portage (where available)
- Gratuities to Orbridge Expedition Leader, local guides, drivers, porters and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times



**Activity Level:** The majority of the program's activities will take place outdoors and a fair amount of walking on varying terrain is to be expected. Many of the parks have dirt trails, but they are usually fairly smooth for walking. Some have paved pathways and boardwalks. It's our expectation that guests are able to walk a mile at a moderate pace, get in and out of a motor coach, and walk up a flight of stairs without assistance. Keep in mind that you will experience varying altitudes, rising up to 9,000 feet, to which you may not be accustomed.



**Orbridge**

## Orbridge Standard of Excellence

Orbridge understands travel today can be complicated. From cabin or room selection to airport transfers, dietary requests, or pre- or post-tour details—we are dedicated to making your journey seamless and special from the moment you leave home.

Our curated destinations—featuring outstanding properties and ships, meticulously crafted itineraries, and knowledgeable guides, travel directors and expedition leaders—offer life-changing experiences you'll never forget.

Our Guest Services team is staffed by well-traveled professionals who provide personalized attention, ensuring all your questions are answered and all the details of your trip are explained to you.

Our air partners can make flight arrangements for guests. In the event of flight delays and/or schedule changes, they will provide guests with personalized assistance. To book flight reservations with our air partners, contact (206) 319-5011 and select the option for your destination to discuss flight details with our air colleagues. Upon ticketing, a fee will be charged.

## Accommodations *(subject to change)*

### HOTEL ALEX JOHNSON

This historic hotel features a casual Irish pub, fitness center, café and rooftop bar overlooking town.



### STATE GAME LODGE

Set in a beautiful mountain valley, the lodge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



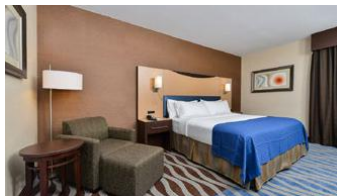
### SPEARFISH CANYON LODGE

Nestled alongside spectacular limestone cliffs, the lodge features log walls and a 40-foot stone fireplace.



### HOLIDAY INN CODY-AT BUFFALO BILL VILLAGE

This hotel features well-appointed rooms, an outdoor pool and a welcoming bar/restaurant.



### YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK LODGING

Confirmed by the National Park Service, you'll stay at one or two of the following Yellowstone properties: Old Faithful Inn, Old Faithful Snow Lodge, Canyon Lodge & Cabins, Grant Village or Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel. Each offers comfortable lodging and amenities.

### RUSTIC INN AT JACKSON HOLE CREEKSIDE RESORT AND SPA

Nestled along the tranquil banks of Flat Creek, this resort offers a blend of Western charm and modern luxury.



# Optional Post-Tour Jackson Hole

Extend your adventures in the Old West with additional days in Jackson Hole. This charming town offers a sophisticated yet rustic atmosphere with upscale dining, art galleries and a variety of outdoor activities.

**Day 9** **JACKSON** Gather for a private docent-guided tour of the National Museum of Wildlife Art. Situated on a cliff overlooking the National Elk Refuge, the museum's collection features 5,000 pieces from more than 550 artists. Dating from 2500 B.C. to the present, the exhibits chronicle the history of wildlife in art, focusing primarily on European and American painting and sculpture. The collection of American art from the 19th and 20th centuries is particularly strong, recording European exploration of the American West. Many of these works predate photography, making them vital representations of the frontier era in the history of the U.S.  
Overnight: Rustic Inn at Jackson Hole Creekside Resort and Spa

**Day 10** **JACKSON** After breakfast set out on a three-hour adventure, beginning at Pritchard Creek, floating past nesting areas of bald eagles and ospreys. Early morning is watering time—and the best viewing time—for native fauna along the river, such as waterfowl, moose, deer and river otters. Have your camera handy to capture the beautiful scenery and active wildlife. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore downtown Jackson's boutiques and restaurants. Or take advantage of the various amenities at the Rustic Inn's resort and spa.  
Overnight: Rustic Inn at Jackson Hole Creekside Resort and Spa (B)

**Day 11** **DEPART FOR JACKSON** After breakfast guests departing during the suggested times take a complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

## What's Included

- 2 nights accommodations including breakfast each morning
- Admission to the National Museum of Wildlife Art including a docent-led tour
- A half-day scenic Snake River float trip
- Transportation for included activities
- Luggage portage
- Airport transfers for guests departing during the suggested times





**MAY 29 - JUNE 6, 2026**

Jackson Hole Post-Tour: June 6-8, 2026

**RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY**


Online: [unc.orbridge.com](https://unc.orbridge.com)  
Phone: **Carolina Alumni** at (877) 962-3980  
Email: [travel@unc.edu](mailto:travel@unc.edu)

Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double	\$6,399	\$5,895
Single	\$8,399	\$7,895
Jackson Hole Post-Tour		
Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double	\$1,599	\$1,395
Single	\$2,199	\$1,995

**DEPOSIT AMOUNT PER PERSON**  
\$850 main tour • \$500 post-tour

\*Special group rates; limited offer. All rates are per person in U.S. dollars based on double occupancy except where noted as Single. Single availability limited. Unless noted otherwise, airfare is not included. \*\*An exclusive Early Booking Bonus, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per room will be sent after receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; call for details. Full Terms & Conditions at [terms.orbridge.com](https://terms.orbridge.com). Any payment to Orbridge, LLC constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation and refund terms.

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 Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at [orbridge.com/going-green](https://orbridge.com/going-green).





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Carolina Alumni Travel Office  
P.O. Box 660  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-0660

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MAY 29 - JUNE 6, 2026

Special Alumni Rate:

Save more than \$1,000 per couple

**FREE EXPEDITION LIBRARY**  
AN EXCLUSIVE EARLY  
RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve by  
**November 7, 2025\*\***



UNC Tar Heels on Orbridge's National Parks & Lodges of the Old West 2024 travel program.

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## What Guests Are Saying...

We are already contemplating our next travel opportunity with Orbridge. Honestly, my husband does not typically like to travel but he is absolutely **SOLD** on signing up for another excursion. Thank you for doing such a great job and impressing him to that extent! There's so much more we'd like to see out there with Orbridge leading the way!

~Sue & Lee G., Glastonbury, CT

UNC-NP26