Where the Buffalo Roam

May 27-June 2, 2011
$1,995 per person, double occupancy
$420 single supplement

WHY WE PICKED IT  Safari through the American prairie, viewing one of the world’s largest herd of bison amid a vast sea of grass. Safari in America? You bet! We explore the fascinating natural architecture of South Dakota’s Black Hills, watching for coyote, pronghorn and bison amid eerie pinnacles and fanciful spires.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH  A commitment to responsible travel has directed Off the Beaten Path’s internal compass from our beginning. We constantly improve our journeys and operations to be a beneficial, sustainable component of the social and natural worlds where we work. Educating our clients about the issues that matter throughout our territories, we know travel plays a critical role in fostering understanding and conservation.

THE NWF CONNECTION  Perhaps no other North American ecosystem has been ignored, overlooked and mismanaged more often than our prairie grasslands. But NWF is seeking to change all that. From partnering with Native American tribes to making grasslands a top priority for state and federal agencies, we are bringing prairie conservation and restoration to the fore.

Please see the reverse side for a complete day-by-day itinerary. To ask questions or to reserve your place on this tour, please call 800-606-9563 or e-mail expeditions@nwf.org.
May 27—Arrive at your leisure in Rapid City, South Dakota, prior to the 9:00 a.m. rendezvous tomorrow with your naturalist guides at the Radisson Rapid City. A special rate is available if you wish to stay at the Radisson Rapid City tonight. This overnight is not included in the price of the trip.

May 28—Today we head out into Badlands National Park, where natural forces have carved a fascinating architecture from the land. We pick a combination of shorter trails, and allow our guides to reveal the geologic stories behind the landscape’s sharply eroded buttes, eerie spires and fanciful forms. The changing light creates shifting hues and startling bands of color throughout the park. Watch for coyote, pronghorn, and bison, as well as a variety of late spring wildflowers and butterflies. The park is a reintroduction site for the black-footed ferret, one of the most endangered land mammals in North America. Overnight: Radisson Rapid City. B, L, D

May 29—Today we have a unique opportunity to visit a working bison ranch. Learn first-hand how they protect the land and raise these massive animals on the vast sea of prairie grass. Return to the Badlands to explore more of the park’s marvelous landscape and continue our observation of the abundant wildlife. Learn of the park’s vast paleontological resources, often overlooked by visitors. The park features a rich diversity of extinct mammal life including ancestors of the modern day rhinoceros, horse, and many other species. Late afternoon settle into our motel accommodations at the historic State Game Lodge in Custer State Park, and enjoy dinner in their elegant dining room. Overnight: State Game Lodge. B, L, D

May 30—Imagine being able to view scenery similar to that seen by Black Hills pioneers in the 1890’s. Such landscapes still exist, and today we explore them at Wind Cave National Park. Although named for one of the world’s longest and most complex caves, the park also features over 30 miles of above-ground hiking trails. The park’s mixed-grass prairie is home to native wildlife such as bison, elk, pronghorn, mule deer, coyotes, and prairie dogs. We offer assorted walking options and a cave tour today, based on the group’s interests. Overnight: State Game Lodge B, L, D

May 31—This morning we continue our journey out into the grasslands of Custer State Park, home to one of the world’s largest free-roaming herds of bison. Keen-eyed naturalist guides watch for interactions of the region’s varied animal population. Spend the afternoon in the cool, deep forests of the Black Hills. At Mount Rushmore National Monument view the colossal sculpture and learn of the remarkable construction project. Walk the one-mile Presidential Trail through a forest of ponderosa pines and quaking aspens, close to the base of the mountain. Watch for the bighorn sheep that call these hills home. Overnight: State Game Lodge. B, L, D

June 1—Today drive a little over two hours to Devil’s Tower National Monument, America’s first national monument. Perhaps made most famous by the film Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Devil’s Tower is a geological wonder, rising 1,267 feet above the surrounding terrain. Observe a prairie dog town and walk along the Tower Trail, for awesome close-up views of the monolith. Our final night’s lodge is 1.5 hours away, tucked into scenic Spearfish Canyon. Enjoy a walk through the trees or take a bike for a trail ride. A festive farewell dinner is served at the Latchstring dining room. Overnight: Spearfish Canyon Lodge. B, L, D

June 2—Flights home from Rapid City after 11:00 am, an hour’s drive from the lodge. B

Questions and Reservations
Call: 800-606-9563
E-mail: expeditions@nwf.org
Online: www.nwf.org/expeditions

CANCELLATION POLICY
$500 deposit per person

Full refund minus $250 per person prior to February 26, 2011
50% of the entire tour cost from February 26-March 28, 2011
No refunds after March 28, 2011

EXPEDITIONS
Wildlife Ahead

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES: All accommodations, all transportation, all meals as listed in the itinerary (b=breakfast, l=lunch, d=dinner), a carbon-neutral offset, all sites and excursions as specified, entrance fees to all sites, professional tour management throughout the entire program, gratuities for staff at hotels and restaurants included in the itinerary, taxes and service charges throughout, complete pre-departure materials to help you prepare for your tour. NOT INCLUDED: Airfare to and from arrival/departure city, optional guide and tour manager gratuities, alcoholic beverages, personal expenses such as laundry, souvenirs, and film.