

Prepared for Legacy Club, TNC

PINE BUTTE

July 15th-20th, 2025

The Nature
Conservancy



WELCOME TO PINE BUTTE!

Despite its size, Montana is the third-least populated state in the country, meaning that vast expanses of land continue to exist as pristine, untamed spaces of wildness. Pine Butte is such a place, and The Nature Conservancy is working to ensure that it remains one of the jewels in the Crown of the Continent. The area is one of the last places in the lower 48 where grizzly bears roam free on the plains, and its patchwork of habitats support a remarkable level of biodiversity.

In addition to on-the-ground land management, the Conservancy is working with local ranchers on collaborative stewardship and conservation tools. Community-based partnerships like this to help ensure land protection and restoration efforts are sustained long into the future. The Conservancy's Pine Butte Swamp Preserve recalls an earlier time of rugged, American beauty and we look forward to having you join us in this special place.

With nature at your doorstep, you will spend your journey surrounded by breathtaking landscapes while gaining exclusive insight into local programs and strategies. Your trip begins in Great Falls, Montana where your trip leader will meet you at the airport. Transfer to Pine Butte Preserve and get comfortable in your cozy cabin. Over the next few days, take time to explore the preserve on foot, learning about the diverse forests, wildlife, and native flora and fauna. Local TNC staff will accompany you on this journey, guiding you through the history of the lands.

Options to hike, horseback ride and relax amidst the big Montana skies await throughout your stay.

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

PINE BUTTE PRESERVE

In 1979, TNC began acquiring portions of several cattle ranches and a dude ranch to assemble the Pine Butte Preserve. Pine Butte is part of a landscape that the Blackfeet people have called home for countless generations. The Old North Trail, used by Native Americans for thousands of years, cuts through the preserve; Tipi rings, a buffalo jump, and associated drive lanes testify to the presence of prehistoric plains dwellers. Scant remains of homestead structures dot the preserve, while ranching activities continue as they have for the past century. The location of a Metis settlement from the late 1800s and early 1900s along the South Fork of the Teton River now serves as The Nature Conservancy's management headquarters.

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Today, the property serves as a migration corridor for grizzly bears, mountain lions, mule deer, lynx, moose, bighorn sheep, and other wildlife traveling between grasslands of the Great Plains and higher elevations in the Rockies. Many stop at the preserve's Pine Butte Swamp, the largest wetland complex along the Rocky Mountain Front. Remaining true to the property's roots, The Nature Conservancy works with ranchers and other partners to conserve the landscape at a larger, more meaningful scale to benefit the area's unique ecology, spectacular wildlife, and local, often traditional, livelihoods.

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Pine Butte Preserve

Jul 15
TUESDAY

Arrive in Great Falls, Montana by the afternoon where your trip leader will transfer you to Pine Butte. Get to know your fellow travelers during a cocktail reception, followed by dinner in the main lodge. After dinner, spend time in the front room with the collection of books, cards and games, or rest in your cabin this evening.

Overnight at Pine Butte Lodge

Jul 16
WEDNESDAY

After breakfast, hike one of the many trails that wind through the surrounding landscape. Trails range from 1 to 4 miles and can vary in elevation gain from virtually flat to a thousand vertical feet. Look for signs of grizzly bears, moose, and elk; run your hands through the clear water of the creek and stop to look up and appreciate why this area is nicknamed “Big Sky Country.” Enjoy a packed lunch either on the trail or back at the lodge. In the afternoon, ride on horseback through the high meadows of the Rocky Mountain foothills and see the same types of flora and fauna Lewis and Clark may have encountered almost 200 years ago, and experience firsthand why local conservation efforts are so important. In the evening, gather for dinner in the main lodge.

Overnight at Pine Butte Lodge

Jul 17
THURSDAY

Today’s activities are determined by your interest. After breakfast, choose between hiking, horseback riding along the local equestrian trails through diverse forests and over crystalline streams, or simply relax on the front porch with your favorite book. In the evening, enjoy a presentation about the Conservancy’s work.

Overnight at Pine Butte Lodge

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Pine Butte Preserve

Jul 18 FRIDAY

After breakfast, take a comprehensive tour of Pine Butte. The surrounding lands support a third of the plant species such as yellow lady's slipper, Macoun's gentian, and Craw's sedge. About 200 species of birds and 43 species of mammals call the preserve home. During the hike, feel free to make observations and ask your Nature Conservancy expert questions. In the late afternoon, gather for dinner and evening wildlife viewing.

Overnight at Pine Butte Lodge

Jul 19 SATURDAY

Enjoy a hike to Our Lake in the morning. The trail climbs up 1,450 vertical feet and is approximately 7 miles round trip. Enjoy a picnic boxed lunch while taking in views of the lake and waterfall. Spend the afternoon at leisure before a final celebratory dinner at the Lodge.

Overnight at Pine Butte Lodge

Jul 20 SUNDAY

After breakfast, say farewell to Pine Butte and transfer as a group to Great Falls International Airport.

Costs

Total per person based on 13 guests in shared accommodation: \$6,310 USD

Notes:

Single Occupancy Cost: \$6,310

This cost includes:

Accommodations

All ground transportation

All meals beginning with dinner on Day 1 and ending with breakfast on Day 6

All activities

All gratuities

All park entrance fees and permitting

All guides

Iconic Leader(s)

Client hosts

A donation back to the hosting program

This cost does not include:

Travel to and from trip start

Travel insurance

Incidentals and spa services

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Payment and Cancellation Terms

As a reminder, all payment requests will be sent through WeTravel. This may include the deposit, final payment, and any supplemental amounts for pre/post nights or extra transfers.

Deposit:

\$1,500 per person due at time of registration

- Cancellation within 7 days of registering: Deposit is 100% refundable
- Cancellation outside of 7-day registration window: Deposit is non-refundable

Full Trip Payment:

Due 150 days prior to trip start

- Cancellation 150-136 days prior to trip start: Full trip cost is 50% refundable
- Cancellation 135-0 days prior to trip start: Full trip cost is non-refundable

If you need to cancel, please contact Iconic Adventures via concierge@iconicadventures.com.

Contact Information

As you plan for your journey with The Nature Conservancy and Iconic Adventures, please feel free to reach out with any questions. Our team is available to advise on paying invoices, arrival and departure details, packing lists, request mobility accommodations, and more.

You may reach us at concierge@iconicadventures.com. Note that emails sent over the weekend will be responded to on Monday at our earliest availability. Email is the preferred (and quickest!) way to reach us.

We are also available via phone: (877) 706-4266. Our team will respond within 24 hours during the work week. Please allow us time to respond before reaching out to The Nature Conservancy directly.

We look forward to traveling with you soon!

The Iconic Team

OUR TRAVEL VALUES

Access

Travel with renowned Conservancy experts and local partners for an exclusive, on-the-ground experience. You won't just see amazing places, you'll see how you are helping save them.

Impact

Witness how your commitment to our planet and your passion for conservation are making a difference in the wild places and communities you are impacting.

Knowledge

Learn how we are applying the latest cutting-edge science to affect global change and drive conservation.

Inspiration

Immerse yourself in local cultures and awe-inspiring landscapes to foster your own connection to our world.

Globally Minded

Elevate your understanding of our work by observing first-hand how TNC and our partners act locally and how we turn local results in to global impact by scaling solutions that work.

TNC TRAVELER EXPECTATIONS

Group travel with The Nature Conservancy provides our donors with the opportunity to experience, alongside fellow supporters, the places TNC is working collaboratively to advance our conservation mission. Within these curated trips is the chance to engage with a community of active individuals and conservation staff who enjoy teaching and learning about the important conservation work we do and exploring the outdoors.

In order to ensure an enjoyable trip environment that supports learning and enrichment, we need your partnership. We ask that all participants review TNC's [Code of Conduct](#) prior to joining a trip. We also encourage you to carefully review all trip information to make an informed decision as to whether travel with TNC and a specific trip's characteristics and activities are right for you. Following the Code is an expectation and responsibility for everyone in the larger TNC community, including our staff, partners, vendors and supporters. **To that end, when registering for a TNC trip, you are agreeing to uphold the Code.**

TNC TRAVELER EXPECTATIONS

While the entire Code of Conduct is important, the tenets that are especially relevant to TNC group travel are: respect for each other, respect for the world around us and acting with integrity. The following traveler expectations are intended to provide guidance for how those tenets translate to group travel but are by no means an exhaustive list. By participating in a TNC trip, you make a commitment to act in accordance with the TNC Code of Conduct to your fellow travelers, as well as to TNC staff, partners, community members and vendors. Any violation of or disregard for the Code of Conduct may result in removal from a trip and/or denial of future TNC travel participation.

1) RESPECT ALL PEOPLE, PLACES AND PERSPECTIVES.

Each participant on a trip is an integral part of the travel experience. Demonstrating respect and consideration is imperative not only for nature, local communities and cultures in the places we visit, but also for fellow travelers, staff, partners, community members and vendors. Everyone will bring different goals, backgrounds, experiences and abilities, and it is important that the group respect each individual's perspectives and needs throughout the trip. Sometimes trip participants become lifelong friends, and we encourage the camaraderie and community built through these shared experiences!

2) HARASSMENT IN ALL ITS FORMS, INCLUDING DISCRIMINATION AND MICROAGGRESSIONS, IS NOT TOLERATED.

There is no place on any TNC travel experience for disrespect to or bullying or intimidation of fellow travelers, TNC staff, partners, community members or vendors. All travelers agree to support an environment free from any behavior that could make an individual feel unsafe or diminish their dignity. If you experience or observe this type of behavior on a trip, please report it to your trip host or guide.

Examples of behavior that will not be tolerated include, but are not limited, to:

- Racial discrimination in any form (jokes, comments and/or actions)
- Verbal abuse of any traveler, staff, partner, community member or vendor
- Actions or statements that exclude or divide people because of their differences or differing perspectives
- Jokes about gender or sexual orientation or that include sexual innuendo
- Discriminatory actions or statements based on gender or sexual orientation
- Unwelcome physical contact or physical intimidation of a sexual nature

TNC TRAVELER EXPECTATIONS

3) ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPLICABLE LAW OF THE LOCATION(S) OF THE TRIP.

Your trip location(s) may have different laws from your home location. You are expected to be aware of and adhere to the trip destination's laws throughout the experience, even when locations change throughout a trip.

4) EMPLOY AN ATTITUDE OF FLEXIBILITY.

At times, there may be changes in the itinerary when deemed necessary or advisable for the comfort and well-being of trip members. We appreciate your understanding, flexibility and adaptability in order to make the trip safe and enjoyable for you and everyone else.

TNC and its tour operators reserve the right to deny registration or remove a tour participant from a trip should such person's behavior, health or mental condition impact the safe and equitable operation of the trip.

Thank you for your attention and understanding, and please let a TNC travel representative know if you have any questions in advance of registering at travel@tnc.org.