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# Cody, Wyoming

## DATES

July 24-29, 2022

## PRICE

Double Occupancy: \$4,285

Single Occupancy: \$4,780

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is the last large, nearly intact ecosystem within Earth's Northern Temperate Zone. Predominantly wild, it is home to 20-million acres filled with wildlife corridors, mountain valleys, ranches, high desert plains, and meandering rivers. Home to wolves, grizzly bears, mountain goats, black bears, elk, bison, and more—the protection of these lands is of utmost importance to The Nature Conservancy. Learn how TNC is conserving and restoring rivers, streams and wetlands, maintaining and improving wildlife mitigation routes, and advancing the field of rangeland management and ecology within Cody, Wyoming and the surrounding landscape.

Located on the Eastern edge of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, our journey begins in Billings, Montana where you will be met by your guide and TNC experts. On your two-hour drive to Cody, take in stunning views in every direction along the way. We'll pass through part of the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway, catching our first glimpse of Heart Mountain, before winding our way through Shoshone National Forest—enjoy the stunning views and keep your eye out for wildlife along the way!

Your home for the next five nights is the Bill Cody Ranch; nestled in the heart of the Shoshone National Forest and Absaroka Mountains. Established in 1925, this cozy ranch features authentic Western cabins, home-cooked meals, horseback riding, and more.

With local TNC experts, you'll visit Heart Mountain Ranch Preserve, a gathering place for both scientists, ranchers, and outdoor enthusiasts alike. The next day, journey to Pitchfork Ranch and the Upper Greybull River area to see firsthand the thousands of acres of critical ungulate winter range, the spring calving range, as well as grizzly bear and wolf occupied range. Don't forget your camera to take pictures as you hike through this incredible landscape!

During the trip, take part in Cody favorites— a half-day horseback riding excursion, a visit to the fascinating Buffalo Bill Historical Center, rafting through the magnificent red rocks on the Shoshone River, and an evening at the historic Cody Nite Rodeo.

With exclusive insight from TNC experts, visits to local preserves, and local highlights, you'll learn and experience these unique places in and around Cody that most visitors never see.



Heart Mountain Preserve © Will Van Overbeek



Indian Paintbrush at Heart Mountain Preserve © Russ Schnitzer

## HORSEBACK RIDING IN THE SHOSHONE

Saddle up for a half-day horseback riding excursion through the Shoshone National Forest. Surrounded by high-mountain scenery, stop for lunch cooked over an open fire before continuing on through the undulating trail.

## BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST

It's five museums house exhibits featuring western art, Yellowstone history, firearms history, Plains Indian culture and, of course, the noted guide, scout, showman, actor and founder of the town, William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody.

## CODY NITE RODEO

In 1938, Carly Downing, a former Wild West show performer, started the Cody Nite Rodeo, bringing cowboys from all over the country to compete and show off the "Wild West" to travelers. Today, it is the longest running rodeo in the world and offers nightly shows from June-August each summer.

Your trip supports the local communities you're traveling in and The Nature Conservancy's efforts locally and globally. This trip has been planned specifically by The Nature Conservancy's team of scientific experts and travel liaisons to immerse you in the work the Conservancy is doing on the ground that has global consequences.

# TNC TRAVEL VALUES

## ACCESS:

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

## IMPACT:

See how your commitment to our planet and your passion for conservation are making a difference. You will see the wild places and the 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 seeing first-hand how TNC and our partners act locally and how we turn local results in to global impact by scaling solutions that work.

## CODE OF CONDUCT:

Please [click here to read The Nature Conservancy's Code of Conduct](#), our guide to ensuring that we treat each other with respect, fairness, and integrity beyond reproach. We expect our travel partners to adhere to these standards as they lead trips, and we hope that you will embrace this with us.





*Barrier such as the above can cause injuries and disrupt the migration of the herd. © Scott Copeland*

## THE CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE

### **WILDLIFE MIGRATION CORRIDORS**

Each spring and fall, mule deer, elk, moose, big-horn sheep, and pronghorn are all on the move. Their seasonal journeys are timed to take advantage of the nourishing vegetation, and they must move between expansive public and private lands to complete their migration. As climate change, recreation, and development increase, these migrations are becoming more hazardous; deadly fence boundaries threaten to entangle, fragment, and isolate herds along the way. Today, TNC is working with local and national partners to collect data and identify obstacles along migration routes, pursue more conservation easements, control invasive weeds that degrade habitat quality, and modify existing fences.

### **INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION**

Scientists, ranchers, and outdoor enthusiasts all gather at Heart Mountain Ranch Preserve. As a site for advancing the field of ranchland management and ecology, the preserve hosts sustainable cattle grazing on its pastures, weed management projects and wildlife research. The preserve supports one of the greatest concentrations of rare plants ever discovered on private property in Wyoming and is home to native mammals such as elk, mule deer and antelope, and bird species such as golden eagles and sage thrashers.

### **WATER CONSERVATION**

Wyoming holds the headwaters of the Colorado, Missouri and Columbia Rivers, as well as the Great Salt Lake, making the protection, conservation and restoration of these rivers, streams and wetlands a priority for The Conservancy. Clean and abundant water is crucial for irrigation, wildlife, recreation and local drinking water. Near Cody, TNC is hard at work replacing invasive tamarisk and Russian olive trees with native, drought-tolerant plants that will be better suited to the warm conditions brought on by climate change.

## ITINERARY

**DAY 1 — Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>** | Arrive in Billings by noon. Upon arrival at the airport, you will be welcomed by your guide and Nature Conservancy host and transferred to your lodging at Bill Cody Ranch in Cody, Wyoming. Take time to settle into your comfortable cabin and explore the surrounding landscape before enjoying a cocktail reception followed by dinner.

### OVERNIGHT AT BILL CODY RANCH

**DAY 2 — Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup>** | After a hearty breakfast at the Ranch, we will head out for the day's adventure. An hour's drive will bring us to Heart Mountain Ranch Preserve to hike the landscape. Learn how TNC is using this landscape to advance the field of rangeland management and ecology, hosting sustainable cattle grazing on the pastures, and conducting weed management projects. Enjoy a picnic lunch outside.

After lunch, we will drive to Downtown Cody, where we'll explore the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. A Smithsonian-affiliated complex with five museums on-site, the complex spans nearly 300,000 square feet. There will be two departure times back to the Ranch to accommodate the amount of time you wish to spend at the museum. Dinner will be at the Ranch this evening.

### OVERNIGHT AT BILL CODY RANCH

**DAY 3 — Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>** | In the morning, we'll drive one hour to Pitchfork Ranch and the Upper Greybull River area where you will enjoy an overview of The Nature Conservancy's work in the area. The upper Greybull River Basin holds thousands of acres of critical ungulate winter range, spring calving range, as well as grizzly bear and wolf occupied range. Additionally, it is currently one of the last best strongholds for the native Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

Following a special lunch with local trustees, we will meet with Abby Scott, TNC NW Wyoming Program Director. With the slope of Carter Mountain as our backdrop, explore the open space and learn more about how TNC is investing in migration corridors throughout this landscape. In the early afternoon, we will head back to the Ranch for free time before dinner at the lodge.

### OVERNIGHT AT BILL CODY RANCH

**DAY 4 — Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>** | After breakfast this morning, we'll depart towards town to meet with our local river guides. From a private launch site, we'll set off through the Red Rock Canyon of the Shoshone River. During this trip, you'll learn about the native communities that called this corridor home, retracing their tracks as you take in the timeless beauty of the red canyon walls and the exhilarating rapids. Return to the Lodge to freshen up before lunch.

## LODGING



### Bill Cody Ranch

Located within the stunning peaks, lakes, and spires of the Shoshone National Forest is the Bill Cody Ranch. With authentic hand-made Western furniture and rustic and cozy Creekside cabins, you'll be sure to enjoy this picturesque location. Wake up to biscuits and gravy or a Western omelet before setting off on horseback to explore the surrounding landscape! (Photo Credit: Bill Cody Ranch)





## ITINERARY (CONT.)

Over lunch, learn more conservation projects in and around the Shoshone River. A major tributary to the Big Horn River, the Shoshone River is depended on to provide clean water for drinking and agriculture, for fisheries and wildlife, and for recreational activities such as boating and fishing. Providing important migratory routes and crucial winter range for sheep, elk, and moose, the watershed is currently facing challenges such as habitat deterioration, high bacteria levels, and problematic irrigation diversions. Your TNC hosts will highlight some of the recent conservation successes along the Shoshone River as well as goals for the future of the watershed. This afternoon, you'll have free time to relax at the Ranch.

After dinner this evening, we will head back into town for the Cody Nite Rodeo, a tradition that dates backs to over one hundred years ago when Buffalo Bill operated the Wild West Show.

### OVERNIGHT AT BILL CODY RANCH

**DAY 5 — Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>** | After breakfast this morning, depart on a four-hour excursion on horseback (hiking option available as well). Among the majestic grandeur of the Shoshone National Forest, ride up the mountain for 360-degree views. Over an open fire, we'll enjoy lunch in the fresh air. We'll be joined by local TNC staff to share expertise on our work in this area.

The remainder of the afternoon is yours to relax or explore the surrounding landscape. Over a final dinner at the Ranch, reminisce on the time spent in Cody and the conservation work we were able to see first-hand; a truly remarkable area, these are memories that will surely last a lifetime.

### OVERNIGHT AT BILL CODY RANCH

**DAY 6— Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>** | Transfer to Billings and depart for home. Please do not book flights for anytime earlier than 3pm.



### Exploring by Land and Water

On land, saddle up to explore the stunning landscape within Shoshone National Forest. On horseback, you'll have an opportunity to experience natural beauty and wildlife from a truly unique perspective. (Photo Credit: Bill Cody Ranch)

On water, raft through the Red Rock Canyon of the Shoshone as we retrace the tracks of Old West explorers such as John Colter and Jeremiah Johnson, as well as the native communities that first called this landscape home. (Photo Credit: Randy Craft/TNC)



### PRICE DETAIL

Double Occupancy \$4,285  
Single Occupancy: \$4,780

Price is based on a minimum of 11. Trip size not to exceed 14 travelers.

Price **includes** all lodging, domestic transportation, activities, tips, meals, TNC expert staff and local guides. Price does **not include** your roundtrip flight to Billings, Wyoming.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This itinerary is representative of your trip, and like all natural history excursions, activities are subject to modification based on weather and unforeseen events. We will do our best to keep you informed on any necessary changes.