





# **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.

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, Montana

# **July 7** MONDAY

Arrive in Great Falls, Montana by 3:00 p.m. Once everyone has arrived, your Iconic Leader will begin the scenic drive to Pine Butte. On arrival, get settled in your cabin.

Upon arrival to the ranch, you will be escorted to your cabin to relax and unpack. The cabins that are to be your home for the following nights are owned by The Nature Conservancy and are located within the Conservancy's Pine Butte Preserve. There is a main lodge stocked with a collection of books, cards and games and also a Front Room, where you can enjoy some peace and quiet. Dinner this evening will be in the main lodge. Along with an introduction from your TNC hosts, there will be an overview of the Pine Butte Preserve, safety and a review of itinerary for the week ahead.

Overnight at Pine Butte Guest Ranch, Pine Butte, MT

# July 8

#### **TUESDAY**

This morning, TNC's Nathan Birkeland will give a comprehensive tour of the Pine Butte Preserve. The preserve and surrounding lands support a third of the plant species in Montana as well as many rare wetland species such as yellow lady's slipper, Macoun's gentian, green-keeled cotton grass and Craw's sedge. About 200 species of birds and 43 species of mammals also call the preserve home. During the hike, feel free to make observations and ask your guide questions; no detail is too small. We'll enjoy a picnic boxed lunch while taking in the views of the preserve.

This afternoon, we will continue conversations with TNC staff on the preserve before having time to relax back at the ranch. Sit on the porch with a book or walk around this gorgeous property. In the evening, we will have dinner and enjoy a presentation about the Conservancy's work at the Pine Butte Preserve and the Rocky Mountain Front.

Overnight at Pine Butte Guest Ranch, Pine Butte, MT

# July 9

#### WEDNESDAY

Mid-morning, we'll meet at the main lodge for a short drive to Face Mountain Trailhead. On a one mile hike up the south side of the trail, you'll see some of the most dramatic views of Pine Butte Preserve; take in the views at the summit, where one can stand at the edge of a 200-foot cliff where prairie falcons have nested. From this vantage point, both forks of the Teton River can be seen winding their way far out into the prairie. A picnic boxed lunch will be had while learning more about TNC's work to create strategic partnerships on the Rocky Mountain Front.

Upon return to Pine Butte, choose to rest and relax OR join us for horseback ride; after getting fitted to our horses, we will spend an hour in the saddle on a beautiful and mellow trail.

This evening, there will be a presentation by TNC Crown of the Continent Director, Dave Hanna, before dinner.

Overnight at Pine Butte Guest Ranch, Pine Butte, MT



# **July 10** THURSDAY

After breakfast in the main lodge, we head out for a short drive to begin a day of horseback riding on the local equestrian trails; these trails will take you through diverse forests, over crystalline streams, and to mountain outcrops with unbelievable views. Just imagine, horseback was once the primary way to traverse Montana's varied terrain.

This afternoon, hike at your leisure around the property, or relax with a book. Prior to dinner, TNC Blackfeet Program Manager, Dylan DeRosier will join us for a presentation about TNC's partnerships with the Blackfeet Reservation.

Overnight at Pine Butte Guest Ranch, Pine Butte, MT

# July 11 FRIDAY

After breakfast, meet at the main lodge to head out for today's hike to Our Lake. We will drive about 6 miles to the end of the South Fork of the Teton Road. The Our Lake trail is approximately 7 miles round trip and climbs up 1,450 vertical feet. If you prefer to relax or do an easier hike today, your Iconic Leader will be happy to provide you with suggestions of hikes you can do on your own.

Afterwards, we'll return to Pine Butte to rest and relax before enjoying our final night's dinner to celebrate a great week together.

Overnight at Pine Butte Guest Ranch, Pine Butte, MT

# **July 12** SATURDAY

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 Double 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 alcohol

All activities

All gratuities

All park entrance fees and permitting

All guides

Iconic Leader(s)

Client hosts

A commission back to the host 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



## **TNC 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.** 

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

#### 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 <a href="mailto:travel@tnc.org">travel@tnc.org</a>.