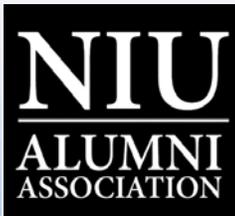


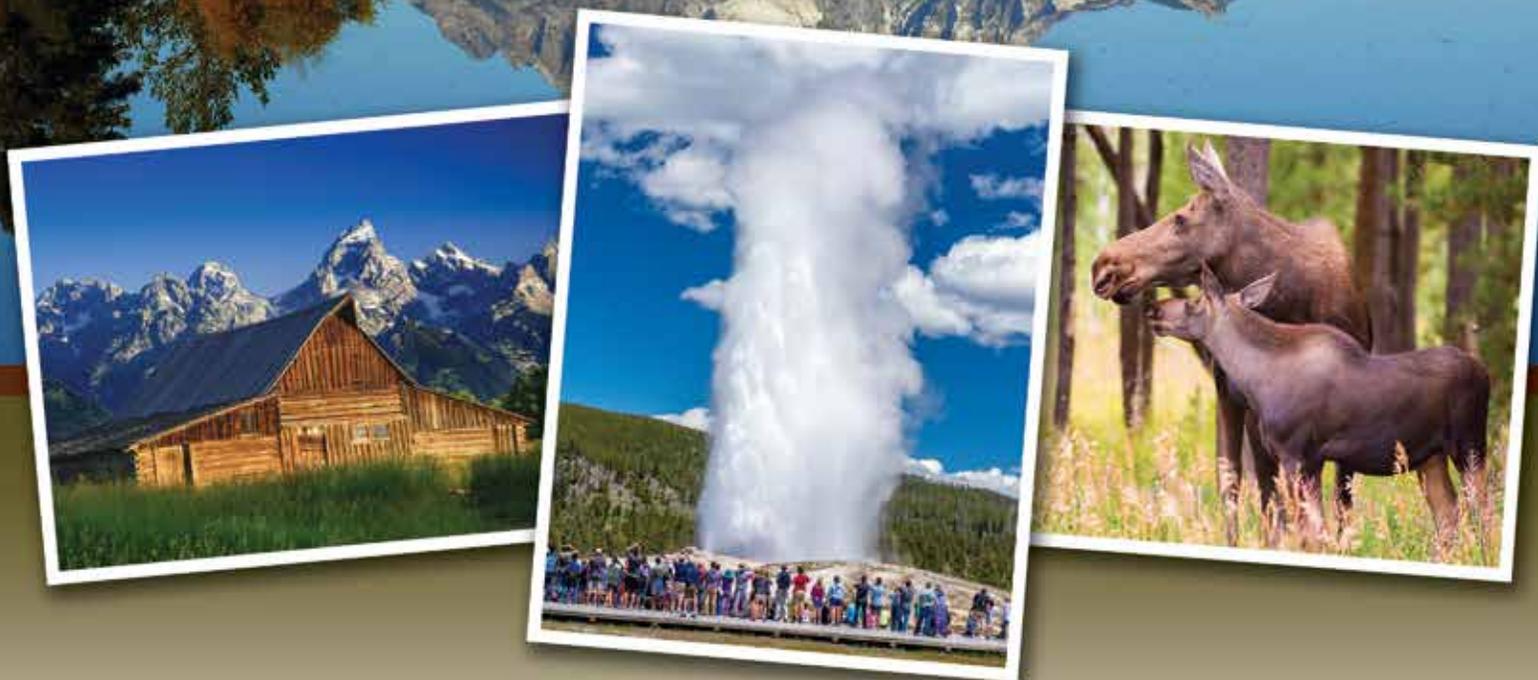
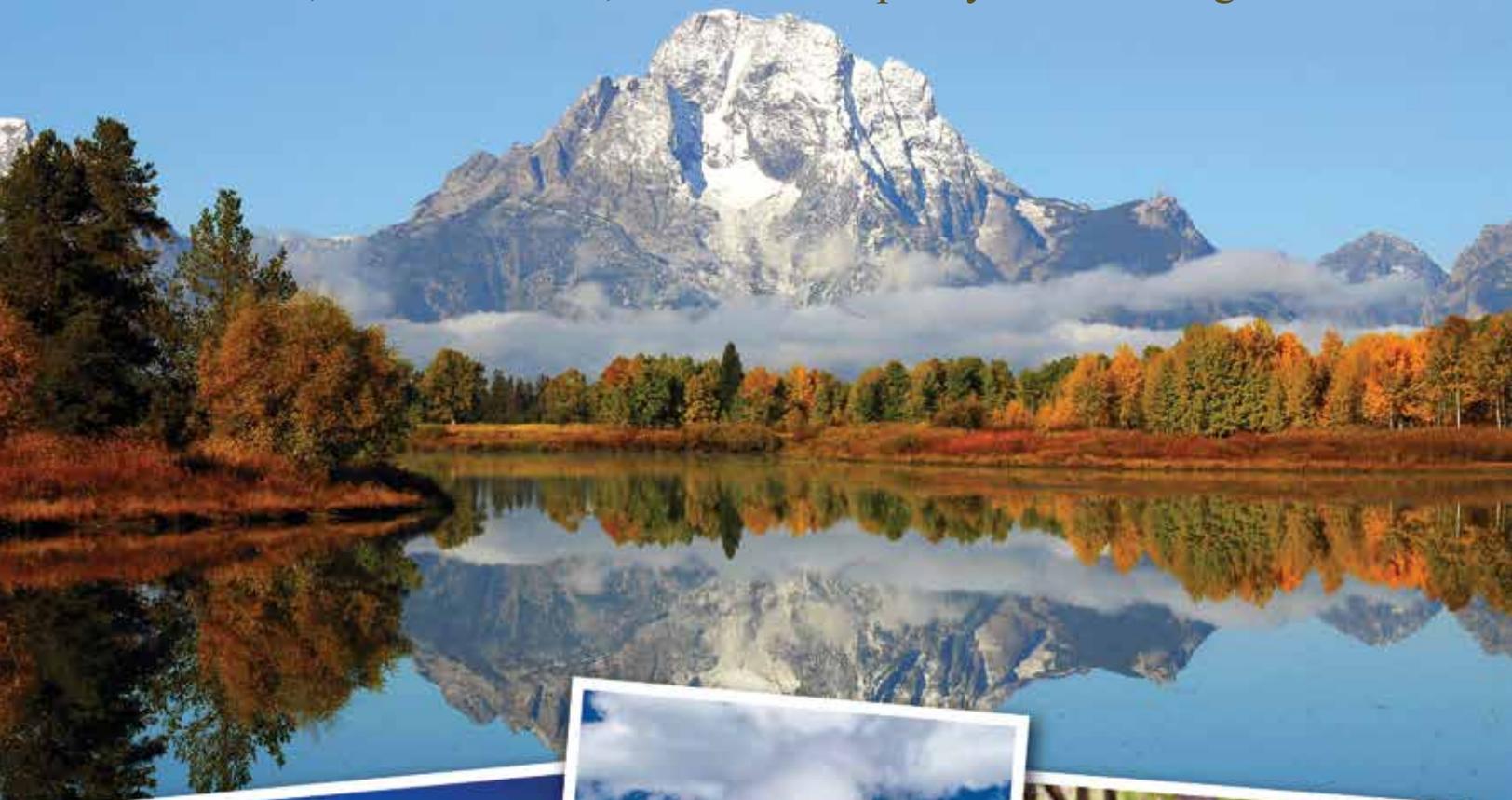
The Northern Illinois University Alumni Association
Presents



America's Treasures
– U.S. National Parks –
Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons

September 7 – 15, 2017

\$3,675 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Northern Illinois University Alumni Association

Day by Day Itinerary

Thursday, September 7 – CHICAGO / DENVER

This morning we depart Chicago and take to the skies for Denver, Colorado. Known as the “Mile High City,” Denver takes visitors by surprise at every turn as its downtown area is compact and bursting with greenery in its parks, pedestrian areas and tree-lined boulevards. On arrival, we’ll meet our Tour Guide and travel to downtown Denver where we’ll enjoy a visit to the **United States Mint** and learn the history of the Mint and how coins are produced for the American public. Afterward, we’ll check-in at our downtown hotel where the afternoon is at leisure. As we’ll soon find out, Denver is a vibrant, active city with 300 days of sunshine, brilliant blue skies and breathtaking Rocky Mountain scenery.

Friday, September 8 – DENVER

(Mile High City & NIU Alumni Function) (B,RD)

A leisurely day on tour will begin with an introduction to Denver. We’ll take in Lower Downtown, affectionately known as LoDo, anchored by **Larimer Square**, the city’s oldest and most historic block. Complete with glittering lights strung over the entire block, Larimer Square’s Victorian buildings house specialty boutiques and unique restaurants. We’ll tour the **Molly Brown House Museum**, among the most visited historic sites in the state of Colorado, to learn the story of Margaret “Molly” Brown’s activism, philanthropy and passion through educational programs, exhibits and stewardship. Afterward, we’ll travel past the **State Capitol**, topped by a dome containing more than 200 ounces of real gold, **Coors Field**, home to MLB’s Colorado Rockies, and **Mile High Stadium**, home to the NFL’s Denver Bronco’s, before ending our tour with a visit to the historic **Brown Palace Hotel & Spa**, a charter member of National Trust Historic Hotels of America. The hotel opened its doors on August 12, 1892 - and hasn’t closed them for a single moment since. Following our visit, the afternoon is at leisure to explore the 16th Street Mall, a mile-long pedestrian promenade that runs through the center of the Downtown lined with outdoor cafes and retail shops.

This evening (pending scheduling) we will join up with alumni from the Denver area for a reception and dinner event.

Saturday, September 9 – DENVER / SHERIDAN (B,RD)

This morning we depart Denver as a day of travel will begin with a visit to Cheyenne, the capital of Wyoming. Here we’ll see the Wyoming State Capitol, a dominant structure on the Cheyenne skyline, and visit the **Cheyenne Depot**. Designated a National Historic Landmark, this former Union Pacific Depot has been restored to its original glory. The Depot also features the Cheyenne Depot Museum, rich with railroad history, exhibits and interactive displays. If you’ve dreamed of seeing miles of wide open space on a scenic drive across the Cowboy State, then it’s time to sit back and relax as we make our way north to Casper, a central hub during the great westward migration of the 19th century. The Oregon, California, Pony Express, Bozeman and Mormon Trails all converged in Casper, and the **National Historic Trails Interpretive Center** is a great place to start our exploration. Featuring state-of-the-art technology, the interpretive center allows visitors to experience what pioneer life was

like for early emigrants. Following our visit, we’ll continue our journey north to Sheridan. Located at the base of Wyoming’s Big Horn Mountains, Sheridan’s fabled western history and dramatic mountain vistas make for an enjoyable visit.

Sunday, September 10 – SHERIDAN / CODY (B,RD)

We are on the move again today as we depart Sheridan and travel the **Bighorn Scenic Byway**. One of three highways that cross the Bighorn National Forest from east to west, the Bighorn Scenic Byway crosses both rangeland and forest, offering a variety of scenery from mountain peaks to valley overlooks, and unique landscape features such as craggy limestone outcroppings. Our destination this afternoon is the town of Cody, founded in 1896 by the living legend, Colonel William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody, who at the age of 41 was one of the most famous men in the world. We’ll enjoy a visit to the **Buffalo Bill Historical Center**, committed to the greatness and growth of the American West, keeping western experiences alive for today’s visitors and those in the future. Tonight we’ll enjoy an evening of dinner and live award winning family entertainment at the **Cody Cattle Company**.

Monday, September 11 – CODY / WEST YELLOWSTONE (B,L)

Today we’ll set our sights on **Yellowstone National Park**, the first and one of the largest national parks in the world. Established in 1872, Yellowstone contains more than two million acres of steaming geysers, crystalline lakes, thundering waterfalls, and panoramic vistas, as well as a remarkable diversity of mammals, birds and fish. Occupying the northwestern corner of Wyoming and spilling over into Montana and Idaho, Yellowstone is one of the marvels of the world. Its heart is a volcanic plateau at an average elevation of 8,000 feet, housing over 10,000 hot springs and geysers – more than half the world’s total.

We’ll begin the northern portion of our Grand Loop Tour from the shores of **Yellowstone Lake**, the largest high-altitude lake in the lower 48 states. Traveling north, we’ll stop to view beautiful **Hayden Valley**, an excellent place to view the park’s wildlife. Next, we’ll enjoy the view at the **Grand Canyon of Yellowstone**, one of the most photographed features in all of Yellowstone. Then we’re headed to the **Mammoth Hot Springs** which glow with colors created by multi-colored bands of algae and cyanobacteria. Turning south, we’ll take advantage of the many pullouts for spectacular views of the park before arriving in the town of West Yellowstone, Montana.

Tuesday, September 12 – WEST YELLOWSTONE / JACKSON (B,L)

This morning we return to **Yellowstone National Park** to complete our Grand Loop Tour. We’ll begin our day by traveling to the world-famous **Old Faithful Geyser**. Watching Old Faithful erupt is a Yellowstone National Park tradition. We’ll stroll the boardwalk to experience the wide range of geothermal activity, including hot springs, geysers, and bubbling pools. Afterward, we’ll enjoy lunch at the **Old Faithful Inn**. As we’ll soon see, the grand lobby, known as the “Old House,” is one of the largest log



structures in the world. It was completed in 1904, and has unique decorative features including etched glass panels, a large stone fireplace, and balcony porches overlooking the Old Faithful Geyser Basin.

This afternoon we'll say farewell to Yellowstone National Park and begin making our way towards majestic **Grand Teton National Park**. The Tetons are among the youngest mountains on the continent and known world-wide for their breathtaking beauty. The mountain peaks rise so abruptly that you can look seemingly straight up to the 13,772 foot summit of the Grand Teton, towering a mile-and-a-half above the valley floor. Along the way, we'll stop to visit the **Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center**, a 22,000-square-foot facility that orients, educates, and inspires visitors to make discoveries of their own in the Grand Teton National Park. Our destination is the town of Jackson, rich with pride and appreciation of its unique scenic beauty. Did you know the name Jackson Hole refers to an entire valley in the northwest corner of Wyoming? The town of Jackson (whose name is often confused with the valley, Jackson Hole) sits at the southern end of the valley.

Wednesday, September 13 – JACKSON

(Snake River Float Trip)

(B,L)

A scenic float trip on the Snake River in Grand Teton National Park makes a trip to Jackson Hole a vacation to remember. This morning we'll return to Moose Junction where we'll meet our outfitter before shuttling up river to historic Deadman's Bar. Then we'll embark on a 10-mile **Snake River Float Trip** entirely

within Grand Teton National Park, rafting on one of America's most beautiful and unchanged wilderness river systems. As we'll soon find out, the Snake River corridor is a lifeline to many of the animals and other natural resources of Grand Teton National Park. Along the way, our experienced float trip guide will lead us through a protected sanctuary of pristine wildlife, beautiful wildflowers, sagebrush plateaus, cottonwood and spruce forests, with spectacular panoramic views of the entire Teton Range. This afternoon free time will be set aside to get acquainted with the Town Square that forms Jackson Hole's retail and artistic core. Bordered by four quirky elk-antler arches, Town Square is also home to a vibrant and rollicking music scene at venues such as the Cowboy Bar, the Silver Dollar Showroom, Town Square Tavern and the Pink Garter Theatre.

Thursday, September 14 – JACKSON

(B,RD)

This morning we'll visit to the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort and take to the skies by aerial tram to reach the summit of 10,450-foot Rendezvous Peak. From here we'll enjoy the spectacular panorama of the Teton Range and the Jackson Hole Valley. On our return to Jackson, the afternoon is at leisure, or for the more adventurous, you may find horseback riding or renting a bike appealing. Tonight we'll end our vacation in style with an evening of dinner and entertainment at the **Jackson Hole Playhouse**. We'll begin with dinner at the Saddle Rock Saloon where you're encouraged to start up the jukebox so that the staff can sing along. Afterward, we'll head over to the antique lobby for the pre-show that is both famous and authentic, before capping our evening off with a fully-staged musical comedy.

Friday, September 15 – JACKSON / CHICAGO

(B)

As all good things must come to an end, so too does our America's Treasures vacation. This morning we travel to Jackson Hole Airport in preparation for the return journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our vacation to last a lifetime and celebrate the beginning of new friendships made along the way!

*** * * Welcome Home * * ***

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of United Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Guide.
- First-class hotel accommodations.
- Meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.
- Taxes for included ground services.

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as travel insurance; airline checked luggage fees; luggage handling at airports; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s), Tour Guide and local step-on guides; and meals other than those stated above.

TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover). Tour prices do increase every year and it is possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated and additional charges will be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your trip investment from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and 2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Elite Option). If you wish to take advantage of the special above provisions, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial trip deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387.

RESPONSIBILITY

THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION and/or any travel agency and/or supplier of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories. Further, the right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour.

For more information contact the NIU Alumni Association at 815-753-1512 or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation.

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

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