

NORTHWESTERN PARK TRAILS – 15 DAYS

Day 1: Arrival day in Seattle

Welcome to the city of Seattle in Washington State, a city that oozes cool from the start, from its top notch coffee shops to its endless markets. From the top of the iconic Space Needle you can gaze across the beautiful Puget Sound, and on a clear day witness Mount Rainier in all its glory. Visit Pike Place Market to try local specialities and enjoy a spot of people watching ahead of your welcome meeting at 18:00 hrs.

Accommodation: Hotel included | Meals paid locally

Day 2-3: Seattle to Mount Rainier National Park

Your journey starts with a trip to the heart of the Cascade Mountains, home of the stunning Mount Rainier National Park. At 14,411 feet Mount Rainier looms large in the Pacific Northwest and has the greatest single peak glacial system in the United States, covering over 36 square miles of the mountain with sheer ice! With over 260 miles of well-maintained trails winding through varied terrain, you hike past glistening waterfalls, old growth forest and subalpine meadows to the many spectacular vistas this picture perfect national park has to offer.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Breakfast (x1), lunch (x2), dinner (x2) included

Day 4: Missoula, Montana

Retrace Lewis and Clark's path across the historic Columbia River en route to the 'Big Sky' cowboy country of Montana. Missoula is known as the Garden City due to its mild weather, so tonight kick back and relax under a brilliant blanket of stars.

Accommodation: Hotel/Motel included | Meals: Breakfast and lunch included

Day 5-6: Yellowstone National Park

Your next destination is Yellowstone which is the world's first national park and home to a large variety of wildlife including Grizzly Bear, wolf, bison and elk. This park is so large that its boundaries cross into three states. Most of it is in Wyoming, but parts of the reserve extend into Idaho and Montana.

Yellowstone has one of the highest concentrations of geothermal activity on the planet. Herds of bison roam amongst the erupting geysers and steam rises from the various rivers running through the park. A fire in the 1980s ravaged much of the park, but it has recovered to the extent that it is now a living testament to nature's power of regeneration. You have a full day with a Yellowstone wildlife and wolf tracking guide in the park to search for the animals who call it home, as well as learning about the flora and park ecosystems. Once you've finished learning all about this unique environment, head to Yellowstone Lake to relax with an ice cream or a glass of wine.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Breakfast (x1), lunch (x2), dinner (x2) included

Day 7-8: Jackson/Grand Teton National Park

Rising above a scene rich with extraordinary wildlife, pristine lakes and alpine terrain, the Teton Range stands proud with its peaks rising sharply from the ground. Take a scenic ferry across Jenny Lake - once you're on the other side you and your fellow travellers will hike up to Inspiration Point past a series of waterfalls and rushing rivers. At the top you'll be truly amazed by the stunning views of the lake and surrounding area. For the next two nights you overnight in the authentic Western town of Jackson.

Once home to trappers and a hideout for outlaws and rustlers, Jackson is now the base for hikers to take on some spectacular hiking trails as well as being a town renowned for its cafes and Western style saloons. Surrounded by beautiful scenery you can spend your days either hiking, mountain biking or, for the more adventurous, white-water rafting! In the evening you can steady your nerves

with a relaxing drink at the Million Dollar Cowboy Bar.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Breakfast (x2), lunch (x2), dinner (x1)

Day 9: Craters of the Moon National Monument

Cross into Idaho for an opportunity to walk amongst the moonlike formations of Craters of the Moon National Monument. When American President Calvin Coolidge signed the legislation protecting Crater of the Moon National Monument in Idaho in 1924, he called it, "a weird and scenic landscape peculiar to itself." This volcanic area is one of the best preserved basalt lava fields in the USA. NASA's Apollo astronauts used to do some of their training in this area because of a perceived resemblance to the surface of the moon. You'll start off at the visitors centre for an insight into the regions volcanic history, then take the seven mile loop road to the Big Craters area and a hike into the lava caves at Boy Scout Cave. Please bring a torch and shoes with a strong grip.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Day 10: Humboldt National Forest and Elko

The sheer rock ledges, glacial lake water and stunning views make Humboldt National Forest are a must see when travelling through Nevada. The largest forest in the lower 48 states, Humboldt is a pretty special place with some great hiking opportunities. One of the best hikes takes you up to Angel Lake. Keep eyes peeled for Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goats, birds of prey and wildflowers. You overnight at the nearby city of Elko which is rich in Western history and has a beautiful back drop of rugged mountains.

Accommodation: Hotel/Motel included | Meals: Breakfast and lunch included

Day 11-12: Lake Tahoe

Next you have two days to explore the vibrant forests and deep blue hues of the beautiful Lake Tahoe, the largest alpine lake in North America. It's so big that it contains enough water to provide every man, woman and child in the country with 200 litres of water a day, every day, for five years. It's also a major tourist recreational area in both summer and winter with one of its ski areas, Squaw Valley, playing host to the 1960 Winter Olympics. During the summer the lake is popular for water sports and beach activities including kayaking. There are hundreds of hiking trails all around the lake ranging in length and difficulty. Enjoy an included sunset catamaran cruise on the crystal clear waters of the lake. Relax as you sip champagne and watch the sun set over the lake.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Breakfast (x1), lunch (x2), dinner (x2)

Day 13-14: Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park sits nestled in the Sierra Nevada Mountain range of Northern California. Here green forest meets granite walls, several thousand ft. high. Rock climbers come from all over the world to scale the rocks whilst hikers get to walk to the base of some of the largest waterfalls in the world. After a visit to see the amazing Giant Sequoia Trees, Yosemite Valley beckons. Here you may bicycle, take a dip in the Merced River or wander the meadows. You'll get to hike on trails that enable you to really explore this wilderness paradise. The famous sites situated along these trails include Yosemite Falls, Nevada Falls, Vernal Falls, Mirror Lake and Half Dome. The views are breathtaking from every vantage point - the granite formations of Half Dome, El Capitan and Cathedral Rocks are sure to be forever etched on your mind.

Accommodation: Camping included | Meals: Breakfast (x2), lunch (x2), dinner (x2)

Day 15: Yosemite to San Francisco

Journey through California's historic gold country to 'The City by the Bay'. End your adventure with a tour of Haight-Ashbury and a walk across the iconic Golden Gate Bridge, one of the most photographed in the world. If you have time we recommend adding on a couple of extra nights to explore more of this fantastic city. For those staying on a few days, a visit to Alcatraz Prison is a must where you can learn all about the prisoners who spent their lives trying to escape with a superb audio

tour (you'll need to book in advance directly on Alcatraz Cruises website).
Meals: Breakfast included

This tour ends at our gateway hotel at approximately 17:00 hrs. We can book you post-tour accommodation at our gateway hotel if required. If you are planning to fly tonight, please do not book a flight that departs before 21:00 hrs.