

Montana – Big Sky, Yellowstone & Paradise Valley



Trip Summary

Welcome to Montana – a place we hold near and dear to our hearts. We're excited to share with you our insider's perspective on this six-day Big Sky, Yellowstone & Paradise Valley adventure. Hike with homegrown guides to secluded vistas in Yellowstone's backcountry, across meadows and to high alpine lakes. Ride horseback into the mountains with a fourth generation Montana cowboy. When night falls, relax and recharge with a soak in a soothing hot spring-fed pool and with Big Sky Country's tasty cuisine.

Itinerary

Day 1: Grotto Falls / Gallatin Canyon

Pick-up in Bozeman • Take a short hike through timber and meadows along Hyalite Creek to Grotto Falls • Enjoy a gourmet picnic lunch upon return from your adventure • Shuttle up Gallatin Canyon to our zip base and gear up for a zip line tour across the Gallatin River • Tonight's dinner is at the 320 Steakhouse and Saloon • *Overnight 320 Guest Ranch (L, D)*

Day 2: Beehive Basin / Big Sky

Embark on an all-day hike amid the Spanish Peaks to Beehive Basin with sweeping views of the Madison and Gallatin Ranges, including Big Sky's Lone Mountain (an alternate hike may be arranged on early season departures, depending on trail conditions) • Lunch trailside by the shore of an alpine lake • Continue your trek through wildflower meadows, glacial streams and the distinctive crags of Beehive Peak • Enjoy a night on your own with a shuttle to Big Sky by your guides or choose to stay back at the ranch • *Overnight 320 Guest Ranch (B, L)*

Day 3: Grand Prismatic / Old Faithful / Lake Yellowstone / Canyon

Shuttle to Yellowstone for a hike alongside Midway Geyser Basin to an unforgettable overlook of Grand Prismatic Hot Spring • A short drive away is Old Faithful and the Upper Geyser Basin, home to the largest collection of geysers in the world • Take some time to explore this area with your knowledgeable guide before a delicious picnic lunch • Transfer to Canyon, stopping along the way to take an easy hike to Storm Point along Lake Yellowstone's shoreline • This evening, enjoy dinner at Canyon Lodge • *Overnight Canyon Lodge (B, L, D)*

Day 4: Grand Canyon of Yellowstone / Yellowstone River

Embark on a backcountry hike along the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone, ending at a viewpoint of the incredible 308-foot Lower Falls • Shuttle to Gardiner where we enjoy lunch at the historic Roosevelt Arch • Load into rafts for a beautiful and splashy ride down the Yellowstone River • Drive through Paradise Valley to Chico Hot Springs Resort and Day Spa • Dinner tonight at a nearby local spot • *Overnight Chico Hot Springs (B, L, D)*

Day 5: Absaroka Mountains / Paradise Valley

Shuttle to the Flying Diamond Ranch and mount up for a leisurely morning horseback ride high into the Absaroka Mountains • Our picnic lunch spot boasts spectacular mountain views • A short afternoon hike to a backcountry waterfall will set the stage for a perfect evening • Back at Chico, soak in a natural hot spring-fed pool before feasting on a candlelit farewell dinner • *Overnight Chico Hot Springs (B, L, D)*



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Day 6: Chico Hot Springs / Bozeman

Take a morning hike to a nearby trout pond or enjoy a last morning soak in the pool • Return to Bozeman airport and area hotels • (B)

***Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

Activities

Zip Lining: Gear and instruction provided, no experience necessary (**260 lb weight limit)

Hiking: 2 to 6 miles per hike, easy to difficult terrain

Horseback Riding: Easygoing walking pace, no experience necessary (**250 lb weight limit)

Whitewater Rafting: Class I-III rapids, no experience necessary

Discovery: Unlock the mysteries of Yellowstone's geyser basins. Wander your way along winding trails through Montana's pristine backcountry, unlocking the secrets of the forest along the way. Scrutinize the pros and cons of wildfire in a lodgepole pine tree ecosystem. Search for moose, bears, wolves, and elk in the middle of a supervolcano's massive caldera. Taste for yourself the tender juiciness of a Montana home grown beef filet mignon. Take in the beauty of North America's largest high alpine lake, Yellowstone Lake and make sure to ask about why the lake trout are such a big problem. Listen to a rancher's side of the story as you hear Martin or Jack Davis, fourth generation cowboys, explain how Yellowstone's reintroduced wolves have affected their cattle population. Learn why Chico Hot Springs Resort is a favorite celebrity haunt. Discover for yourself this place they call Big Sky Country with the experts in adventure travel.

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions, and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, Austin Adventures guides will help you select the distance that's right for you.

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Distinctive Accommodation

Nights 1 & 2: The 320 Guest Ranch

In the west, life has certainly gotten easier than it was in the early days, even at a Montana guest ranch. But some of the things that mattered most back then are still important today; like delicious, hearty meals, and the 320's friendly, laid-back attitude. Experience a 110 year old homestead - reshaped into a Montana guest ranch. Relive the early western atmosphere and down-home hospitality - all in one big beautiful, historic property. The 320 Ranch offers exceptional cowboy comfort just south of Big Sky Ski Resort, where the pristine Gallatin River winds through sage and towering pines, and mountains rise up against crystal blue skies.

Night 3: Canyon Lodge

Featuring five lodge buildings built in 2016, Canyon Lodge is situated in the center of the park a short distance away from the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River. The rustic accommodations allow for the opportunity to step back from technology and embrace lodging in the country's oldest national park. Located on site, you'll find several restaurant options, a general store and a visitor center for those looking to explore this sprawling accommodation.

Nights 4 & 5: Chico Hot Springs Resort & Day Spa

The perfect location for your Montana getaway. This historic resort is located in the heart of Paradise Valley, just north of Yellowstone National Park – and nestled in the foothills of the breathtaking Absaroka Mountain Range. Chico offers an extraordinary variety of accommodations, exceptional dining, outdoor adventures, live entertainment, ultimate relaxation, all with a warm smile and welcoming spirit from their friendly staff. This rustic-chic inn and day spa boasts mineral hot spring-fed pools, extensive gardens, & soothing spa services. In June of 1999, Chico Hot Springs was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions – except one dinner on your own – are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



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Arrival & Departures

Please plan on arriving at least one day prior to your trip departure. Day one of your itinerary starts at 7:45 or 8:00 am, depending on your hotel. Your trip ends with a drop-off at either the Bozeman airport (12:00 pm) or your Bozeman hotel (12:30 pm).

Trip Price

\$2,898 (\$580 single supplement)

Trip Length

6 days / 5 nights

2021 Dates

June 27 – July 2

July 18 – 23

August 22 – 27**

August 29 – September 3

September 5 – 10

** *Life is Good Departure*

Host City

Bozeman, Montana

Airport code: BZN

Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*For us, Montana is home.
For adventurers, it's paradise.*

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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800-575-1540

Phone: 406-655-4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions.
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities and national park entrance and permit fees.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- One dinner during the trip.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.



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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Solo Travelers

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement". If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. We at Austin Adventures will do our best to match you with a suitable roommate of the same gender before departure. If you book 90 days or more before the trip and we cannot find you a roommate, 50% of the private room cost will be due at final payment time. If you book within 90 days of departure and we cannot find you a roommate, the full private room charge will be applied. If we do find you a roommate between final payment and before the trip departs, we will refund the single supplement amount paid. Some exceptions apply.

Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.