

## **ITINERARY- Beartooth Highway 75th Anniversary Press Trip**

**August 29<sup>th</sup>-September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010**

***Are You Ready to Experience America's Most Beautiful Drive (and then some)?***

Join us as we explore the dramatic landscapes, historic richness, recreational bounty and Americana towns surrounding the Beartooth All American Road. Passing through one of the highest, most rugged areas in the lower 48, there are over 20 peaks reaching over 12,000 feet and more than 10,000 lakes dotting the high alpine tundra. Our tour will loop through Yellowstone National Park where we'll spend a night at the iconic Lake Hotel before concluding in the aptly named Paradise Valley.

### [Beartooth Highway Beta](#)

#### **August 29, Sunday**

Arrive into Billings mid-day (Molly, along with Kelly McCandless from the Billings Chamber, Angela Beaumont, General Manager of The Pollard Hotel and Jenn Nelson of Red Lodge will be there to meet you)

Lunch in Billings at the Montana Rib and Chop House (Sponsored by the Billings Chamber of Commerce)

Depart to Red Lodge. Check into the historic [Pollard Hotel](#). (Montana Office of Tourism rep Donnie Sexton will join the group in Red Lodge)

5:30 (ish) – 7:30 – Time to enjoy Red Lodge on your own *or*

6:15 – Option to take a guided walking tour of historic downtown Red Lodge with Carbon County Historical Society. Local guides Scott Lauf and Jeff McNeish will pick you up at the local hangout, [Red Lodge Ales](#).

7:30 – Dinner at a local favorite, [Bridge Creek Backcountry Kitchen and Wine Bar](#)

#### **August 30, Monday**

Breakfast at The Pollard

8:15 – Pick up at The Pollard

8:30 - 11:30 – Bike down the Beartooth Highway (no pedaling required!) with [Beartooth Bike Tours](#)

Lunch

1:15 – Depart The Pollard for a visit to the [Lazy EL Ranch](#), a 4th generation family-owned working cattle ranch in Roscoe. Jael Kampfe, the ranch manager will give a verbal history of the ranch while leading a walking tour of the grounds. Then, you'll saddle up for a horseback trail ride with the wranglers. Afterwards, kick up your heels at the cookhouse porch before enjoying a steak dinner.

6:00 – Dinner at the Lazy EL cookhouse

Overnight at The Pollard

**August 31, Tuesday**

Breakfast at The Pollard

Depart for *Top of the World* via the Beartooth Highway (in two vans) with locals Marv Kauffman and Phil Robertson who will give a detailed, educational tour covering: the geology and ecology of the area as well as the engineering challenges of the highway itself. Be prepared for frequent stops.

Gourmet picnic lunch en route from the Pollard Hotel, compliments of Red Lodge Mountain Resort

Hiking options along the Beartooth (light duty jaunt or high aerobic peak bagging, your choice)

Continue on to the historic mining town of Cooke City. Check in to motels; free time to check out town, visit the classic general store and meet the locals. (Rick Hoeninghausen, Director of Sales and Marketing for Xanterra, Yellowstone Park's concessionaire, will join the group)

Dinner at the [Beartooth Café](#), featuring local foods and an impressive list of brews (Donna Rowland, Executive Director with the Cooke City Chamber, will join our group for dinner)

**September 1, Wednesday**

6am – Pick up coffee and box breakfasts in Cooke

6:30am – Hop into the two vans for prime-time wildlife viewing in the Lamar Valley

Meet Rick McIntyre, one of Yellowstone National Park's preeminent wolf researchers, to learn about the wolf habitat in the Park.

Weave through the Park, with a lunch stop at either Roosevelt or Canyon, then on to the Lower Falls of the Grand Canyon. Time to walk around and explore. We will follow the Yellowstone River to Lake Village and the Lake Yellowstone Hotel, celebrating its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011. Check into hotel then have options to relax on-site or go for a quick hike.

Lodging and dinner at Lake Hotel, hosted by Rick Hoeninghausen

**September 2, Thursday**

7:00 – Buffet breakfast at Lake Yellowstone Hotel

8:30 – Depart Lake Hotel

9:30 - 11:30 – Kayaking with OARS, launching from Grant Village

Picnic box lunch from Lake Yellowstone Hotel

Drive to another fabled Yellowstone Park landmark – Old Faithful; then wind towards the Park's north entrance at Mammoth/Gardiner, passing by thermal features like gurgling mud pots, steamy geysers and hissing fumaroles.

Late afternoon check-in at [Chico Hot Springs](#) in Paradise Valley

Time to hike or trail run and swim/soak in the hot springs

7:00 – Dinner in the Chico Wine Cellar; known for fine wines, local ingredients and on-site garden goods (General Manager Colin Davis will be joining us for dinner, along with Robin Hoover, Executive Director of Yellowstone Country)

**September 3, Friday**

Hint: the *best* time to hit the pool is first thing in the morning, when the fresh water is released.

Buffet breakfast at Chico

Head to Bozeman for flights home

*(Itinerary subject to change)*

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