

## **Suggested Itinerary: Denver, Colorado, Wyoming & Yellowstone National Park**

Begin your Western adventure in Denver, Colorado's capital, also known as the Mile-High City. From there, head west to experience Wyoming's frontier history along with the breath-taking majesty of Yellowstone National Park.

### **Denver, Colorado**

*Suggested: 2 - 3 days*

Denver is the perfect blend of outdoor beauty and big-city charm. It was also one of the first U.S. cities to embrace the craft-brewing movement. To celebrate this fact, grab a pint and join a brewery tour on the Denver Beer Trail, home to some 20 craft breweries, including the city's oldest microbrewery, Wynkoop Brewing Company. Denver's Larimer Square, now a bustling hub of shops, restaurants, bars and clubs, was the city's first block, founded before Colorado became a territory. LoDo, the city's lower downtown area, is Denver's oldest neighborhood. It's also where you'll find the Colorado Rockies baseball stadium, numerous art galleries and boutiques, and dozens of restaurants and bars. If time allows, plan a side trip to beautiful Rocky Mountain National Park.

### **Cheyenne, Wyoming**

*Suggested: 2 days*

Set out from Denver for a scenic, 90-minute drive north to Cheyenne, Wyoming's capital, which is filled with small-city charms. Start at the Cheyenne Depot, a majestic 19th century railroad station that now houses a visitor center and the interactive Cheyenne Depot Museum (perfect for railroad buffs). Continue with a walking tour of downtown, making sure to stop at one of the many Western wear shops to try on cowboy boots and hats. Save time to tour the Wyoming State Museum to see prehistoric fossils and other artefacts from Wyoming's past. Experience an Old West



adventure at Terry Bison Ranch, a massive expanse of grassland that's home to some 2,300 bison. Visitors can hop aboard the bison tour train, go horseback riding, enjoy fishing, all-terrain vehicle excursions and a meal at the Old West restaurant on site.

## Casper, Wyoming

*Suggested: 2 days*

Casper, Wyoming's second-largest city, is about 180 miles (290 km) northwest of Cheyenne. Start with a hike up Casper Mountain in warmer months or, in winter, a trip to the mountain's Hogadon Ski Area for downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling. Casper honors its frontier spirit with special events throughout the year. The annual Wyoming Heritage Days, held in June, features historical reenactments showcasing Native American life, the Pony Express, infantry and more. Rodeo is also big in Casper and one of the biggest rodeo events is the College National Finals Rodeo, which brings 400 competitors from more than 100 colleges and universities to the ring.

## Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

*Suggested: 2 - 3 days*

No trip out West would be complete without a visit to Yellowstone National Park, America's first national park. This enormous park (more than 90% of which is in Wyoming with small segments in Montana and Idaho), sits atop a volcanic hot spot that creates impressive geothermal activity. Grab a seat and wait for the next eruption of Old Faithful, a geyser that spews hot water approximately 17 times each day. While there, stop in the historic Old Faithful Inn, believed to be the world's largest log structure. The inn was built in 1904 from local logs and stone. While exploring the park, stay on the marked boardwalks and trails to see other natural wonders such as hot springs, geysers and pools. Yellowstone is home to an impressive number of animals, including wolves, otters, elk, bison, bear, moose and lynx. You're likely to encounter wildlife during a day hike or mountain bike ride on one of the park's many backcountry trails.

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