

# Lakota Dreamkeeper

Enter the Circle of the Storytellers



Where: South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana  
When: Sept 23 - 29  
Tribes: Lakota

## Highlights:

He Sapa Wakan – the Sacred Black Hills ▲ Wind Cave ▲ The Buffalo Stampede  
Pine Ridge Indian Reservation ▲ Wounded Knee ▲ Maco Sika – the Badlands  
The Little Bighorn ▲ Mato Tipila, the Bear’s Lodge (Devil’s Tower)

## Overview:



Everything you have ever heard, read or imagined about the history and lifeways of the Plains Indian Nations beckons as you enter the world of the Lakota, people of the Buffalo Nation. It is through song and dance and storytelling that the culture has survived and the oral tradition imbues each story keeper with great responsibility since only when one relies on writing are details forgotten. Join the circle and relax in the company of fine historians and storytellers; the guardians of centuries-old wisdom. Take this opportunity to traverse the wide open prairies, shining mountains and mighty rivers of the Great Sioux Nation, to see buffalo stampede on the prairie as they did in the old days, hear of legendary figures such as

Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Man Afraid, Black Elk, to stand where they stood, see what they saw and to feel their struggles and triumphs.

*Lakota Dreamkeeper* creates a once in a lifetime experience for anyone who feels an affinity with the indigenous cultures of the Great Plains and the desire to interact with, learn of and hear from the people whose history, stories and spirituality are held within these lands.

## Daily Itinerary:



### **Day 1** (Sat Sept 22)

*Arrive Rapid City, SD (RAP) and enjoy a relaxed evening at your hotel prior to the beginning of your journey.*

### **Day 2** (Sun Sept 23)

We begin by entering He Sapa Wakan – The Heart of Everything That Is – the sacred Black Hills, Holy Land of the Lakota people. At Wind Cave, the site of Lakota genesis we begin to appreciate the complexities of Lakota cosmology and spirituality founded on Mitakuye Oyasin; the belief that all things are related in the circle. We seek out Tatanka, the buffalo, and in sight of one of the last remaining free-roaming herds of buffalo we explore the spiritual and physical significance of the buffalo to the People.

Stay: Rushmore Plaza, SD

### **Day 3 (Mon Sept 24)**

This morning we are up early to feel the thunder! There is no sight or sound like a stampede of buffalo on the plains and this is the one opportunity of your life to experience the moving black cloud; Tatanka, on whom the ancestors relied for all sustenance. Although this spectacular event is controlled (as far as its possible for thirteen hundred 1500lb buffalo to be, and you will view from a designated safe place) if you close your eyes, you can imagine the melee of the old-time tribal buffalo hunt. And if you open them again, the stupendous sight of the hunt is right before you. Later this day at The Place of the Thunders, Hinhan Kaja Paha, we appreciate the beauty of the highest point in the Black Hills upon which Black Elk experienced much of what embodied the story of his life as told in Black Elk Speaks. Among the granite spires and brook laden grassy meadows of the Black Hills, we experience the tradition of storytelling, listen to the earthy wood wind tones of the Native American Flute.



Stay: Rushmore Plaza, SD

### **Day 4 (Tues Sept 25)**

HBO's recent Emmy-sweep, "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee," told of the 1890 massacre when nearly 300 Lakota men, women and children in the process of surrendering weapons, were mercilessly shot down. Although this movie, named like Dee Brown's book, 'Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee' received critical acclaim, it won scant praise from local people and descendents of the massacre victims. So our next stop is a small but excellent museum in Wall, SD which tells the real story with respect and sensitivity.

The Badlands is renowned as a geologist's heaven with its 75 million years worth of rock accumulation ...now eroding at the rate of an inch per year. But amid the multi-hued pinnacles and buttes known to the Lakota as *Mako Sica*, our focus is the People and we listen for the stories of the Stronghold, and of the Spirit Prayer movement. Standing in this ragged moonscape of harsh, arid beauty, the perspectives of Lakota ambassadors whose ancestors gave all to protect Lakota culture are simultaneously poignant, yet uplifting.

This night we stay in cabins at the Badlands where with minimal light pollution the Lakota night sky offers an incredible star show.

Stay: Cedar Pass, SD

### **Day 5 (Wed Sept 26)**

Travel to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and hear in situ the story of the Oglala Lakota people. We visit the original Pine Ridge Agency and tour the Heritage Center at Red Cloud School to admire the beautiful Fine Arts and crafts of the Lakota. On Pine Ridge you will have opportunity to buy art and jewelry direct from Lakota artisans. Our day culminates with a visit to Wounded Knee; there can be no substitute for visiting the site yourself and hearing the truth of the event from Lakota guides who can also explain the reverberations in contemporary Indian life.

Stay: Rapid City

### **Day 6 (Thurs Sept 27)**

The Vore Buffalo Jump is regarded as one of the world's premier archeological sites. Alongside fascinating mechanics involving the enticement of small groups of buffalo from the herd to run over the edges of cliff formations, our interest also reflects the ceremonial journey that is linked to the sun's passage through the constellations and the relationship between the buffalo and human beings. At the Bear's Lodge or Mato

Tipila, a stone obelisk known to mainstream tourism as Devil's Tower, we find that there are no devils at this place; an ancient Sun Dance site! Stories and explanations originating from seven independent Plains Indians tribes tell remarkably similar history and cultural connotations of this sacred rock's creation and of its mirror-image in the connecting star world.

Stay: Sheridan, WY



**Day 7 (Fri Sept 28)**

The Battle Where The Girl Saved Her Brother went down in Cheyenne history as an event of prodigious bravery, and brought Buffalo Calf Trail Woman to spiritual immortality amongst her people. Amid the US Cavalry however, this battle is not so well remembered. Had the Lakota and Cheyenne not prevailed, would the Little Bighorn ever have happened? Hike the Rosebud Battlefield site, an easy stroll amid wild plums, timsila and chokecherry and begin to appreciate the alliance between the Cheyenne and Lakota that ultimately brought victory to the Plains people. Then we take the 'Spirit Road', the route Custer took to the Little Bighorn toward the Indian village site along the Little Bighorn River. Standing where Crazy Horse crossed the Little Bighorn River to meet Custer's 7th, we follow the battle as it unfolded, following the story across the battlefield, learning not only of the fate of those who fought for their respective nations, but the lasting results of the battle into modern day times for the Lakota and Cheyenne peoples. Weir Point, Medicine Tail Coulee, Calhoun Hill, the Cheyenne Village - infamous places, and today you follow the footsteps of legendary figures such as Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Gall and many others. You may also opt for the unique opportunity to actually ride on the Little Bighorn Battlefield, to truly see the terrain as these legendary warriors on each side saw it June 25, 1876.

Stay: *Sheridan*



**Day 8 (Sat Sept 29)**  
Depart from Billings, MT

Can I extend this itinerary? Yes

## On the Trail of Brother Bear



Don't leave! Spend three wonderful days reconnecting with Mother Earth in this unfinished land; an earth sculpture in the making! For here in this special land are studded more geysers, fumaroles and mud pots than any other place on the planet.

Experience a natural wonderland where the bear, buffalo, elk and wolves roam free as the Creator intended; the perfect place to reflect that *Yellowstone Is Indian Country*.



Witness the inner workings of Mother Earth as Old Faithful erupts and absorb the exquisite raw beauty of Artist's Point at the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

We will search for bears and wolves in the glorious Hayden Valley, learn of the bear's role in indigenous cultural context and reflect his role as the giver of strength and healing.

Stay: *Yellowstone/Cody*

**Day 11 (Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept)** Depart from Billings, MT (BIL)



**What people said** about their journey with Go Native America



Oh what a wonderful 'love affair' I've just had on this Go Native America trip; people, nature, culture, color, music... and unlike past love affairs this is just the beginning and on-going nurture of a new-found love.

**Maura Devlin, N Ireland**



First day back at work and already I was wishing the Go Native America tour had continued throughout the rest of the USA - what a epic journey that would be! This trip has been such an enlightening and enchanting experience. The more I learn the more questions I have & the more intrigued I become.

**Cindy Wang, Washington DC**



We had an amazing journey, especially to Pine Ridge – very emotional for all of us. I really enjoyed everyone's perspectives; it made for an interesting blend of personalities. Thank you again.

**Terry Hess, New York**

## Journey Information

**Arrival** Rapid City, SD (RAP)  
**Departure:** Billings, MT (BIL)  
**Price:** \$2895 (Add-on \$1295)  
**Estimated Flight Cost** (from UK) £575

**Who will enjoy this journey?** Adults interested in Lakota culture, history, travel, wildlife and new experiences in respectful environments.

**Minimum numbers:** This tour requires a 5 person minimum.

**What is included?** Airport-hotel shuttle transfers, all tour transportation, escorted tour guide services, all accommodations including your arrival night at the destination city and relevant info packages.

**What is not included?** Flights to/from tour, food - tour members save money by purchasing meals of their own choice. Sundries (drinks, phone calls, laundry etc). Museum or National Park Entrance fees.

**Optional Extras:**

- Rest days before or after the tour
- On The Trail Of Brother Wolf

**All tours on tribal lands and wilderness areas require flexibility.** Time is not exact and things happen when they happen. There may be itinerary changes - often additions! Due to the developing tourism industry in the area changes can and do occur in this type of program. Weather conditions, sometimes severe enough to limit where we can drive or walk, can also alter the program. As visitors, please respect this, and remain flexible and open to local conditions, safety concerns and unforeseen opportunities. Our guides will do their best to keep things on track and in the event that our schedule changes, they will try to keep disruption to a minimum, and organise other options as far as it is reasonable and practical to do so.

## **General Information:**

### **Transport...**

We travel in comfortable, air-conditioned vehicles, ranging from 4-wheel drive vehicles (Range Rover/Jeep Sport Utility or similar) to 15 seat passenger vans. All modes of transport are spacious enough for our tour members to travel in comfort. However, luggage space is of a premium, therefore we urge you to read our 'Packing Checklist' - it is amazing how little you need to take.

### **Health and Vaccinations...**

It is important that you have both a dental and medical check-up and we recommend that you ensure your Tetanus inoculations are up to date.

### **Baggage Allowance...**

With limited room available in the vehicles it is important that everyone travel as light as possible. Please bring a soft hold-all / sports bag, and not a hard suitcase. Hotels will have laundry facilities and these are generally big, fast and easy to use.

### **Accommodation/Lodging...**

Wherever possible, we support tribally owned and/or operated properties. We stay in a wide range of good quality accommodations on our journeys. All rooms are en-suite as standard; many have swimming pools and often laundry facilities. We choose from established hotel chains, log cabins in National Parks or unique period properties, and please note:

### **Temperature/Weather...**

Usually our trips are planned for optimum weather conditions, however this is Yellowstone! Please take nothing for granted - things can change very quickly. You will need good sunscreen and sunglasses, a sunhat and a fleece jacket. Be prepared, and expect the unexpected. A good winter jacket is a must and for this tour, snow pants/leggings should be worn.

You'll need broken in hiking/walking boots or shoes, and the best way to dress is to layer, layer, layer! A good daypack is useful. Overall the tour is very casual.

### **Insurance...**

Travel insurance is a vital aspect to booking a holiday, giving you protection against unforeseen circumstances that could otherwise spoil your holiday. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that properly covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. We strongly advise you obtain travel insurance at your time of booking so that you are protected against cancellation and you must provide us with details of your insurance with your final payment. For your own safety and protection, we will not allow tour members to alight our vehicles unless we have copies of your travel insurance policy, or you have US health insurance in place.

### **How to Book...**

Before you book, we recommend that you carefully read the enclosed information and itinerary. To book your place on this tour, please telephone or email with any questions you may have about the tour, then book the tour online on our secure site. A deposit of \$750 is due in order to hold your space on the tour or if you book less than twelve weeks prior to departure, full payment is due at the time of booking.

### **Confirmation...**

Upon receipt of your booking form and deposit, we will send you acknowledgement of your booking. Relevant information that applies to the tour, including any suggested reading and general information about the region, climate and Native people will follow.

### **Method of Payment...**

Payments can be made in USD (\$) by international check, money order, bank draft, wire or credit card, and you are responsible for fees charged by your bank/card. There may be an additional 2.5% charge if paying by credit card. USD check payments should be made payable to Go Native America.



## JOURNEY BOOKING FORM 2012

Mr./ Ms Mrs/ Dr	First Name	Surname	Date of birth	Occupation	Nationalit y	Passport No	Expiry Date

**BOOKING MADE BY:**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**POSTCODE / ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE CONTACT(S)** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Choice trip \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice trip \_\_\_\_\_

**Declaration:** On behalf of all persons on this booking form, I have read, understood and accepted the booking conditions dated 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2011, booking information dated 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2011, and itinerary provided by Go Native America.

I am duly authorized to make this agreement.

To the best of my knowledge, no person will be traveling against medical advice. I am over 18 years.

Signed:

Name (print):

Date:

If submitting this form by email attachment please also put the wording of the above declaration in the body of the email to us.

**PAYMENT**

A deposit of \$750 payable for every tour member. Full payment is required if within 90 days of the trip. We accept major credit cards, US checks, international/money orders or PayPal to [sarah@gonativeamerica.com](mailto:sarah@gonativeamerica.com)

- I enclose a USD check for \_\_\_\_\_  
This is my journey deposit/part payment/full payment. (Checks are payable to Go Native America.)
- I wish to pay by credit card
- I prefer to give card details by phone. The best number and time to reach me is:
- I would like to pay my deposit by pay pal



Please note that for MasterCard, Visa, Discover, or Amex payments of *final balances* there is a 3% surcharge on top of the quoted price of your journey as to cover the CC facility. We do not charge on payments of deposits only. The charge will apply if you are making your full payment by credit card at the time of booking.

I certify that this is my card and authorize you to charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This is my holiday deposit / part payment / full payment (please circle)

Card Type (i.e. Visa, MasterCard, Delta etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Card No: 

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Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Start date (if available) \_\_\_\_\_ Issue No (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

Security number \_\_\_\_\_ (3 numbers, usually found on the security strip where you sign the card))

Cardholders Name as shown on the card \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOWN / CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **COUNTY / STATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTRY** \_\_\_\_\_ **POSTCODE / ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cardholder's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Please automatically also take my balance from this card when due 90 days prior to departure.
- Please call me before charging my card for the balance of this journey
- I intend to make a bank transfer/electronic payment and will contact Go Native America for bank details.

**Please assist us with some additional information**

- ▲ Where did you hear of Go Native America? (Please circle)  
Magazine : TV : Newspaper : Google Search : Yahoo Search : Referred by friend
  
- ▲ Have you found any other tour that looks comparable to those Go Native America offer? Yes  No   
*If so, why did you choose Go Native America?*  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- ▲ Are any of the following important to you? (Please circle for yes, leave blank for no)  
experiencing new cultures : visiting new places : fair trade tourism : shopping  
history : eco-tourism : photography : philosophy : wildlife conservation : powwows  
sustainable tourism : solitude and peace : arts or music : meeting interesting people  
lively discourse family/kids activities : transformational experiences indigenous languages  
physical/outdoor activities : experiencing tribal celebrations