

Lakota! Stories In Stone



When: June 17-24
Where: Wyoming
Who: Lakota, Cheyenne and Shoshoni

Highlights:

Bighorn Canyon ▲ Fort Washakie Powwow ▲ Lapidary and jewelry workshops ▲
Shoshone Indian Reservation ▲ Wind River Canyon ▲ Oxbow Bend on the Snake River
Legend Rock ▲ Castle Gardens ▲ The Grand Tetons ▲ Jackson Hole

Overview:

All cultures on this planet acknowledge rock. On this special journey through some of the oldest rock on the planet, we attempt to decipher human and ecological codes left through the ages in the beauty of the Bighorn Mountains, the serenity of Wind River Canyon, and the immense splendor of the Tetons. We savor the sights and sounds of Powwow on the Arapaho Reservation, investigate communicative patterns in the Rock Art of the Old Ones, and as we traverse the plains, mountains, plains, desert and canyons we search out the ultimate in lasting memories.

Jhon Goes In Center, your guide for this extraordinary explanation of cultures storied in stone, says "I am a Lakota and so my world-view and values are still steeped in natural law, and of course our explanation and understanding of creation and our genesis is derived and practiced with a relationship to All That Is. Rocks are alive and talk to those that listen."

Jhon (Oglala Lakota) is a renowned Lakota silversmith and Master of many artistic techniques, both traditional and contemporary, and as such he creates Art that blends with the Lakota way of life. A devoted lapidary, his unique creations feature agates which have taken millions of years to form, and just months to transform into fine wearable art utilizing his wealth of artistic technique.

In the Lakota language *Wotawe* is the melding of the blood of the earth. Inyan, the first rock in creation, turned himself inside out, becoming brittle and causing his blood to become water. When you view Jhon's work, his agates attest to this ancient phenomenon.

An integral part of this journey will be the opportunity to search for your own special rock, appreciate its genesis, understand its cultural significance and with Jhon's expert guidance to create your own timeless piece of wearable art.



Daily Itinerary



Day 1 (Sun June 17)

Arrive in Billings, MT and after shuttling to your hotel, spend a relaxing evening prior to meeting your group next morning in the lobby.
Stay: Billings, MT

Day 2 (Mon June 18)

After a short orientation with Lakota guide Jhon Goes In Center we begin our journey on the water, floating through the Bighorn Canyon, and exploring Bad Pass Trail, a 10,000 year old beaten pathway studded with tipi rings and over 500 rock cairns. We enjoy a night-sky in the Bighorn Mountains and as we star-gaze, devoid of light pollution, we ponder Lakota Star Knowledge.

Stay: Bighorn Mountain Lodge



Day 3 (Tues June 19)

Legend Rock is Petroglyph heaven! The experts call this a Proto-Shoshonean art site, but separated from that, we peel back the layers of academic misrepresentation and find that within the boundaries of the rock art site known as Legend Rock exists a graphic representation of the creation explanation held by the Arapaho, Cheyenne and their Algonquin kin.

Stay: Thermopolis



Day 4 (Wed June 20)

What a treat... on this, summer solstice, we float and skim down the Wind River Canyon, stopping for a delicious lunch at a tipi camp. For those who'd like to brave the rapids (mainly 3s and one good 4), enjoy the white water route, and for those who prefer the calm of a leisurely scenic float, have your camera at the ready as you glide through the rock of ages. This evening we spend (optional) time with Jhon in a practical workshop setting, learning the basics and intricacies of silverwork and jewelry setting.

Stay: Riverton, WY



Day 5 (Thurs June 21)

The imagery at Castle Gardens represents the power of traditional belief and ceremony, and the ability of the faithful to be able to transport themselves and visualize that which is beyond the linear boundaries of the western contemporary mind. We spend our morning amid the barren high plains desert beauty, decoding messages from the Old Ones. This afternoon we explore the Shoshone Indian reservation as preparations are made for the biggest event of the year on Wind River.

Stay: Riverton, WY



Day 6 (Fri June 22)

It's the Fort Washakie Powwow – the largest and most flamboyant powwow in Wyoming. We join the excitement at this outstanding local powwow, soaking in the joy and the power of the dancers, singers and drummers as they stomp and whirl, whoop and scream, beat and pulse.



Traditional dancers, fancy dancers, grass dancers, chicken hop dancers - they are all dancing, because any Native Powwow is the very embodiment of Native Pride and on this day we see the continuance of culture past to present to future.

Stay: Dubois, WY



Day 7 (Sat June 23)

The Oxbow Bend of the Snake River is as famous a vista as the Grand Tetons soaring out of the Jackson Hole Valley and on this day we invigorate our spirits and discuss the many manifestations of Inyan we have experienced as we luxuriate in the sheer beauty that surrounds us. In whose tribal footsteps did you walk? Did you cross the trails of the Ancients? And which of the raw rock treasures you have gathered this week will you transform to your shining Keeper of the Memories?

Stay: Togwatee Lodge, WY



Day 8 (Sun June 24)

Depart Jackson WY,

Nobody ever wants to leave this glorious country and luckily, you don't have to leave the Native American world just yet. Stay immersed within the beauty of the unfinished land.

We all originate from tribal peoples.

Take this path toward the beauty of Mother Earth.

What people said about their Go Native America journeys



I don't have words to express my gratitude to you. I came to experience the land of my ancestors- to see it, feel it, smell it, and know its energy. Your stories of how it really was bring tears to my heart, but also joy in knowing the truth. Wopila Toksa. Mitakuye Oyasin

Karin Mack

Friendships were made between like-minded people interested in learning about Native American culture, and adventure and laughter became the order of the days. The tour culminated, for us, in Yellowstone where our guide used his knowledge as a wildlife photographer to gift us with a rare wolf sighting and to point out many more wildlife such as buffalo, elk and moose...

For those who do "Go Native," you can be assured of a journey of the spirit and an adventure different from any other and that you won't ever forget.

Sue Sutherland

The 3 days in Yellowstone were crazy!! I have never experienced anything like that before. The nature is so beautiful, and all the animals we saw were so cool. And as you know I was most glad to see the wolf that we actually did see, but also the bear that ran across the road was very cool! I'm very very happy that we saw the wild mustangs. I cant remember how many there was but at least 12, and it was very cool to actually see real wild mustangs and a real stallion with his herd:)

Me and my dad thank you so much for the journey and I would really like to come back some time.

Mattias Borg, Sweden:)

Please give our love to everyone we met - we had a wonderful, wonderful trip and we keep telling everyone we know how great Go Native America was, it was a fabulous tour... and we could not have asked for a better trip. It was so educational, and there are not enough words to tell you how much this trip meant to us. It was everything we expected and more. Thank you. We'll stay in touch

Charlotte and Bob Pack, Pennsylvania

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. I feel that the more I learn the more questions I have and the more intrigued I become. Oh, and the landscape! I never envisioned that Arizona would be such a parched desert beauty; I can see why only 11% of Americans own a passport and only 7% use it!

Cindy Wang, Washington DC

Frequently Asked Questions About *Stories in Stone*

I'm not sure about the rock collecting thing? I have never done it before and doesn't it take more time than we have to polish stones?

Good point! Yes it usually takes about 6 weeks to polish them well, so although we will have a selection of pre-polished stones you can choose from to make your own jewelry piece from, the stone you collect will be polished and set for you by the artistic hand of Jhon Goes In Center himself, then sent you when it is ready. Now that is quite a souvenir!!

If there is another native art form that I'd like to try, would that be possible?

Please let us know ahead of time. If we can accommodate you we sure will, just bear in mind that you could have extra costs involved with the procurement of the correct supplies on your behalf. Lets talk about it! It's always fun to try something new.

Journey Information

Arrival: Stories In Stone Billings, MT (BIL)
Departure: Jackson Hole, WY (JAC)
Price: \$2895

Who will enjoy this journey? Adults interested in Native American cultures, arts, crafting, geology, philosophy, history, travel, wildlife and *new experiences* in respectful environments.

Minimum numbers: Each tour requires an 8 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 National Park Entrance fees.

Optional Extras:

- Rest days before or after the tour – please call/email for costs

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 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 jacket is a must and you'll need broken in hiking/walking boots or shoes. The best way to dress is to layer, layer, layer! A good daypack is useful. Overall the tour is very casual - no need to dress for dinner.

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.

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.



JOURNEY BOOKING FORM 2012

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

BOOKING MADE BY:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE/ZIP: _____

PHONE CONTACT(S) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

1st Choice trip _____

2nd Choice trip _____

Declaration: On behalf of all persons on this booking form, I have read, understood and accepted the booking conditions dated 1st Sept 2011, booking information dated 1st 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

- 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

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 No: _____

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