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Destination: Pine Butte, Montana

DATES
September 13 - 18, 2020

PRICE
\$4,235 per person
double occupancy

\$4,735 per person
single occupancy

Despite its size, Montana is the third-least populated state in the country, meaning that vast expanses of land continue to exist as pristine, untamed spaces of wildness. Pine Butte is such a place, and The Nature Conservancy is working to ensure that it remains one of the jewels in the Crown of the Continent. The area is one of the last places in the lower 48 where grizzly bears roam free on the plains, and its patchwork of habitats supports a remarkable level of biodiversity. In addition to on-the-ground land management, the Conservancy is working with local ranchers on

collaborative stewardship and conservation tools. Community-based partnerships like this help ensure land protection and restoration efforts are sustained long into the future. The Conservancy's Pine Butte Preserve recalls an earlier time of rugged, American beauty, and we invite you to experience this special place. Thank you for your interest in traveling with The Nature Conservancy.



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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

POWER OF PARTNERSHIP: Learn about the community-based conversation between private and public lands, and the promise of good stewardship from local landowners to co-exist with wildlife and resist future development. These relationships, local expertise, and funding by public agencies and non-profit organizations provide another essential link for community-based conservation.

STRONGHOLD FOR GRIZZLIES: Besides enabling the bears free range on the preserve, this undisturbed zone along the Rocky Mountain Front keeps them from becoming habituated to people, giving them space to avoid areas where human-bear conflicts rarely end well for the bears.

BIODIVERSITY: With a spectrum of habitats ranging from the dry prairie flats through the lush foothill wetlands and into rugged mountainous terrain, this region provides a wealth of vegetation to support the hundreds of species that roam the preserve. In addition to 200 types of birds, you will find beaver, muskrat, mink, elk, moose, mountain lion, bobcat, lynx, black bear, mule deer and bighorn sheep.

Your trip supports the local communities you're traveling in and The Nature Conservancy's efforts locally and globally. This trip has been planned specifically by The Nature Conservancy's team of scientific experts and travel liaisons to immerse you in the work the Conservancy is doing on the ground that has global consequences.

TNC TRAVEL VALUES

ACCESS:

Travel with renowned Conservancy experts and local partners for an exclusive, behind-the-scenes experience. You won't just see amazing places, you'll see how you are helping save them.

IMPACT:

See how your commitment to our planet and your passion for conservation are making a difference. You will see the wild places and the communities you are impacting.

KNOWLEDGE:

Learn how we are applying the latest cutting-edge science to affect global change and drive conservation.

INSPIRATION:

Immerse yourself in local cultures and awe-inspiring landscapes to foster your own connection to our world.

GLOBALLY MINDED:

Elevate your understanding of our work by seeing first-hand how TNC and our partners act locally and how we turn local results in to global impact by scaling solutions that work.

FOR BOOKING INFORMATION OR FOR JOURNEY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT:

Travel@tnc.org
www.nature.org/Insidereperiences

Trip at a Glance

Itinerary Highlights

Pine Butte Preserve
Horseback Riding
Hiking
Bird Watching
Wildlife Viewing



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Make your way to the Pine Butte Preserve, nestled between the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains, and settle into your appointed cabin at the Conservancy's own lodge. Spend your days horseback riding or hiking through the meandering trails of this 13,000-acre preserve. Discover the diversity of habitats and flora and fauna that Lewis and Clark may have encountered 200 years ago, gaze out over beautiful vistas on horseback, and

take a nature walk to catch a glimpse of the Western Meadowlark, Montana's state bird. Engage in nightly conversation with our experts and learn why we are working to protect the entire system from the Flathead River to the Rocky Mountain Front. Your nights are spent resting and relaxing in front of a fire or in your cabin at Pine Butte's very own lodge.



FEATURED EXPERT:

AMY SHEPPARD, DONOR RELATIONS MANAGER

Amy joined the Montana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy in January 2017. Amy's career has been dedicated to creating positive, educational travel experiences around the world. She grew up on a farm in Iowa but headed to the wildlands of Montana soon after earning a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology. After achieving her goal of becoming a guide in Glacier National Park, Amy embarked on an international guiding career that included trips to view the polar bears of Manitoba, the whales of Baja California, and the wolves of Yellowstone. Upon moving to Spain, she also began leading European river trips on the Danube, Rhine, Rhone, and Seine. Having settled back in Montana, Amy is thrilled to be able to share the unparalleled beauty of The Rocky Mountain Front and the good work of The Nature Conservancy with guests at Pine Butte.

Schedule

☀️ **DAY 1:** Arrive in Pine Butte by the afternoon. Meet your trip leader and fellow travelers during a cocktail reception in the main lodge at the Pine Butte Preserve. Gather in the front room, stocked with a collection of books, cards and games or rest in your appointed cabin.

🌄 OVERNIGHT IN PINE BUTTE

☀️ **DAY 2:** After breakfast, hike one of the many trails that wind through the surrounding landscape. Trails range from 1 to 4 miles and can vary in elevation gain from virtually flat to a few thousand vertical feet. Look for signs of grizzly bears, moose and elk; run your hands through the clear water of a creek; and once every so often, stop to look up and appreciate why this area is nicknamed “Big Sky Country.” Enjoy a packed lunch either on the trail or back at the lodge. In the afternoon, ride horseback through the high meadows of the Rocky Mountain foothills and see the same types of flora and fauna Lewis and Clark may have encountered almost 200 years ago, and experience firsthand why local conservation efforts are so important. In the evening, we will gather for dinner in the main lodge.

🌄 OVERNIGHT IN PINE BUTTE

☀️ **DAY 3:** Today's activities are determined by your interest. After breakfast, choose between hiking, horseback riding along the local equestrian trails through diverse forests, over crystalline streams and to mountain outcrops or simply relax on the front porch with your favorite book. In the evening, enjoy a presentation about the Conservation's work.

🌄 OVERNIGHT IN PINE BUTTE

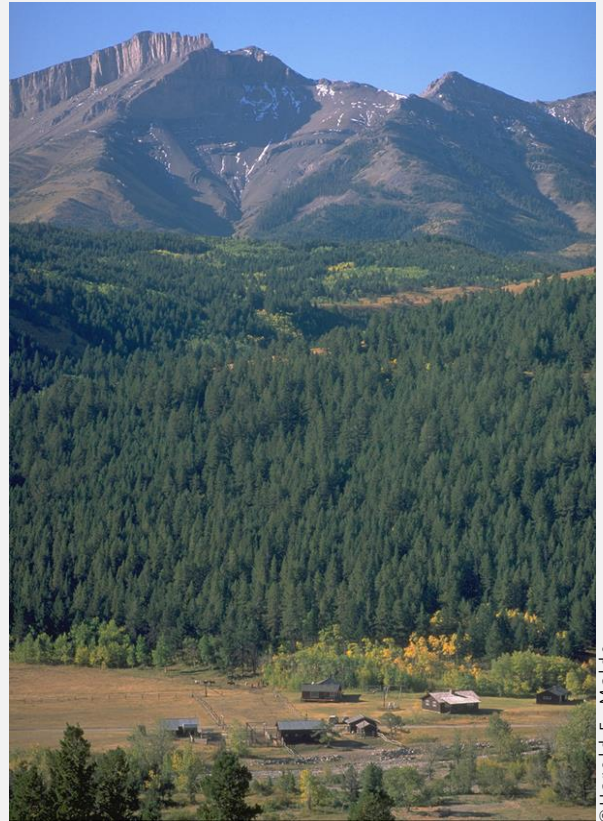
☀️ **DAY 4:** After breakfast, take a comprehensive tour of the Pine Butte Preserve. The preserve and surrounding lands support a third of the plant species in Montana and many rare wetland species such as yellow lady's slipper, Macoun's gentian, green-keeled cotton grass and Craw's sedge. About 200 species of birds and 43 species of mammals also call the preserve home. During the hike, feel free to make observations and ask your Nature Conservancy expert questions; no detail is too small. In the later afternoon, gather for tonight's dinner and evening wildlife viewing!

🌄 OVERNIGHT IN PINE BUTTE

☀️ **DAY 5:** Enjoy a hike to Our Lake in the morning. Our Lake hike climbs up 1,450 vertical feet and is approximately 7 miles round trip. Then, enjoy a picnic boxed lunch while taking in views of the lake and waterfall. Spend the afternoon resting and relaxing at the main lodge.

🌄 OVERNIGHT IN PINE BUTTE

☀️ **DAY 6:** After breakfast, say farewell to Pine Butte and transfer as a group to Great Falls International Airport.



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PINE BUTTE LODGE Nestled in the foothills along the Rocky Mountains and along the South Fork of the Teton River.



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