

MOUNTAIN & PLAINS REGION TOUR



BUFFALO, WYOMING

JULY 8-11, 2026



Buffalo, Wyoming (pop. 4,415) is a quaint mountain town at the foothills to the Bighorn Mountain Range. At an elevation of 4,708 feet, Buffalo is located almost equal distance from the South Dakota Black Hills and Yellowstone National Park. This area is also the home and setting for books by novelists C. J. Box and Craig Johnson. Johnson's books were also the basis for the *Longmire* television series.

Day 1 will be a relatively flat drive to Gillette, Wyoming. This area is known for its open pit coal mines. We will take a bus trip from Gillette to the Eagle Butte Coal mine. We will also take in the Frontier Auto Museum.



Day 2 we will tour from Buffalo over the rugged "Bighorn" mountains to Worland and the Washakie Museum and Cultural Center. The Center features history from ancient mammoth hunters through early settlers. We will have lunch in Worland. Then we will go on to Thermopolis where there are thermal hot springs swimming pools(2) and a Hot Springs Bath House. Bring your swimsuit! The park has attractions of buffalo and walking trails around hot water springs. Also in Thermopolis is a dinosaur museum. The elevation at Buffalo is almost 5,000' above sea level and we will travel to nearly 10,000' enroute to Worland. Our return to Buffalo will be by the route we came.

Day 3 Saturday's first stop will be at Yoders Amish Country Market. We will then progress to Kaycee, Wyoming, and the Hoofprints of the Past Museum. Johnson County was the scene in 1892 of a cattle war between the large cattle barons and small ranchers trying to make a start. Kaycee was the home of country singer Chris LeDoux where a park is named in his honor.



Other points of interest and side trip possibilities include: Custer Little Bighorn Battlefield, 104 miles away; Mountain Meadows Wool Mill in Buffalo, Wyoming; Fort Phil Kearny Historic Site, 16 miles; Occidental Hotel/Bar in Buffalo; Bombshell Cantina Brewery In Buffalo; Range War Rodeo (Thursday)at the fairgrounds—free admission.

Lodging: Z Bar Motel & Cabins

626 Fort St., Buffalo, Wyoming 82834

Email: Info@zbarcabinsandmotel.com, Phone: 307-684-5535 or 307-620-2452

There are a limited number of rooms reserved for "VMCCA TOUR"

Rate ranges from \$100-\$130 per night.



Registration: Nathan Buss

1717 Plainview Ave., Seward, Nebraska, 68434

Email: 89.nathan.buss@gmail.com

Phone: 402-641-8905

Tour Chairperson: Myron Smith

1505 SW 112th St., Lincoln, Nebraska 68532

Email: myronsmith@windstream.net

Phone: 402-429-0118

Assistant Tour Chairperson: Juli Aubrey,

24 Johnson Creek Road, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834

Email: aubrey@collinscom.net

Phone: 307-620-0161