



Day Hiking in the Tetons

September 11, 2020 - September 20, 2020 (Trip# 2035)



The Tetons

Summary: Grand Teton National Park is one of the nation's most pristine and scenic parks. It is a remarkable region where towering peaks stand tall against extraordinary wildlife, beautiful lakes, and alpine terrain. On this ten day adventure we will explore all of the Tetons' wonders, from canyons to vistas, and from high alpine terrain to valley meadows and carpeted forests. This trip is ideal for individuals who enjoy exploring nature's wonders, and day hiking against a backdrop of towering beauty.

After arriving in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, we spend three days doing classic hikes in the eastern side of the national park, with each hike a little longer and a little higher to help us adapt to the altitude. Our accommodations will be located in the midst of the charming old west atmosphere of downtown Jackson (aka Jackson Hole), located within easy walking distance of Jackson's famous nightlife, restaurants, shopping, and art galleries. We will then drive to the less visited, but equally spectacular, western ("quiet") side of the Teton range in Driggs, Idaho (6109') where we spend the next three nights and do two hikes, including a 4,000 foot ascent to Table Mountain at over 11,000 feet. We will finish the trip back in Wyoming for a couple days that include an aerial tram to Rendezvous Peak with magnificent views of Jackson Hole with minimal effort, and a climb through Paintbrush Canyon to Paintbrush Divide on our most challenging and spectacular hike. We will also have time to explore Jackson Hole and the Teton Village. We will finish the trip with a farewell dinner before departing for home.

Our hikes will range from about 8-16 miles and with altitude gains that range from 1100'-4000'.

Daily Itinerary

Below is the daily itinerary which we plan to follow. Note that the hikes may be changed or days swapped to take advantage of the best weather or conditions.

Day 1 - Friday September 11

Fly to Jackson, Wyoming (6,237') where we will rent cars, gather supplies, have dinner and spend the next three nights.

Day 2 - Saturday September 12

We begin our adventure in Grand Teton National Park with a hike along Two Ocean Lake and Emma Matilda Lake. We will have lunch at Grandview Point, at 7,586 feet, where we will enjoy a magnificent 360-degree panorama of forests, lakes, and an unsurpassed view of Mount Moran and the Teton Range. This 9.7 mile loop has roughly 1200 feet of climbing and will be a perfect lower-elevation hike to start our trip. On our way back to Jackson we will drive through the historic and scenic area known as the Mormon Row District where homesteaders settled in the 1890s. Today two picturesque barns sit in the foreground with the dramatic Tetons as a backdrop. We will conclude our day with a lively western music show featuring entertainment and a barbeque.



Mormon Row

Day 3 - Sunday September 13

Today we embark on a stunning and memorable hike in Cascade Canyon, which ends with a scenic boat ride across Jenny Lake. Starting at the Jenny Lake Visitor Center we will walk around the southern and western sides of Jenny Lake, then take a short side trail to enjoy views of the 200 foot Hidden Falls. After climbing a rugged and rocky section of trail and traversing a steep ledge we will reach Inspiration Point with outstanding views of Jenny Lake. We will continue into Cascade Canyon through boulder fields and past a series of ponds. Returning the way we came we will board a boat at the west side of Jenny Lake for a leisurely ride back to the Visitor Center. This scenic rest will save us 2.5 miles of walking. Today we will hike about 12 miles and climb 1100 feet. If time permits we will explore the exhibits at either the Jenny Lake Visitor Center or Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center.



Boat Shuttle On Jenny Lake

Day 4 - Monday September 14

The 9.6 mile hike to Surprise Lake and Amphitheatre Lake begins on the valley floor at Lupine Meadows. It ascends steeply for 3,000 feet on long, sweeping switchbacks through sage-covered meadows, forested moraines, flower-filled slopes and alpine tundras. The trail levels out at 9,700 feet where the lakes are surrounded by a steep-walled cirque of craggy rock walls topped by towering peaks. After the hike we drive to Driggs, Idaho (6109') where we spend the next three nights on the "quiet side" of the Teton Range.

Day 5 - Tuesday September 15

From the trailhead at South Teton Creek, we will hike gently uphill into South Teton Canyon, surrounded by lush chest-to-head-high plant foliage. We take the trail up Devil's Stairs, an exposed, but wide path which switchbacks up the mountainside to an 8,500' plateau. From this perch we will get a birds-eye view into the Alaska Basin, where the terrain mirrors our 49th state. This 8 mile hike gains 1,600 feet.

Day 6 - Wednesday September 16

We will get an early start for one of our two longest hikes. In 1872, William H. Jackson wanted the perfect picture of Grand Teton from the west. He, his assistant, and Molly the mule climbed un-trailed rocks for 9 days to reach the summit of Table Mountain. Hopefully we will take less time to summit this stunning 11,106' peak. This 12 mile hike involves 4,000 feet of climbing. It

will be a demanding hike, but should give us an awesome view of the Tetons that not many people get to see.



Table Mountain

Day 7 - Thursday September 17

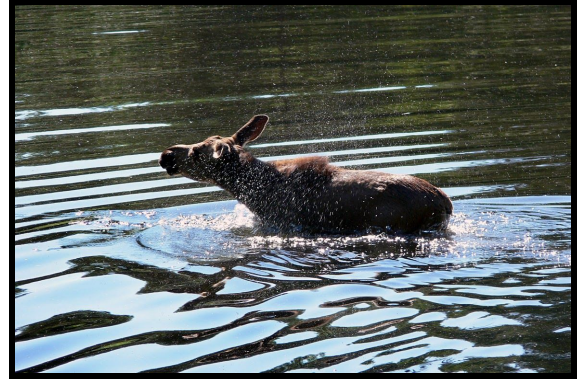
After yesterday's difficult hike we have an easier day, but no less scenic. We will leave Driggs and drive to the Jackson Hole Ski Resort to take the 9 am aerial tram to the 10,450' summit of Rendezvous Mt. We will then hike an approximately 4.5 mile loop with a 1,110 feet gain across the rugged alpine environment. This will provide some of the best views of Jackson Hole. We will then return downhill via the tram and explore Teton Village before heading back to Jackson.

Day 8 - Friday September 18

Today's 15.8 mile hike up Paintbrush Canyon climbs 3,800' through dense forest that eventually falls away to the rocky backcountry of the central Teton Range. We will take a break at the high country Holly Lake before topping out on 10,700' Paintbrush Divide with spectacular 360 degree views of lakes, valleys, and the Teton peaks. This is a long day, but past participants on trips to the Tetons have said it was one of the most amazing hikes they had ever done.

Day 9 - Saturday September 19

For our last day we will explore the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve with a 9 mile loop and 1100 feet of climbing. This moderate hike will circumnavigate Phelps Lake and afford amazing views of the Teton Range. After a little time to relax in Jackson we will end the day with a farewell dinner.



Baby Moose

Day 10 - Sunday September 20

Fly home

Hiking Summary

Day	Date	Hike	Miles	Gain	Max Elevation
2	Sat., 9/12	Two Ocean	9.7	1200'	7,586'
3	Sun., 9/13	Cascade Canyon	12.0	1100'	7,841'
4	Mon., 9/14	Amphitheater Lake	9.6	3000'	9,700'
5	Tues., 9/15	Devils Stairs	8.0	1600'	8,500'
6	Wed., 9/16	Table Mtn.	12.0	4000'	11,106'
7	Thur., 9/17	Tram & Rock Springs Loop	4.5	1100'	10,450'
8	Fri., 9/18	Paintbrush Canyon	15.8	3800'	10,700'
9	Sat., 9/19	Rockefeller LSR Loop	9.0	1100'	7,052'

Possible Itinerary Changes

While the itinerary in this prospectus is what the leaders have planned at the time of writing, various factors may require changes for reasons of safety, transportation or lodging availability, and unforeseeable circumstances (such as weather considerations, natural disasters in areas to be visited, or governmental or ranger recommendations). The leaders reserve the right to make such changes as necessary, both before and during the trip.

Participant Profile

You should enjoy traveling and be comfortable traveling in areas which are unfamiliar to you. You should recognize that you may find yourself in closer quarters or be less comfortable than you are used to at home. You should make it a priority to help others on the trip and contribute to their having a great time. If you do that, we guarantee that you will have a great time.

This trip is rated [5 - vigorous](#) and is geared towards the outdoors adventurer and experienced hiker. You must be able to hike 8 to 16 miles per day with elevation gains between 1100 feet and 4000 feet over the course of 6 to 8 hours, while carrying enough equipment to keep you safe in the event of bad weather or injury. We will hike at a moderate pace, which will permit time for photos and rest breaks. Hikes are at altitudes between 6,500 and 11,106 feet. We will gradually increase our highpoint to allow for acclimatization.

A detailed packing list will be provided to all participants well in advance of the trip.

Experience & Risks

We will be sharing the trails with abundant wildlife including bears. We will never feed any wildlife for any reason. We will follow the park's safety recommendations with regard to bears - never approaching a bear, never hiking alone, never planning a hike after dark, and we will leave an area if we see a cub. We will familiarize ourselves with how to behave if we encounter a bear.

When you participate in this activity, you should be prepared both physically and mentally, and equipped with the appropriate gear. You should always be aware of the risks involved and conduct yourself accordingly. We are not responsible for your safety—you are.

Nonetheless, it may happen on any trip that a trip member is or becomes unable to participate in one or more of the planned activities. Leaders in their sole judgment have the right and obligation to refuse participation in any activity to any group member for reasons of group or individual safety. Illness, injury or lack of proper gear or fitness for a particular activity are examples of some conditions that might result in a participant's being unable to perform one or more activity. Leaders may try to find a substitute activity for the trip member, but this may not always be possible.

Prior to your being accepted as a participant in this trip, you will be asked to discuss your capabilities and experience with us. We may also request references to confirm your fitness level and suitability for participating in trip activities. Please do not be offended by our questions.

Safety

As participant safety is a high priority for all AMC-sponsored events, procedures and policies have been developed to attempt to limit participant risk. Participants are expected to work with volunteer leaders to reduce risks and make the experience successful for all. Participants should be aware that there are risks associated with outdoor adventure activities, including but not limited to adverse weather and environmental conditions, remote locations of our trips and camps, and transportation in vehicles, on foot, by boat, or on a bike. When you apply for acceptance onto a trip, please carefully read and sign the *Adventure Travel Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risks and Release and Indemnity Agreement* and call if you have any questions.

Trip Price

The trip cost is \$2075 per person for shared occupancy for AMC members. Non-members can join for \$50, and get the same price.

The price for this excursion is based on quotes or estimates obtained at the time the trip was planned. The final price of the trip will be adjusted in accordance with the best final arrangements we can make. Any savings we achieve, as well as any cost increases we incur will be shared by trip participants. Our cost estimates are conservative, and so a refund is more likely than a price increase. All Adventure Travel trips are run on a non-profit basis and refunds, if any, are issued after the trip's financial accounting is complete.

In accordance with AMC policy, you are subsidizing the leaders' costs. Beyond this, the leaders are not allowed to realize any profit from this excursion. The trip price includes an AMC overhead fee to cover the administrative expenses of offering Adventure Travel excursions. The trip fee also includes emergency medical and evacuation insurance coverage, which is required by the AMC. It does not include insurance for travel delay, interruption, or cancellation, or for baggage loss. If these possibilities concern you, individual travel insurance is recommended. More information about included emergency medical and evacuation insurance, as well as about optional and recommended travel insurance, will be provided to participants in their formal acceptance letters, which will be sent out when the trip has the required number of accepted applicants.

Deposit of \$800 is due with the application. The balance of \$1275 is due by May 11, 2020.

Includes:

- Nine nights of lodging
- Dinner for the entire trip, starting with dinner on September 11, 2020
- A combination of hotel breakfasts and early morning breakfasts with supplies we pick up together
- Car rental and gas
- Park Entrance fees
- Emergency medical & evacuation insurance coverage

Does not include:

- Airfare. The trip leaders will advise you and will facilitate group travel, but the purchase of tickets is the responsibility of the participant. At this time, we estimate that the cost for a round trip ticket between the US East Coast and Jackson will be in the range of \$750 to \$850.
- Lunches, beverages, trail snacks, personal items, optional activities, & incidental expenses.

Photography

For those interested, this excursion can involve more than a splendid hiking trip. Dan is a talented, semi-professional photographer whose photographs have been exhibited and published in many places. Among other honors, he won the AMC photo contest three times. There is absolutely no requirement that you be interested in photography, or even bring a camera, and this is not a class or workshop. First, and foremost, it is a hiking trip in a beautiful region. However, if you are a seasoned photographer or a budding novice, or just curious, Dan will share his perspective on any of your photographic interests. When convenient we will try to be out in the early morning and early evening light to take advantage of the best times for photography (as well as coolest times of the day). Our hikes will also be paced to allow for photo stops.

Accommodations / Meals / Transportation

We will spend the first three nights in a motel in Jackson, Wyoming near town. We will then drive to Driggs, Idaho where we will spend three nights at cabins. We will return for three nights to stay in a motel in Jackson. Accommodations will be two to a room in the motel and cabins. The rooms will be simple, yet comfortable and budget friendly, with two queen beds, a private bath, a mini-fridge, and a microwave.

Dinners will be at local restaurants. Lunches should be “trail lunches”, are the participant’s responsibility and can be purchased at supermarkets in town. Breakfasts will either be at motels with continental breakfasts, or simple and quick meals (bagels, yogurt, etc.) eaten in your room with supplies we pick up together. Since there is no breakfast at the cabins in Driggs we will eat in our rooms to save time and get an early start. The cabins have microwave, coffee machines and a small refrigerator.

Some participants will be asked to share in the driving, which requires a check of your driving record. Please inform the leaders if you are willing to do this.



Teton Valley Cabins, Driggs, Idaho

Registration

We expect a group size of 16 people, including the 2 leaders. This trip is likely to fill quickly. If you are interested, you should apply as soon as possible. When registration is complete, we will send all participants the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all those going on the trip. A waiting list will be established if when the trip is full.

To apply, you must download, complete, and submit the applications documents which consist of:

- Application
- Confidential medical form
- Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk and Release form
- Supplemental Medical Questionnaire (optional)

The documents can be found here: [The Tetons Documents](#)

You will not be accepted and your check will not be deposited until the leaders have determined by telephone conversation with you that you and the trip are a good match. Deposit checks from waitlisted applicants will not be cashed until a spot is available, the applicant is accepted onto the trip, & they confirmed their continued interest.

Participant Cancellation Policy

Cancellations before December 1, 2019 will receive a full refund. Cancellations on or after December 1, 2019 will lose a minimum of \$200 of their deposit. Any additional refunds will only be made if it does not raise the cost of the trip to the other participants or leaders. There is a possibility that participants will not receive any refund. Should the leaders be able to replace you, you may be charged a reduced or zero penalty. This will generally not be determined until after the trip. Participants are encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. If the trip is cancelled by the AMC, participants receive a full refund for any deposits and payments.

Participants are responsible for their own airline tickets & other external expenses. Most airlines will not give refunds for cancellations; sometimes they issue coupons for a future trip with an administrative charge and an expiration date. Trip cancellation insurance is advised—policy information will be supplied to all participants.

AMC Mission

AMC Adventure Travel trips are run in a manner supportive of and consistent with the conservation, recreational and educational principles and mission of the Club. Trip leaders encourage participant conduct consistent with Leave No Trace environmental and conservation principles and local regulations.

Leaders

Dan Stone

Dan is a three-season leader with the Hiking/Backpacking Committee of the AMC Boston Chapter. He has co-led Adventure Travel trips to the Colorado Rockies and the Alsace in France. He has completed the 48 NH 4,000 footers in winter and hiked the entire Appalachian Trail mostly as a series of day hikes. He has traveled extensively, having visited 49 states and almost 60 countries. Dan led a series of AMC hiking weekends that incorporated photography. He enjoys sharing his photos and knowledge of photography with others. This will be his seventh Adventure Travel trip. Contact Dan at 617-750-0511 or danstone987@gmail.com.



Beth Zimmer

In her role as hike leader and Co-Chair for the AMC NH Chapter Excursions Committee, Beth has conducted well over a hundred hikes, backpacks, workshops and outings for the Appalachian Mountain Club since 2012. Beth enjoys exploring new places and finding new routes to familiar places which complements her skills with maps and navigation. She has traveled extensively throughout Central and South America as well as to other regions. Favorite highlight trips for her include two weeks hiking in the Swiss Alps and hiking Haidrian's Wall Path in the UK. Contact Beth at 603-707-9498 or btzmr@gmail.com.

