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National Parks Unbound Short Guide to Cody, WY

Before or after your trip with National Parks Unbound on the Yellowstone Unbound, you might want to explore Cody, Wyoming.

“Buffalo Bill” (more properly known as Colonel William F. Cody) founded Cody in the mid-1890s after his stopover in the ‘70s impressed him so much. Self-proclaimed as “the wildest way into Yellowstone,” Cody keeps the “wild” in “Wild West” with their wild experiences, wildlife, and Wild West flair. Located only 50 miles from Yellowstone National Park’s east entrance and 80 miles from its northeast entrance, Cody is the ideal starting point to your trip. Experience the region’s authentic, undiluted history and culture in Cody, Wyoming.

CODY ADVENTURES

If you just want to stretch your legs after your journey into Cody feel free to explore the downtown. There you will find the historic [Irma Hotel](#), constructed by Buffalo Bill. One of the most luxurious hotels at the time, Irma Hotel appreciated the patronage of notorious Calamity Jane and Annie Oakley. The downtown also has plenty of galleries, shops and restaurants to fill an afternoon.

If you extend your stay, get in early, or plan for a night out on the town after the trip’s introductory orientation meeting, here are some of Cody’s Bucket List activities to consider:

Buffalo Bill Center of the West

We strongly encourage you take some time to visit the [Buffalo Bill Center of the West](#). Dubbed as “the Smithsonian of the West,” this complex is world class and contains 5 museums that highlight the West’s unique culture and natural history.

Admission to the center gets you access to all the museums:

- **Buffalo Bill Museum:**
 - Learn about William F. Cody, the mythos of “Buffalo Bill,” and his beloved West.
- **Draper Natural History Museum:**
 - Connect with the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, learn about conservation challenges, and get inspired by new conservation initiatives.
- **Whitney Western Art Museum:**
 - Experience the West—its land, people, and wildlife—through an extraordinary collection of art.
- **Plains Indian Museum:**
 - Hear the Plains Indian people’s story, and learn about the cultures, traditions, and values that shaped their past and endure in their present.
- **Cody Firearms Museum:**
 - Discover how firearms shaped the story of the West and see a comprehensive collection of firearms and their evolution over time.
- **McCracken Research Library:**

- Learn about the West from the source: historic photographs, original manuscripts, and rare books.

Buffalo Bill's Center for the West lies two miles from the hotel so enjoy a walk there or catch a short cab to the center.

Cody Nite Rodeo

It's no surprise that in the "Rodeo Capital of the World," you'll come across the longest running nightly rodeo in the country. Running nightly from June 1st-August 31st, the rodeo features bronco riding, bull riding, roping, rodeo clowns and more.

Dan Miller's Cowboy Music Revue

Dan Miller and his Empty Saddles Band brings the Old West to life with the fiddle, guitar, and mandolin coming together to play some cowboy favorites. It's entertaining, foot-tapping fun.

Old Trail Town

Visit Old Trail Town, where historic artifacts and authentic structures and furnishing preserve the history and culture of the western frontier. See the grave of mountain man John Johnson and the original cabins where outlaws Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid stayed. You can even visit a saloon where Cassidy's "Hole-in-the-Wall Gang" liked to frequent.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

We recommend the [Cody Cowboy Village](#) where we meet for our trip's orientation and conclusion and where we have a block of rooms reserved for our trips. Please contact the office to reserve a room under our block.

TRANSPORTATION

Cody is best navigated on foot, with a car or via taxi (Town Taxi 307-250-3939).