

# Between Ohio and Montana

Below is an outline of our family's travel information and itinerary:

Overnight Stay: Altoona, Iowa

- We stay at the *Fairfield Inn and Suites* near the outlet malls.
- We tend to get in late, so we get food and spend the evening in our hotel. Our favorite restaurants are *Johnny's Italian & Burger Shed*.

On the Road stop: Iowa 80 Truck stop

- Claimed to be the world's largest truck stop. They have a museum, a small market, and lots of eateries including *Einstein Bros/Caribou Coffee, Dairy Queen, Wendy's, Pizza Hut, etc.*

Overnight Stay: Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

- We usually stay at the *Springhill Inn and Suites* - Empire Drive. Lots of places to eat in the area.
- If you stay here, spend an evening at the Sioux Falls Park where the falls are. They are beautiful and fun to explore.

On the Road stop: Badlands - South Dakota - (hour from Rapid City)

- Stop and hike for a few hours. You won't regret it!

On the Road stop: Wall, South Dakota

- *Wall Drug* is a fun place to stop. It's a drug store that gained fame by giving away free ice water and 5 cent coffee. The original drug store is still there, now surrounded by book shops, trinket stores, and fun exhibits.
- *Wall Drug* has a cafe where you can eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We highly recommend their homemade donuts. The maple ones are killer!

Multi-Day Stay: Rapid City, South Dakota

- Sometimes we stay in town at *Residence Inn and Suites* in Rapid City, but *Sylvan Lake Lodge and Cabins* or the *Hotel Alex Johnson* are very cool places to stay as well.
- Area Attractions: *Mount Rushmore* is a great historical site to visit. The Black Hills National Forest and Custer State Park offer fantastic hiking (my family loves it). Cathedral Spires and Sylvan Lake are some of our favorite hikes in the area. Custer State Park also has a great herd of

bison. Lots to explore in both places even just from the road (Needles Highway and Big Mountain Road).

- Area Restaurants: *The Sylvan Lake Lodge*, *Firehouse* and *Dakotah SteakHouse* in Rapid City.
- Downtown *Rapid City*, *Hill City*, and *Custer* all have a ton of fun shops, restaurants, local history, etc.

#### Multi-Day Stretch/Drive:

- You can drive from South Dakota to Yellowstone. Start outside of Ranchester, WY Via 14 and 14a, to 310, 72, 308 to Red Lodge, then 212.
- This route will take you through the Big Horn Mountain Range and Beartooth Mountain Range.

#### Overnight Stay: Cody Wyoming (stay on 14A, vs going to 310, etc)

- Stay and eat breakfast or dinner at the *Irma Hotel*
- Fun cow town, neat history, cool way to enter Yellowstone Park.

#### Multi-Day Stay: Yellowstone

- We have stayed by the *Yellowstone Lake* in the cabins but mostly, we stay in West Yellowstone at the *Kelly Inn* (they have great family room set ups in the *Grizzly Lodge*).
- In West Yellowstone, there is a fantastic Taco Truck, cool coffee shops, and plenty of other places to eat
- Here's the stuff you don't want to miss in the National Park: Upper and Lower Brink of Yellowstone Grand Canyon, Artist's Point, the Middle Basin Geysers, and Old Faithful,

#### Multi-Day Stay: Teton National Park

- We always stay in the cabins at *Jenny Lake*. We just love that area but also great hiking for the younger kids. You can also take a ferry to the far side of the lake (both ways).
- Amphitheater Lake is another great hike if you want a more intense challenge.
- You can rent motorboats to take out. I did this with my son Jared. It was a blast!

#### Multi-Day Stretch/Drive:

- If you drive from Tetons to Bitterroot Valley in MT, go through *Virginia City*, *Nevada City*, and *Wisdom*. VC and NC are cool ghost towns to explore. Lots of neat history.

Multi-Day Stay: Glacier (about 3.5 hour drive from our front door in Montana)

- I'd make it an overnigher. There are some great cabins in *Columbia Falls*. One of my favorites is the glamping place right outside the national park. (Adventure without the work haha)
  - You can also camp: Apgar Groups Sites and Fish Creek on the West side of the park.
  - National Park Hikes: *Hidden Lake* at *Logan's Pass*, *Avalanche lake*, *Virginia* and *Glacier Falls* in the West side of the park. *Two Medicine*, *Many Glacier*, *Swift Current Falls*, *Glacier Lake*, and *Ptarmigan Tunnel* in the East side of the park.
  - Food: Breakfast at *Montana Coffee Traders* in Columbia Falls is the best (you can also pick up pre-packed sandwiches or wraps for lunch in the park here). *MacKenzie River Pizza Co* and *Jalisco Cantina* in Whitefish are our favorites for dinner.
- In or near Stevensville MT: Where you will be staying :)
    - Restaurants and Coffee in Stevensville: *Mission Bistro*, *The Catered Table*, *Kodiak Jacks* (delivers)
    - Restaurants and Coffee in Missoula: *MacKenzie River Pizza Co*, *Zoo Thai*, *Veera Donuts*, *Florence Coffee*, *Liquid Planet Grille*, and so much more.
    - Restaurants in Lolo: *Lolo's Steakhouse*
    - Restaurants and Coffee in Hamilton: *Maria's Mexican*, *Nap's Grill*, *Big Creek Coffee*, *The Red Rooster*, *The Coffee Cup*, and *Mineshaft Pastry and Co*.
    - Area Activities: hike or relax at *Lake Como*, hike *Lower and Upper Bear Creek*, hike *Lower and Upper Blodgett Canyon*, (You can always find other hikes on AllTrails). Horseback riding at Dunroven, white water rafting with Row Adventures, fly-fishing with a guide (We recommend Eddie)