

2000 RV Trip - (Glacier / Yellowstone / Badlands, etc)

Day 1 – Michigan (725 miles; 13 hours)

Drive 13 hours to Michigan

Stay at Bay City State Recreation Area on Saginaw Bay on Lake Huron

Day 2 – Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (160 miles; 3.5 hours)

Drive remaining 3.5 hours to Sleeping Bear Dune's National Lakeshore

Tube along Platte River down to where it meets Lake Michigan

Hike the Dunes Trail to the top

Stay at Platte River Electric Sites in the National Seashore

Day 3 – Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park – Mackinaw City (170 miles; 4 hours)

Stop at Visitor Center in Empire

Bike the 7-mile Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive

Tour the Maritime Museum Glen Haven

Drive the scenic Cherry Orchards drive along Lake Michigan

Take side drive out to Mission Point

Stay at Tee Pee Good Sam Campground - sandy beach on Lake Huron

Day 4 – Mackinac Island (0 miles; 0 hours)

Ride bikes to ferry

Take ferry to Mackinac Island

On Mackinac Island

Tour historic Market Street and buy fudge

Bike 8.2-mile Shoreline Trail around entire island

Eat late lunch at the Pink Pony Bar & Grill

Take ferry back to Mackinaw City

Stay again at Tee Pee Good Sam Campground again

Day 5 – Pictured Rock National Lakeshore (180 miles; 5 hours)

Drive 5 hours to Pictured Rock National Lakeshore

Hike .5-mile trail to Sable Falls (near Grand Marais)

Launch boat at Miner's Beach and go along the cliffs past Miner's Castle

Stop at Mosquito Beach

Stay at Bay Furnace Campground in National Forest (Munising)

Day 6 – Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (242 miles; 5.5 hours)

Drive 5.5 hours to Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

Stop at Visitor Center in Bayfield

Drive to Little Sand Bay (13 miles north)

Stay at Apostle Islands Area Campground in Bayfield

Day 7 – North Dakota (432 miles; 8.5 hours)

Drive 8.5 hours towards Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Stay at KOA in Jamestown

Run, kids ride bikes, swim in pool

Day 8 – Theodore Roosevelt National Park (237 miles; 4 hours)

Drive remaining 4 hours to Theodore Roosevelt National Park (South Unit)
Stop at Painted Canyon Visitor Center – sweeping panoramic view
Hike the short loop hike into the Painted Canyon
Stop at Medora Visitor Center
Tour Maltese Cross Cabin (Teddy Roosevelt’s cabin)
Drive 36-mile scenic drive through the South Unit of the park
 Stop at Prairie Dog Town to see prairie dogs
 Hike 1.2 mile Ridge Line Trail
 Hike up Buck Hill for great views
Stay at Cottonwood Campground (part of National Park)

Day 9 – Glacier National Park (570 miles; 11 hours)

Drive all the way across Montana to Glacier National Park
Stay at St. Mary’s KOA right outside the park

Day 10 – Glacier National Park (55 miles; 2 hours)

Drive to Many Glacier section of Park near Babb
 Hike 2.5-mile Swift Current Lake Trail
Launch boat in St. Mary’s Lake
Meet Hans and Michelle at campground
 Spend time in campground hot tub
Stay at St. Mary’s KOA again

Day 11 – Glacier National Park (75 miles; 2 hours)

Rent Suburban from campground and drive scenic 50-mile Going to the Sun Road
 At Logan Pass, Hike the 3-mile round trip Hidden Lake Trail
Have dinner at Many Glacier Hotel
Stay at St. Mary’s KOA again

Day 12 – Glacier/Waterton National Park (100 miles; 2 hours)

Drive the 75-mile Chief Mountain International Highway to Waterton Lakes
 Go through US-Canada customs
Stop at Waterton Lakes National Park information center
Hike the steep 1 ½ mile round trip Bears Hump Trail
Have lunch at Prince of Wales Hotel
Drive the 10-mile Red Rock Canyon Parkway
 Swim in pretty stream that runs through red rocks
Drive back to St. Mary’s
Make dinner at campsite
Stay at St. Mary’s KOA again

Day 13 – Flathead Lake / National Bison Range, Pipestone (417 miles; 8.5 hours)

Drive towards Yellowstone

Stop at Goat Lick, a few miles east of Essex, to see mountain goats
Stop at Flathead Lake to picnic and swim
Stop at National Bison Range to see bison
Stay at Pipestone Campground
Swim in pool
Make dinner at campsite

Day 14 – Yellowstone (200 miles; 4.5 hours)

Drive 3 hours to Mammoth Hot Springs
Stop at Visitor Center (Albright Visitor Center)
See Mammoth Hot Springs
Hike Lower Terrace Interpretive Trail (1.5 miles – 2 hours)
Drive eastern part of loop (another hour) to Canyon Village
See Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Take North Rim Drive (from Canyon Village) to Inspiration Point
From Inspiration Point, hike 57 steps down to a view of the Lower Falls
Drive another .5 hours to Bridge Bay Campground
Make dinner at campsite

Day 15 – Yellowstone (60 miles; 1.5 hours)

Drive through Hayden Valley – see lots of buffalo
See Grand Canyon of Yellowstone again
Take South Rim Drive (from Canyon Village)
Hike Uncle Tom's Trail (steep 500 foot route to river's edge)
Stop at Artist Point – one of the best views of the canyon
Drive to Norris Geyser Basin
Hike .75 Porcelain Basin Trail through thermal springs and geysers
Hike 1.5 mile Back Basin Loop Trail past Steamboat Geyser
On way back to campground, stop at Mud Volcano
Hike the 2/3 mile trail through the bubbling mud pots
Have dinner at Lake Yellowstone Hotel
Stay at Bridge Bay Campground again

Day 16 – Yellowstone (70 miles; 1.5 hours)

Drive to Old Faithful section of park
Hike the 1.3-mile Upper Geyser Basin Trail
Watch Old Faithful erupt
Have lunch at the Old Faithful Inn
Stop at Black Sand Basin and see beautiful Emerald Pool
Stop at Midway Geyser Basin to see Grand Prismatic Spring
Stop at Fountain Paint Pots to see colorful bubbling mud pots
Fish in Yellowstone Lake
Hike 1-mile from campground to Natural Bridge
Stay at Bridge Bay Campground again

Day 17 – Grand Teton / Riverton (193 miles; 4.25 hours)

Leave very early and drive 1.5 hours to Grand Teton National Park
Raft Trip down Snake River – fish for trout along way
Drive another 2.75 miles to Riverton, Wyoming
Stay at Wind River RV Park

Day 18 – Devils Tower (312 miles; 6.5 hours)

Drive the 6.5 hours to Devils Tower
Stop at campground and swim in pool
Stop at Visitor's Center in Park
Walk the 1.3 mile Tower Trail Loop
Stay at Devil's Tower KOA

Day 19 – Wind Cave / Mt. Rushmore (192 miles; 4.5 hours)

Get up at sunrise to photograph Devil's Tower from field in campground
Drive 3.5 hours to Wind Cave
 Take 2-hour Candlelight Tour
Drive another hour to Mt. Rushmore
 Stop at Lincoln Borglum Visitor Center and Museum
 Hike Avenue of Flags Promenade
 Tour Borglum's Sculptor's Studio
 Hike ½-mile Presidential Trail to base of mountain
 Attend 9:00 pm evening lighting ceremony
Stay at Miner's RV Park
 sit in hot tub – view Mt. Rushmore

Day 20 – Wall Drug / Badlands National Park (112 miles; 2.5 hours)

Wake up early and go back to Mt. Rushmore to take pictures in morning light
Drive 1.5 hours to Wall, South Dakota
 stop in famous Wall Drug store
Drive 32-mile scenic drive through Badlands National Park (Pinnacles Entrance)
 Stop at various overlooks – especially Pinnacles and Yellow Mounds
 Hike 1.5-mile Notch Trail – up ladders and along steep gullies
Attend ranger talk in amphitheater in campground
Stay at Cedar Pass National Park Campground

Day 21 – Badlands National Park / Wilson Island State Park (450 miles; 8.5 hours)

Before leaving Badlands, Hike the .75-mile Door Trail for great views
Start driving home
Stop at Cabela's to shop
Stay in Wilson Island State Park on the Missouri River in western Iowa

Day 22 – Herbert Hoover NHS / Indiana Dunes (497 miles; 9 hours)

Continue long drive home
Stop at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site (after 4.5 hours)
 Tour 1870s Quaker Village and Hoover's Birthplace Cottage

Drive another 4.5 hours to Indiana Dunes
Stay at Indiana Dunes State Park

Day 23 – Indiana Dunes (0 miles; 0 hours)

Spend day at Indiana Dunes

Bike from campground to beach pavilion

Hike the dune trails from campground over Mt. Tom to beach

Run up and slide down Devil's Slide (overlooking beach pavilion)

Bike the 9.2-mile Calumet Trail along an old railroad bed

Stay at Indiana Dunes State Park again

Day 24 – Drive Home (750 miles; 13 hours)

Drive remaining 13 hours home

Total Trip Mileage: 6199 miles
Average Miles per Day: 258 miles per day