

Win a digital camera and photo frame

Rawhide at Wild Horse Pass

Western Group Tour magazine

SUMMER 2009

The **WEST**
is still **WILD**

*Rustle up a group and hit the trail
on an Old West adventure*

8

*Wildly Western
pursuits*



Spirit of Aloha

*Learn about Hawaii's diverse culture and
discover its breathtaking seascapes on Oahu*

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PERIODICAL

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Wildly Western pursuits

A great train robbery

A regular schedule and a reputation for wealthy tourists make the Grand Canyon Railway an ideal target for Old West-style banditry. It's a good thing Marshal John B. Goodmore is around to fight the villains back. The train is predictably attacked every morning before departure, and odds are it'll be attacked on the southbound journey from the Grand Canyon, too. Keep your wits about you.

www.thetrain.com



Photo: ©iStockphoto.com

Home on the ranch

There's a long tradition of city folk heading out to the guest ranch for a taste of the West and a vacation filled with relaxation — or non-stop activities. Hidden Meadow Ranch in Arizona's White Mountains is a year-round favorite, offering horseback riding, fly-fishing, canoeing, overnight pack trips, roping, and more. Elegant cabins and three square meals a day complete the experience.

www.hiddenmeadow.com

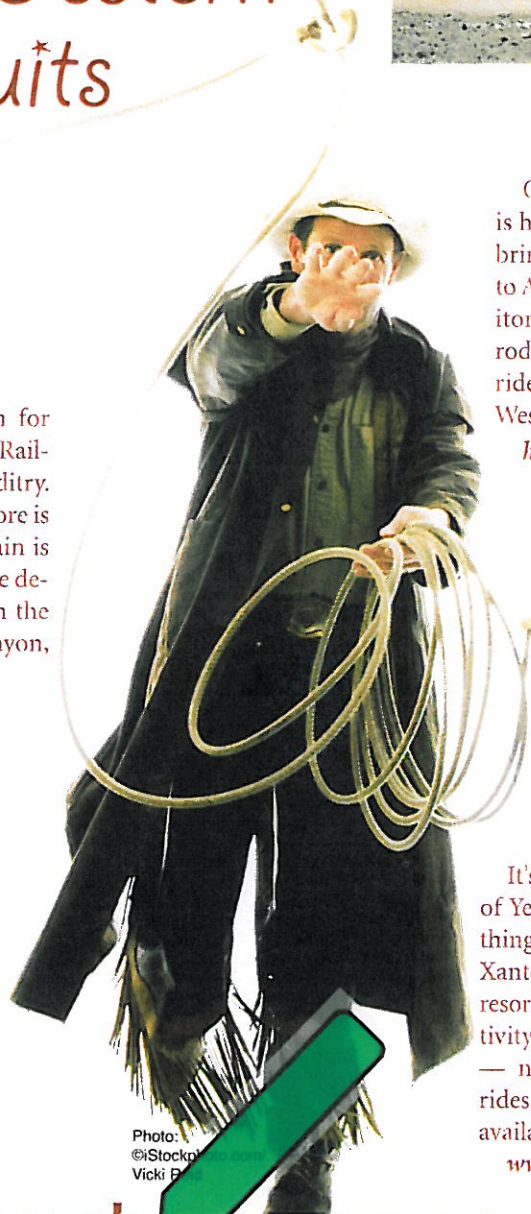


Photo: ©iStockphoto.com
Vicki B.



Round 'em up

One of the finest rodeos in North America is held each July, when the Calgary Stampede brings the "Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth" to Alberta for 10 days. More than 1 million visitors attend the stampede's lineup of pro rodeo, chuckwagon races, live music, midway rides, agriculture expositions, and other Old West-style, group-friendly entertainment.

<http://calgariystampede.com>

Saddle up your horses

It's one thing to enjoy the dramatic scenery of Yellowstone National Park, but it's another thing altogether to experience it on horseback. Xanterra Parks and Resorts, a premier park and resort concessionaire, offers horse rides as an activity that lets participants get closer to nature — not to mention playing cowboy. Wagon rides, llama packing, and guided stock trips are available as well.

www.nps.gov/yell



Belly up to the bar

With their iconic batwing doors and bottles of local rotgut, saloons were mainstays of the whiskey-sippin', gun-slingin', card-playin' settlers of the West. Things have calmed down a little since then, but Old West-style saloons can still be found. Try Old Saloon No. 10 in Deadwood, infamous site of Wild Bill's murder. Other Deadwood saloons include Deadwood Dick's and Gem's Steakhouse and Saloon.

www.deadwood.org



Party like it's 1899

From Salt Lake City's Days of '47 to Kingdom Days in Breckenridge, Colo., towns commemorate the American West with annual celebrations. One of the biggest of these is Cheyenne Frontier Days. There's a rodeo, of course, but there's so much more: historic home tours, military re-enactments, parades that feature horseback riders in period clothes, a cattle drive, Western craftspeople and artisans, and impersonations of the West's most memorable legends.

www.cfdrodeo.com



Gold in them thar hills

Although the Colorado Gold Rush wrapped up in the 1860s, groups can still pan for gold at Country Boy Mine in Breckenridge. Eureka Creek still gives up flecks of real gold to persistent panners, who can take home the finders-keepers souvenirs. Country Boy also has underground mine tours, original mining equipment, a 55-foot ore chute slide, and friendly burros that roam the site.

www.countryboymine.com



Rustle up some grub

There's nothing quite like eating dinner cooked out of a chuckwagon — or speared on the tines of a pitchfork. Visitors to historic Medora, N.D., can enjoy a steak cooked in true cowboy fashion during a Pitchfork Fondue, served on the bluffs overlooking the town and the surrounding Badlands. Accompaniments include baked potatoes, baked beans, coleslaw, a North Dakota sunset, and live Western melodies.

www.medora.com