

***Monday, June 27, 2011; 8:30-3:30***

***Historic Cheyenne Tour***

***Cost: \$50.00***

***Pick-up Location: Please be at the East Porte Cochere of Little America by 8:15***

This tour will focus on the three elements which were primary in the founding of Cheyenne: the Union Pacific Railroad, the cavalry fort (originally Fort D.A. Russell, now F.E. Warren Air Force Base) established to protect the railroad builders from hostile natives, and the state's capitol. In 1867, as the rails were reaching this place, "where the mountains met the plains", surveyors set the corner stone common to the fort on the west and the townsite on the east, claiming 320 acres for Union Pacific.

Our transportation will be on the *Cheyenne Street Railway Trolley* – these enchanting vehicles are replicas of the electric car trolleys that ran on rails from 1908 to 1924 (our current-day trolleys do not run on rails). The trolley will pick us up at Little America at 8:30, and take us to Warren Air Force Base, which is the oldest continuously active military installation within the Air Force. From 1885 to 1930, more than 220 brick buildings were erected; all remain in use today. The central core of the base was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the base has been designated a National Historic Landmark. We will tour the base (in the trolley) and visit the base museum. From the base, we will have a narrated tour through Cheyenne's historic districts; then to the Wyoming State Capitol with its gold leaf dome (built in 1890, the year Wyoming became a State). By trolley, we will proceed for lunch to the historic Plains Hotel, established in 1911. After lunch, we'll cross the street to the Depot Square Plaza for narrated carriage rides through the historic downtown district. (The carriage has a capacity of 10; a beautiful oak wagon drawn by a magnificent team of matched Belgian draft horses.) Then a tour of the Union Pacific Depot (constructed in 1886; recently renovated at a cost exceeding \$5,000,000) and the Depot museum. The trolley will pick us up at the Depot at 3:00 to return to Little America by 3:30.

***Tuesday, June 28, 2011; 9:15-3:00***

***Terry Bison Ranch***

***Cost: \$40.00***

***Pick-up Location: Please be at the East Porte Cochere of Little America by 9:00***

The Trolley will pick us up at Little America at 9:15 and take us to the Terry Bison Ranch, located seven miles south of Cheyenne – right on the Colorado border. We'll be treated to the "Dirty Dan MaGee Bison Tour and Burger Fry". After we arrive at the ranch, we will depart on a fully narrated tour on a custom built train on standard gauge rail. This tour takes us onto the prairie INTO the buffalo herd; you see these huge animals up close and personal (but safely ON the train). There are occasional stops, and the buffalo DO come to the train (they get treats from the driver!) so this is a wonderful photo opportunity. The Burger Fry provides a choice of beef or bison burgers. Afterwards, you may visit the gift shop, which sells buffalo meat, skulls, and hides, along with other more normal gifts. The Trolley will pick us up at 2:00 to return to Little America no later than 3:00.

***Wednesday, June 29, 2011; 9:00-11:30***

***Cheyenne Botanic Gardens, Children's Village and Old West Museum***

***Cost: \$20.00***

***Pick-up Location: Please be at the East Porte Cochere of Little America by 8:45***

The Trolley will pick us up at Little America at 9:00 and take us to Cheyenne Botanic Gardens, located in Lion's Park. With its beginnings as a modest anti-poverty vision in 1977, the Botanic Gardens now encompass 9 acres, housing a 6,800 square-foot, three-sectioned greenhouse conservatory, and outside, many gardens featuring perennials, annuals, wildflowers, roses, herbs and cacti. There is the Peace Garden (a favorite site for weddings), and two community vegetable gardens. In the conservatory, food is grown year-round for distribution to local low-income programs. We'll also visit the Children's Village, a three-quarter acre site filled with numerous special visual, tactile, and musical features, interactive landscapes including a natural wetlands and gravity powered water works – a wonderland that delights children of all ages. Then we will walk past the Discovery Pond, onto the Western Walkway, through the Rotary Century Plazas, which describe the last three centuries of people and botany in southeastern Wyoming, past Wyoming's oldest locomotive steam engine, and across the street to the Old West Museum, on the grounds of Cheyenne Frontier Days. This museum houses one of the nation's largest collections of historic horse-drawn carriages and wagons. "The history of the world's largest outdoor rodeo and western celebration comes alive." The trolley will pick us up the museum at 11:15 to return to Little America by 11:30.