



Lakota Wolf Preserve
Tuesday, October 29, 2019

What? Visit the Lakota Wolf Preserve
9 Mount Pleasant Road, Columbia, NJ 07832 Tele: (908) 496-9244

Itinerary? 7:00am Depart home for 7:15am arrival at Brookdale
7:45am Bus departs

6:00pm Bus returns to Brookdale

Lunch? Stone Water 3 Peaks Marina, NJ
125 State Route 181, Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849, Tele: (973) 810-3858

Enjoy a delicious lunch and breathtaking views of Lake Hopatcong lunching at Stone Water 3 Peaks Marina. (Great opportunity for photography enthusiasts).

From: <https://stonewaternj.com/>

The exact origin of the name Hopatcong is unknown, though it is most commonly attributed to the Lenape Indian word for “stone water,” or “stone over water”. Paying tribute to Lake Hopatcong’s Lenape Indian roots, Stone Water is the region’s newest lakefront dining experience. Created by Joe and Lisa Leifken, in partnership with Gary Whitman of Windsor Capital Management, Stone Water provides our guests with an unparalleled dining experience. We serve the finest modern new-age American Cuisine created by Executive Chef Domenick Torlucci. Guests can come by car or boat to enjoy indoor and outdoor dining along with our fabulous 100 ft. surround bar.

Description? Join the pack! Explore and learn about the social structure, eating habits, and relationship to humans of some of the most amazing and beautiful animals on an educational wolf watch tour. Be surrounded by 4 different packs of wolves in the safety of an observation area in the center of the Lakota Wolf preserve.

Watch the wolves play, interact with each other, and hear them howl.

See and learn about the fox and bobcats living on the preserve.

From <https://www.lakotawolf.com/>

Who We Are - The preserve is owned and run by Jim Stein and Becky Mace who have raised and cared for all the animals at the preserve. Our wildlife preserve, featuring educational tours and photography sessions, is the only one of its kind in the State of New Jersey. With wolves, foxes, and bobcats, our preserve is the largest in the Northeastern United States. We are in no way affiliated with any Lakota Indian People. We chose the name based on the meaning of the word Lakota. Meaning friend or alliance of friends. Plus, one of our first and favorite wolves was named Lakota and it just fit.

Winner of the New Jersey Governor's Environmental Tourism Award 1999 | Featured on Many TV Shows & News Programs

There is a wonderful video about Yellowstone wolf's success. In fact, there's more than one but I haven't been able to add the .mp4 link. I suggest you google and see at least one of them.

Notes and pictures from trip:

The Brookdale trips are worth the frustrations, and this trip also had some. The bus was late. The departure was late waiting for attendees which I don't really agree with doing. We got there on time. Then the well versed but not so organized new leader wanted to take down our names as we entered the bus, despite it raining. In her defense, when I mentioned that roll-call is generally done ON the bus, she relented. But she took roll-call instead of counting heads both after the tour and after lunch. Tedious.

The bus generally has WiFi but this one did not. Then we had to give up the toilet stop due to traffic delaying us so much. Isn't there always traffic?

The Wolf Preserve was so impressive that everyone wanted to donate. The lady owner wouldn't take money and I wonder if all those who were hot to give managed to find the address and send a donation later. I suspect not.

They are Jim and Jamie Dutcher, and they literally have been 21 years living with the wolves, raising them, caring for them, and since wolves are only used to them, Jim says he and Jamie have never taken a trip together. One of them must be there at all times, and both of them must be close by during all storms in case a fence comes down.

A funny, but not unexpected: while walking up a bit of a hill to see the wolves, Jamie asked if Brookdale was an assisted living group!

We should look up fox facts too: they have 40 sounds and the worse if like a screaming woman and the sound travels easily for 2 miles.

Did you know their coat of fur changes with the season? Changes with the predicted season. One of their foxes has changed the coat color correctly in 6 of the 7 years they've had him. His black is turning silver white in anticipation of a very cold winter. Jamie agrees based on all the acorns that have fallen. Based on the thickness and color of the wooley worms.



They have a number of packs, all in separate but huge areas with double fencing.



A fox with a changing coat to silver white indicating a tough winter coming. Jamie is looking for a mater for this bob cat. You can see a lynx begging for food on a tree stump



A sad story about the female red fox. It is especially shy ever since a group of Boy Scouts climbed up on the fence and threw stones into the cage. Jamie disinvented them on the spot but the damage was done.

Note: Depart to Colorado Springs through Denver on October 31.