

Over 40 Years!  
Volume 43 • Number 1

*South Dakota*

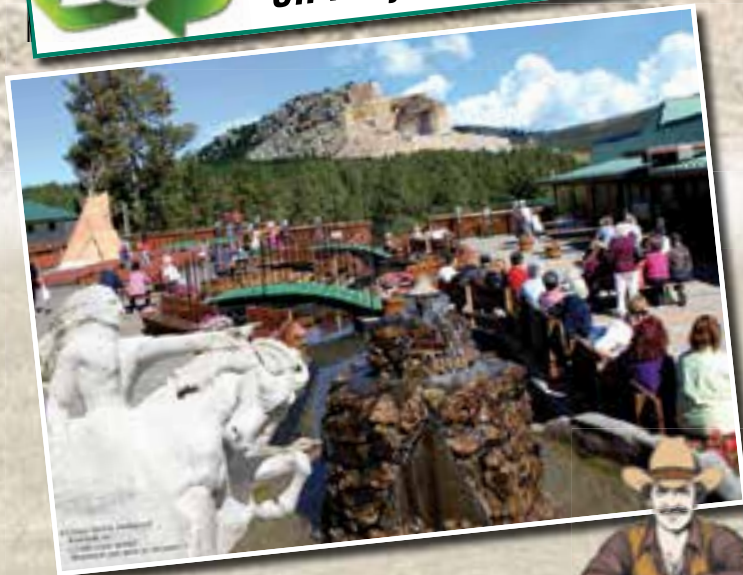
# Traveler

MAGAZINE

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## Information Centers & Rest Areas



**New Effington** (southbound)  
I-29 at mile post **250.8**  
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**Salem** (westbound)  
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Open 7 days/wk

**Vivian** (westbound)  
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Open 7 days/wk

**Chamberlain**  
(eastbound and westbound)  
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Open 7 days/wk,  
Welcome Center (*seasonal*)

**Wasta** (eastbound)  
I-90 at mile post **98.6**  
Open 7 days/wk,

**Wasta** (westbound)  
I-90 at mile post **98.6**  
Open 7 days/wk,

**BHills Visitor  
Information Center**  
I-90 at mile post **61**  
Open 7 days/wk,

**Spearfish** (eastbound)  
I-90 at mile post **1**  
Open 7 days/wk,  
Welcome Center (*seasonal*)

South Dakota maintains Information Centers at rest areas along the Interstate highways. You will find visitor information, rest rooms, drinking water, picnic facilities, vending machines, pet exercise areas and sanitary disposal dumps. Overnight camping is prohibited by law.



# Scan these Icons to see each Video Overview!



Tag Along with Our Video Crew...



## DID YOU KNOW...

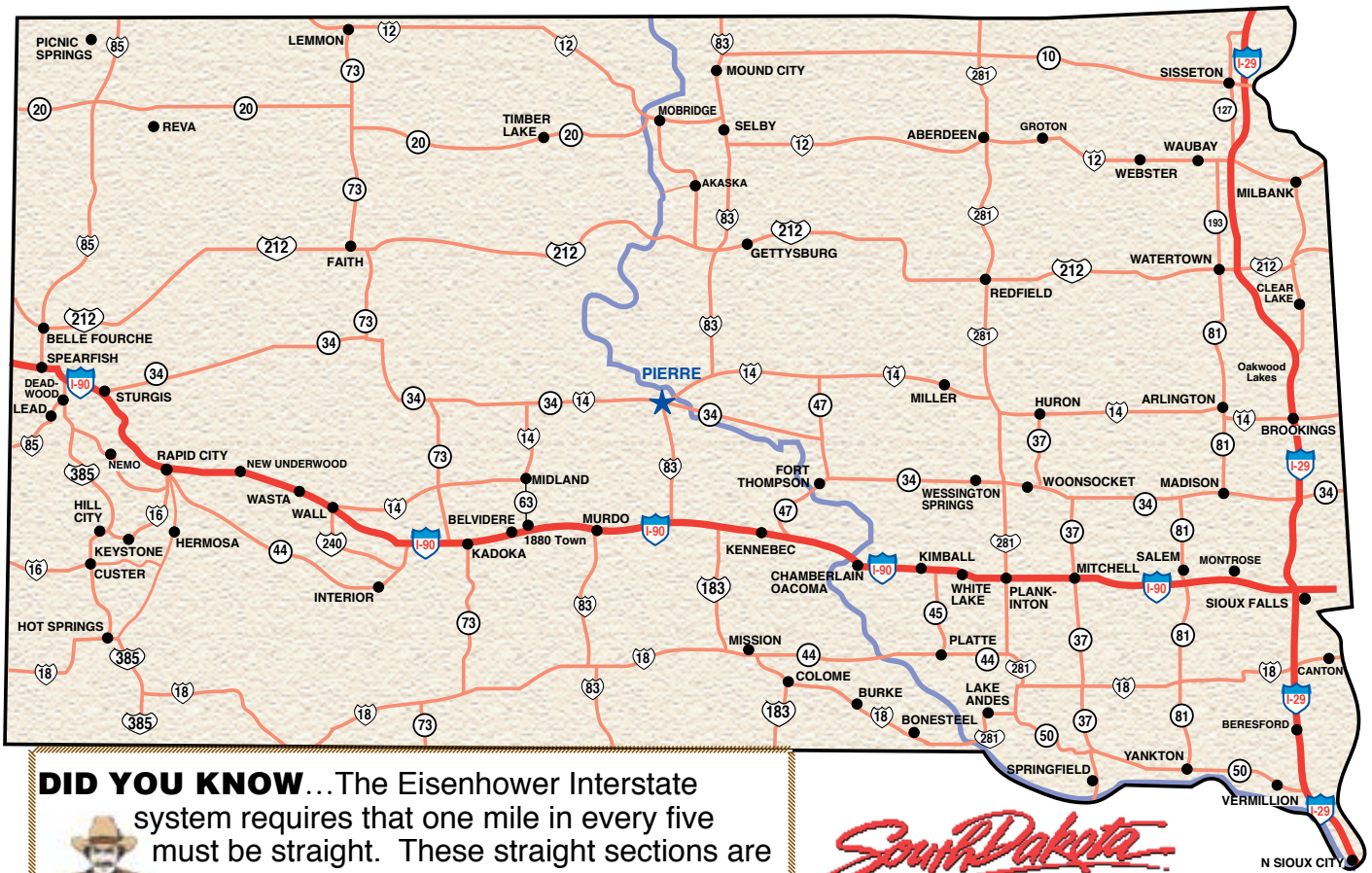
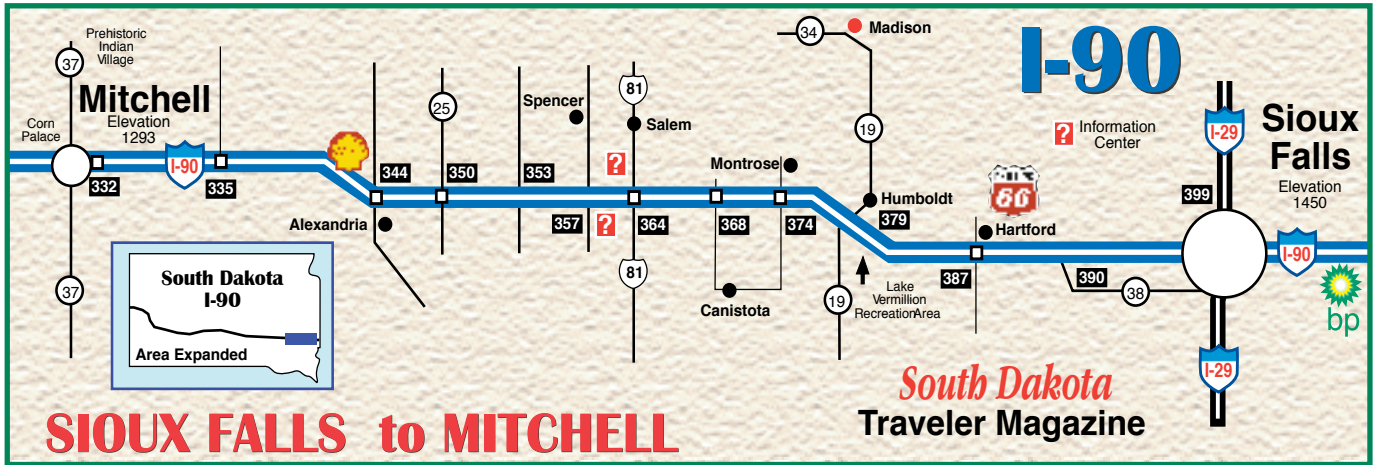
How the "West Was Won," starring Jimmy Stewart, George Peppard and an all star cast, was the first movie filmed in South Dakota nominated for Best Picture. The 1963 garnered eight nominations and three Oscars.



# 100s of "THINGS-TO-DO" VIDEOS!



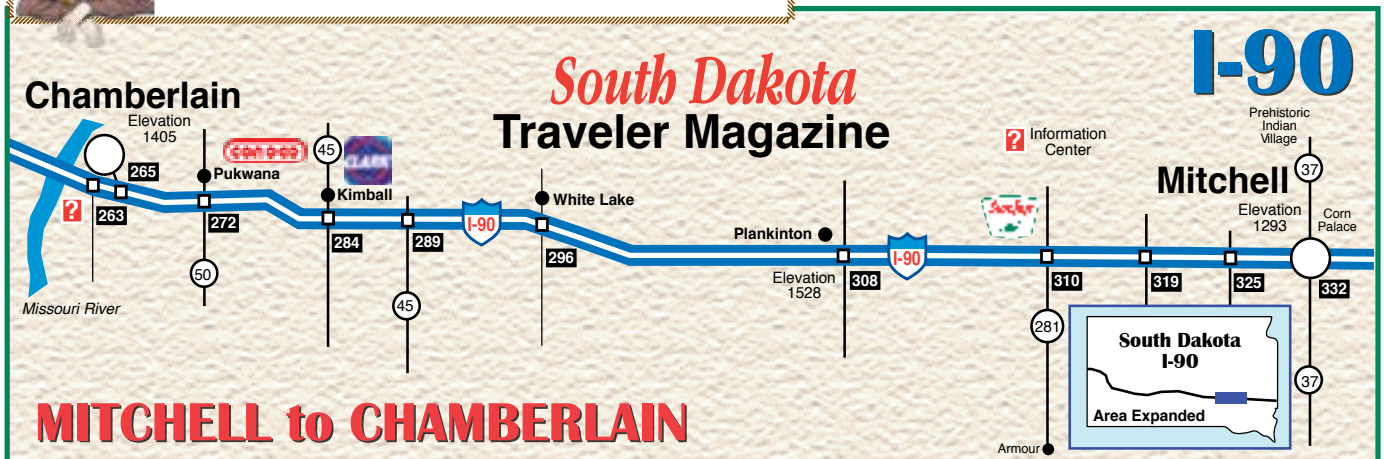




**DID YOU KNOW...** The Eisenhower Interstate system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are usable as emergency landing strips.



**South Dakota**  
**HIGHWAY MAP**







## G = Gas • L = Lodging • F = Food • C = Camping

Find the exit number of your destination (below) and check the next mile marker number as you pass. Subtract the small number, the difference = miles to go.

### I-90 EXITS NUMBERS

West Bound	East Bound
1 Rest Area	265 G F L C
10 <b>SPEARFISH</b>	272 G F L
12	284 G F L C
14 G F L C	289
17 to <b>DEADWOOD</b>	296 G F L C
23 G F L	301 Rest Area
30 to <b>STURGIS</b>	308 G F L C
32 G F L C	310 G F
34	319 G F
37	325
40	330 <b>MITCHELL</b>
42	332
44	335 G F L C
46 G F L C	344 G F
48 G F L	350
51 <b>RAPID CITY</b>	353 G F
<b>BLACK HILLS</b>	357
55	363 Rest Area
57 G F L	364 G F L C
58 G F L	368
59 G F L	374 G F C
60 G F L	379 G F
61 G F L	387 G F
	390 G F C

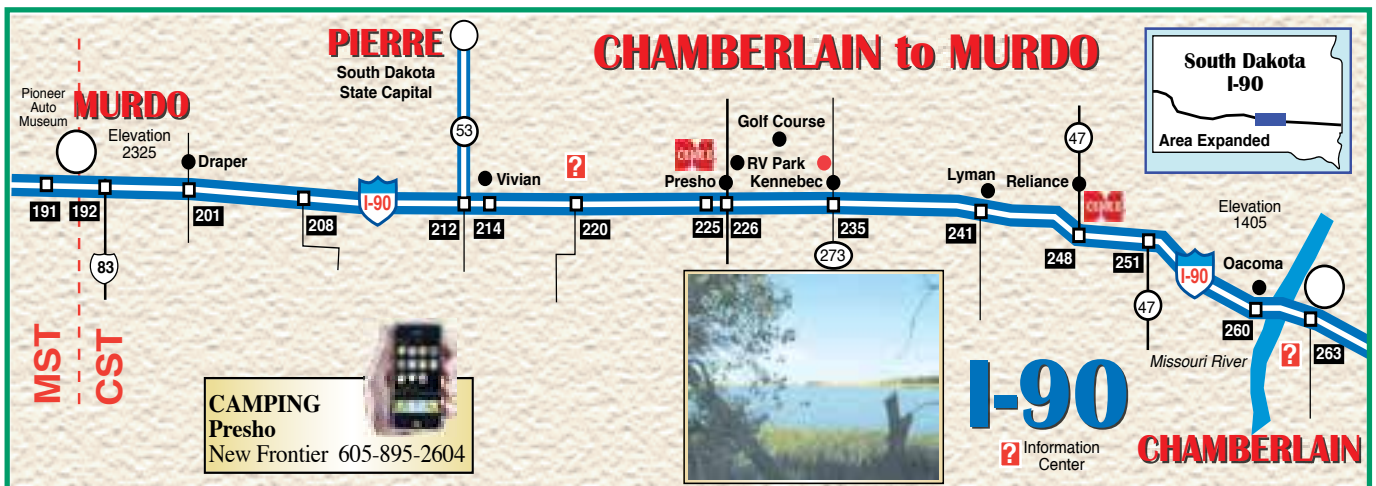
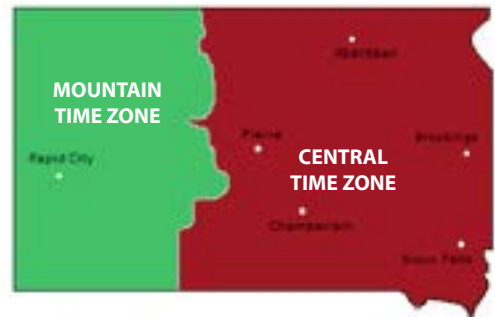
### DID YOU KNOW?



South Dakota is one of only 12 states with a single area code...**(605)**.



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## *South Dakota* 2025 Calender of Events

### MAY

5/23-24 .....Summer Kickstart, Deadwood  
5/23-9/30.....Mt Rushmore Lighting Ceremony, Keystone  
5/25 .....Back When They Bucked, Deadwood  
5/28-9/27 .....Outlaw Square Concert Series, Deadwood  
5/31-6/1 .....Mickelson Trial Marathon, Deadwood  
5/31 .....Ft Sisseton Lantern Tour, Lake City  
5/31 .....FruhlingFest, Rapid City  
6/1-6 .....Ride Across SD, Rapid City  
6/5-7 .....BH Quilt Show & Sale, Rapid City  
6/5-8 .....Wheel Jam, Huron  
6/6-7 .....Deadwood PBR, Deadwood  
6/7-8 .....Ft Sisseton Historical Festival, Lake City  
6/7-8 .....Siouxland Renaissance Festival, Sioux Falls  
6/8-9/16 .....BH Playhouse Season, Custer  
6/8 .....1880 Train Old West Shootout, Hill City  
6/13-14 .....Wild Bill Days, Deadwood  
6/13-15 .....Custer Off-Road Rally, Custer  
6/14 .....Wild Deadwood Reads, Deadwood  
6/14-15 .....Arts in the Park, Aberdeen  
6/14 .....Mt Rushmore Rodeo, Palmer Gulch Resort  
6/14 .....Pine Island Gravel Odyssey, Spearfish  
6/14-15 .....Brookings Kite Festival, Brookings  
6/15 .....1880 Train Old West Shootout, Hill City  
6/18-21 .....BH Camaro Rally, Spearfish  
6/19-21 .....Czech Days, Tabor  
6/20-22 .....Old Settlers' Days, Highmore  
6/20-22 .....Mickelson Trail Summer Trek, Lead  
6/20 .....Dalesburg Midsummer Festival, Vermillion  
6/20-22 .....Scavenger's Journey, Murdo  
6/20-22 .....Farley Fest, Milbank  
6/21 .....Mt Rushmore Rodeo, Palmer Gulch Resort  
6/22 .....1880 Train Old West Shootout, Hill City  
6/25-28 .....Crystal Springs Rodeo, Clear Lake  
6/26-29 .....SD Shakespeare Festival, Vermillion  
6/27-29 .....Quarry Days, Dell Rapids  
6/28 .....Ft Sisseton Lantern Tour, Lake City  
6/29 .....1880 Train Old West Shootout, Hill City  
6/29-7/20 .....Game of Clue at Ft Sisseton, Lake City

### JULY

7/2-4 .....Sitting Bull Stampede Rodeo, Mobridge  
7/3-4 .....Gold Camp Jubilee, Lead  
7/4 .....4th of July Parade, Watertown  
7/4-6 .....Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate  
Annual WACIPI, Agency Village  
7/6-11 .....3 Deadwood Wheeler Rally, Deadwood  
7/6 .....1880 Train Old West Shootout, Hill City  
7/11-13 .....Deadwood Blues Festival, Deadwood  
7/11-12 .....Lallycooler, Sioux Falls  
7/11-13 .....Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant, De Smet  
7/12-13 .....Brookings Summer Arts Festival, Brookings  
7/12 .....Grassland Gravel, Ft Pierre  
7/13-17 .....Dakota 600, Keystone  
7/13 .....1880 Train Old West Shootout, Hill City  
7/16-19 .....BH Corvette Classic, Spearfish  
7/17-19 .....Cookin' on Kampeska, Watertown  
7/17-20 .....Corn Palace Stampede Rodeo, Mitchell  
7/17-20 .....Get On! Adventure Festival, Sturgis  
7/18-20 .....Gold Discovery Days, Custer  
7/18-20 .....Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant, De Smet  
7/18-20 .....Badlands Astronomy Festival, Interior  
7/18-20 .....Annual Festival in the Park, Spearfish  
7/18-20 .....Burke Stampede Rodeo, Burke  
7/18-19 .....Murdo Ranch Rodeo & Bronc Ride, Murdo

7/18-19 .....Storybook Land Festival, Aberdeen  
7/19-20 .....LifeLight Hills Alive, Rapid City  
7/20-26 .....Days of '76 Rodeo & Parade, Deadwood  
7/20 .....1880 Train Old West Shootout, Hill City  
7/25-27 .....Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant, De Smet  
7/25-27 .....Annual Bruce Honey Days, Bruce  
7/26 .....SD Chislic Festival, Freeman  
7/26 .....Stars, Strolls & S'Mores, Lake City  
7/27 .....1880 Train Old West Shootout, Hill City  
7/31 .....Palace City Pre-Sturgis Party, Mitchell  
7/26 .....Ft Sisseton Lantern Tour, Lake City

### AUGUST

8/1-10 .....85th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Sturgis  
8/1-9 .....Sioux Empire Fair, Sioux Falls  
8/1-3 .....Annual Sioux River Folk Festival, Canton  
8/1-3 .....Ft Sisseton Escape Room, Lake City  
8/3 .....Mt Rushmore Rodeo, Palmer Gulch Resort  
8/7-9 .....Clay County Fair, Vermillion  
8/9 .....Mt Rushmore Rodeo, Palmer Gulch Resort  
8/11-17 .....Brown County Fair, Aberdeen  
8/11-14 .....Turner County Fair, Parker  
8/15-24 .....Central States Fair & Rodeo, Rapid City  
8/15-17 .....Summer Arts Festival, Yankton  
8/16-17 .....Annual Rosholt Threshing Bee, Rosholt  
8/16 .....Thunderhawk Wide Open, Lemmon  
8/17 .....Mt Rushmore Rodeo, Palmer Gulch Resort  
8/17 .....1880 Train Old West Shootout, Hill City  
8/19-24 .....Kool Deadwood Nites, Deadwood  
8/27-9/1 .....SD State Fair, Huron  
8/31 .....Annual Dakota Five-0, Spearfish  
8/31 .....1880 Train Old West Shootout, Hill City

### SEPTEMBER

9/5-6 .....Ribs, Rods & Rock N' Roll, Vermillion  
9/6-7 .....Hill City Quilt & Fiber Arts Show, Hill City  
9/6 .....SideWalk Arts Festival, Sioux Falls  
9/8-14 .....Sanford International Golf Tournament, Sioux Falls  
9/12-13 .....BH PolkaPalooza, Palmer Gulch Resort  
9/13 .....1880 Train Wine Express, Hill City  
9/13-14 .....Kuchen & Twin Rivers  
Old Iron Harvest Fest., Delmont  
9/19-21 .....SiouxPercon, Sioux Falls  
9/19-20 .....Deadwood Jam, Deadwood  
9/25-27 .....Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup  
& Arts Festival, Custer  
9/27 .....1880 Train Oktoberfest Express, Hill City  
9/27-28 .....Wheelin' to Wall, Wall

### OCTOBER

10/4-5 .....Run Crazy Horse Marathon & Races, Custer  
10/10-12 .....Black Hills PowWow, Rapid City  
10/11 .....Bierborse, Rapid City  
10/18 .....SD Pheasant Hunting Season Opens, Pierre  
10/24-25 .....DeadWeird, Deadwood

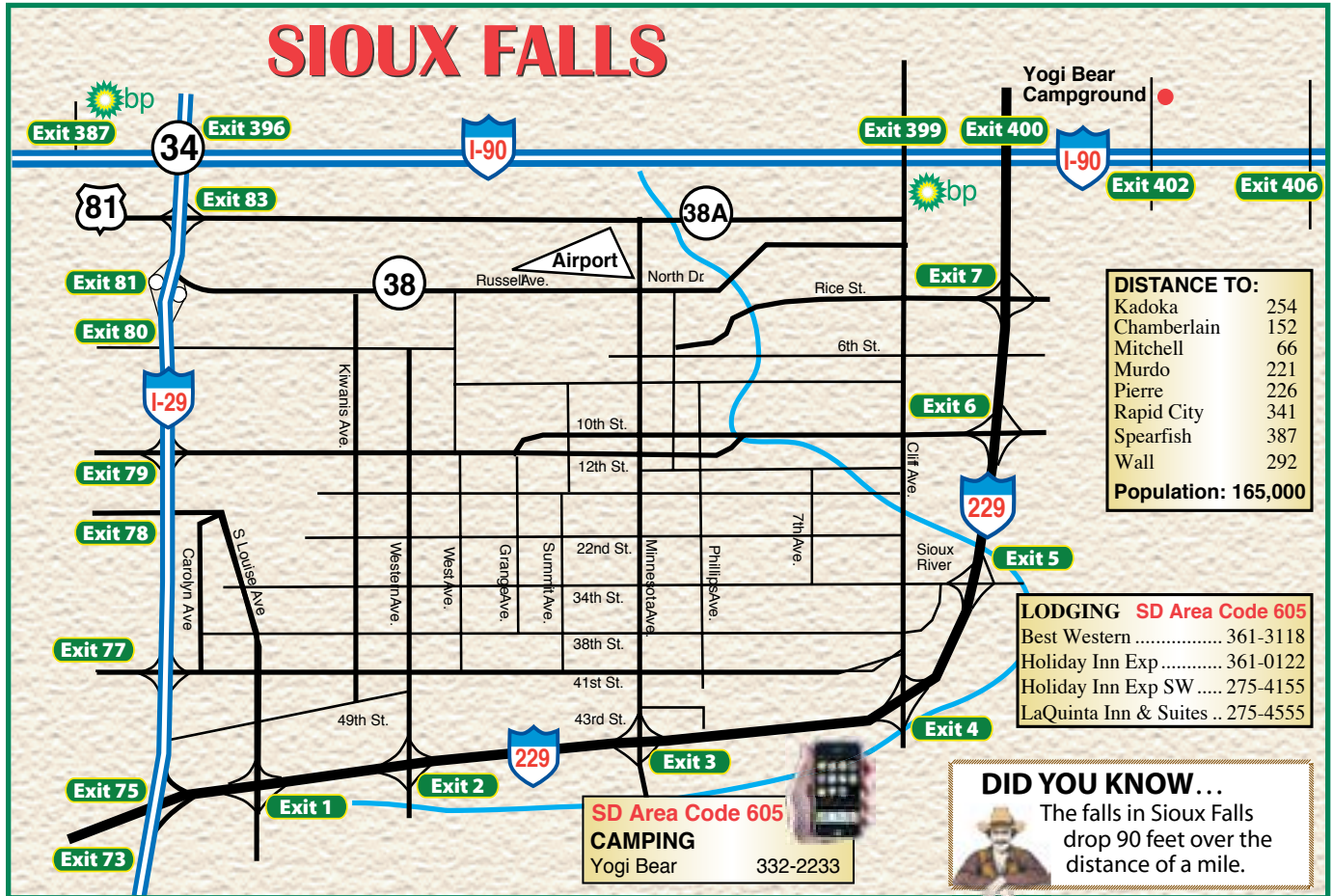
### NOVEMBER

11/7-8 .....Sioux Empire Arts & Crafts Show, Sioux Falls  
11/15-12/31 .....BH Christmas Tree Permit Season, Black Hills  
11/26-28 .....1880 Train Holiday Express, Hill City  
11/28-12/28 .....1880 Train Holiday Express Spiked, Hill City

### DECEMBER

12/15 .....SD Snowmobile Trails Season Opens, Black Hills





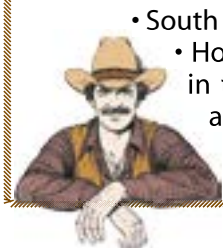
## SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

Enjoy Sioux Falls' historic downtown with specialty shops offering everything from Native American artwork to South Dakota-made gifts, plus more! Or head to The Empire and Empire East Malls, which offer more than 200 stores. And don't miss Sioux Falls' Great Plains Zoo, Washington Pavilion and many museums showcasing Plains and Native American history and art.

Truly the most beautiful sight in the area, the Falls of the Big Sioux River are magnificent waterfalls after which the city was named. Enjoy nature's splendor from three viewing areas with access walks and railings. Clean picnic areas allow for a great day in the great outdoors. Falls Park Visitor Information Center and Viewing Tower also offers a sound and light show sharing the history of Sioux Falls.

Whether you're up for a round of championship golf, scenic biking, or blading along our 15 mile recreation trail, you'll be amazed at the variety of outdoor opportunities and more than 60 parks. Sioux Falls offers waterslide parks, go-karts, indoor playlands, swimming pools and more!

### DID YOU KNOW



- South Dakota's state insect is the honey bee.
- Honey is the only food that does not spoil. Honey found in the tombs of Egyptian pharaohs has been tasted by archaeologists and found edible.
- To make a half-kilo, bees must collect nectar from over two million individual flowers

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# World's Only CORN PALACE

Corn Palace Festival August 20-24, 2025

**DID YOU KNOW...** Since 1892, there have been three Corn Palace structures built. The Mitchell founding fathers wanted something to put their town on the map, and there you have it. An average ear of corn has 800 kernels, arranged in 16 rows.



## A-Maize-ing Ear-chitecture!

The World's Only Corn Palace is Mitchell's premier tourist attraction. Some 500,000 tourists come from around the nation each year to see the uniquely designed corn murals. The city's first Corn Palace was built as a way to prove to the world that South Dakota had a healthy agricultural climate.

### A Rich History

Eight years before the turn of the 20th century, in 1892 (when Mitchell, South Dakota was a small, 12-year-old city of 3,000 inhabitants) the World's Only Corn Palace was established on the city's Main Street. During its over 100 years of existence, it has become known worldwide and now attracts more than a half a million visitors annually. The palace was conceived as a gathering place where city residents and their rural neighbors could enjoy a fall festival with extraordinary stage entertainment - a celebration to climax a crop-growing season and harvest. This tradition continues today with the annual Corn Palace Festival held in late August each year.

By 1905 the success of the Corn Palace had been assured and a new Palace was to be built, but this building soon became too small. In 1919, the decision to build a third Corn Palace was made. This one was to be permanent and more purposeful than its predecessors. The present building was completed in 1921, just in time for the Corn Palace Festivities. That winter Mitchell hosted its first boy's state basketball tournament. The building was considered to have the finest basketball arena in the upper Midwest area.

In the 1930's, steps were taken to recapture the artistic decorative features of the building and minarets and kiosks of Moorish design were added restoring the appearance of early day Corn Palace.

### The Corn Palace Today

Today, the Corn Palace is more than the home of the festival or a point of interest of tourists. It is a practical structure adaptable to many purposes. Included among its many uses are industrial exhibits, dances, stage shows, meetings, banquets, proms, graduations arena for Mitchell High School and Dakota Wesleyan University as well as district, regional and state basketball tournaments. USA Today named the Corn Palace one of the top 10 places in America for high school basketball.

The Palace is redecorated each year with naturally colored corn and other grains and native grasses to make it "the agricultural show-place of the world". We currently use 13 different colors or shades of corn to decorate the Corn Palace: red, brown, black, blue, white, orange, calico, yellow and now we have green corn! A different theme is chosen each year, and murals are designed to reflect that theme. Ear by ear the corn is nailed to the Corn Palace to create a scene. The decorating process usually starts in late May with the removal of the rye and dock. The corn murals are stripped at the end of August and the new ones are completed by the first of October.

Cherie Ramsdell is the current panel designer. The Corn Palace is known around the world as a folk-art wonder on the prairie of South Dakota.

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## EASTERN REGION CAMPING

### “State Parks Country”

Most of South Dakota's state parks and state recreation areas are located in the eastern one-third of the state, nearly all of them are associated with tree-rimmed lakes. Along the I-29 and I-90 corridors, you will also find a necklace of highly developed commercial campgrounds that specialize in deluxe facilities, service and modern conveniences.

More than 100 clear blue lakes, created by glacial activity nearly 12,000 years ago, dot northeastern South Dakota. Romantic Indian names identify the lakes in this region. Nearly every lake has a homey resort on it, and state parks at the bigger lakes offer some of the most sophisticated public campsites in South Dakota. And yes, the fishing is great. The spring-fed glacial lakes abound with walleyes, northerns, bass, crappies and bluegills.

Prime campsites in southeastern South Dakota are associated with the James, Big Sioux, and the Missouri Rivers. This is lakeside or riverside camping at its best. Campgrounds at Lewis & Clark Lake, Lake Madison, Lake Herman and Newton Hills State Park are very popular.

All along Interstate 90, which is “the tourist trail” through South Dakota, private businesses have created deluxe overnight campgrounds and RV parks that serve thousands of traveling vacationers.



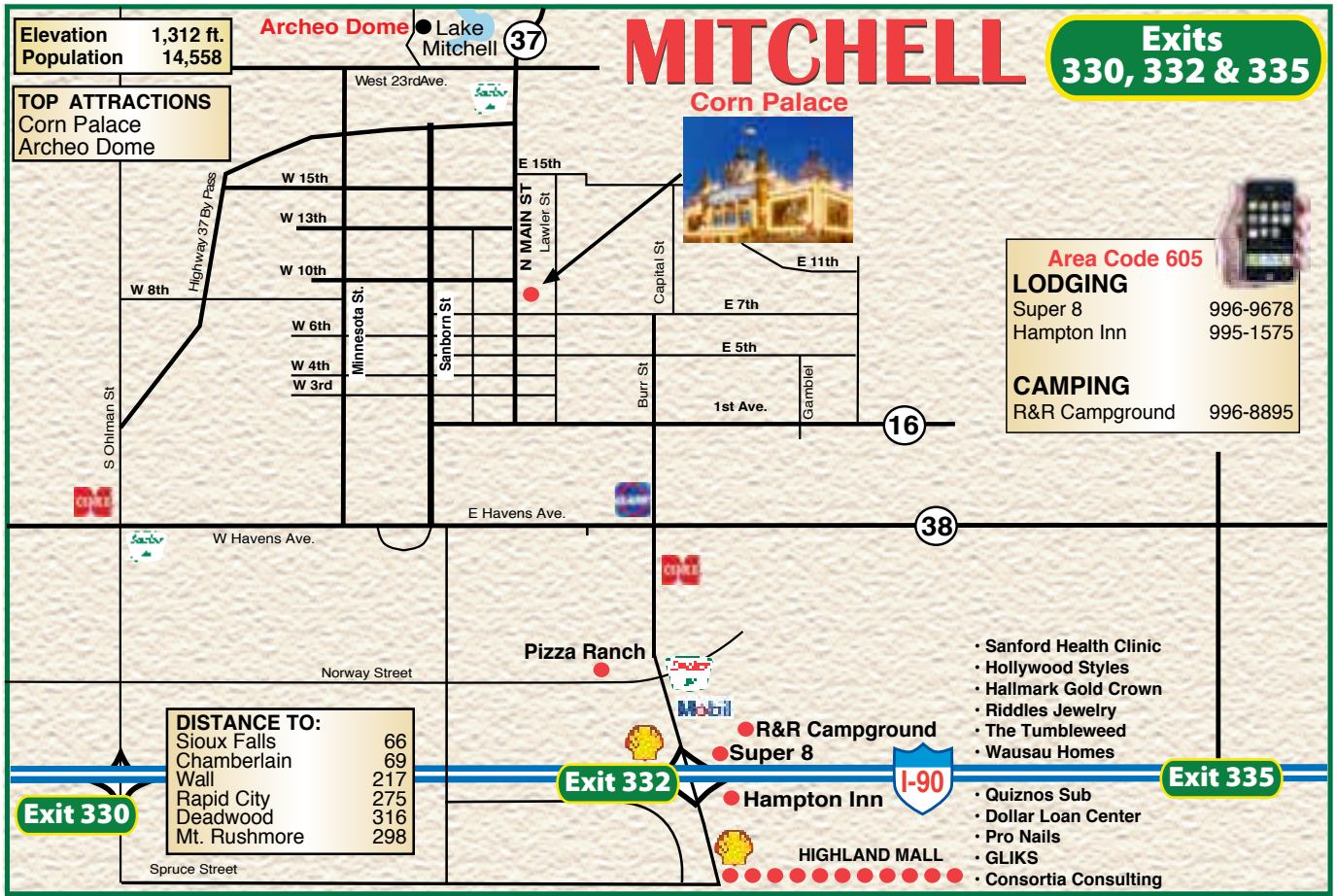
### Decorating the Corn Palace

Each year, the Corn Palace is redecorated, sporting a new theme. The decorative materials for the Corn Palace are all native corn, grasses and grains of South Dakota. The new theme is selected each year by the Corn Palace Committee along with Cal Schultz, our artist. Approximately 29 local residents are hired each summer to redecorate the Palace.

The process begins in the early summer when all of the grasses and grains are removed from the building and replaced in new geometric designs. 3,000 bushels of Milo, rye oat heads and sour dock are tied into bundles and nailed to the building.

In the late summer when the corn matures, the mural pictures are replaced. The new scenes are drawn on black roofing paper and are marked as to which of the 11 different colors of corn goes where. Think of it as a very large corn-by-number project! The roofing paper is then tacked onto the palace, and the crew using tall scaffolding, literally nails each ear of corn in its designated space. About 275,000 ears of corn are sawed in half and nailed flat-side to the building. It takes approximately three months to redecorate the palace at an annual cost of over \$100,000 each and every year.





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**Mitchell EXITS 330, 332 & 335**

**DID YOU KNOW...**

A French geographer drew the first accurate map of South Dakota in 1702, over a century before Lewis & Clark explored the area.



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## South Dakota Fishing...

South Dakota contains some of the finest fishing waters in North America. Between the mountain lakes and streams of the Black Hills, and the glacial lakes of eastern South Dakota, anglers will find fishing opportunities in stock dams, prairie rivers, and giant reservoirs. Nearly 30 fish species provide anglers with a variety of fishing adventures. The most popular fish include walleye, salmon, bluegill, crappie, perch, bass, pike, trout and catfish. South Dakota's fishing season, with some exceptions, is open year-round, providing quality four-season fishing.



Current Missouri River  
fishing info is available at:  
1-800-445-FISH (3474)  
\* (Info April - Oct.)

# Chamberlain & Oacoma

## EXITS 265, 263 & 260

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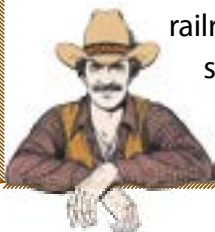
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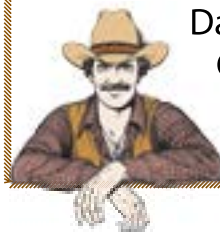
## DID YOU KNOW...

American Island was once located south of the Interstate Bridge, between Chamberlain and Oacoma. The island was given to Chamberlain in 1889 to be used as a park. Chamberlain was connected to the island by a pontoon bridge and in 1905 a railroad pile and barge bridge which was converted to steel in 1918. In 1953, Fort Randall Dam flooded the island and it was sold to the Corps of Engineers for \$420,000.



## DID YOU KNOW...

The shoreline of Lake Oahe is an amazing 2,250 miles long. There is more shoreline in South Dakota than in California.





**TOP ATTRACTIONS**

Missouri River Sports  
South Dakota Hall of Fame  
Al's Oasis

# CHAMBERLAIN

**Exits 263 & 265**

**Exit 260**

## OACOMA

**Exit 260**

**Old 16 Bridge**

**Missouri River**

**American Creek**

**Best Western Motel**

**South Dakota Hall of Fame**

**Hillside Motel Charlie's Restaurant & Lounge**

**Glenn Ave.**

**AL's OASIS**

**Oasis Pump-N-Park**

**CENEX**

**Subway**

**To Rapid City**

**To Sioux Falls**

**Exit 263**

**Exit 265**

**SD Area Code 605**

**LODGING**

Best Western .. 734-5575

Hillside Motel .. 734-5591

**MILES TO:**

Rapid City	200
Mt Rushmore	222
Kadoka	110
Murdo	69
Mitchell	70
Sioux Falls	140

## Fish Measurement Regulations

Persons on the water or actively engaged in fishing must leave the head, skin, and fins attached to all fish. Only gills, entrails and scales may be removed. This restriction also applies to ice-fishing.



### 2025 Non-Resident Fishing Fees

Non-Resident licenses are valid from 12/15/24 to 1/31/26

Annual Fishing .....	\$80.00*
One Day Fishing.....	\$16.00*
Three Day Fishing .....	\$45.00*

### 2025 Resident Fishing Fees

Resident licenses are valid from 12/15/24 to 1/31/26

Annual Fishing .....	\$31.00*
One Day Fishing.....	\$10.00*
Sr. Annual Fishing (65+) .....	\$17.00*
Combo License (fishing/small game/trapping) ....	\$60.00*

### Habitat Stamp

A person 18 years of age or older will purchase a Habitat Stamp when applying for or purchasing a fishing license:

Resident .....	\$10
Non-Resident.....	\$25

\*(Plus agent fee \$4)

Steven Page Photography



# Discover MURDO

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Chamber of Commerce

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[www.murdosd.com](http://www.murdosd.com)

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- Fuel Stations
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- Golfing
- Veterinarian
- Arena for Horses
- City Park/Pool
- Electric Charging Stations
- Dog Boarding/Washing
- Shooting Range
- Coffee Shop
- Antiques

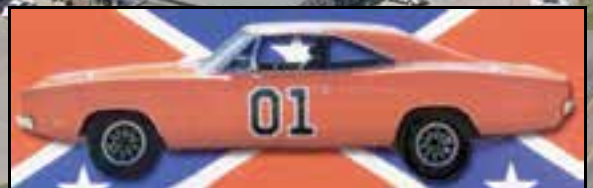


I-90 Exits 191 & 192 • Crossroads of 83 & 190

**KID'S  
TREASURE  
HUNT**

Something for the  
**Entire Family!**

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TOWN**



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# MURDO

**Exits 191 & 192**

World Famous

**Pioneer Auto Museum**

Buffalo Bar & Restaurant

To Rapid City

**Exit 191**

(West 21 miles)

**1880 TOWN**

I-90

To Sioux Falls

**Exit 192**

Country Store Fuel

Pioneer Auto Museum

MILES TO:

Rapid City	135
Mt. Rushmore	156
Kadoka	42
Chamberlain	71
Mitchell	128
Sioux Falls	221

**TOP ATTRACTIONS**

Pioneer Auto Museum

1880 Town

**LODGING**

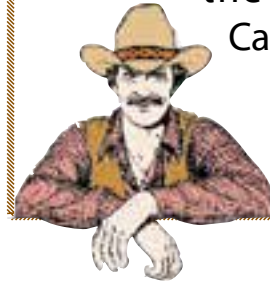
Sioux Motel 605-669-2422

A massive hail stone nearly the size of a volleyball fell in Vivian, South Dakota, setting the new record for the largest hailstone ever recorded. Discovered, measuring 8.0 inches in diameter, 18.625 inches in circumference, and weighing in at an amazing 1.9375 pounds.

## DID YOU KNOW...

Oahe Reservoir, which backs up behind Oahe Dam, near Pierre, SD, is a lake with over 2,400 miles of shoreline.

The lake extends all the way to North Dakota and stops just ten miles short of their capital of Bismarck. South Dakota has more shoreline than the state of California.



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# PIONEER AUTO SHOW & PRAIRIE TOWN

Travel back in time at the Pioneer Auto Show and Prairie Town, or Dave Geisler's "Big Show." You'll see over 250 rare, classic vehicles, from a 1902 Oldsmobile to a 1968 Shelby Muscle Car. You'll also find over 100 different collections including fine china, nickelodeons and band organs in this 10-acre, 39-building antique town.

Have you ever walked down the main street of a Historic Prairie Town? Or been inside a one-room

school house? Here at the Pioneer Auto Show and Prairie Town you will see... Henry Ford's Garage, the Livery Barn, a 1900s Train Caboose, General Store, Jail House and more. To visit all the displays and buildings at the "Big Show" you really need to take an entire day.

"The Hallmark Gift Shop" - over 4,500 sq. ft. of collectibles! Shop for items such as specialty cars, caps, road signs and T-Shirts! Browse our shop and take a piece of history home with you. There is something for everyone!

Built in 1994, it is a welcome addition to the Pioneer Auto Show and meets the needs of hungry visitors. Ice cream and malts are always a favorite treat. Casual family dining in a nostalgic atmosphere.





# THE LAND OF MONUMENTAL EXPERIENCES

Her arms are spread wide to embrace the sun, her shawl draped gently over her shoulders as she dances to her honor song and welcomes you to western South Dakota. Her name is "Dignity" and, in spite of her 50-foot height, her masterfully sculpted but gentle expression offers a blessing or perhaps a benediction. She is a testament to the sculptor's skill in capturing Native American history, spirituality, sadness and hope in a single face. She stands at the Chamberlain Rest Area, overlooking the "Mighty Missouri River" as a monumental transition from South Dakota's lush and fertile farmlands of the east to the arid rolling hills of the west.

As you head west you are entering territory where incredible natural monumental experiences await. Frank Lloyd Wright said of Badlands National Park, "I've been about the world a lot, and pretty much over our own country, but I was totally unprepared for that revelation called the Dakota Bad Lands. ... What I saw gave me an indescribable sense of mysterious elsewhere - a distant architecture, ethereal ... an endless supernatural world more spiritual than earth but created out of it." Words can't say much more, you just have to BE there.

From the spires of the Needles Highway in the heart of the Black Hills to Devil's Tower to the west, there is no end to the beautiful monumental sculpture of Mother Nature. Pahá Sápa, the Lakota name, literally means "black hills," but like much of Lakota spirituality there's more to it. This is sacred land, holy land, and the word "black" also alludes to the air of mystery that can wash over a visitor who is open to the experience and able to escape the intrusions of modern life.

At the granite heart of the Black Hills are world famous man made monuments. Mount Rushmore reveals the faces of four U.S. Presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. It took fourteen years and four hundred workers to realize Gutzon Borglum's vision of the "Shrine of Democracy," which was finished just before the beginning of World War II.

North of Custer you'll see Crazy Horse Memorial, a monumental sculpture of the great Lakota leader, created to honor all Native American tribes. In 1876 Crazy Horse helped lead Sioux, Arapaho and Cheyenne warriors in the famous defeat of General George Armstrong Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn in Montana Territory.

Thirty to sixty million bison once roamed the great plains of North America. By the close of the 19th century, less than 1,000 bison survived. Their story is told at Tatanka, a larger than life bronze sculpture near Deadwood that features fourteen bison pursued by three Native American horseback riders.

You'll find many smaller monuments on the street corners in downtown Rapid City, the only community in the world where all past presidents of the United States can be seen in life-size bronze statues! Visit the "City of Presidents" Information Center and take the Walking Tour to learn a bit more of our country's presidential history!

You'll surely discover your own "monumental" places but don't hesitate to ask the locals about their favorites. *They'll be happy to oblige!*

See "Dignity"  
at Chamberlain  
Rest Area  
Mile Marker  
263





# THE 1880 TOWN

When you are traveling across South Dakota on Interstate 90, there's a good place about 22 miles west of Murdo to stretch your legs. Fact is, you can stretch them clear back to the 1880s as you walk down Main Street at 1880 Town.

The 1880 Town is an authentic 1880-to-1920 era town from

buildings to their contents. The owners, Clarence and Richard, have kept historical value on an equal balance with public appeal, choosing buildings that are not only interesting to look at but are also historically correct for an early South Dakota town. The displays and buildings range from Indian relics from the 1870s to the 14-sided barn built in 1919.

A tour of the town begins here where the barn boasts an automated hay - and manure-handling system. It took three days and thousands of dollars to move the barn the 45 miles from its original location south of Draper. In the barn, you will see fine antique buggies, toys, stalls with horses in them, a working turn-of-the-century "coinola", and a saloon piano from Deadwood.

Vanishing Prairie Museum was built to house the more valuable collections, many from the General Custer period. Items displayed are a pair of boots and an old Army saddlebag from the Custer Battlefield that were found at an Indian campsite, parade helmets worn by U.S. Cavalry Indian Scouts with the crossed arrow insignia, Indian dolls, and arrowheads.

St. Stephan's Church has a school and fire bell which you are free to ring.

The C&N/W Depot, Express Agency, and Telegraph Office are fitted with railroad equipment right down to a piece of wood with "Tex K.T." carved by the King Tramp in 1927.

Next on the tour through time is the Land Office; a completely restored national bank; the jewelry store, which was built in 1891; and the Newspaper Office.

The little fire company contains fire fighting rigs reminiscent of a small town when most of the equipment was hand-pulled and -operated.

The Dakota Hotel was built in 1910 and still carries the scars left by cowboy's spurs on the staircase.

The Gardel & Walker Livery Barn holds a variety of early engines and two wagons from the Indian War era. On an open lot next to the livery is the antique machinery display.

Step inside the back door of the Town Hall to see the Mayor's office and next door are the lumber yard and the pioneer home.

The one-room Schoolhouse will bring back many memories for those who were lucky enough to attend one. Ring the bell and step inside to see the ink-well desks, textbooks, reciting bench, and roll-up maps. Up front by the blackboard sits the huge stove that never did heat the back of the room, and the view through the windows is still the same beautiful prairie that lured the attention from a young student's study.

About a quarter of a mile east of the town is a homestead complete with windmill, corrals, barn, house, and, of course, an outhouse.



**SOUTH DAKOTA'S ORIGINAL**

# 1880 TOWN



**LONGHORN RANCH**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT  
PETS WELCOME!**


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www.1880town.com**

**CONOCO**

**1-90  
EXT 170**

**Town Open Daily  
May Thru October**












# KADOKA

**Exit 150**

← To Rapid City

**Exit 152**

To Sioux Falls →





**Best Value Inn** ●


**Subway** ●

**Sunset Grill** ●

**Sundowner** ●







**73**

I-90 Business Loop

Popoat Street

Main Street

## Gateway to the Badlands


**SD Area Code 605**

**LODGING**

Rodeway Inn	837-2287
Lakota Lodge	837-2151
Sundowner Inn	837-2296
Best Value Inn	837-2188

**DID YOU KNOW**

The word Kadoka is Lakota for "hole in the wall."



**ATTRACTIONS:**

Badlands Distillery

**DISTANCE TO:**

Chamberlain	115 miles
Mitchell	179 miles
Murdo	42 miles
Pierre	94 miles
Rapid City	93 miles
Sioux Falls	254 miles
Spearfish	140 miles
Wall	38 miles

[www.badlandsdistillery.com](http://www.badlandsdistillery.com)



**On and off sales of Spirits, Beer, & Wine. Pizza Full Bar, & more.**

**BADLANDS DISTILLERY**

Grab yours today

**I-90 - Exit 150**

**Easy on and off**

**Tastings & Swag**



**PLAY**



**VIDEO**



# Kadoka, Exit 150 - 190 Easy on/off

605-837-2188



**FREE WiFi**

**FREE BREAKFAST**



Diesel,  
Ice  
Propane - Clean restrooms



**SUNSET GRILL**

Exit  
150



**SUBWAY**



Clean Rooms  
Great Rates



Kadoka Sundowner

Budget Host

605-837-2296

Breakfast coupon

Truck Parking

Free Wifi

**Budget Host**

TRAVELER'S COUPON

**\$5 Off Your Room with Coupon**

Not valid on other discounts or promotions or during special events.  
Must be presented at check-in.

**Americas Best Value Inn**

TRAVELER'S COUPON

**\$5 Off Your Room with Coupon**

Not valid on other discounts or promotions or during special events.  
Must be presented at check-in.



# WELCOME TO THE BADLANDS...

## BADLANDS HIKING TRAILS

### **Door Trail** - 0.75 miles/1.2 km (round trip)

Easy. An accessible ¼ mile boardwalk leads through a break in the Badlands Wall known as “the Door” and to a view of the Badlands. From there, the maintained trail ends. Travel beyond this point is at your own risk. Watch for drop-offs.

### **Window Trail** - 0.25 miles/0.4 km (round trip)

Easy. This short trail leads to a natural window in the Badlands Wall with a view of an intricately eroded canyon. Please stay on the trail.

### **Notch Trail** - 1.5 miles/2.4 km (round trip)

Moderate to strenuous. After meandering through a canyon, this trail climbs a log ladder and follows a ledge to “the Notch” for a dramatic view of the White River Valley. Trail begins at the south end of the Door and Window parking area. Watch for drop-offs. Not recommended for anyone with a fear of heights. Treacherous during or after heavy rains.

### **Castle Trail** - 10 miles/16 km (round trip)

Moderate. The longest trail in the park begins at the Door and Window parking area and travels five miles one way to the Fossil Exhibit Trail. Relatively level, the path passes along some badlands formations.

### **Cliff Shelf** - 0.5 miles/0.8 km (round trip)

Moderate. This loop trail follows boardwalks and climbs stairs through a juniper forest perched along the Badlands Wall. A small pond occasionally exists in the area and draws wildlife, such as deer or bighorn sheep. Climbs approximately 200 feet in elevation. Please stay on the trail.

### **Saddle Pass** - .25 miles/.40 km (round trip)

Strenuous. This short trail climbs up the Badlands Wall to a view over the White River Valley. The trail ends where it connects with the Castle and Medicine Root Loop Trails.

### **Medicine Root Loop** - 4 miles/6.4 km (round trip)

Moderate. This generally rolling trail connects with the Castle Trail near the Old Northeast Road and at the intersection of the Castle and Saddle Pass Trails. Trail users are provided the opportunity to explore the mixed grass prairie while enjoying views of the Badlands in the distance. Watch for cactus.

### **Fossil Exhibit Trail** - 0.25 miles/0.4 km (round trip)

Easy. Fully accessible boardwalk trail features fossil replicas and exhibits of now extinct creatures that once roamed the area.

***It is said...A drive through the Badlands during a Full Moon almost makes you feel like you've landed there.***



### **DID YOU KNOW...**

Badlands National Park contains the world's richest Oligocene epoch fossil beds, dating 23 to 35 million years old.







# BADLANDS DISTILLERY



In the heart of the Badlands, are the Iron Hills – a place that is home to the South Dakota state gem, the fairburn agate. The gem is beautiful and rare and developed over time, not unlike our Badlands' Iron Hills Bourbon.

Our bourbon, is aged and colored to perfection in a new charred white oak barrel and is handcrafted. Badlands' Bourbon is made with a homegrown corn right from the family's farm which is ground and provides the best yield for each batch of bourbon, such as our Iron Hills. Badlands Distillery is proud to offer our single barrel, 2 year, straight bourbon.

The story of Badlands Distillery began in the 1920's when Jim Herber's family was bootlegging on the Weta basin.

Eventually, the revenuers caught up and landed one of the Herber brother's in jail. Mark Eschenbacher and Jim Herber started the distillery in 2015 and are becoming a destination stop on the Black Hills an Badlands tasting trail.

Badlands Distillery is one of the fastest growing distilleries in South Dakota and is racking up the medals as a three-time award winning distillery. Most recently, Badlands Distillery is honored to be entered into the SD Hall of Fame- for the Act of Excellence, "from Bourbon to Hand Sanitizer!"

Our Tasting Room is open...See us on Facebook for updates. We carry South Dakota Products like coffee and cheese, plus FREE travel brochures and magazines. Find us on the "Tasting Trail Map" for the Badlands and Black Hills area!



## PRAIRIE HOMESTEAD

Visual memories of the homestead days are fast becoming extinct. These pioneers played a very important part in settling the Great Plains. This area of South Dakota was one of the last places to be homesteaded because western South Dakota was initially set aside as Indian reservation. An Indian treaty in 1890 was signed for the land between the White and Cheyenne Rivers to be homesteaded. This area was surveyed and settled by homesteaders between 1900 and 1913.

By 1900, the Homestead Act had been amended several times. One change was that five acres was all that was required to be plowed into crops. Another was that if a homesteader desired, after living on a claim for a period of 18 months, he could pay 50¢ per acre, a total of \$80, and receive a patent on the land.

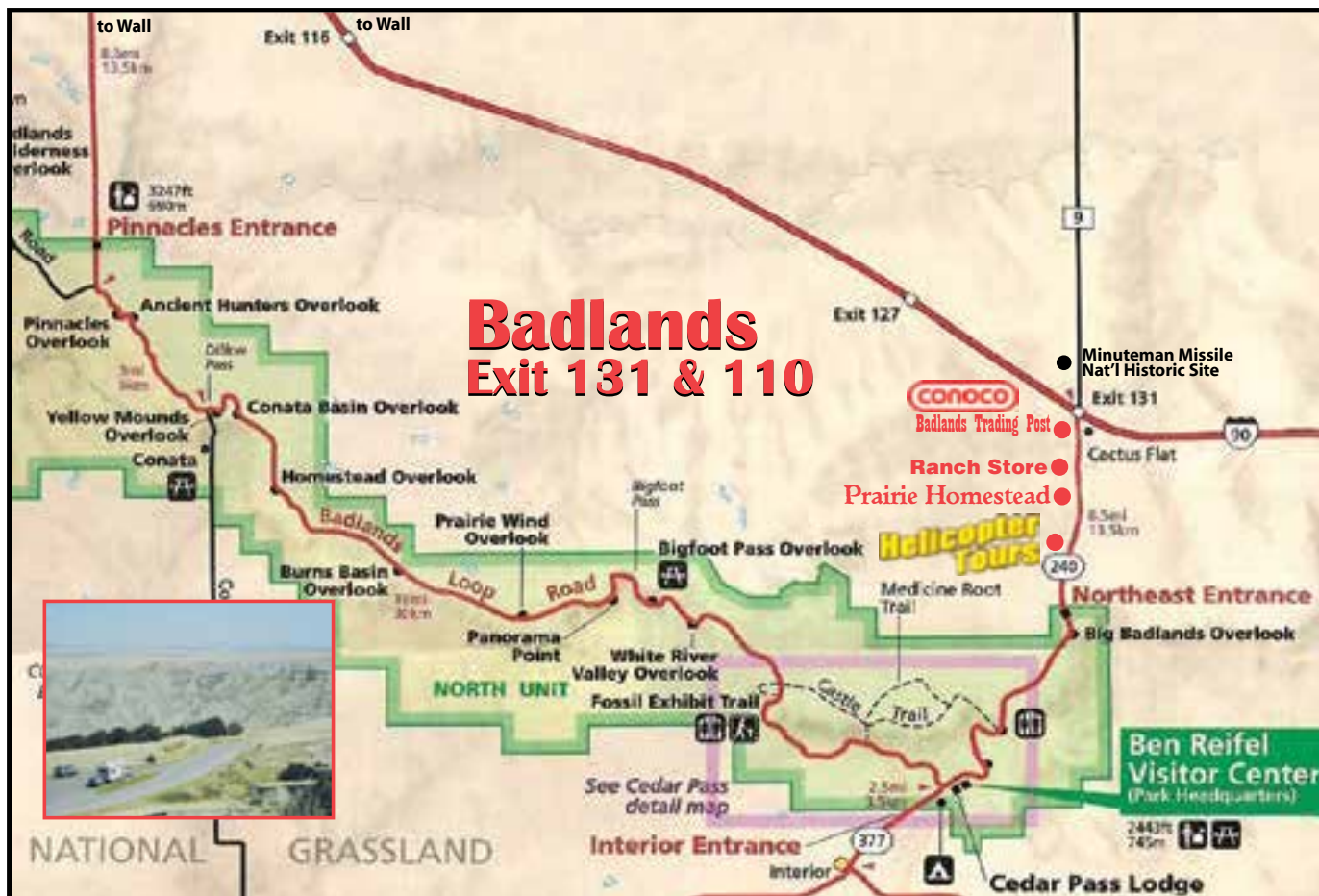
The Prairie Homestead is typical of the homes they built, or rather dug into the ground. As one grandmother said, "We dug in like coyotes." These

homestead buildings are one of the few that have survived almost as they were in 1909. Practically every 160 acres near here has a depression on the side of a hill or edge of a bank where a homestead family dug in for a new start in life.

The sodbuster in this area had a very difficult time surviving poverty - and many of them did not. It has now been determined that 160 acres in this area will produce grazing enough for only eight cows.

The Prairie Homestead is the original home of the Mr. and Mrs. Ed Brown who homesteaded their 160 acres in 1909, and then was later occupied by Mr. George Carr until 1949. All the buildings except the cave are the same as they were except for maintenance and minor restoration. The cave had collapsed, so it was dug out and rebuilt in the spring of 1966. The original homestead is preserved as though a homestead family was living there today. A small portion the furnishings are original; the rest typical of the sodbusters in this area.





## PRAIRIE HOMESTEAD

Experience the visual memories of one of the only original sod homes built in 1909. Experience this pioneer way of life, farm animals & rare, white prairie dogs. Fun for all ages!

**Listed on the  
National Register of Historic Places**

I-90 Badlands Exit 131 then 2½ Miles South

**OUTDOOR  
ATTRACTION**

**TRAVELER'S COUPON**

Present this coupon for a  
**FREE Postcard Packet**  
(Not valid on other discounts or promotions. One per family.)

PLAY  
VIDEO

## BADLANDS TRADING POST

I-90, Badlands Exit 131  
then ¼ Mile South

**Buffalo Hot Dogs • conoco  
Ice Cream • Badlands Gifts**

PLAY  
VIDEO



# RANCH STORE

## Large Gift Shop

- Feed the Prairie Dogs • Authentic Western Gifts
- Dakota Made Gifts • Free Picnic Area

**FREE ADMISSION SINCE '71**

**OUTDOOR  
ATTRACTION!**

**I-90 • Exit 131  
1 1/3 Miles South  
21190 SD Hwy 240**

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PLAY



VIDEO



**Black Hills Aerial Adventures**

# Helicopter Tours

**605-673-2163**

[www.coptertours.com](http://www.coptertours.com)

PLAY



VIDEO

- Scenic Badlands Tours
- Other Black Hills Locations

**I-90 Exit 131  
Badlands**

**TRAVELER'S COUPON**

**\$5 OFF**

(Not valid  
with other  
offers or  
discounts)



# WALL

Population .... 834  
Altitude .... 2,832

**Exits  
109 & 110**

## MILES TO:

Rapid City	55
Mt. Rushmore	72
Kadoka	38
Murdo	80
Chamberlain	157
Mitchell	217
Sioux Falls	292

To  
Rapid City

**Exit 109**



## LODGING (605)

America's Best Value Inn	279-2127
Days Inn	279-2000
Frontier Cabins	279-2619
Travelodge	550-4806
EconoLodge	279-2121
Super 8	734-0904

Badlands Saloon

**WALL DRUG**

- Salty Steer
- Badlands & Company
- Cup Of Joe
- Badlands Bodega

Super 8  
EconoLodge  
(Canada)

America's Best Value Inn

Days Inn

Travelodge



**DAHL'S  
CHAINSAW ART**

## TOP ATTRACTIONS

Wall Drug  
Badlands National Park  
Dahl's Chainsaw Art

## DID YOU KNOW...

Badlands National Park contains the world's richest Oligocene epoch fossil beds, dating 23 to 35 million years old.

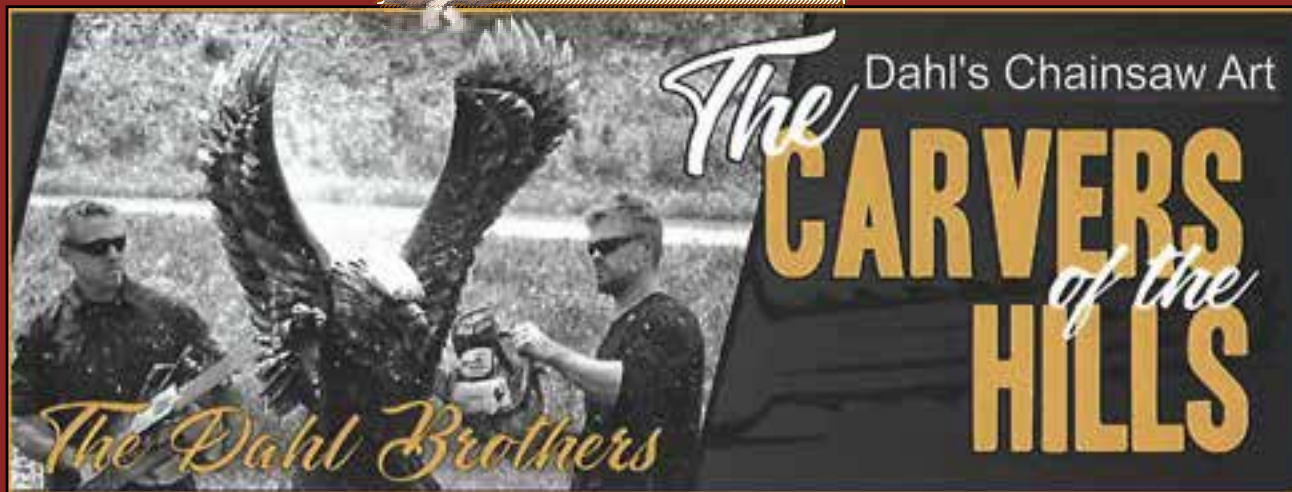


**Exit 110**

Frontier Cabins

**Exit 131**

To  
Sioux Falls



**FAMILY  
FUN!**



**GIFT  
SHOP!**



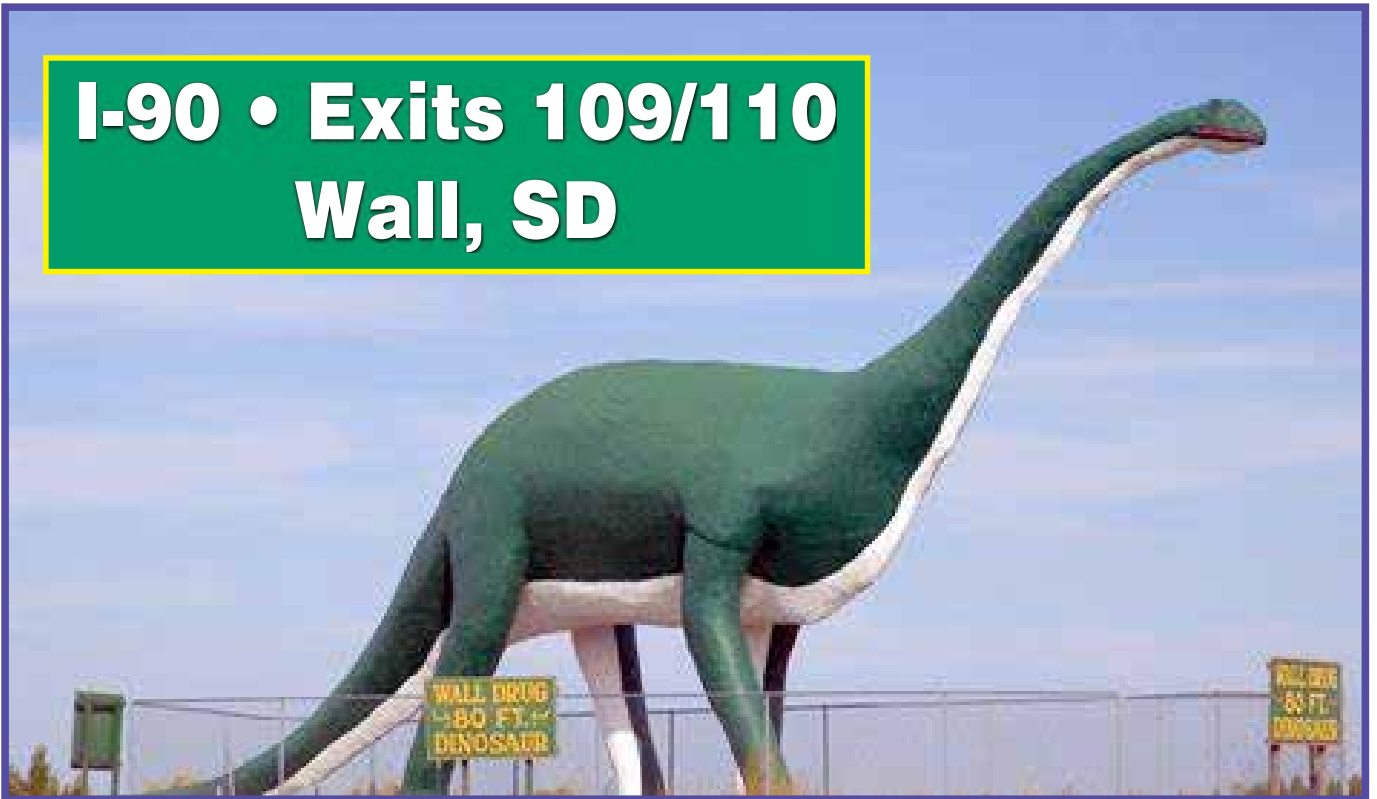
518 Glenn St, **Wall, SD** & other locations....  
Keystone, Hill City & Deadwood

[www.dahlschainsawart.com](http://www.dahlschainsawart.com)





## I-90 • Exits 109/110 Wall, SD



### ***The Fun Never Stops at Wall Drug!***

**The Fun Never Stops at Wall Drug!** - It was in December of 1931 that Dorothy and Ted Hustead bought the only drugstore in a little town called Wall on the edge of the South Dakota *Badlands*. By the summer of 1936, the business had not grown much. They had given the business five years trial time, but they were still seeing a lot of cars going by without stopping. Then on a hot July Sunday, Dorothy came up with a startling idea. Realizing that all the cars going by on Route 16A through the hot, dusty prairie would have thirsty folks inside, she proposed that they put up signs on the highway telling people to come in for free ice water. *And, the rest as they say, is history!* Wall Drug still offers Free Ice Water...and a warm welcome right along with it...but we also offer a whole lot more! **Wall Drug** is as much a **visitor attraction** and **museum** as a store, with free attractions galore!

This block-sized-plus emporium draws up to 20,000 people on a hot summer day. Its famous "Miles to Wall Drug" signs have been seen all over the world, including outer space!

**DID YOU KNOW...**How the Badlands were named:The French trappers who explored the west in the early 1800s called the area a "bad land to cross." The Dakota Sioux Indians labeled it "makosica," meaning "land bad."





# WALL, South Dakota



## Newly Renovated!

- Pet Friendly
- Premium Beds • 65" TVs
- Outdoor Pool

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804 Glenn Street, Wall, SD,

**(605) 279-2121**

**Conveniently located off I-90  
Near Badlands National Park**

- Family Suites
- Free Coffee
- Pet-friendly
- Outdoor Heated Pool



## Dogs of the Prairie...

Prairie dogs got their name from the sound that they make when danger is near, which is warning barks or yips. At one time, there were millions of prairie dogs living on the plains and grasslands. These ground squirrels live in towns made up of underground tunnels or burrows and have brownish fur and white underparts. They have large eyes, short tails (white- or black-tipped), and small rounded ears. Classified as rodents, they have strong front teeth and sharp claws for digging. The average prairie dog is about the size of a football (30 cm.).

Prairie dogs are highly social and live in colonies, or towns, that contain hundreds of members, and the towns are divided into wards, then into neighborhoods. Each neighborhood is made up of family members - babies, brothers and sisters, females, and one or two males. The towns are made up of underground tunnels that connect to rooms with

nurseries, bedrooms lined with dried grass, bathrooms, and a listening room, which is close to the entrance. Here, the prairie dog listens for danger before going outside. The entrance to the prairie dog's burrow is surrounded by a pile of soil, or mound, which serves as a lookout and protects the burrow against floods. The tunnels go down about three to five metres (or up to 16 feet) and can be 30 metres (98 feet) from one entrance to another.

Viewed characteristics of the social behavior are making social visits to their neighbors, greeting them with a sort of kiss, and grooming one another. They also communicate with each other, and it has been asserted that they use a sophisticated system of vocal communication to describe specific predators.

They are an important prey species, being the primary diet for other prairie critters such as the black-footed ferret, the swift fox, the badger, the coyote, the golden eagle and the hawk.



- custom built log cabins
- NEW 50 inch flat screen TVs

• NEW Beds

\* LIMITED PET FRIENDLY ROOMS, CALL AHEAD!

*Located 6 miles from entrance to Badlands National Park!*

For reservations, call 605-279-2619 | [www.frontiercabins.com](http://www.frontiercabins.com) | I90 • Exit 110 Wall, SD



# LODGING Directory



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[www.visit-badlands.com](http://www.visit-badlands.com)

**190 • EXIT 109 & 110 WALL, SD | Located at Badlands Park Entrance!**

**3 Blocks from  
Wall Drug!**



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Free Coffee & Breakfast Item

Coffee/Tea Maker • Hairdryer • Cribs Available

**Free Parking • Bus/Truck Parking • RV Parking**

**711 Glenn St, Wall  
605-279-2688**

Over the past 100, years much of the range of the prairie dog has become cattle pastures and grain fields throughout most of the western United States and parts of Canada. Farmers and ranchers do not see the prairie dog as a cute little animal, but more as competition to their livestock's food source since the Prairie dog's diet is of the same grasses that cattle and horses eat. Not only do they eat a lot of grass, leaving less food for other animals, but they can also destroy a farmer's crop of alfalfa, hay, wheat or corn.

Others claim that the prairie dog tunnel systems help channel rainwater into the water table to prevent runoff and erosion and can also serve to change the composition of the soil in a region by reversing compaction that can be a result of cattle grazing.

Other Interesting facts:

- There are five species of prairie dogs: black-tailed prairie dog, white-tailed prairie dog,

Gunnison's prairie dog, Mexican prairie dog (endangered), and the Utah prairie dog (threatened).

- Besides serving as food for many predators, their tunnels provide homes for burrowing owls, rabbits and hares, ground squirrels, mice, snakes and black-footed ferrets.
- Prairie dogs are most active during the cool hours of daylight, with most of their time spent eating.
- Once a year, the female has a litter of one to six pups, which stay in the burrows for about six or seven weeks. The pups are born blind and furless and need about 30 days of close nurturing from their mothers.



**The best days start and end at Days Inn by Wyndham!**



**Newly remodeled, NEW Beds, 50 inch TVs, coffee maker, microwave/fridge, restaurants close by!**



**190 • EXIT 109 & 110 WALL, SD | Only 4 Blocks from Wall Drug!**



Start your day with a warm

**CUP OF JOE!**



*Serving coffee and  
fresh donuts daily!*

*shop our retail while you're here*

I-90 Exit 110 • 600 Main Street in Wall, SD



# Black Hills Giants!

Hill City



Keystone



**SALTY STEER** *Steakhouse*

24 TAPS • BUFFALO RIBEYE • PASTA • WINGS • LOCAL BEER

I-90 EXIT 110 • 600 MAIN STREET WALL, SD • 605-279-2700





Find these Wooden Giants as you Travel through Their Home Towns!



Award Winning Chainsaw artist, Jarrett Dahl with one of his renowned masterpieces, 12' X 6', 3000lb, Eagle Motorcycle carving now on display in Gatlinburg, TN at Ripley's Believe or Not.



#### DID YOU KNOW...

South Dakota, where men are men and steaks are three inches thick." Time Magazine, 1945



FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE ON MAIN STREET...



**C-STORE**  
FOOD | WINE | BEER  
**PIZZA**

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877.356.1812

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## WESTERN REGION CAMPING

“Mountain Camping”... As you travel west across South Dakota, the prairie and plains give way to the savage landscape of the Badlands country. Here, you can camp in unearthly settings surrounded by moonlit ramparts and jagged skylines of Badlands formations. You'll never see more stars than you'll see in the skies here!

**The Black Hills**, an island of forested mountains, are a major destination for vacationers, and there are enough campsites to accommodate more than 25,000 camping guests every night. Outdoor living among the pine trees is superb! The region offers a woodsy high-elevation environment where the nights are cool, there are very few mosquitoes, and there are no wild bears at all!

**The Hills offer** in-city RV Parks, overnight camps, luxury camping resorts, forest and lake campgrounds, back-country, hike-in camps, and

even “horse-camps” for those who like to bring their horse along for trail riding. There are many private campgrounds-

-including a half-dozen destination resorts that offer every amenity you can name. The Black Hills National Forest offers campsites at 26 public campgrounds, and Custer State Park has 330 sites.

**For all campers,** we suggest a “headquarters”

camp where you can set up and stay for several days. The Black Hills are ideally suited to day-tripping. Try to minimize towing while you're in the Black Hills because the mountain roads have steep grades, sharp curves, and narrow tunnels.

### DID YOU KNOW...



An adult porcupine has approximately 30,000 quills, which are replaced every year.





# Hiking South Dakota

South Dakota is a big state, and is full of the variety that makes serious hikers trip over their bootlaces while pulling their boots on. South Dakota also contains more than two million acres of public land that await, like your personal playground. Before we get to the state's best hikes, you would be wise to listen to and follow a few words of warning.

Take along a jacket and long pants. South Dakota weather changes quickly, and thunderstorms are common during the summer.

Carry more drinking water than you think you'll need. Water is scarce in some areas, and you shouldn't drink any water you do find.

Don't overestimate your hiking speed. Many hikers get lost because they leave too late in the day and can't make it back to their cars or campsite before dark.

Always tell someone where you are going and when you left. If you are alone, leave a note on your car. Most hikers tromp along the trails in the Black Hills. You can hike anywhere in the 1.2 million acre Black Hills National Forest, and there are many trails you can use.

The 111 mile Centennial Trail runs the length of the Black Hills. It begins at Bear Butte near Sturgis and winds its way to Wind Cave National Park. There are many trailheads along the way, and most are accessible from main roads. Brown Fiberglass posts that are sunk in the ground and gray diamonds that are fastened to trees mark the trail. The trail ranges from easy to difficult terrain.

The 114 mile Mickelson Trail also spans the Black Hills, but it is very different from the Centennial. The Mickelson is a rails-to-trails project and follows the mostly flat Deadwood-to-Edgemont Burlington

rail line. The trail is very popular with families because of its ease and its beauty. The trail features more than 100 converted railroad bridges and four hard-rock tunnels, and it passes through mountain meadows, high granite cliffs, and other terrain that shows off the splendor of the Black Hills.

Custer State Park features flat, short, and easy to follow trails as well as others that are strenuous and require planning. Families might want to try the Stockade Lake Trail, the Lovers Leap Trail, or the Badger Hole Historic Trail. For an overnight backpacking experience, head for the French Creek Natural Area. There are primitive campgrounds at each end of the 12 mile trail. Custer State Park also features the easiest route to Harney Peak, the highest peak between the Rocky and the Pyrenees mountain ranges.

While the Black Hills trails are the most popular, the prairie also features interesting hikes. South Dakota's two national grasslands units don't offer many established routes, but you can hike wherever you would like on these public lands.

Badlands National Park offers a few short established trails, but you can hike in the park's often rugged back country. Talk to a park ranger before heading out on a back country adventure.

One final word of caution: South Dakota is a wild place, and you can get lost. Have fun, but take the necessary precautions.



## DID YOU KNOW



If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water. When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.





# BLACK HILLS FREE FOR ALL!

All of the abundant natural beauty of the Black Hills is free to visitors and you'll find numerous overlooks and roadside stops where you can enjoy the valleys, canyons, and mountain peaks from your car. Or pack lunch and enjoy one of the many picnic sites along the way. For an "ahhh" moment ... just breathe in the FREE clean air and the scents of the Ponderosa pine and Black Hills spruce that surround you! Although all drives through the Hills are beautiful, the 22-mile **Spearfish Canyon Scenic Byway** in the Northern Hills is not one to miss! Creek beds, limestone palisades, rushing waterfalls and other natural wonders at the roadside make for an unforgettable scenic experience. Or head south and drive the equally beautiful **Wildlife Loop Road** in Custer State Park! There is an entrance fee into the Park, but once in, you can enjoy the beautiful scenery at no further cost! Burros, prairie dogs, antelope, mountain goats and other species roam freely in the Park. This is also the land where the buffalo roam and the "photo-ops" are everywhere! WARNING: Stay close to your car and don't take any "selfies" unless you know what's behind you!

If you are an **Outdoor Recreation** enthusiast – you've come to the right place! This area is a recreational wonderland and within these 10,000 square miles of prairie and mountains you'll find endless opportunities! You might first want to visit the **Game, Fish and Parks Department's Outdoor Campus West** in Rapid City. It has nature trails, a 4,600-gallon freshwater aquarium and wild life exhibits for you to learn about South Dakota's prairie, wetland and stream habitats ... before you head into the Hills. You can "wet" your appetite at all kinds of water recreation sites ... from hidden spring-fed ponds to rapidly flowing creeks and large lakes. Enjoy **tubing** in the creeks, or **boating, swimming or water skiing** on one of the many lakes. Some of the best **trout fishing** in the country is here – so get a license (sorry, you will have to buy one) and hire a fly fishing guide or search out your own secret spots to spend

a lazy afternoon with a pole. Check out the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks website at <http://gfp.sd.gov/> to find out what water related activities are allowed in which locations. Visit **D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery** in Spearfish or visit **D.C.**



**Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery** in Spearfish to see trout in a large underwater viewing area and learn how the trout are raised and stocked in lakes and streams.

Happy trails to you! **Rapid City's Memorial Park** (built after the flood of 1972) stretches from one end of town to the other and offers a beautiful walking and biking path on the banks of Rapid Creek. If hiking or biking 109 miles appeals to you, then tackle the entire **Mickelson Trail!** A nationally recognized trail, it runs from Deadwood in the north to Edgemont in the south and you can hike in either direction. Shorter treks are possible by getting on at one of 15 trailheads equipped with picnic areas, toilets and self-sale trail passes. (Nominal fees are collected for trail maintenance.) The Mickelson is only one of **75 different trails** to be found in the Hills. Consult the Black Hills National Forest website at <https://www.>





fs.usda.gov/main/blackhills/home for a complete list of trails and regulations for bikes, ATVs and snowmobiles.

You'll find lots of free fun activities for the whole family here! Life-sized bronze sculptures of all the U.S. Presidents adorn the street corners of Rapid City. Visit the **City of Presidents Information Center** where you can pick up a guidebook, stroll downtown in search of your favorites and learn a bit of American history along the way. **Dinosaur Park**, located on a hill off Skyline Drive, features life-sized models of those ancient creatures. The kids can "ride" them ... without fear of being bucked off ... and the bonus is a 360-degree view of Rapid City! **Storybook Island**



on Rapid City's west side is a large park filled with playground equipment and sets that portray characters from various children's stories and nursery rhymes. It's a great attraction for very young visitors! **Main Street Square**, located in the heart of Downtown Rapid City, is a fun-filled public space that features special events, concerts, and fountains for cooling off in the summer. (The area is converted to a rink for ice-skating in the winter!) Surrounded by granite sculptures, boutiques, galleries and eateries, it's a destination the whole family can enjoy!

There are several free museums that offer learning opportunities in a wide range of subjects. At the **South Dakota Air and Space Museum** by the main gate at Ellsworth AFB, you can explore the fascinating past and current state of aviation technology. The **Museum of Geology** at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City and the **Museum at the Black Hills Institute** of Geological Research in Hill City have extensive exhibits of dinosaurs, fossils, and geological specimens of the area. The **Sanford Lab Homestake Visitor Center** in Lead provides



the history of mining in the Black Hills, as well as a look into the important scientific exploration being done here today!

If big bikes rev you up, then don't miss the **Sturgis Motorcycle Museum and Hall of Fame**! Speaking of Sturgis ... it's the home of the world's largest **Annual Motorcycle Rally** held in August ... and that's free too! The **Adams Museum** and the **Days of '76 Museum** in Deadwood are great for learning about the history of the "old west." (Tours are free but donations are suggested.) If you're on Main Street in Deadwood during the day you just might see some old west action! **Gunslingers** shoot it out three times a day and you can watch from the sidelines for free!

Although it costs to buy, it doesn't cost anything to browse the **Farmers Markets** in Spearfish, Rapid City, or Custer that feature local produce and home made goodies. If you came to the Black Hills from the east and missed **Wall Drug Store** - be sure to stop on your way home. Started in 1931 with ads for "free ice water," this famous landmark has grown into a 76,000 square foot attraction with eateries, art galleries, shops and even a drug store! It's free to see it all and you have to see it to believe it!

From the serenity of just sittin' and starin' to being hyper active, the free possibilities are bountiful (ok - except for a couple of those pesky fees.) Whatever your age or interests, you'll find entertaining activities and great attractions just waiting for you to explore. So roam FREE in the Black Hills to create some of the most memorable moments of your vacation!

*To see a complete listing of all the Black Hills attractions, go to*

**BLACKHILLSTOPATTRACTIONS.COM**



# 2025 SCHEDULE OF FULL MOONS

- **FULL WOLF MOON** – January Amid the cold and deep snows of midwinter, the wolf packs howled hungrily outside Indian villages. Thus, the name for January's full Moon. Sometimes it was also referred to as the Old Moon, or the Moon After Yule. Some called it the Full Snow Moon, but most tribes applied that name to the next Moon. Jan 13 - 3:27 pm (mst)
- **FULL SNOW MOON** – February Since the heaviest snow usually falls during this month, native tribes of the north and east most often called February's full Moon the Full Snow Moon. Some tribes also referred to this Moon as the Full Hunger Moon, since harsh weather conditions in their areas made hunting very difficult. Feb 12 - 6:53 am (mst)
- **FULL WORM MOON** – March As the temperature begins to warm and the ground begins to thaw, earthworm casts appear, heralding the return of the robins. The more northern tribes knew this Moon as the Full Crow Moon, when the cawing of crows signaled the end of winter; or the Full Crust Moon, because the snow cover becomes crusted from thawing by day and freezing at night. The Full Sap Moon, marking the time of tapping maple trees, is another variation. To the settlers, it was also known as the Lenten Moon, and was considered to be the last full Moon of winter. Mar 14 - 12:55 am (mst)
- **FULL PINK MOON** – April This name came from the herb moss pink, or wild ground phlox, which is one of the earliest widespread flowers of the spring. Other names for this month's celestial body include the Full Sprouting Grass Moon, the Egg Moon, and among coastal tribes the Full Fish Moon, because this was the time that the shad swam upstream to spawn. Apr 12 - 6:22 pm (mst)
- **FULL FLOWER MOON** – May In most areas, flowers are abundant everywhere during this time. Thus, the name of this Moon. Other names include the Full Corn Planting Moon, or the Milk Moon. May 12 - 10:56 pm (mst)
- **FULL STRAWBERRY MOON** – June This name was universal to every Algonquin tribe. However, in Europe they called it the Rose Moon. Also because the relatively short season for harvesting strawberries comes each year during the month of June . . . so the full Moon that occurs during that month was christened for the strawberry! Jun 11 - 1:44 am (mst)
- **THE FULL BUCK MOON** – July is normally the month when the new antlers of buck deer push out of their foreheads in coatings of velvety fur. It was also often called the Full Thunder Moon, for the reason that thunderstorms are most frequent during this time. Another name for this month's Moon was the Full Hay Moon. Jul 10 - 4:47 pm (mst)
- **FULL STURGEON MOON** – August The fishing tribes are given credit for the naming of this Moon, since sturgeon, a large fish of the Great Lakes and other major bodies of water, were most readily caught during this month. A few tribes knew it as the Full Red Moon because, as the Moon rises, it appears reddish through any sultry haze. It was also called the Green Corn Moon or Grain Moon. Aug 9 - 1:55 am (mst)
- **FULL HARVEST MOON** – Sept. This full moon's name is attributed to Native Americans because it marked when corn was supposed to be harvested. Most often, the September full moon is actually the Harvest Moon. Sep 7 - 12:09 pm (mst)
- **FULL HUNTERS MOON** – October This is the full Moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox. In two years out of three, the Harvest Moon comes in September, but in some years it occurs in October. At the peak of harvest, farmers can work late into the night by the light of this Moon. Usually the full Moon rises an average of 50 minutes later each night, but for the few nights around the Harvest Moon, the Moon seems to rise at nearly the same time each night: just 25 to 30 minutes later across the U.S., and only 10 to 20 minutes later for much of Canada and Europe. Corn, pumpkins, squash, beans, and wild rice the chief Indian staples are now ready for gathering. Oct 6 - 9:48 pm (mst)
- **FULL BEAVER MOON** – November This was the time to set beaver traps before the swamps froze, to ensure a supply of warm winter furs. Another interpretation suggests that the name Full Beaver Moon comes from the fact that the beavers are now actively preparing for winter. It is sometimes also referred to as the Frosty Moon. Nov 5 - 6:19 am (mst)
- **THE FULL COLD MOON** – December During this month the winter cold fastens its grip, and nights are at their longest and darkest. It is also sometimes called the Moon before Yule. The term Long Night Moon is a doubly appropriate name because the midwinter night is indeed long, and because the Moon is above the horizon for a long time. The midwinter full Moon has a high trajectory across the sky because it is opposite a low Sun. Dec 4 - 4:14 pm (mst)



*It is said... "A drive through the Badlands during a Full Moon almost makes you feel like you've landed there."*



# BOATING REGULATIONS In SOUTH DAKOTA

**Boat Licensing:** Boats over 12 feet long and motorboats of any length, including those using electric trolling motors, must be registered to be operated on public waters. Boat registration, transferring of boat ownership and replacing lost boat registration stickers are through County Treasurer offices. Applications are available at County Treasurer offices or at the Licensing Office, Division of Motor Vehicles, 118 West Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501.

Boats may be registered for either a 1-year or a 3-year period. Fees are based on the

**Class 1 Boats** - Boats 16 to 26 feet long, except canoes and kayaks, must have the following safety equipment:

- U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable PFD for each person aboard.
- U.S. Coast Guard approved throwable flotation device (Type IV cushion or ring buoy).
- One Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher of B-1 or larger unless boat construction doesn't allow explosive or flammable gases or vapors to be trapped.
- Proper lights displayed sunset to sunrise.
- A whistle or other sound-producing mechanical device capable of a two-second blast audible for at least one-half mile.

**Youths.** Owners of boats propelled by a motor over 6 HP may not allow youths under 12 years of age to operate the boat unless accompanied by a person at least 18 years old.

## ACCIDENT REPORTING.

After an incident, a boat operator must IMMEDIATELY give notice by the



length of boat and the type of propulsion.

Boats registered in another state may operate in South Dakota for 60 days before registration is required in South Dakota. However, nonresident boats docked in South Dakota need to be licensed in South Dakota.

## SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Most boats in South Dakota are Class A or Class 1. For boats longer than 26 feet, see current Boating Regulations pamphlet.

**Class A Boats** - Boats less than 16 feet long and all canoes and kayaks must have the following safety equipment:

- U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable PFD for each person aboard.
- Proper lights displayed sunset to sunrise.
- One Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher of B-1 or larger unless boat construction doesn't allow explosive or flammable gases or vapors to be trapped.



quickest means of communication available to the nearest Conservation Officer or other peace officer. An accident report must be filed with Game, Fish and Parks within 48 hours if death or injury requiring medical attention beyond first-aid occurred, or within 10 days if damages exceed \$500 but no injuries occurred.

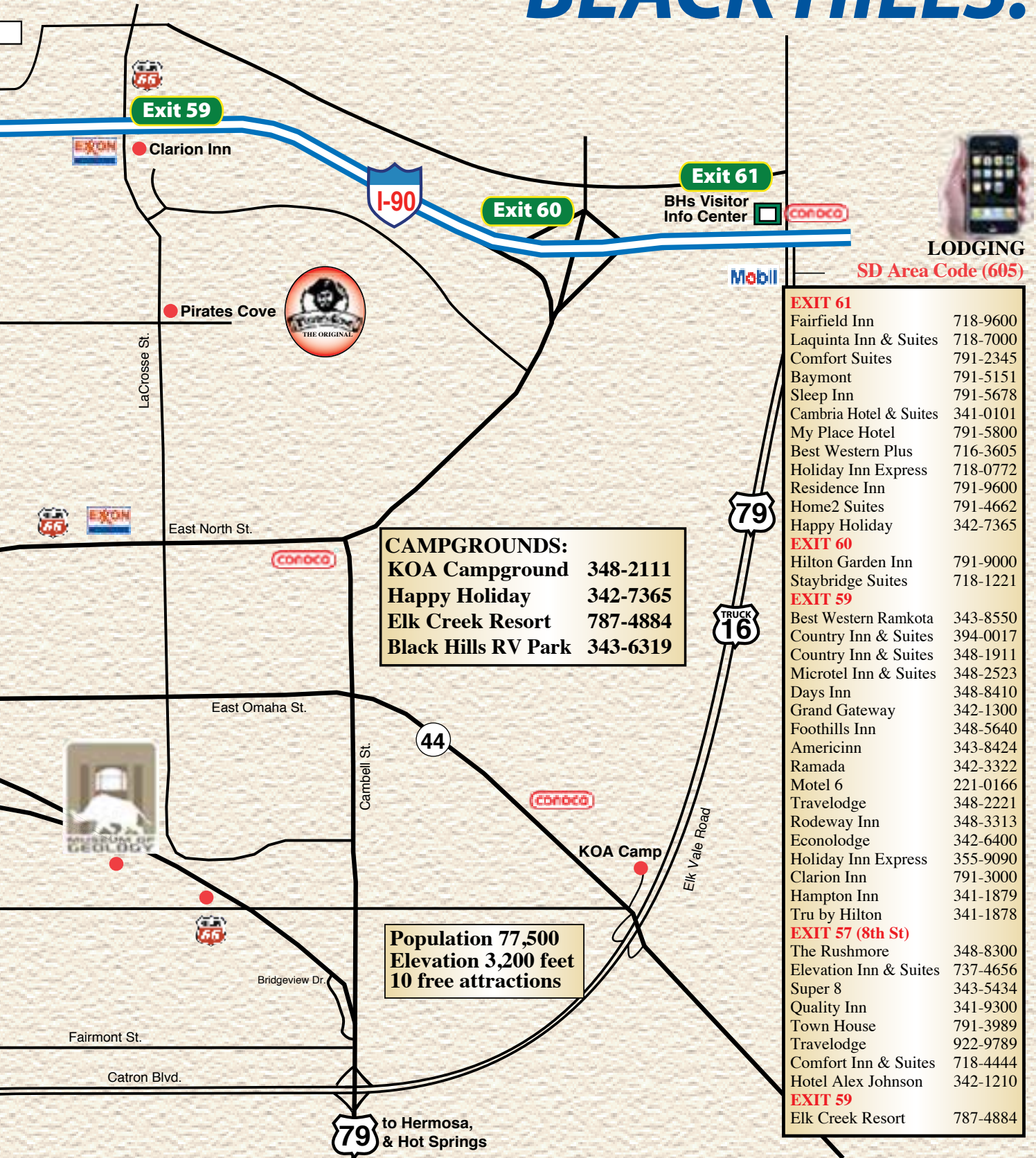


# RAPID CITY





# GATEWAY to the BLACK HILLS!



<b>EXIT 61</b>	
Fairfield Inn	718-9600
Laquinta Inn & Suites	718-7000
Comfort Suites	791-2345
Baymont	791-5151
Sleep Inn	791-5678
Cambria Hotel & Suites	341-0101
My Place Hotel	791-5800
Best Western Plus	716-3605
Holiday Inn Express	718-0772
Residence Inn	791-9600
Home2 Suites	791-4662
Happy Holiday	342-7365
<b>EXIT 60</b>	
Hilton Garden Inn	791-9000
Staybridge Suites	718-1221
<b>EXIT 59</b>	
Best Western Ramkota	343-8550
Country Inn & Suites	394-0017
Country Inn & Suites	348-1911
Microtel Inn & Suites	348-2523
Days Inn	348-8410
Grand Gateway	342-1300
Foothills Inn	348-5640
Americinn	343-8424
Ramada	342-3322
Motel 6	221-0166
Travelodge	348-2221
Rodeway Inn	348-3313
Econolodge	342-6400
Holiday Inn Express	355-9090
Clarion Inn	791-3000
Hampton Inn	341-1879
Tru by Hilton	341-1878
<b>EXIT 57 (8th St)</b>	
The Rushmore	348-8300
Elevation Inn & Suites	737-4656
Super 8	343-5434
Quality Inn	341-9300
Town House	791-3989
Travelodge	922-9789
Comfort Inn & Suites	718-4444
Hotel Alex Johnson	342-1210
<b>EXIT 59</b>	
Elk Creek Resort	787-4884



# Rapid City Highlights

**Pawnseum...** Enter the World's only "Pawnseum!" Some of the items you will see at this

**FREE ATTRACTION:** The Friendship 7 Lens (The periscope lens John Glenn saw the Earth through.) The Icebox Nugget (the largest undisputed Black Hills gold placer nugget in existence.) Pawnzi, the 34" tall Dog! (Quite possibly the World's smallest dog.) Deadwood Dick's Pocket Watch (Along with six hand-written letters from one of Deadwood's most famous historic characters.) An authentic Sioux Eagle-Feather War

Bonnet A rear mummified cat (We call him "Mummy Kitty.) An amazing collection of Western and Native American artifacts...and much, much more!



**Pirate's Cove Adventure Golf.** Black Beard challenges you to 18 holes of exciting Adventure Golf. Can you beat the Beard? There's really no other adventure like Pirate's Cove! Where you explore the wonderful and mysterious hideout of pirates. Where waterfall and other challenges test your skills!



**Dinosaur Park** is free family fun featuring seven towering life-size concrete dinosaur replicas perfect for kid-climbing. The park overlooks Rapid City from Skyline Drive, which offers spectacular 100 mile views, particularly at night. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Enjoy lunch or dinner on the deck! Only blocks from downtown.



**Flags and Wheels** is the only indoor cart racing facility in Rapid City and the surrounding Black Hills area. F&W is housed in a huge 47,000 sq. foot building near downtown. We offer European style racing karts, Go Carts, Paintball, Lazer Tag, Bumper Cars, Batting Cages, and Arcade for complete family fun. F&W premier attraction is the **EXTREME CARTS**. The indoor track is 27,000 sq. ft. of running surface and allows these carts to reach speeds in excess of 40 mph, twice the speed of a normal full bodied Go-Cart found at other facilities.



**Prairie Edge Store.** Unearthing the beauty of the past while embracing the unique mark

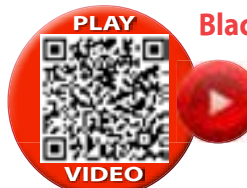


of the individual artist, our contemporary Native art collection embodies the spirituality of the Lakota people and reveals the heart of this amazing culture. Effortlessly blending the lessons of elders and the essence of the old ways with modern materials and individual expression, the artwork of these artists - whether

Native or Non-Native - is celebrated for its visual beauty, as well as the artist's revival of time-honored traditions, mastery of technique, and dedication to tribal histories. Located on the corner 6<sup>th</sup> and Main Street in Downtown Rapid City.



**Black Hills Petrified Forest** is a "Snap Shot of the Past! Learn about the natural wonder of the Black Hills before you drive through them. The one hour tour includes an 18 minute movie, museum displays of petrified wood, fossils, diaramas, rocks & minerals. Gift Shop and working Rock Shop. Open daily....605-787-4884.



**Museum of Geology...** Located of the South Dakota Mines campus in Rapid City, a visit to the museum will give you a look into the paleontological and geological history of the Black Hills region. You will find White River Badlands mammal fossils, Cretaceous dinosaurs such as Triceratops and marine reptiles such as Mosasaurus. Do not forget about the rocks and minerals from all around the world on display! Summer





hours begin Memorial Day weekend: Mon – Sat 9 AM-6PM, Winter Hours begin Labor Day weekend: Mon – Sat 9 AM – 4:30 PM. Admission is \$10 for adults (16-59), \$5 for children (6-15), \$8 for Military and Senior (60+). Tours are available if scheduled in advance. For more information, contact us at (605) 394-2467 or visit us at [sdsmt.edu/MOG](https://sdsmt.edu/MOG).



**Black Hills Caverns** offers **Two Different Tours** of the huge underground wind caverns, including rare logomites, helicitites, stalactites, stalagmites, cave flowers, frost work and box work. 80% of the cave walls are lined with calcite crystal. New Crystal Mining & Gemstone Panning! Tours leave approximately every 20 minutes. The Adventure Tour is 60 minutes, covering all 3 levels.



**Dahl's Chainsaw Art...** In 2004, the Dahl brothers embarked on an Alaskan adventure where they discovered a natural talent as they brought trees to life. They now display their talents in Rapid City, Keystone, Hill City, Deadwood and Wall SD for families and people of all ages to enjoy. Experience the fun with free live daily chainsaw carving, photo opportunities, open air gallery and gift shop.



*1923-2025: 102 Years of Public Service at the*

## Museum of Geology

Opening their doors to the public in 1923, the Museum of Geology has been an attraction in Rapid City for over a century. The museum has been a staple in the community to learn about local geology and paleontology. Step back 500 million years in time!

Our paleontology exhibits showcase fossils from the beginning of life to the present. Imagine an ocean crawling with trilobites in the Cambrian, swimming with armored fish like Dunkleosteus during the Devonian, or being chased by marine reptiles from the Cretaceous Western Interior Seaway! Learn about how the White River Badlands formed and explore the rich fossil record it contains, including the infamous "Big Pig" – Archeotherium.

In the mineralogy exhibits, you will see rocks, minerals, and gems from around the world! Visit Robert's Hall of South Dakota Minerals to explore local geology. Our cases are chemically organized to represent related minerals. Be sure to explore our new and improved fluorescent minerals exhibit!

Have you ever thought you have discovered a meteorite? Come check out our meteorite display to learn more about these extraterrestrial rocks. Or maybe you have an item that you discovered but can't identify. Let us help you with that! We offer free rock, mineral, and fossil identification services year-round!

The Museum of Geology also has a hands-on Discovery Zone for visitors of all ages! Come feel the footprints of fossil animals that would have roamed South Dakota or beat your friends at surviving extinctions with one of our board games. Be sure to check out our seismometer in our seismology room! Can you make the biggest wave on the graph?

We offer a variety of events- free to the public. In 2025, put these events on your calendar:

- Spring Rock and Fossil ID Day – Saturday, February 15 – 12:30-4:00
- Dinosaur Egg-straveganza – Saturday, April 12 – 12:00-4:30
- Fall Rock and Fossil ID Day – Saturday, September 13 – 12:30-4:00
- Night at the Museum – Saturday, October 18 – 12:00-4:30

Keep an eye on our Instagram and Facebook pages for more information! If you would like a guided tour of the museum,

contact the front desk and schedule in advance.

Be sure to visit our Museum Store, housing a variety of prehistoric toys, books, and posters. We also have an abundance of items for rock and mineral lovers as well!

The Museum of Geology, located on the South Dakota Mines Campus (501 E. Saint Joseph St, Rapid City, SD 57701). Admission is \$10 for adults (16-59), \$5 for children (6-15), \$8 for Military and Senior (60+). For more information, contact us at (605) 394-2467 or visit us at [sdsmt.edu/MOG](https://sdsmt.edu/MOG).

## MUSEUM OF GEOLOGY FOSSILS & ROCKS



**STEP BACK IN TIME  
500 MILLION YEARS!**

**605.394.2467**



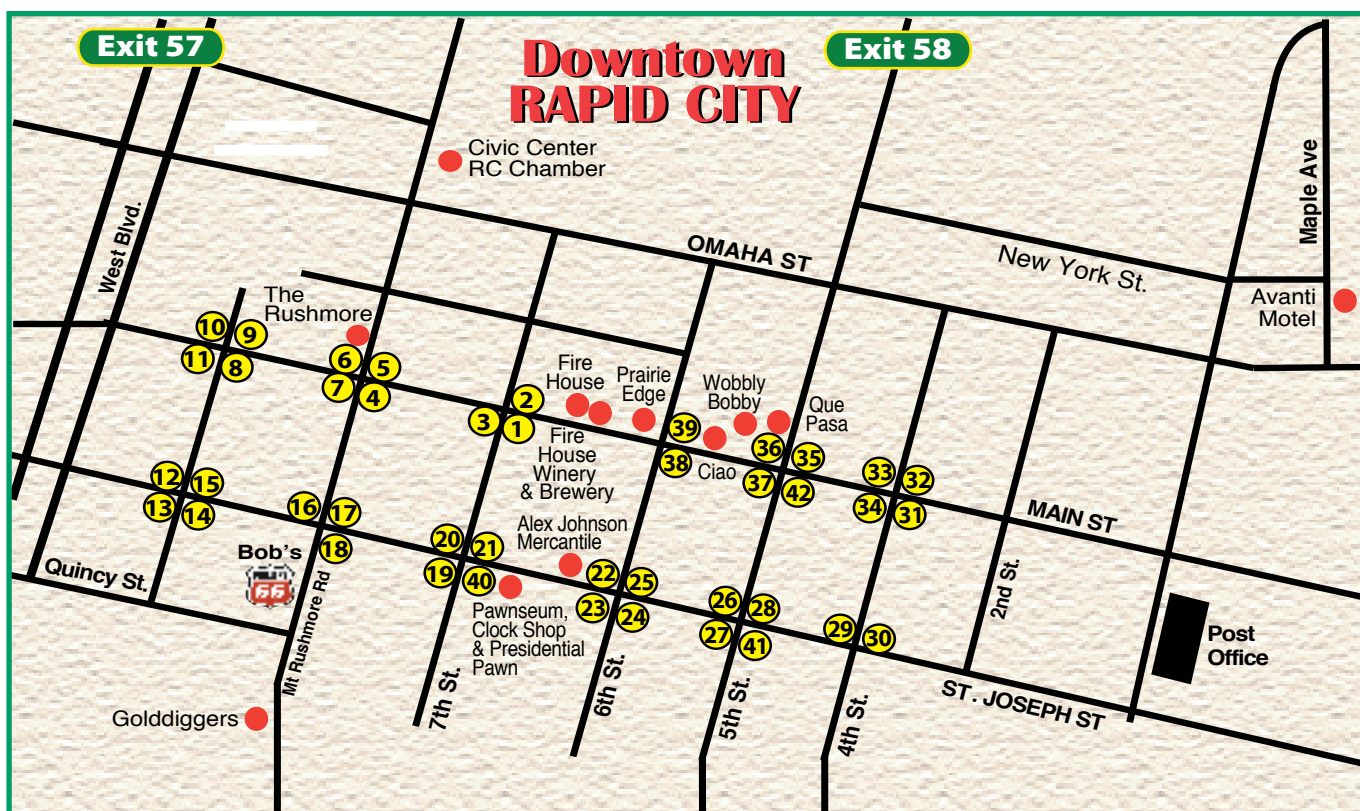
**Museum of Geology**  
O'Hara Building, Third Floor  
501 E. Saint Joseph St. | Rapid City  
(Take Gold Entrance to Technology Ct.)



## Rapid City: The City of Presidents

Rapid City proudly displays life size bronzes of United States Presidents on the corners of downtown. You can stroll the core blocks of the city and pose with Ronald Reagan, sit on a bench with Martin Van Buren, and read the Declaration of Independence from Thomas Jefferson's podium. The bronze sculptures are an ongoing project that will soon include each President from George Washington to George H. Bush, Sr.; with plans to include each recent President, consecutively. This project has been funded entirely by private donations from people that appreciate our democracy, history, and the arts. The artist of each of the Presidents has ties to South Dakota; each researching and depicting the familiar and notable characteristics of that President in their work. Each sculpture shows the unique qualities of its subject. Sculptor John Lopez depicted Jimmy Carter in casual attire with a modern bronze surface. Look closely and you will see a peanut on the plaque at his feet. Sculptor Lee Leuning put a telephone in William McKinley's hands, as he was the first to campaign for the office using the telephone, starting a modern campaign technique. Other sculptors include James Van Nuys, James Michael Maher, and Edward Hlavka.

- |                        |                       |                          |                           |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) James Monroe        | 12) Warren Harding    | 23) Jimmy Carter         | 34) William McKinley      |
| 2) John Quincy Adams   | 13) Woodrow Wilson    | 24) Andrew Jackson       | 35) Franklin D. Roosevelt |
| 3) Lyndon Johnson      | 14) Millard Fillmore  | 25) Ronald Reagan        | 36) Herbert Hoover        |
| 4) William Howard Taft | 15) Zachary Taylor    | 26) Dwight D. Eisenhower | 37) Calvin Coolidge       |
| 5) Martin Van Buren    | 16) John Tyler        | 27) Richard M. Nixon     | 38) George Bush           |
| 6) John F. Kennedy     | 17) Harry S. Truman   | 28) James Polk           | 39) John Adams            |
| 7) Andrew Jackson      | 18) Henry Harrison    | 29) Grover Cleveland     | 40) Bill Clinton          |
| 8) Franklin Pierce     | 19) Gerald Ford       | 30) Rutherford B. Hayes  | 41) George W. Bush        |
| 9) Theodore Roosevelt  | 20) James Madison     | 31) Benjamin Harrison    | 42) Chester A. Arthur     |
| 10) James Buchanan     | 21) Thomas Jefferson  | 32) James Garfield       | 43) Barack Obama          |
| 11) Abraham Lincoln    | 22) George Washington | 33) Ulysses S. Grant     |                           |





MEET THE CHALLENGE · DISCOVER THE FUN!

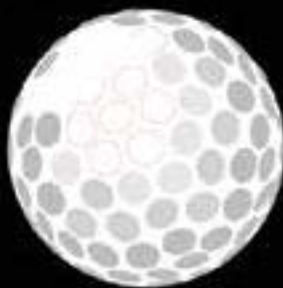


THE ORIGINAL



# Adventure Golf

Swashbuckling  
Fun for the Entire  
Family!



Test Your  
Skills on  
18 Challenging  
Holes!



Explore the  
Wonderful  
Hideout of  
Pirates!



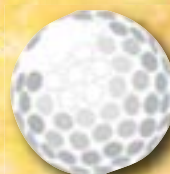
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## TRAVELER'S COUPON

**\$1.50 Off Each Admission**

Experience the Adventure of Pirates' Cove for \$1.50 Off  
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*Not valid with other promotions or discounts.*





**ART of the Lakota**

*Prairie Edge presents the world's foremost collection of authentic Native American jewelry art, crafts and culture.*

*Prairie Edge evokes the spirit of the Old West and the traditions and mystique of the Plains Indians, all housed in a historic building.*

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Within our historical building you'll find the finest collection of Plains Indian Arts, Crafts and Jewelry, plus Fine Art and Prints, Glassware, Pottery, Toys, an incredible selection of Native American and Pioneer Books, Tapes, CDs, Videos, One-of-a-Kind Collector's Books and unique Craft Supplies.

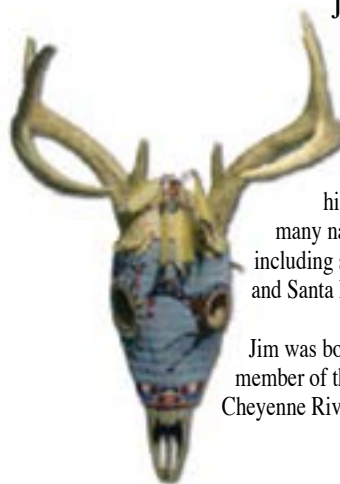
**You'll Want to Spend Hours With Us!**

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One block North of the Hotel Alex Johnson at 6th & Main, Rapid City  
342-3086 • Open 7 Days a Week • [www.prairieedge.com](http://www.prairieedge.com)

# Artists of the

## Jim Little Wounded



Jim is a self-taught artist. In his work he uses many of the traditional methods of beadwork, quillwork and painting on leather. He creates beautiful musical instruments in his flutes and drums. Jim has received many national awards for his traditional art, including some from the Smithsonian Institute and Santa Fe Indian Market.

Jim was born on September 5, 1955 and is a member of the Minneconjou Band which of the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe of South Dakota.

## Michael Anthony McLeod

Mike began to draw and paint early in his life. His fascination with history and western art continues to be an inspiration as he meticulously researches and creates thoughtful reproductions of 19th Century Plains Tribes' arts and crafts.

Mike considers himself self-taught. He works with different media, combining old techniques and methods with new ideas. His tanned buffalo, elk and deer hides are embellished with pigments in a stately visual presentation of box and border, pictograph and the feather circle robe designs of the 19th century.



He has a knack for bringing out the best in an animal skin. Prime ermine and muskrat begin a second life as one of his exquisite medicine pouches. Each pelt is transformed into a functional work of art, from a lavishly fringed ermine pouch to a subtle elegance of his lazy-stitched pouches detailed with rare glass beads. His hand-painted buckskin pouches are reminiscent of ancient shield and Ghost Dance symbols.

Michael was born September 2, 1955 in Rapid City, South Dakota. He is a registered member of the Bad River Band of Chippewa, Lake Superior.

## Kevin Fasthorse

Kevin began beading when he was five years old. He "scatter beaded" for his father and uncles, who made beaded axes. Kevin also "loom beaded" for dolls. Later he beaded belt buckles, hat bands and watch bands for the local tourist trade. In the 1980s his father taught him to bead in the traditional

"lazy stitch" style and with patience and understanding,

Kevin began to create beautiful beadwork. Today, Kevin resides in Rapid City and is a true star in the Lakota beadwork artist arena.

Kevin was born in Rapid City, South Dakota on June 18, 1963. He is an Oglala/Lakota from the Pine Ridge Reservation of South Dakota.





# Northern Plains

## Del Iron Cloud

Del Iron Cloud, Hunkpapa Lakota, was born in 1949 on the Standing Rock Reservation located on the border of North and South Dakota. Graduating from high school in 1968.



Del spent two years at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico then went onto attend the American Academy of Art in Chicago, Illinois.

Del enlisted in the Air Force in 1971 and retired as a Staff Sergeant in 1991.

Dels favorite mediums are acrylic and watercolor. He has painted more than 100 large murals, including one at the International Arrivals corridor at the Denver International Airport.

Rapid City, SD

Enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

## Mike Haskell



Mike was born September 9, 1963 in Rochester, Minnesota. Mike is Minneconjou Lakota of the Cheyenne River reservation of South Dakota.

When he was very young, his family moved back to the Cheyenne river reservation of South Dakota. Mike's parents divorced and he, his brother and two sisters became wards of the State where they lived in various foster homes.

At the age of 14 years, Mike left the foster home and went to live with a friend in Eagle Butte, South Dakota. He attended Flandreau Indian School where he finished his high school education and also learned silversmithing. He attended the University of South Dakota in Vermilion, after which he started his silversmithing career.



Mike now lives on the Cheyenne River Reservation and is recognized as an outstanding silversmith whose jewelry is sought out by quality collectors.

*See more of these artists and their incredible work at Prairie Edge.*



*quality*  
Come Spend Some Time  
at Prairie Edge Downtown Rapid City

Prairie Edge presents the world's foremost collection of Plains Indian arts, crafts and culture all housed in our fabulous historic building.

- Jewelry & Clothing
- Pottery & Glassware
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800-541-2388 • [info@prairieedge.com](mailto:info@prairieedge.com)  
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# BLACK HILLS CAVERNS

EST. 1939

## Black Hills' Largest CRYSTAL CAVE

**Tours Every 20 Minutes**

**Last Tour Leaves One Hour Prior to Closing**

*(The cave temperature is 48°F, a light jacket and tennis shoes are recommended.)*

GREAT



### OFFERING 2 DIFFERENT TOURS

- **Trained Guides**, Experienced and Friendly...
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RAPID CITY



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**4 Miles West of Rapid City on Scenic Highway 44**

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**\$1 OFF**

Each Regular Cave Tour Admission in Party

**ADVENTURE  
or CRYSTAL TOUR**





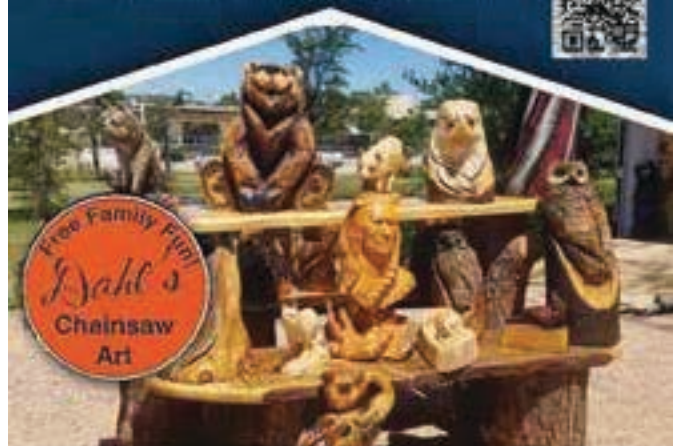
# DAHL'S Chainsaw Art

2118 N Maple Ave, Rapid City, SD

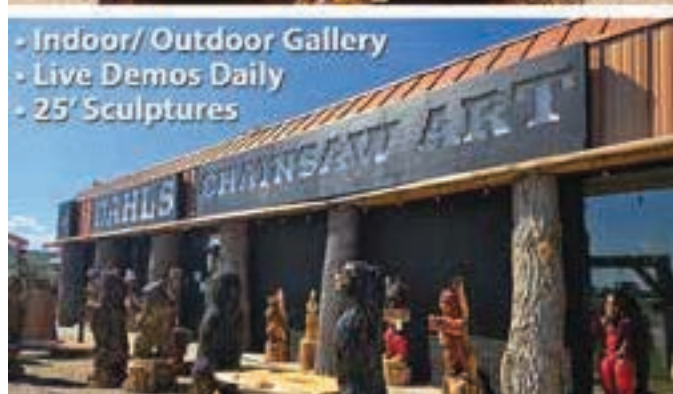
*Located in front of Uptown Mall*

**FAMILY FUN , ENTERTAINMENT  
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- Indoor/ Outdoor Gallery
- Live Demos Daily
- 25' Sculptures



## Dinosaur Park Renovation Project Completed!

Dinosaur Park celebrated its 87th anniversary in



June of 2024, as one of the original tourist attractions in the Black Hills area. This iconic Rapid City Park under went a multi-million-dollar two-year project to:

- Build on the history of the Park, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Address cosmetic components of the Dinosaurs.
- Provide ADA access to all areas of the Park.
- Increase Park safety.
- Enhance visitor experiences.
- Amplify Park viewing areas.

Ultimately the Park enhancements combined the unique roadside attraction character of the past with the convenience of ADA paved paths with railings, a bridge, interpretive signage and new visitor viewing areas for a very "User Friendly" Park experience.

Dinosaur Park was a WPA project opened to the public in 1937. In conjunction with the Park project, the WPA constructed Skyline Drive during the 1930's, bringing visitors from Rapid City to the Park then on to Highway 16 and Mt. Rushmore. In 2006 Skyline Drive was designated a "Scenic Byway" by the State of South Dakota.



President Franklin Roosevelt, while in the western states during August of 1936, inspecting CCC and WPA projects, was driven on Skyline Drive to view the progress at Dinosaur Park following his dedication of the Jefferson figure at Mt. Rushmore.

Many changes have happened to the Dinosaur Park of 1937. In 1967, the Rapid City Parks Department took over the Park, adding new stairs, retaining walls and a Visitor Center. An additional renovation to the Visitor Center was completed in 2012. A new parking lot with bus and large vehicle parking was completed in 2015. A new feature in 2016, for the Park is serving as a trailhead for the Skyline Wilderness Area, a 150-acre area with several miles of trail system.

Eighty-seven years after Dinosaur Park was opened it remains an iconic Rapid City landmark. With the newly completed 2024 "Face Lift" the visitor experience is now enhanced for years to come.



# DINOSAUR PARK

EST. 1936

## FREE ATTRACTION!

- SPECTACULAR "100 Mile" VIEWS
- TOWERING LIFE-SIZE DINOSAURS
- ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER of Historic Places
- 'NEW' Fossil Finding Experience
- TRAILHEAD TO THE SKYLINE WILDERNESS AREA

### EDUCATIONAL

Dinosaur Park offers a wonderful opportunity to experience the size and appearance of dinosaurs that roamed Western South Dakota during the late Cretaceous Period.

### PARK VISITOR CENTER

- Dinosaur Gifts & Books
- Beautiful Rocks and Fossils
- Large of Jewelry Offerings
- Custom T-Shirts
- A Wide Assortment of Inexpensive Gifts for All Ages!

### EATERY

- "All Beef" Hot Dog
  - Buffalo Hot Dog
  - Dinosaur Chicken Nuggets
  - Ice Cream Specials...
- Enjoy Lunch on the Deck!*

LOCATED ON BEAUTIFUL SKYLINE DRIVE  
RAPID CITY, SD



ADA Access to All Park Areas

### HOURS OF OPERATION

Open Daily  
May through Sept

**605-343-8687**

940 Skyline Drive • Rapid City, SD 57701

[www.dinosaurparkblackhills.com](http://www.dinosaurparkblackhills.com)

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**ICE CREAM**  
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(Valid for all members  
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**FREE BAG**  
**OF POPCORN**  
**w/this Ad**

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**FLAGSANDWHEELS.COM**

## RAPID CITY

### *First known as “Hay Camp”!*

Rapid City, named for Rapid Creek, which flows through it, was founded in February of 1876 by a group of men who envisioned their new town quickly becoming “another Denver,” the major site of commerce for the mining communities of the Black Hills and the surrounding agricultural region. The original town site was a one-mile square bounded by East and West Boulevards and North and South Streets (laid out, incidentally, to magnetic North, not true North, so later streets bend at North and South Streets.) In fear of “marauding bandits,” the first buildings, several small cabins and a one-room log hotel, huddled inside a stockade about where the railroad tracks cross Fifth Street, just north of today’s downtown area.

In the first few years, the “downtown” area slowly began to develop along Main and St. Joseph Streets and their cross-streets between Fifth and Eighth (today’s Mt. Rushmore Road). The city’s growth was slow, but by World War II, when the air base was started east of town, there were 20,000 residents. Into the 1950s all the city’s stores and other commercial buildings were located in the expanding downtown area.

The first commercial buildings were frame construction, of one or two story size, and decorated with false fronts so familiar from western movies. They contained stores, many with offices above them, and saloons seem to have dominated the young town.

In 1882, the first brick business building was built downtown. Others followed rapidly, replacing the original frame structures built before the turn of the century, and by 1930, the downtown looked much as it does today. Buildings in the Italianate style, with arched windows and fancy brickwork on the upper stories, generally date from the 1880s to about 1910. From then through the 1930s the style was more for squared window openings and two-toned brick accents. In the years that followed, many of the older buildings were “updated” with new facades at street level to match changing tastes in architecture, although most remained untouched on their upper floors.

Beginning in the 1980s, property owners realized the value of historic properties, and various buildings were restored to their original splendor. Two notable examples are the “Moorish-domed” Buell Building at the corner of Seventh and St. Joseph and the Clower Building (today’s Prairie Edge) at the corner of Main and Sixth.

Both sides of the four streets surrounding a central downtown block (between Sixth, Main, Seventh and St. Joseph Streets) comprise the Rapid City Downtown Commercial Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the National Park Service. The corners of the central block are marked by the Buell Building, the Hotel Alex Johnson, and two historic bank buildings. Look for signs at the corners describing some of the historic buildings.

*Norman E. Nelson Member,  
Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission*






(Resort Video)

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www.elkcreekresort.com

**BELIEVE IT OR DON'T... DID YOU KNOW, OR CARE...**


The largest city in South Dakota is Sioux Falls; population 120,000 except for one week in August....if we have to explain, you wouldn't understand, however, in 2024 South Dakota DOT reported 470,987 people attended the 84th Rally!

**2025 STURGIS MOTORCYCLE RALLY • AUGUST 1- 9, 2025 • 85th Anniversary**

**DID YOU KNOW...** Every summer, Sturgis, SD, hosts one of the largest motorcycle rallies in the United States. Hundreds of thousands of bikers attend the rally in August. The first rally, held in 1938, attracted approximately 200 bikers and was hosted by the infamous Jack Pine Gypsies (one of America's first motorcycle clubs).

- Attendance for the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally averages approximately 400,000 to 500,000 people from all over the world.

- Meade County, home to Sturgis, has its largest request for marriage licenses during the two weeks of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally; averaging approximately 100.

**Piedmont**  
**I-90 • Exit 46**


**A Snapshot of the Past!**  
**YOUR FIRST STOP!**  
*Understand the Black Hills BEFORE you drive through them!*

**Petra (pet'ra): stone**  
**Petrify (pet'ra fi): to change to stone**

**Geology Museum & Gift Shop**  
• 18 Minute Video, Specimen & Diarama Displays  
• Handmade Jewelry of Agates & Petrified Wood

**Walking Tour**  
• Self-Guided Map  
• 6 Block Walk

**Working Rock Shop**  
• Cut & Polished Petrified Wood  
• Agates & Fossils  
• Crystals





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8228 Elk Creek Rd  
Piedmont, SD







**FREE ADMISSION!**

- JOHN GLENN'S FRIENDSHIP 7 LENS
- MICHAEL JACKSON'S CONCERT GLOVE
- DEADWOOD DICK'S POCKET WATCH

Located at **PRESIDENTIAL PAWN & GUN**  
629 St. Joseph St., Rapid City, SD 57701  
(605) 342-PAWN (7296)  
Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm, Sat 9am-5pm

## WORLD'S ONLY pawnseum

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

Just when you think you've seen it all...(goes the old cliché). Seriously, though...it's one thing to find a really cool (even world-class) Pawn Shop. It's equally awesome to stumble upon one of those truly unforgettable museums, but it's off the charts fantastic when you are able to experience both under the same roof! And, that's exactly what you will find when you step into the strange, fun, ground-breaking new concept call "Pawnseum."

Pawnseum is the brainchild of father & son local entrepreneurs, Chris and Trevor Johnson. It all began as a little, "mom & pop" store called The Clock Shop in 1986, which grew quickly into a very popular anchor store in Rapid City's downtown business district. "We've always been interested in historic things," says dad, Chris, "and over the years the community caught on to the idea that we not only enjoyed seeing them...we're up for buying all sorts of unique, strand or historically important artifacts."

As the collection grew, Trevor urged his father to take things to the next level. I told him, "If we're going to keep acquiring this kind of stuff, dad, I really think we need to start a pawn shop." Chris was a little reluctant, but pretty much said, "Oh, what the heck!"

In 2011, Presidential Pawn opened its doors and the Clock Shop moved into a larger space across the hall. That's when things started getting really interesting. By 2013, with Presidential Pawn bursting at the seams, the two decided to fulfill a long-time dream of opening a museum to

show some of the favorites they had collected over the years. And now, it has become not only a new business venture...Chris

says, "I think we made a new word!" Enter the World's only "Pawnseum!"

Some of the items you will see at this FREE ATTRACTION:

- **The Friendship 7 Lens** (The periscope lens John Glenn saw the Earth through.)



*Largest Citizen Watch selection in South Dakota!*



**THE CLOCK SHOP**



Adjacent to **PRESIDENTIAL PAWN & GUN**  
629 St. Joseph St., Rapid City, SD 57701  
(605) 342-PAWN (7296)  
Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm, Sat 9am-5pm





- **The Icebox Nugget** (the largest undisputed Black Hills gold placer nugget in existence.)
- **Pawnzi, the 3" Tall Dog!** (Quite possibly the World's smallest dog.)
- **Deadwood Dick's Pocket Watch** (Along with six hand-written letters from one of Deadwood's most famous historic characters.)
- An amazing collection of Western and Native American artifacts...and much, much more!



Many of the exhibits are labeled with a "QR" code which can be scanned by a smartphone. From there you will enjoy several "mini-documentaries" to explain these rare and fantastic finds in a more in-depth and exciting way. Enjoy at your own pace! It's FREE, it's FUN and truly a destination the whole family will enjoy, (with many souvenirs available) and it's conveniently located in the heart of Downtown Rapid City!

## PRESIDENTIAL PAWN

Two steps into the showroom of Presidential Pawn (one of Downtown Rapid City's main attractions) you will clearly see the reason why, as the locals say, "This is not your ordinary pawn shop". This sprawling marketplace, without a doubt, is one of America's most attractive, diverse, and "just plain cool" shops which incorporate the word "PAWN".

From the minute one arrives, the urge to explore and discover will provoke a closer look. Old West town facades built within the store greet visitors with a friendly reminder that they have truly reached the "Wild, Wild West". Further investigation will reveal an inventory filled with historic items from ancient times to the latest trends (and everything in between).

It is not uncommon for customers to almost forget they are in a "Pawn Shop". But pawn shop shopping does come with its advantages. The bargain hunter will not leave disappointed. What's even better.... haggling is not only allowed... it's encouraged!

Our customer service will make your adventure one to remember for years to come! Presidential Pawn....it's "quite revolutionary"!



# PRESIDENTIAL PAWN



*"Quite Revolutionary"*



## All Black Hills GOLD

# 1/2 OFF

## All Summer



- Huge Selection of Firearms
- Massive Selection of High-End Jewelry at a Fraction of New Price
- A Must See when Visiting Rapid City!

## 605-342-PAWN

629 St Joseph Street • Downtown Rapid City

TRAVELER'S COUPON

30% OFF

### Any Individual Piece of Jewelry

Limit one per customer/Exp. 9/22/25  
Can't be combined with any other offer.

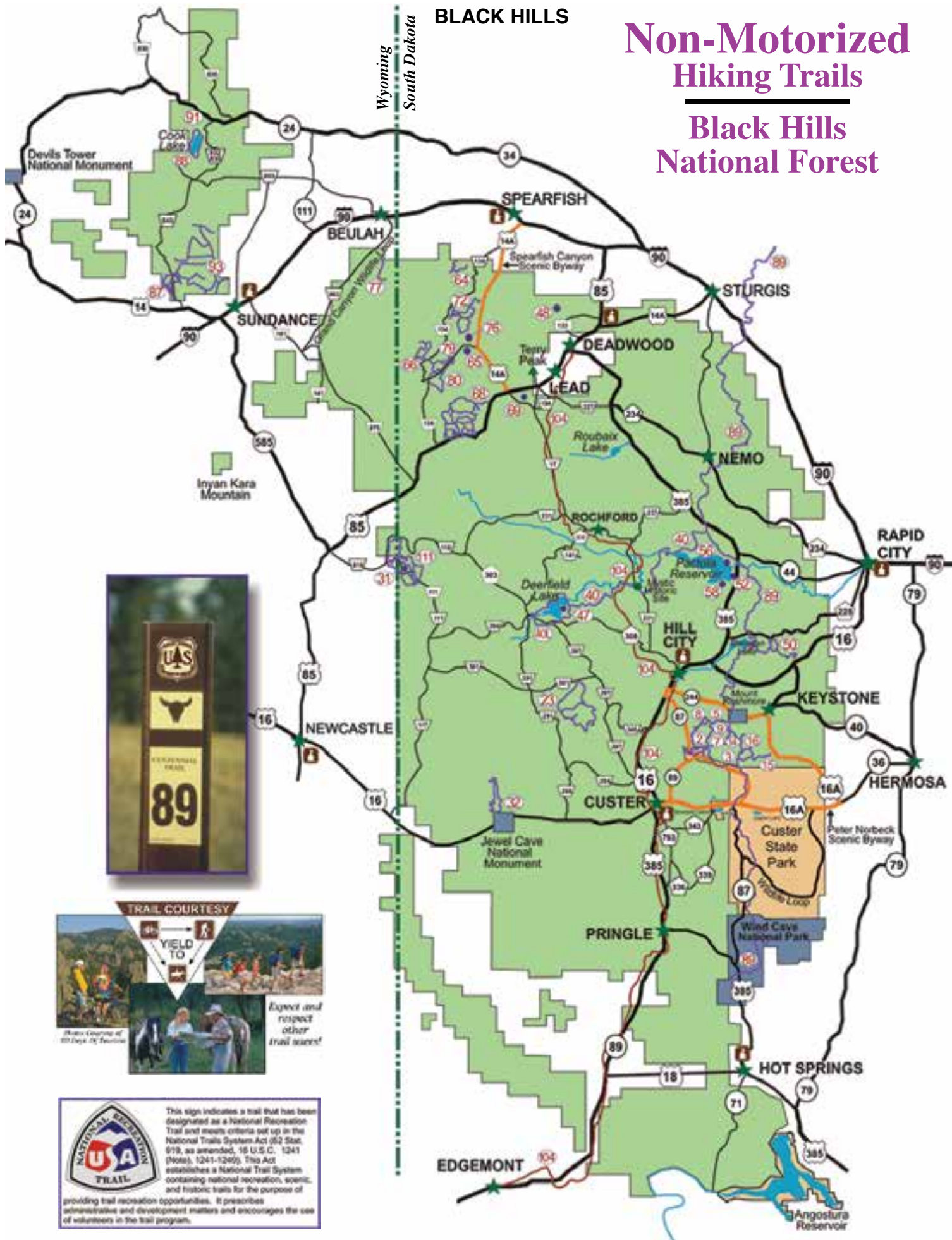
PRESIDENTIAL PAWN & GUN  
629 St. Joseph St. - Downtown



## BLACK HILLS

# Non-Motorized Hiking Trails

## Black Hills National Forest



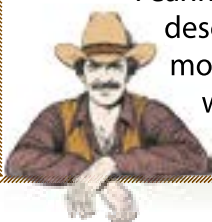




### DID YOU KNOW (THE ULTIMATE HIKER)...

In 1823, while hunting with the Ashley Fur party, Hugh Glass was so terribly mauled by a grizzly bear that two members of the party were left behind to do what they could and to bury him when he died.

Fearing for their own lives and believing his condition hopeless, they took his weapons and deserted him. Living off rain, wet tree moss, snakes, mice and bugs, Glass crawled for 3 months to make the 190 mile trek back to Fort Kiowa on the Missouri River to find the men who had left him. Today Glass is remembered in songs, books, movies (most recently *The Revenant*) and a historical marker, which still stands on the South Dakota prairie.



Trail	Length	Elevation	Difficulty	Uses
2 Lost Cabin	6.2	5100-6400	Mod.-Difficult	hiker, horse
3 Norbeck	9.8	5100-6600	Moderate	hiker, horse
4 Cathedral Spires	3.2	6100-6600	Moderate	hiker, horse
5 Sunday Gulch	2.8	5600-6100	Moderate	hiker, horse
7 Grizzly Bear Creek	6.0	5100-6500	Difficult	hiker, horse
8 Willow Creek Loop	1.5	5100-5200	Moderate	hiker, horse
9 Sylvan Lake/Harney Peak	3.4	6100-7200	Moderate	hiker, horse
9 Willow Creek/Harney Peak	5.4	5100-7200	Difficult	hiker, horse
11 Horsethief Lake	2.7	5000-5600	Moderate	hiker, horse
15 Iron Creek	2.3	4200-5200	Easy-Mod.	hiker, horse, wheelchair
16 Iron Mountain	1.4	5200-4900	Moderate	hiker, horse
26 Bear Mountain	16.0	6000-7100	Easy-Mod.	hiker, horse
40 Deerfield	18.3	4600-6100	Moderate	hiker, horse, wheelchair
41 Lake Loop	10.2	5900-6100	Easy	hiker, horse, wheelchair
47 Dutchman Loop Trail	1.3	5900	Easy	hiker, horse
48 Mt. Roosevelt	0.5	550-5700	Easy	hiker, horse
50 Flume	15.0	4400-5300	Easy	hiker, horse
52 Aspen Leaf	1.0	4600	Easy	hiker, horse
56 Veterans Point	1.0	4600	Moderate	hiker, horse, wheelchair
58 Lakeview	2.7	4600	Easy	hiker, horse
62 Crow Peak	3.5	4200-5800	Difficult	hiker, horse, wheelchair
65 Old Baldy	5.0	5800-6100	Moderate	hiker, horse, wheelchair
66 Eagle Cliff	25.0	5800-6500	Easy-Difficult	hiker, horse, wheelchair
72 Big Hill	14.9	5000-5500	Easy-Difficult	hiker, horse, wheelchair
76 Roughlock	0.9	5000	Easy	hiker, horse, wheelchair
79 Rimrock	5.8	5300-6000	Moderate	hiker, horse, wheelchair
80 Little Spearfish	5.8	5500-6200	Moderate	hiker, horse, wheelchair
87 Carson Draw Trails	6.9	5400-6200	Moderate	hiker, horse
88 Cook Lake	1.4	4700	Easy	hiker, horse
89 Centennial	111.0	3200-5600	Easy-Mod.	hiker, horse, wheelchair
91 Bearlodge Trails	48.3	3200-5600	Moderate	hiker, horse, wheelchair
91 Cliff Swallow	3.6	4600-5100	Moderate	hiker, horse
94 George S. Mickelson	110.0	3400-6200	Easy	hiker, horse, wheelchair
111 Beaver Creek Trails	12.7	6000-6700	Easy-Difficult	hiker, horse

★ Note: Trail difficulty rating based upon primary use for each trail, which is listed first in the USES column.



# HIGHWAY 16 South The Road to Mt. Rushmore

## LODGING (SD Area Code 605)

Happy Holiday Resort 342-7365

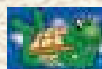
## CAMPING

Happy Holiday Resort 342-7365

Black Hills RV Park 343-6319

## ATTRACTIONS

Fort Hayes  
Buffalo Hunt Coaster  
Reptile Gardens  
Old MacDonald's Farm  
Putz n Glow  
Rushmore Candy Co  
Christmas Village  
Sugar Park Zip Line



**DID YOU KNOW...**  
In 1898, the first commercial timber sale on Federal forested land in the United States was authorized in the area of Jim and Estes Creeks (near the town of Nemo).



## THINGS TO DO.... All SD Area Code (605)

### Attractions

Corn Palace	Mitchell	800-257-2676
Storybook Island	Rapid City	342-6357
Rushmore Borglum Story	Keystone	666-4448
Big Thunder Gold Mine	Keystone	666-4847
Custer State Park	Custer	255-4515
Crazy Horse Memorial	Hwy. 16	673-4681
The Mammoth Site	Hot Springs	745-6017
1880 Town	I90 Exit 170	344-2259
Dinosaur Park	Rapid City	343-8687
Sprockets Fun Foundry	Keystone	666-4242
Rushmore Candy Co	Hwy 16	342-1489
Four Mile Old West Town	Custer	673-3905
DC Booth Fish Hatchery	Spearfish	642-7730
Bullock Hotel Ghost Tour	Deadwood	800-336-1876
Heritage Village	Custer	888-HAVE FUN
Roy's Drive-In Movie Theater	Hermosa	255-5333
Candyland	Hill City	574-2824
Buffalo Hunt Coaster	Hwy 16	343-3113
Sugar Park (Zip Line)	Hwy 16	666-4478
Buffalo Shop	Hill City	206-852-5933

### Animal Attractions

Reptile Gardens	Hwy 16	800-355-0275
Old McDonald's Farm	Hwy 16	737-4815

### Bus Tours

Ft. Hays Mt. Rushmore Tour	Hwy. 16	888-394-9653
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### Cave Tours

Rushmore Cave	Keystone	255-4384
Wonderland Cave	Nemo	578-1728
Black Hills Caverns	Hwy 44	343-0542

### Chuckwagon & Music Shows

Ft. Hays Chuckwagon	Hwy. 16	888-394-9563
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### Golf Adventure

Pirates Cove	Rapid City	343-8540
Holy Terror Mini Golf	Keystone	666-4455
Golf Public Hart Ranch Public Golf	Hwy. 16 S	800-787-2267
Putz n Glo Golf	Hwy 16 S	716-1230
Sweet Greens	Hill City	574-2824

### Wheeled Adventures

Flags & Wheels	Rapid City	341-2186
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### Helicopter Rides

Black Hills Ariel Adventures	Hwy 385	673-2163
Black Hills Ariel Adventures	Badlands	673-2163
Black Hills Ariel Adventures	Keystone	673-2163

### Museums-Auto

Pioneer Auto Museum	Murdo	669-2691
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### Museums-Cultural

South Dakota Hall of Fame	Chamberlain	734-4216
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### Museums-Geology/Paleontology/Mining

Museum of Geology (SDSM&T Campus)	Rapid City	394-2467
Black Hills Mining Museum	Lead	584-1605
Sanford Labs	Lead	584-3110
Petrified Forest of the Black Hills	Piedmont	787-4884
World Fossil Finder Museum	Hot Springs	745-5007
Dinosaur Museum	Rapid City	340-8140

### Museums-General

Natl Presidents Wax Museum	Keystone	666-4455
SD Air & Space Museum	Ellsworth	385-5189
Von Bayer Museum (DC Booth)	Spearfish	642-7730

### Native American Made

Prairie Edge	Rapid City	342-3086
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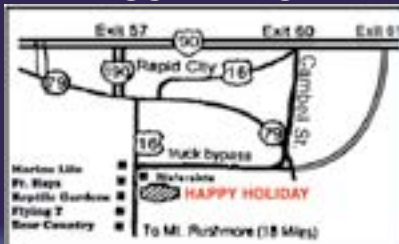
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# DRIVING IN THE BLACK HILLS

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Grades in the Black Hills are sometimes long and steep. Vehicles pulling trailers may experience overheating or transmission problems. Use first or second gear when driving up and down long, steep grades, and use your brakes sparingly. Watch extension mirrors while driving through tunnels.



**Black Hills Bluegrass Thursdays...** Every Thursday nite, stop in at the Gaslight Saloon for a great meal, cocktails and enjoy the live bluegrass jam! Sit and listen or bring your own instruments and jump right in...A local's favorite by far featuring musicians from all over the area. For more information call 605-343-9276 or check on the web at [gaslightrestaurant.com](http://gaslightrestaurant.com)

**Mount Rushmore Tours...** Board for all day narrated bus tour with stops at Mount Rushmore Memorial, Lincoln Borglum Museum, Pigtales Bridges, Scenic Tunnels & Wildlife, State Game Lodge for Lunch (lunch is additional), Needles Highway, Sylvan Lake, Crazy Horse Memorial. Off-bus camera stops throughout the day. Arrive back to Fort Hayes at 5:30pm. Enjoy browsing through our wonderful Gift Shops, Hands-on Pioneering History items, pictures and props of movies filmed in South Dakota.



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Toy Museum Next Door



# See the Black Hills the Easy Way - by Bus

How's this for a perfect way to experience the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota and everything they have to offer? Relax in a comfortable, high-backed seat, see the region's most stunning vistas and sights, visit the best attractions and have time to talk to your traveling companions without worrying about watching the road.

Those are just some of the benefits of taking a bus tour of the Black Hills. Lots of companies offer lots of tour options, giving you the ability to find the one that perfectly matches your needs and schedule. If it's buffalo you want to see, choose a tour that includes Custer State Park. If you want a bit of gambling in the cards, pick the tour that stops in Deadwood, the Black Hills historic gambling town.



Steven Page Photography

If you're a railroad buff, there are tours that include a ride on the 1880 Train that travels between Hill City and Keystone. Some tours include dinner and

stops at some of the many Black Hills attractions. Your admission to those attractions is often included in your tour price. Other tours include a more scenic adventure, giving you more time to experience the natural beauty of the Black Hills. If you want to create your own adventure, you can do that, too. Many tour companies offer the option of customizing a tour for your group. But, don't forget - you don't need a huge group to join a bus tour. Individual travelers and families can join the excursions, too. Children can often ride at reduced prices. Check with the company you choose for details and other specials.

While there are almost as many tour options as

pine trees in the Black Hills, all tours include two things: a great time for everybody and the comfort in knowing that someone else is taking care of all the details. That's what

makes a bus tour great. Once you choose what you want to experience, your work is finished. All you need to do then is sit back, watch the world go by, and have a great time. There's no worrying about when an attraction closes. Your tour guide knows that. There's no need to have a glove box full of maps. Your guide knows where to go. You won't have to think about where the next gas station is. Your driver takes care of filling the tank. And there's no stress created by driving in a new place you've never visited. You'll have an experienced driver. You'll also have someone who can answer the question, "What's that?" we all ask countless times while on vacation. Many tours include narration that will answer all your questions about the sites you pass.

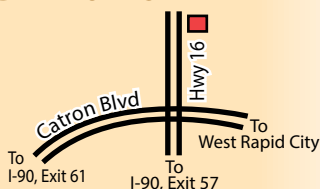
All of those things add up to the one thing that makes bus tours great: they're easy. They remove the hours of planning required for a full day of vacation fun. They eliminate the hassle of searching for parking spots at Mount Rushmore and the other popular attractions in the Black Hills. They let you focus on the "why" of your trip to the Black Hills instead of the "how." In short, they allow you to spend more time to do what you want in the Black Hills, whether it's relaxing or just spending quality time with your family. And after all, what better reason is there than that?



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## REPTILE GARDENS

**Open March thru November** 📍 Located on the Road to Mt. Rushmore

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## REPTILE GARDENS

Since its humble beginnings in 1937, Reptile Gardens has been a mainstay of Rapid City and the Black Hills area. Ever inquisitive and always fascinated (both with reptiles and people), 19-year-old Earl Brockelsby discovered people's innate interest in snakes. Wanting to explore people's fascination with snakes, Earl enlisted the aid of some friends and built an 18' by 24' building at the top of a long hill just 3 miles south of Rapid City.

With a handful of specimens on display, the location was carefully chosen. At a time when the myth of the old west was fading quickly to the suburban sprawl and the affordability of automobiles, the American Family Road Trip was becoming a mainstay. Back then, cars would often overheat as they reached the top of that long hill. Earl's grand idea was to have the cars stop in Reptile Gardens' parking lot to cool their radiators and maybe stay to see the Gardens.

What started out as an exploration into people's fascination with snakes turned into an entrepreneurial adventure filled with showmanship, wonder, and awe. In 1965, Reptile Gardens moved to its current location in Spring Creek valley, six miles south of Rapid City. The new and improved park featured a new Sky Dome and Safari Room, now popular staples of the park. One of the first exhibits of its kind, the large enclosed area gave visitors the rare opportunity to walk amongst free-roaming reptiles and birds.

In addition to exploring a fascination with snakes, Reptile Gardens has expanded to explore their relationship with many different species of reptiles, amphibians, and birds, including a Komodo Dragon, Bald Eagle, and their famous giant tortoises. They are also home to vast botanical gardens including an indoor tropical jungle, where you can find a wide assortment of orchids, bromeliads, and other tropical plants. If you look closely you'll even find a variety of tropical birds, frogs, and lizards roaming freely throughout the area.

Reptile Gardens is now home to many different species of reptiles, amphibians, and birds, including a Komodo Dragon, Bald Eagle, and their famous giant tortoises. They are also home to vast botanical gardens, including an indoor tropical jungle filled with orchids, bromeliads, and other tropical plants. Look closely to find a variety of free roaming tropical birds, frogs, and lizards throughout the area. Next, step over to their VR Adventures featuring 360° film experiences allowing you to experience nature like never before.



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thru November**

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# WINING, DINING AND WHAT'S BREWING IN THE BLACK HILLS

Fifty years ago at a restaurant in the Black Hills, you could have anything you wanted for dinner, as long as it was steak and potatoes. Now in the era of fine chefs, foodies and locavores, you can still get a sizzlin' slab of beef or a familiar quick burger, but also be regaled with a grand buffet of international delights and South Dakota spins and innovations.

Since the Gold Rush of 1876, a variety of restaurateurs have set up shop in the Black Hills. Within a year of the rush to Deadwood there were gardens growing vegetables for remarkable Chinese cuisine. Within a few years there were Cornish, Welsh, Italian, Slavic, Irish, Greek, Lebanese, French-Canadian and German immigrants settling in the Hills, bringing their savory and sweet fare with them. But with a few generations of assimilation, a couple of world wars, closing of the mines, the "boom and bust" cycles of the old west and a diaspora of younger generations, the food cultures of the Black Hills flattened back into "meat and potatoes." Mind you, they were good and hearty meat and potatoes, with an occasional spoonful of string beans and plenty of gravy, but it was pretty basic all the same. A major exception came with the growth of Ellsworth Air Force Base in the 1940s and 50s and an influx of world travelers. They didn't transform the restaurant scene so much, but groceries from around the world began to invade the shelves of local supermarkets. Then

Julia Child came in with the 1960s and many locals were eager to try new dishes and ways of cooking. The "movement" grew and over last thirty years ... the rest is history!

We are now in the midst of a culinary renaissance! There are restaurants for everyone, no matter what

your tastes ... from the quickest food stops and ever-moving food trucks ... to more formal, elegant surroundings with more sophisticated menus. Every town in the Black Hills has some exceptional eateries offering lots of choices. All

it takes is an adventurous spirit and a little scoutin' around and you'll find them ... and be glad you did!

But wait ... there's more! The Black Hills hosts visitors from around the world and, as tastes have changed

over the past decades, entrepreneurial "spirits" have risen to meet them. Vineyards have proliferated and a number of local vintners now create fine wines and award winning specialties to accompany

good food or just enjoy by the glass during a break in your touring. Hand crafted beers are also served up at breweries throughout the Hills by masters who take great care and pride in their creations. Wineries and breweries are open to the public and will welcome you for a tour. Most all wineries and breweries offer free tasting. So take a look and take advantage of the many culinary treats offered in the Black Hills! Cheers and Bon Appétit!







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# CAVES of the BLACK HILLS

If you really can't find that western adventurer you may be looking in the wrong place. For beauty, the sense of discovery, and pure adventure, look to the Caves of the Black Hills.

Both Wind Cave and Jewel Cave are listed as two the longest caves in the world. Add to this at least another six commercial caves and you will have all the adventure you want. Wind and Jewel are now National Parks, and like every other cave they have very interesting histories of their discovery. Cowboys out chasing cattle in the 1880s lay claim to locating both of these big caves and were noticed because of the sound of rushing wind coming out of the cave.

Caves are generally found in limestone, and at one time, layers of this marine deposit some 800 to 900 feet thick covered the Black Hills region. It was the result of great inland seas that spread across the region hundreds of millions years ago. After the sea had receded, water seeping through the limestone dissolved the rock, forming caves. What Mother Nature created were vast underground works of art.

Black Hills caves are well known for their abundance of rare formations, exquisitely decorated rooms and passages, and their maze-like connections of tunnels. Common formations include stalactites, stalagmites, columns, spiralling helictites, flow stone, ribbon like draperies, frost work, box work, and cave popcorn.

Even translucent calcite crystals line many of the glittering walls, floors and ceilings of the caves.

Eight Black Hills caves have been developed to accommodate public tours. They offer a variety of excitement and wonder, and each is unique in its own way. The facilities provide electric lighting, steps, handrails and guided tours for the whole family. Cave temperature averages 50 degrees Fahrenheit, so a light jacket or sweater is suggested. Cave tours offer a visitor adventure almost unlike anything else in nature. A one hour tour will take you into a cool, hushed, exotic world where dripping water, sparkling crystals and decorated corridors reveal the unseen wonders of the Black Hills underground wilderness.

Now, if you are really one of those special people who want to go where few men have gone before, then you may want a Spelunking Tour. Designed for beginners or seasoned cavers, these outings are not to be taken lightly. Each requires physical and mental toughness to complete the journey with your qualified guide. Reservations are required; physical standards must be met; and proper attire, provided by the cave, must be worn.

Spelunking is a serious and potentially dangerous activity. But it does provide a wonderful cave experience and offers you that western adventure you won't find anywhere else.



## The Legend of Black Hills Gold



You may have seen Black Hills Gold on the Home Shopping Network or seen someone wearing the interesting jewelry design. Either way, you were probably struck by the unique look of the Black Hills Gold. There's nothing else like it.

Every piece of Black Hills Gold features tricolored grape and leaf designs. Jewelry makers create the three-colored effect by combining a bit of copper and silver with pure gold. All official Black Hills Gold jewelry is made in the Black Hills, with most of it created at factories in Rapid City. Many of the jewelry makers offer tours of their operations and operate factory stores that sell the jewelry at deep discounts.

The legend of Black Hills Gold varies a bit, depending on the storyteller, but one thing is certain. The legend began when thousands of prospectors flooded the Black Hills after Gen. George Armstrong Custer's expedition discovered the precious metal in French Creek in 1874. That discovery sparked the last great gold rush in the lower 48 United States.

A young Frenchman – he sometimes goes by Henri LeBeau – was searching for gold when he became lost in the rugged country of the Black Hills. One legend says he fell asleep while he grew weak with hunger and exhaustion. He dreamed of grape vines and grapes that grew in his homeland. In another story, the Frenchman's life was saved when he found and ate wild grapes. Either way, the experience inspired the frustrated prospector to create the tricolored gold jewelry that featured grapes, leaves, and vines. He sold the newly-created jewelry to miners and finally found his fortune in gold, just not in the way he expected.

A third legend has a man named S.T. Butler creating the jewelry design in California during the 1849 gold rush. Sellers brought the jewelry east to the Black Hills, where it settled like so many travelers and adopted the region's name.

Either way, other jewelry makers joined the rush and sold the jewelry, always with the tricolored design, to residents of the now-booming Black Hills of South Dakota.

The Black Hills Gold rush has continued. The tricolored jewelry design is popular among locals and visitors and is featured on everything from rings, watches, earrings, and necklaces. Many current Black Hills Gold makers have been at it since nearly the beginning and have perfected the process. Local artists create new and unique designs every year, and no two stores sell exactly the same pieces.

Black Hills Gold is truly unique. It has an interesting history – no matter which version you prefer – and can be a special way to remember your trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota, a unique place all its own.



### DID YOU KNOW...

The Black Hills started forming approximately 83 million years ago. (Prior to their formation, the North American Midwest was covered with water on several different occasions.) If natural erosion never took place on the Black Hills, they would be over 14,000 feet in elevation; however, the rain, snow and wind has taken their natural course of action and have now left rock formations exposed representing from the earth's beginning to present day. Today, the Badlands are the remains of the Black Hills' erosion.





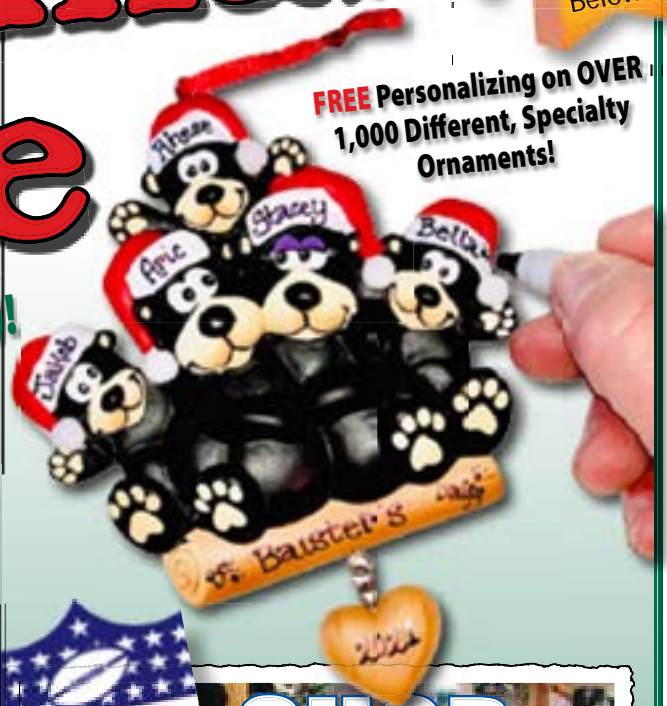
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## Those Trees You Sees.....

*Pinus ponderosa* is a large coniferous pine (evergreen) tree. The bark helps to distinguish it from other species. Mature to over-mature individuals have yellow to orange-red bark in broad to very broad plates with black crevices. Younger trees have blackish-brown bark, referred to as "blackjacks" by early loggers. *Ponderosa* pine's five subspecies, as classified by some botanists, can be identified by their characteristically bright, green needles (contrasting with blue-green needles that distinguish Jeffrey pine). The Pacific subspecies has the longest—19.8 cm or 7.8 in—and most flexible needles in plume-like fascicles of three. The Columbia *ponderosa* pine has long—12.0–20.5 cm or 4.7–8.1 in—and relatively flexible needles in fascicles of three. The Rocky Mountains subspecies has shorter—9.2–14.4 cm or 3.6–5.7 in—and stout needles growing in scopulate (bushy, tuft-like) fascicles of two or three. The southwestern subspecies has 11.2–19.8 cm or 4.4–7.8 in, stout needles in fascicles of three (averaging 69–89 mm (2.7–3.5 in)). The central High Plains subspecies is characterized by the fewest needles (1.4 per whorl, on average); stout, upright branches at narrow angles from the trunk; and long green needles—14.8–17.9 cm or 5.8–7.0 in—extending farthest along the branch, resembling a fox tail. Needles are widest, stoutest, and fewest (averaging 56–71 mm (2.2–2.8 in)) for the species.

*Pinus ponderosa* is a dominant tree in the Kuchler plant association, the *ponderosa* shrub forest. Like most western pines, the *ponderosa* generally is associated with mountainous topography. However, it is found on banks of the Niobrara River in Nebraska. Scattered stands occur in the Willamette Valley of Oregon and in the Okanagan Valley and Puget Sound areas of Washington and British Columbia. *Ponderosa* covers 1,000,000 acres (400,000 ha), or 80%,<sup>[18]</sup> of the Black Hills of South Dakota. It is found on foothills and mid-height peaks of the northern, central, and southern Rocky Mountains, in the Cascade Range, in the Sierra Nevada, and in the maritime-influenced Coast Range. In Arizona, it predominates on the Mogollon Rim and is scattered on the Mogollon Plateau and on mid-height peaks in Arizona and New Mexico. It does not extend into Mexico.<sup>[19]</sup>

The fire cycle for *ponderosa* pine is 5 to 10 years, in which a natural ignition sparks a low-intensity fire.<sup>[20]</sup>

*Pinus ponderosa* needles are the only known food of the caterpillars of the gelechiid moth *Chionodes retiniella*.<sup>[21]</sup> Blue stain fungus, *Grosmannia clavigera*, is introduced in sapwood of *P. ponderosa* from the galleries of all species in the genus *Dendroctonus* (Mountain Pine Beetle), which has caused much damage.



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# A MENAGERIE OF MUSEUMS

From the roaming of dinosaurs 65 million years ago through the pioneering days of the late 1800s and into the current century, it's all here in museums . . . the old and the new about the history, landscape and myriad cultures of western South Dakota and the Black Hills!

At the **Oglala Lakota College Historical Center** near Kyle on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation visitors can view photographs and artwork that chronicle the history of the Oglala Lakota from early 1800's to the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890. Meet Lakota artists featured throughout the summer.

About 76 miles east of Rapid City you'll find the **Minuteman Missile Historic Site**. Operated by the National Park Service, the Visitor Center features artifacts, photographs, films, and interactive displays that explore the story of the Minuteman Missile's role in the United States' policy of nuclear deterrence during the Cold War. Tours are available.

At the **South Dakota Air and Space Museum** (just outside the main gate of Ellsworth A.F.B.) you can walk through exhibits or take a tour that tells the history of aviation. Displays include over 30 vintage military aircraft ranging from World War II bombers to the modern-day B-1.

If your tastes run to paleontology and geology, you're in the right place! You can find dinosaur skeletons and learn much more about the mineral and fossil treasures of the area at the **Geology Museum at the SD School of Mines and Technology** in Rapid City.

Large and small museums throughout the Black Hills explore the varied history of the area. The towns of Deadwood and Lead are living museums in themselves. The narrow streets suggest a feel of the "old west" and you can check out how the West was really won in Deadwood's currently operating casinos, gaming halls and saloons. **Mt. Moriah** the final resting place of Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane, and other "celebrities" of the Wild West, is open to visitors. You can explore all parts of Deadwood history at the **Adams Museum**, the **Days of '76 Museum**, the **Historic Adams House** and the **Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center**.

Since the start of the "Gold Rush" to South Dakota in 1874, mining has been an important part of life in the northern hills. Until it closed in 2002, the Homestake Gold Mine in Lead was the largest producing gold mine in North America. It now serves as the **Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF)** which houses multiple physics experiments in dark matter and neutrino research at 4,850 feet under ground! Stop at the **SURF Visitor Center**, situated by the Open Pit, to see free exhibits or take a surface tour. You can learn more about this era at the nearby **Black Hills Mining Museum**. While in Lead, make a stop at the **Historic Homestake Opera House**. Although not technically a "museum," it was built in 1914 and is open for a variety of events and tours. Currently under renovation, it is a wonderful example of the architecture of the era.

The **National Fish Hatchery Museum** preserves the vibrant history and rich heritage of the American fisheries workers. The museum is housed in the original hatchery building built in 1899. Displays and interpretative signage provide information of fish management and culture items, explanations of fisheries and workers,

along with personal artifacts.

The **Tri-State Museum** in Belle Fourche, which holds the distinction of being "The Center of the Nation," boasts a Visitor Center about that geographic honor, as well as educational programs and historical exhibits about the region.

Located on the eastern sandstone ridge of the Black Hills, **The Black Hills Petrified Forest** museum at I-90, exit 46, offers the background history of the formation of petrified wood, fossilization and geology of the Hills formation. Included on the tour is a six block walk through the pine trees where natural erosion has exposed the "trees of stone."

Fort Meade, built in 1878 and the longest surviving post in the Dakota Territory, is distinguished as being the birthplace of our national anthem. Located east of Sturgis, some of the fort's original buildings remain intact. Many artifacts of the historic outpost and mementos of the soldiers who served here are displayed in the **Old Fort Meade Museum**.

South of Rapid City is the **Dinosaur Museum** where you'll find replicas of 98 ancient reptiles, can view educational movies and even try your hand at digging for fossils!

Hill City is home to the museum at the **Black Hills Institute of Geological Research**, a small but incredible natural history museum with educational exhibits of numerous fossils and minerals.

The **Indian Museum Of North America**® at Crazy Horse Memorial is home to a large collection of art and artifacts reflecting the diverse histories and cultures of the Native American people. Designed to complement the story being told in stone on the Mountain, the collections tell much about the historical and current lives of the Native peoples of the region.

Built in 1880 the old **Custer County Courthouse** has been converted to a museum exhibiting a wide variety of artifacts from the area's pioneer and Native American history. Get a taste of pioneer history at the **Four Mile Old West Town Museum** south of Custer.

If you're interested in ancient woolly creatures, then pay a visit to the **Mammoth Site** near Hot Springs! It is a LIVING Museum featuring exhibits and an active dig site with the largest concentration of mammoth remains in the world.

Also in Hot Springs, a visit to the **World Fossil Finder Museum** will reveal a large variety of fossils from many places around the world. Here you will examine the best representation of the Earliest Richest Ice Age fossil site on earth. The ultimate feature will be a complete skeleton of the biggest and best swimming reptile found anywhere, the Tylosaurus named "Debby Sue" who was found in South Dakota!

This exceptional place with its unique geography, cultures and history can trigger the sudden urge to utter in simple appreciation, "Wow!" The museums of the Black Hills explore and preserve the past, propel us into the future, and define who and where we are in the present. They engage us and ignite our curiosities about the "worlds" in which we live. So be sure to take advantage of the stories they tell!

*(NOTE: Admission to some museums, or parts of them, are free and others charge fees. Please check the individual museums regarding admission policies.)*





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Black Hills Aerial Adventures...established in 1992, along with sister companies, Rushmore Helicopters and Badger Helicopters previously established in 1960, are the ONLY helicopter tour companies authorized to conduct aerial helicopter tours in both the Mount Rushmore and Badlands National Parks.

Experience the awesome splendor of the beautiful Black Hills and the rugged natural beauty of the Badlands from the vantage point of our feathered friends. Also, breathtaking views of Crazy Horse Memorial, Custer State Park, the Needles and Cathedral Spires are just a few of the wonders experienced by our guests. Our fleet of modern aircraft are maintained to the strictest standards set by the Federal Aviation Administration and our staff of trained, experienced professional pilots ensure your aerial adventure will be conducted with your safety and comfort as our ultimate goal. In addition, our pilots and support staff will provide you with historical and interesting information about the area and its people. Stunning photographs and videos are possible, as every passenger is provided a window seat, ensuring an unsurpassed view of the terrain below.

Because of the natural beauty and historical significance of this area, many film companies and news organizations have utilized our services in the production of feature films, documentaries and TV specials. Some of these include: National Treasure II with Nicholas Cage, Dances with Wolves, Starship Troopers, Man vs. Wild, The Bachelor, Discovery Channel, History Channel, National Geographic and numerous others.



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#### How many people can the helicopter hold?

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#### Is there a weight limit?

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No. We fly seven days a week - May through October - from 9am to 6:30 pm. However, reservations are also welcome.





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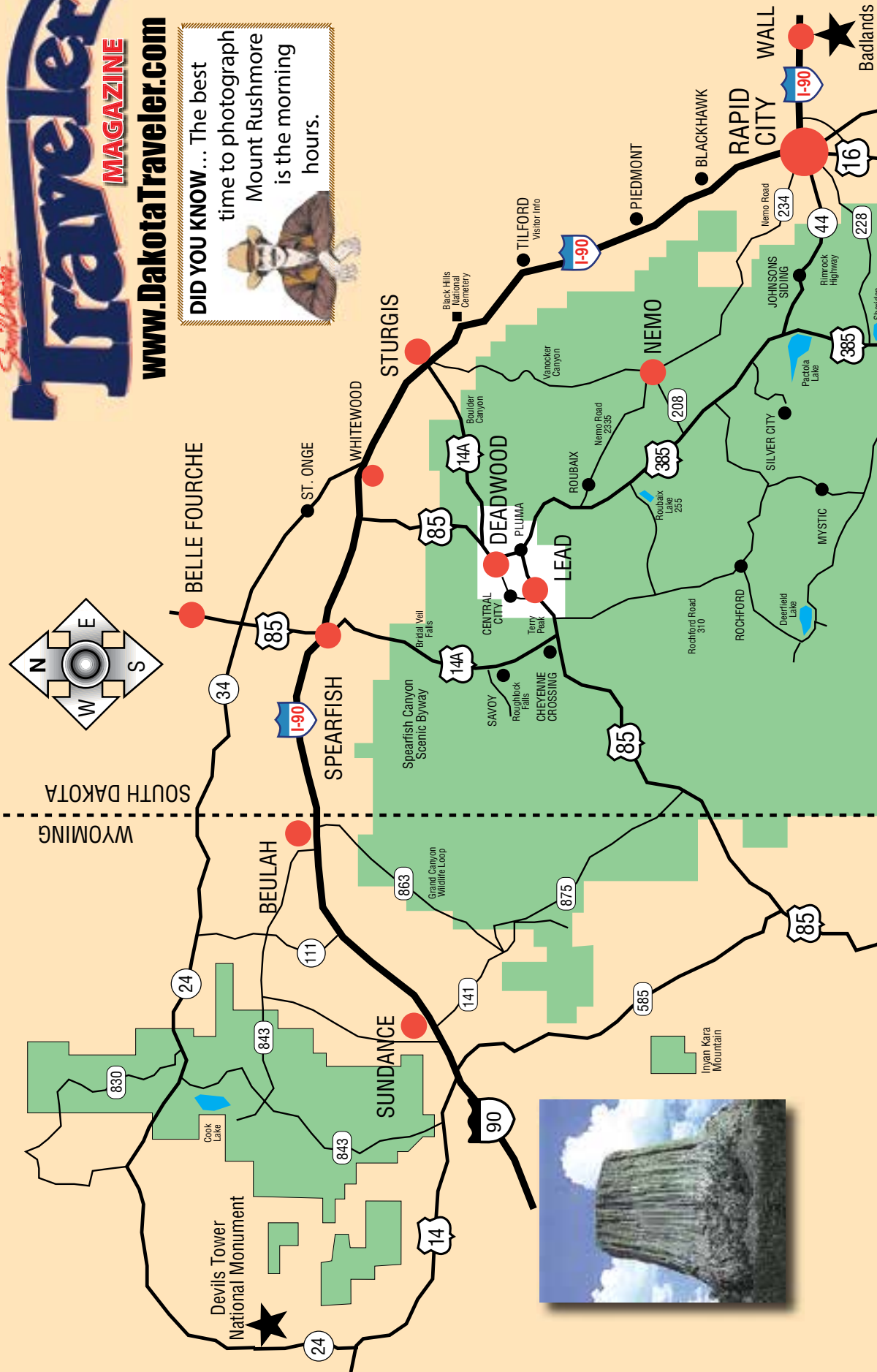
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## BLACK HILLS

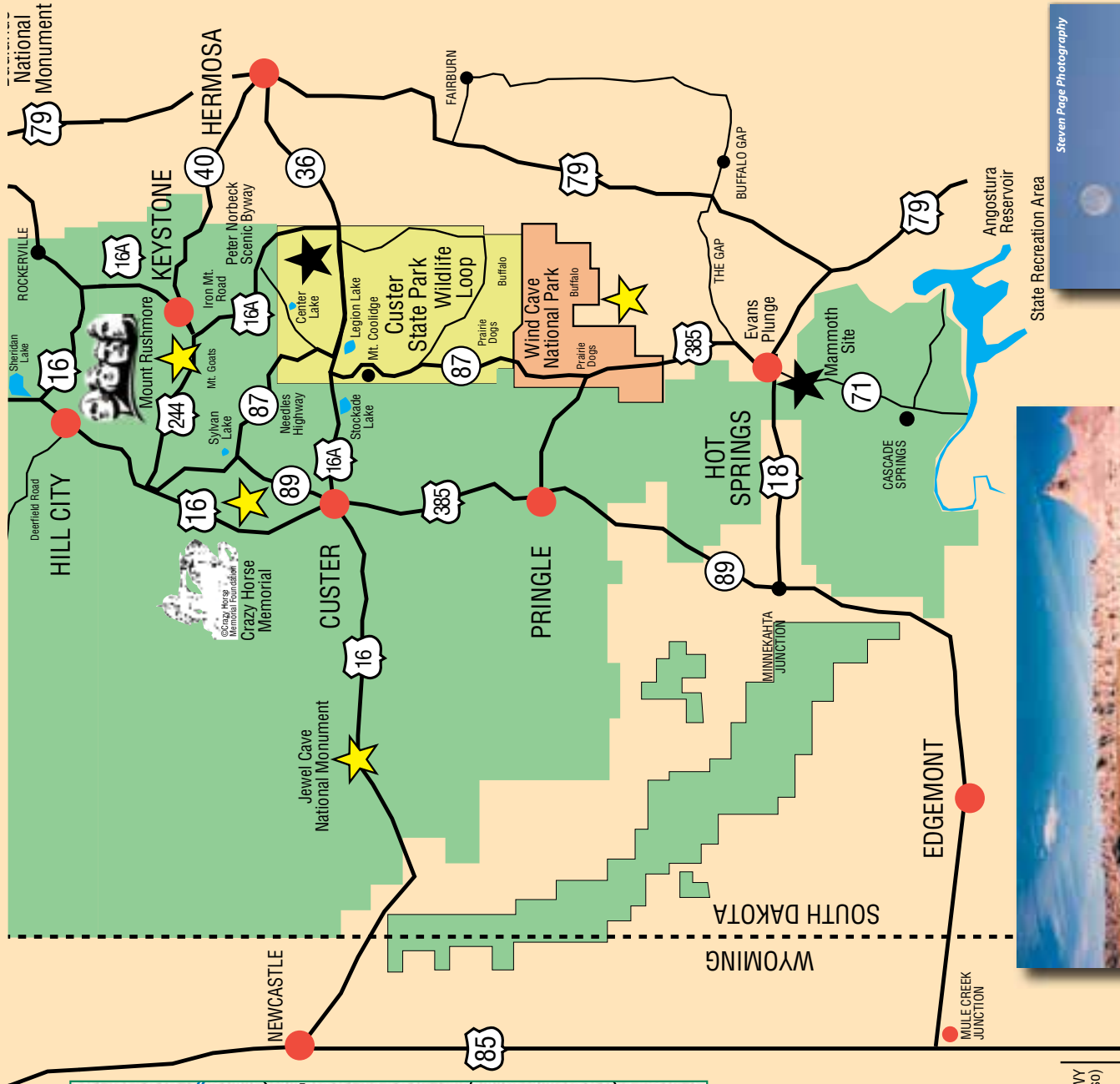
**DID YOU KNOW ...** The best time to photograph Mount Rushmore is the morning hours.



Badlands



# BLACK HILLS

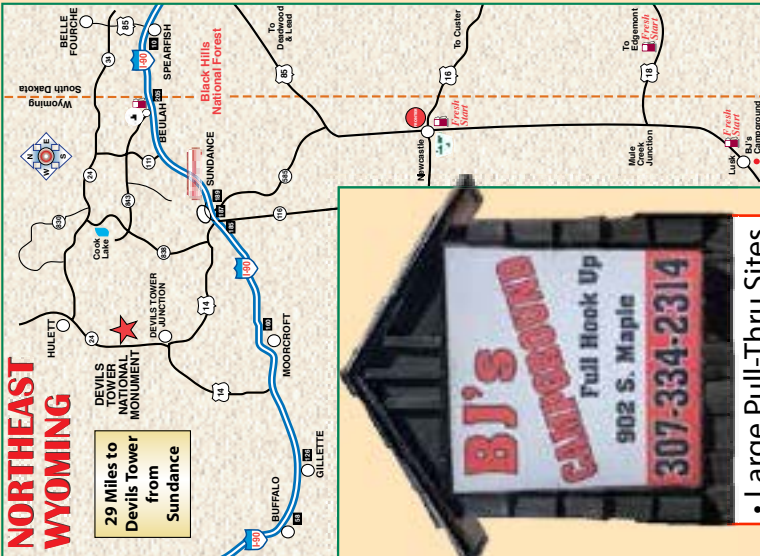


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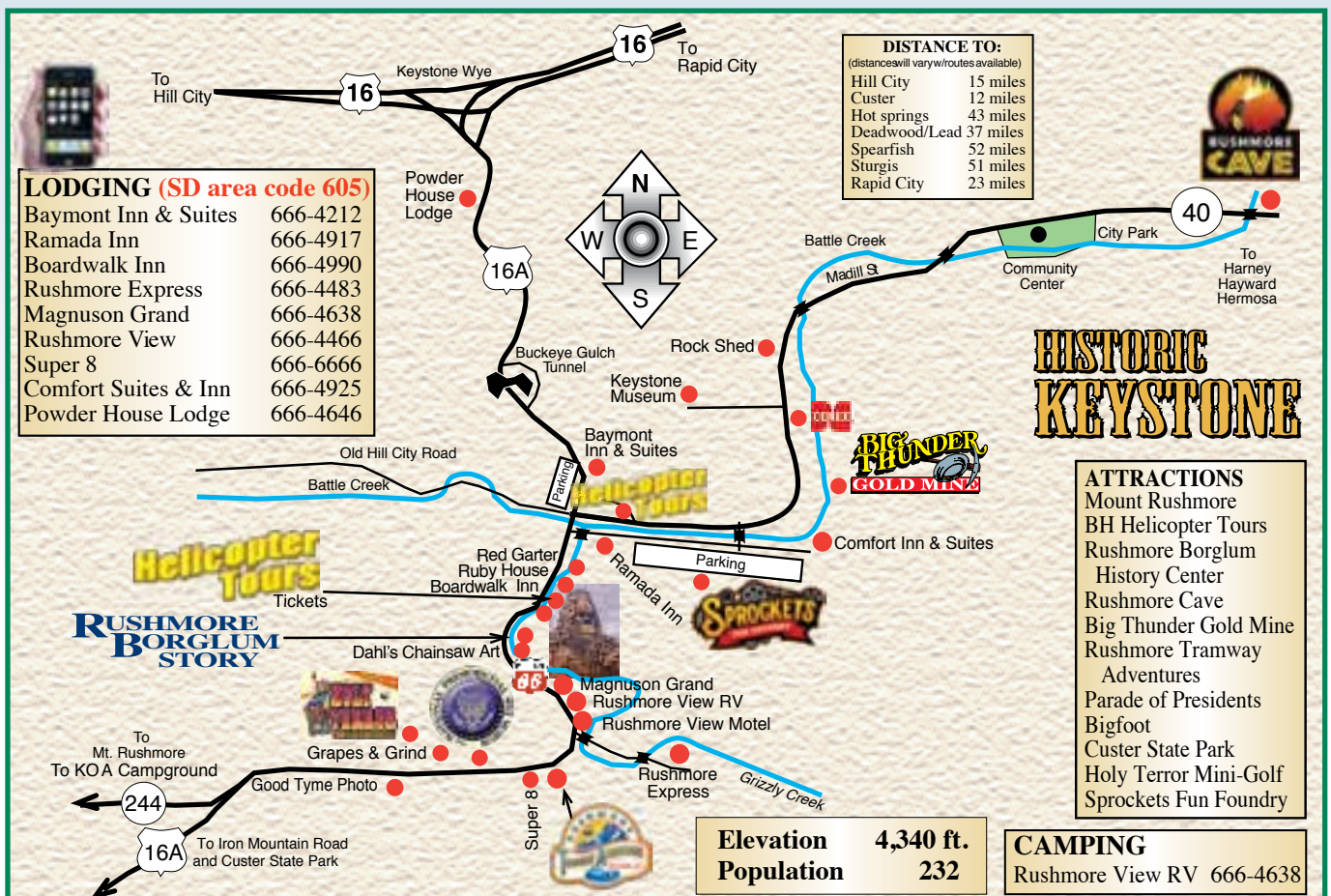
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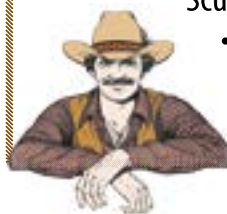
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KEYSTONE **WYE** BRIDGE

Keystone Wye is an interchange of US 16 and US 16A located in the Black Hills of South Dakota, featuring two unique structural glued laminated timber bridges. The Keystone Wye is a trumpet-style three-way interchange for the two divided highways, constructed in 1966-67 as part of a project by the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) to convert US 16 to a four-lane highway between Rapid City and Keystone. It was designed by Clyde Jundt.

The high bridge (see photo in external reference) is supported by three 20-meter wooden, single-hinged arches; six separate glued laminated timber pieces are used in the construction. Three more pieces were built but failed quality assurance tests; they

were assembled into an interesting pyramidal sculpture which for years was located just off US 16 on the then-south edge of Rapid City (a site today occupied by a motel and convenience store), and which was moved to a new location on US 16 near Sitting Bull Crystal Caverns in the mid-1990s.

The name Keystone Wye significantly predates the construction of the modern interchange, and dates back to the 1930s and the construction of Mount Rushmore, when Senator and Governor Peter Norbeck laid out a series of roadways in the south-central Black Hills for tourist travel, focusing on Mount Rushmore and Harney Peak. The Keystone Wye includes a stop-by with historic and scenic information about the area, a SDDOT maintenance yard, and several minor roads connecting to the major highways. In the late 1980s, US 16A between the Keystone Wye and Keystone itself was widened to a four-lane undivided highway, with the single tunnel on the road expanded to accommodate the wider roadway. In the early 2000s, US 16 between the Keystone Wye and Three Forks was improved to a "Super-Two" configuration with passing lanes on most hills, although the alignment was unchanged from the 1980s realignment project which created many cutoff loops on the highway.

**DID YOU KNOW...**

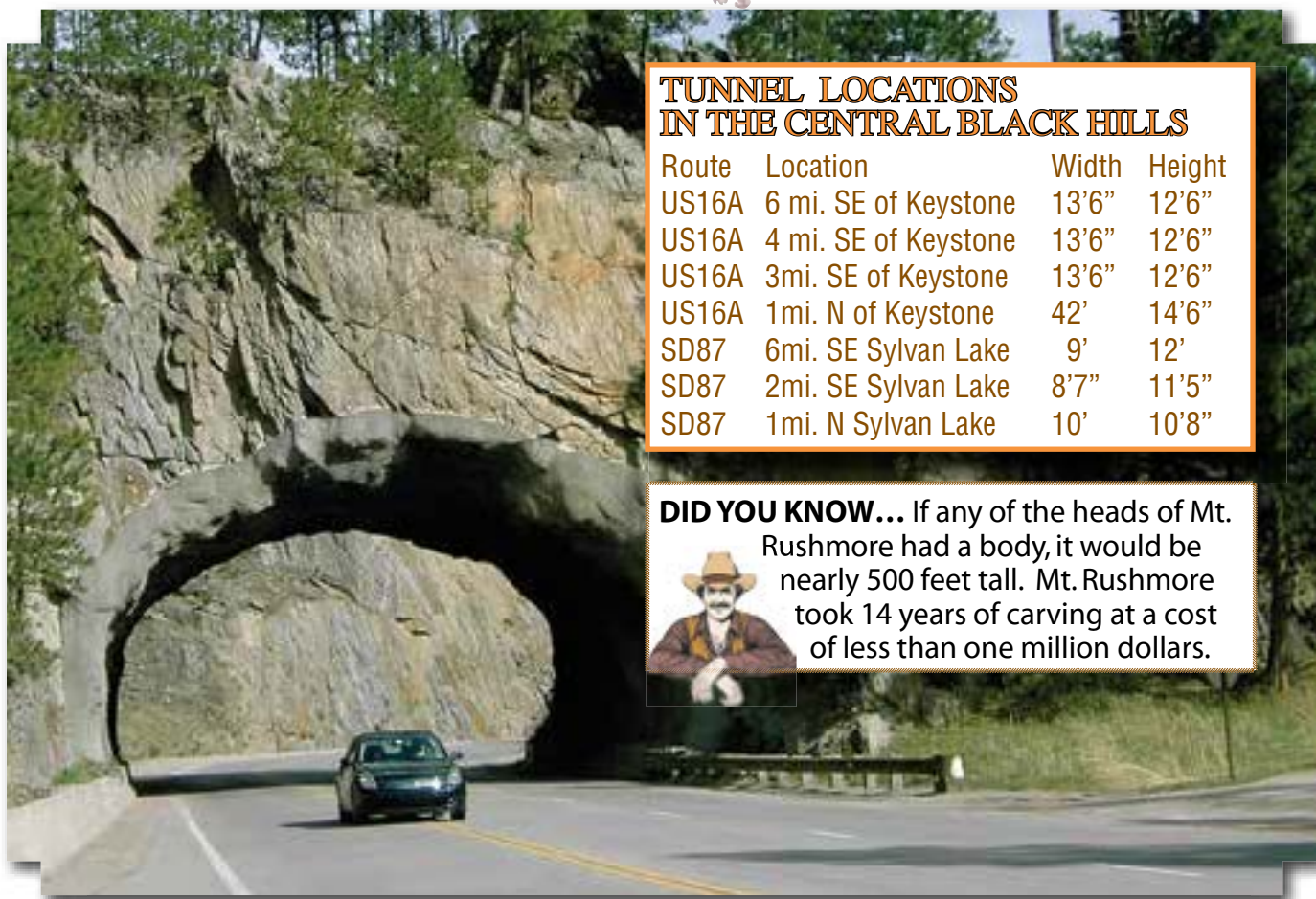
Harney Peak, rising to an altitude of 7,242 feet is the tallest point between The Rocky Mountains and the Alps.

**TUNNEL LOCATIONS  
IN THE CENTRAL BLACK HILLS**

Route	Location	Width	Height
US16A	6 mi. SE of Keystone	13'6"	12'6"
US16A	4 mi. SE of Keystone	13'6"	12'6"
US16A	3mi. SE of Keystone	13'6"	12'6"
US16A	1mi. N of Keystone	42'	14'6"
SD87	6mi. SE Sylvan Lake	9'	12'
SD87	2mi. SE Sylvan Lake	8'7"	11'5"
SD87	1mi. N Sylvan Lake	10'	10'8"

**DID YOU KNOW...** If any of the heads of Mt.

Rushmore had a body, it would be nearly 500 feet tall. Mt. Rushmore took 14 years of carving at a cost of less than one million dollars.







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**DID YOU KNOW...** In the mid 1820s, one of the west's most famous mountain men "Jedediah Smith" ventured into the Black Hills on what was to become the first recorded passage. Along the way one of his companions became so dehydrated he had to be buried in moist dirt while Jed and the others scouted for water. Further in the journey Jedediah surprised a grizzly bear causing an attack which left him with his scalp half torn off. Fellow trappers did a crude but effective job of sewing the scalp back on. Leaving him to wear his hair long the rest of his days to cover the scars. Note: Bears no longer roam the Black Hills in the wild... *Happy Hiking.*



of his days to cover the scars. Note: Bears no longer roam the Black Hills in the wild... *Happy Hiking.*

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# BIGFOOT LIVES IN KEYSTONE!

Summer of 2020, a local resident made a special request to Jarrett Dahl for a 12' Bigfoot carving for his home. This then, was the catalyst to create an even larger version along Grizzly Creek, at the Dahl's Chainsaw Art Studio. By chance, Three carver friends from across the country arrived at Jarrett's request to help with the project....and the rest is now history!

The newest Sasquatch, is believed to be the world's largest known Chainsaw Sculpture.

On December 19, 2020 it was dedicated at a Bigfoot Bash celebration held by the Keystone Chamber and in conjunction with a 2020 Department of Tourism DMO Grant. It now stands at 22' 8" in a "sitting position" holding a 50' flag pole with a carved eagle on top, and a majestic flying American flag.

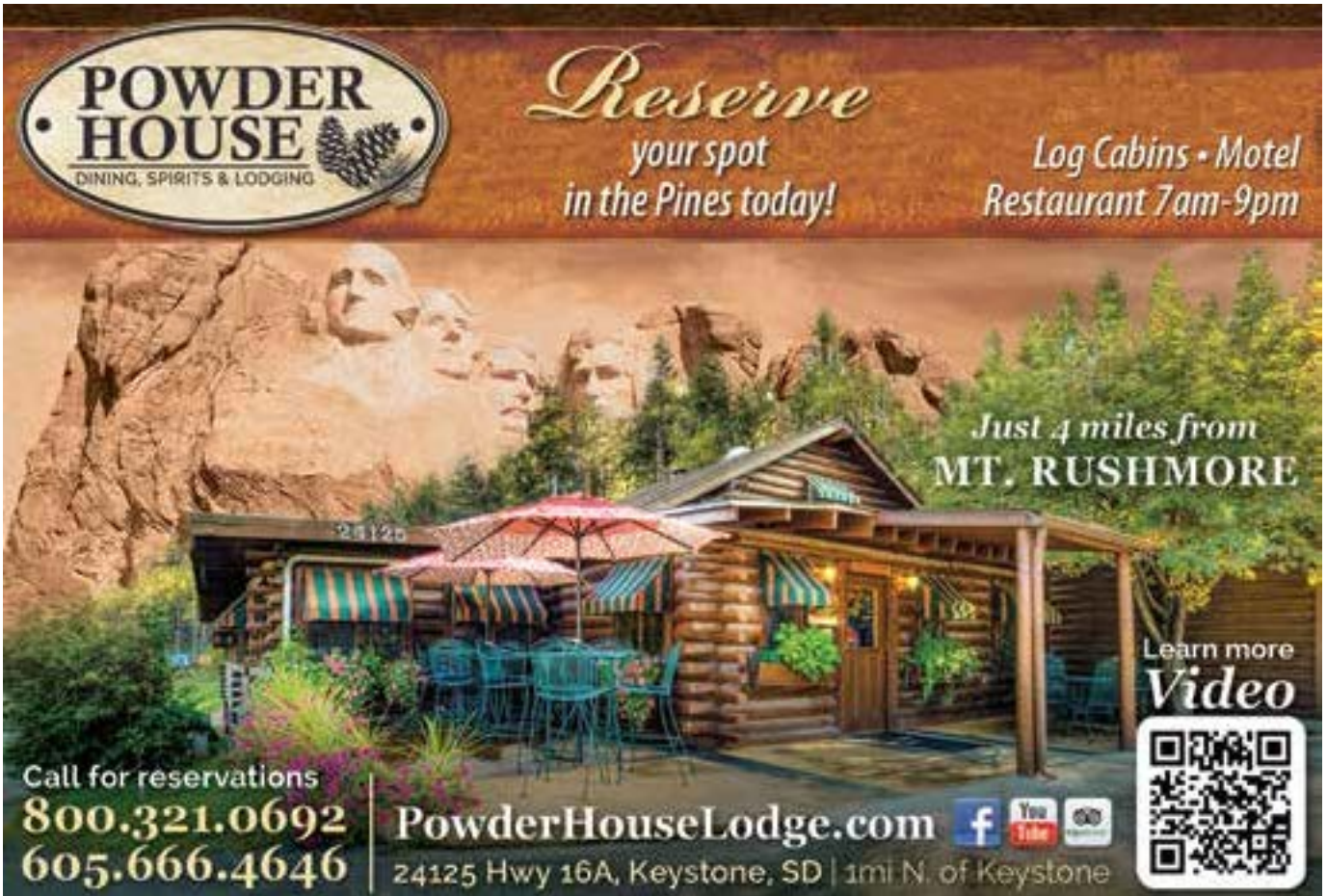
PLAY



VIDEO







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Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram icons are present.

A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

## RUSH MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE PARK

grows from a single entity once known as Rushmore Cave, into a family fun adventure park for visitors of all ages.

It all began back in 1876, quite by accident, when gold miners discovered the cave after the flume system they had developed broke down. While repairing the damage, they noticed that water was pouring down the steep hillside a short distance and disappearing between loose rocks on the surface. The curious miners moved the rocks aside and found an opening that led to an underground room. Unfortunately for the miners, the cave contained cool formations, but no gold.

Additional exploration of the cave wasn't attempted again until almost a decade later when the children of those first pioneers began exploring the cave. Their efforts, using candles and lamps, uncovered a series of passageways leading deeper into the mountainside.

In 1927, the cave was first opened to the public as a tourist attraction by the Ferguson family. At that time, it was named the Hermosa Crystal Cave. In the 1930's, some young explorers wiggled their way through partially-blocked, constricted passageways and entered what is now known as the Big Room (or Crystal Room) for the first time. In addition to its large size, the big room also boasts a great concentration of formations.

In 1952, Si and Ruth Pullen acquired the Cave and renamed it because of its proximity to Mount Rushmore. Through their direction, Rushmore Cave received many updates and improvements including the addition of lights, a gift shop, and the exit tunnel. The extended Pullen family continued to operate the cave for 55 years until they

sold to the new owners in 2008.

Much has changed in the tourism industry in those 55 years. The new owners, a small group of local Black Hills residents, began the process of improving the visitor experience for a new generation of travelers. New, improved lighting and handrails were added to Rushmore Cave, the Visitor's Center & Gift Shop was gutted and remodeled, and a new set of stairs was built. Soon, it became obvious that visitors wanted more. In the years that followed, the Soaring Eagle Zipline Ride was added, followed by the Gunslinger – a 7D interactive dark ride. The response from guests was very positive so a snack bar and more "top-side" attractions followed. In the fall of 2016, the Rushmore Mountain Coaster made its debut and quickly became a visitor favorite. A name change to Rush Mountain Adventure Park, allowed the business to more accurately reflect all the offerings on the property.

Most recently, Rush Mountain added The WingWalker – an above ground obstacle and ropes challenge course. It has various levels of difficulty of obstacles and ziplines, including an area just for the smallest of adventurers.

While all these new developments were happening, the staff maintained a friendly and helpful atmosphere, making sure that guests had a memorable experience, which led to Rush Mountain receiving the state tourism industry's top customer service award in 2018.

While Rush Mountain Adventure Park, Home of Rushmore Cave, might be off the beaten path, (located on SD Highway 40, between Hermosa & Keystone) it should definitely be a sought-out destination to complete your South Dakota vacation!





# AT THE BASE OF MT. RUSHMORE



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# KEYSTONE

# Highlights



**Rush Mt Adventure Park / Rushmore Cave.** An ancient Black Hills treasure, buried beneath the earth's surface, is now yours to discover and explore, just a few miles east of Mount Rushmore. Here you will find Beautiful Rushmore Cave, where winding passageways lead you 60 million years back in time. Icicle-like stalactites hang from cavern ceilings, while spires of stalagmites rise from the smooth rock floor. Experienced

cave guides escort you on your journey, past mysterious chambers, many of them still unexplored. Escape from scorching summertime heat inside Beautiful Rushmore Cave, where the temperature stays close to a comfortable

58 degrees year round. Friendly, informed guides are ready to take you through the cave's well lit interior, where you will find embedded fossils and thousands of fascinating cave formations.



**Big Thunder Gold Mine & Museum.** Tour an original 1890s gold mine and allow our guides to take you on the most complete mining experience in the Black Hills, which includes Black Hills Gold Rush mining history, geology, museum displays and the opportunity to take home your own gold ore sample. The Big Thunder Gold Mine Museum houses the largest collection of antiquated mining equipment in the Black Hills. The mine and property are entirely handicapped-accessible.



Big Thunder Gold Mine offers two forms of panning: one on-site beside Battle Creek and also one in a creek on a Black Hills National Forest Claim. Both are individualized panning lessons. Gem panning is also available, as well as breaking your own geodes. Gold was originally discovered on both sites in the 1890s in Keystone. The panning experience is guaranteed for you to leave with genuine findings of 24K placer gold.



**Holy Terror Mini-Golf.** Keystone's only 18-hole mini-golf...newly opened in July 2002! Designed after a mine, with an actual running waterwheel set against a mountain. Challenging yet fun! The 18 holes meander more than 50 feet up a steep hillside and then down again, unified by a gold-mining motif and rushing water



that flows from a watertank, through sluices, over a waterwheel, into a millpond. They even have three kinds of artificial turf that simulate fairways, putting greens, sand traps and rough. The course is fully lighted and open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. Located next to the National Presidential Wax Museum in Keystone.



**Rushmore Borglum Story.** The historic "Shrine to Democracy" is brought to life in this Amazing Museum and Gallery which showcases scores of Gutzon Borglum's paintings, sculptures and work models. Watch the blasting and carving in our exclusive film. Catch your breath as Borglum and his crew work on the face of the monument in bosun's chairs hung from thin cables. You will think you are there as you view the actual blasting of the granite. This is truly an entertaining, exciting and informative tour for the whole family.



Visit the museum to get the full Rushmore Experience and explore his other accomplishments. Discover what motivated Gutzon Borglum - why he began at age 60 what men half his age wouldn't attempt.



**National Presidential Wax Museum.** Visit the National Presidential Wax Museum. Take a vicarious trip into the past. See the great events of history through the artistry of Katherine Stubergh Keller, a third-generation wax artist. Experience the feeling of being with President Roosevelt at Yalta, Dolly Madison at a White House reception, or President Richard Nixon aboard the USS Hornet as he welcomes the returning astronauts from their moon flight. Contemplate at your leisure such significant events as the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, the Lincoln-Douglas debates, and the reunion of our nation at Appomattox Courthouse. Group rates are available.



**Keystone's "Big Foot" Sculpture.....** Check out the newest Keystone citizen, Bigfoot. Arriving winter of 2020, Chainsaw Artists Jarrett Dahl and crew carved this Bigfoot statue out of ponderosa pine from the surrounding forest. This fella measures seated at 22' 8" tall, now qualifying as the biggest





# MtRushmoreTouristinfo.com

Bigfoot sculpture in the world. Standing upright, he would measure 45' from head to toe. This Sasquatch now lords over other Dahl's small wood creatures and just a few short miles from Mt Rushmore. He can be found with a 50' American flag flowing in the Keystone breeze.

Keystone's newest attraction, **Sprockets Fun Foundary!** A "New Vision of Fun"...Nostalgia meets the Future at this



innovative multi-level family entertainment center, featuring fully immersive Virtual Reality experiences with moving platforms, heat, wind, a state-of-the-art arcade,

duckpin bowling and more! There are new levels of fun for everyone at this NEW Rush Mountain/Keystone Property. Tap room serving great beers from local breweries. Indoor/Outdoor seating featuring live music with burgers, pizza and more!

**Dahl's Chainsaw Art...** In 2004, the Dahl brothers embarked on an Alaskan adventure where they discovered

a natural talent as they brought trees to life. They now display their talents in Rapid City, Keystone, Hill City, Deadwood and



Wall SD for families and people of all ages to enjoy. Experience the fun with free live daily chainsaw carving, photo opportunities, open air gallery and gift shop.

**Black Hills Aerial Adventures** invites you to stare into the eyes of the granite faces of Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Crazy Horse Memorial; To soar above the majestic summit of Harney Peak, the highest point in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains; To chase a heard of roaming buffalo in Custer State Park; To marvel at the ancient lunar-like landscape of Badlands National Park.

Round-trip helicopter tours – with the most stunning views of the most popular Black Hills and Badlands sites – are available at each of our three heliports: The Crazy Horse Heliport, The Rushmore Heliport, and The

Badlands Heliport. Every tour at each location offers a new and exciting experience. Pick a heliport and begin your adventure.

**Rushmore Tramway Adventures's** ropes course, the Aerial Adventure Park: Traverse the treetops on suspended ropes, rings, ladders, bridges & ziplines. 8 varied courses offer a choice of difficulty on 100 obstacles in a 90-minute self-paced challenge of this floating jungle gym.



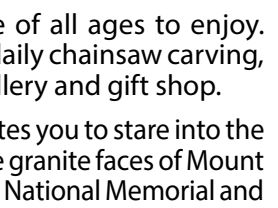
RTA's Pinnacle Zipline Tour: Dare to take flight on this 2-hour guided expedition, spanning panoramic vistas on over a mile of ziplines. Fly beyond granite spires, through fragrant Ponderosas, soaring over canyon and creek, with breathtaking views of the majestic faces of Mt. Rushmore.



Take **Rushmore Tramway Adventures's Chairlift** up to panoramic vistas, alpine gardens, and mouthwatering grilled entrees served with views of Mt. Rushmore at the open-air Mountaintop Grille. Enjoy waterfalls, viewing decks, and thousands of flowers, plus views of zipliners on the new Pinnacle Zip Tour. Glide smoothly back down on lift, or choose an exciting descent on President's Alpine Slide: a wheeled sled carries you down the track, over the dips and around high-banked corners at your desired speed; small kids ride with adults, so it's for ages 2 to 102.



**The Haunting of Keystone** brings Halloween to a new Level! Open on the three weekends prior and on the Hallowed Night with three adventures included with your entrance fee. The three main attractions of fright are at Big Thunder Gold Mine, The Keystone Historical Museum and Rush Mountain Adventure Park. Each night open the attendance fills fast, so reservations are required. Other activities during October are the Haunted Parade, Pumpkin Carving Contest, Carnival Haunted Dinners, Nite Rides, Drop Dead Merchandise Sales and Costume Contests. This entire composite of fright was awarded the '23 the *Peter Norbeck Excellence Award in Tourism* at the Annual SD Governors Tourism Conference in 2024! Check Haunting of Keystone.com for updated information and ticket prices. Contact 605--666-4847 for reservations.





*A Must See BEFORE Visiting Mt. Rushmore!*

# RUSHMORE BORGLUM STORY

Catch your breath as Borglum and his crew work on the face of the monument in bosun's seats hung from thin cables. You will think you are there as you view the actual blasting of the granite.

Discover what motivated Gutzon Borglum why he began at age 60 what men half his age wouldn't attempt.

This is truly an entertaining, exciting and informative tour for the whole family. Visit the museum to get the full RUSHMORE EXPERIENCE, and explore his other accomplishments.



An exciting tour for the whole family! Venture in to the world of Gutzon Borglum, the sculptor of Mount Rushmore, from the blasting of the stone to the grandeur of the "Seated Lincoln."

The Borglum Story will enable children and adults to step back and become part of the carving years. To understand the significance of Mount Rushmore, you must first visit the Rushmore Borglum Story. You will be amazed that Gutzon Borglum excelled in many fields. Gutzon Borglum's Seated Lincoln... "When the news from the Civil War battlefields was bad, President Lincoln went out on the White House lawn to his own "Garden of Gethsemane" to try to find the courage to carry on..."



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*Big Lake, MN*

"Had no idea the talent of Borglum."

*Niles, IL*

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*Malibu, CA*

"It truly was interesting and will boost anyone's patriotism."

*Owatanna, MN*

"Memorable, excellent, well worth it!"

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## GUTSON BORGLUM & MOUNT RUSHMORE

By August of 1926, Gutzon Borglum was ready to start searching for a suitable site for carving. The idea of sculpting in the Needles, of the tall rock formations on the main highway, had been abandoned. Too many people were opposed to what they called "tampering with the beauty of nature." A logical compromise was to find a mountain in a remote area that was not in public view. "I knew," Borglum later confessed, "that no matter where we carved, roads would be built and the public would find us. Besides, I felt like a carved needle would look too much like a totem pole."


One day, the scouting party was approaching a particularly promising mountain. Borglum asked, "What's that called?" "Used to be Slaughterhouse Rock," the guide answered with a grin, "and before that, Cougar Mountain because they trapped a cat up there once, but when this dude came visiting, they changed the name again." Then the guide told about Charles Rushmore, a young New York lawyer who had come to the Hills in 1905 to inspect a client's tin mines. "What's that called?" Rushmore had asked when he first saw the mountain, just as Borglum did twenty years later. "Slaughterhouse Rock, but we can change it. How does Mount Rushmore sound?"

It sounded fine, and the name stuck. If Rushmore had known the mountain was destined for fame, he might not have laughed so loudly. When the carving started, Rushmore was so embarrassed by reporters trying to find out what he had done to deserve the honor that he contributed five thousand dollars to the monument.


After climbing the face of Mt. Rushmore, Borglum was certain that he had found his mountain. Now he had to decide what to put there. Many people opposed the idea of a national monument that portrayed only Washington and Lincoln. Everyone wanted to include his personal hero. That favoritism continues; someone is always suggesting that another head be added. Susan B. Anthony is mentioned most often, but Woodrow Wilson, Clark Gable, FDR, Joe Palooka, Mickey Mouse, Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Dr. Martin Luther King have all had their moments. None will ever make it. The four existing heads already cover every available inch of Rushmore stone, and they tell the story as Borglum saw it.

Borglum explained his choices this way: Washington was selected because he was the father of our country, and Jefferson because he expressed our beliefs in the Declaration of Independence and expanded our territory with the Louisiana Purchase. Lincoln was chosen for preserving the Union, and Teddy Roosevelt because he fulfilled the expansionists dream by linking the oceans with the Panama Canal.

The selection of Lincoln was the most controversial. After the bitter failure at Stone Mountain, Southerners were violently against "their" artist honoring a man they thought of as a traitor, but the South had little influence on South Dakota thinking. The choice of Teddy Roosevelt provoked the most ridicule. It was assumed that he was chosen because Borglum had been a leader of Roosevelt's Bull Moose Party, and the newspapers made much of the fact that Roosevelt and Borglum looked very much alike. Fortunately, no one took the debates on the selection of subjects seriously. They were a good way to get publicity, but Borglum was the sculptor. He had the right to choose.



**RUSHMORE VIEW RV**



The Rushmore View RV is a classic, full-service campground along Grizzly Creek in the town of Keystone, SD. Adjacent to the Magnuson Grand Rushmore hotel, with views of Mount Rushmore from the main parking lot and check-in area. This quiet park is walking distance to shopping, restaurants, and attractions. Open for the camping season (typically May to early October). Our pet-friendly summertime RV park offers full hookups in all sites, pull-through or back-in, shaded sites and satellite friendly.

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The job of raising money was the most difficult, and it fell largely on Borglum and a few South Dakota businessmen. They hoped to persuade a few tycoons to underwrite the whole project, and when their appeals fell on deaf ears, the project bogged down. However, in 1927, a monument drive was started in the South Dakota schools, and when the youngsters willingly gave their nickels and dimes, everyone took heart.

The big break came that same year when, in a show of faith that held out the promise of federal assistance, Calvin Coolidge agreed to vacation in the Black Hills. The committee immediately announced that there would be a dedication ceremony when the President arrived, and Borglum began to plan the show.

By the time the presidential party reached the hills, everything was ready. Hanging Squaw Creek, renamed Grace Coolidge Creek, had been stocked with rainbow trout and blocked with hidden nets so the fish could not swim away. "This is either the best trout stream in the world," Silent Cal said as he pulled out his tenth trout on his tenth try, "or I'm the best fisherman that ever was."

The night before the dedication, a huge barbecue was held in nearby Keystone. There was music and dancing. Huge sides of beef and buffalo were roasted over open fires, and there was enough mountain moonshine to please everyone.

In the morning, Borglum hired an open-cockpit airplane and flew over the summer White House, sprinkling rose petals in honor of the First Lady. The pilot dipped his wings, and Borglum waved to the group below, then hastily landed to get ready for the ceremony.

A huge crowd was slowly gathering in front of the mountain as the presidential limousine was pulled up the final grade by a team of horses from a local stable. The crowd cheered when the President stepped from his automobile wearing his usual New England vested suit - with a ten-gallon hat and fancy, hand-tooled cowboy boots. Without any fanfare, Coolidge walked to the speaker's platform and stood there, solemnly shaking hands with the children who had lined up early to receive that honor.

After the President's speech, Borglum was slowly lowered down the face of the mountain. The crowd grew silent as the sculptor carefully drilled four pilot holes for the head of George Washington; then they began to cheer wildly as he waved and walked back up the face of the mountain.

Borglum's crew of hard-rock miners carved for over fourteen years. The monument was plagued by financial problems as the country plunged into the depression of the 30s, but Borglum refused to give up. The same bickering that had destroyed Stone Mountain threatened Rushmore at times. The businessman temperament of the committee sometimes clashed with the artist's ego, but fortunately, everyone agreed that the carving was what counted, and the bickering never got out of hand.

As the giant heads (proportioned to men 465 feet tall) took shape, Borglum ran into unexpected problems. Jefferson was started on Washington's right, but a poorly placed charge of dynamite sloped the forehead beyond repair, and the design had to be changed. Borglum blew the nascent head off the mountain and started again on the other side. This forced the Roosevelt head back into the rock. Then a hidden fault forced the Roosevelt head even further back, until the final carving ended within ten feet of the canyon that lies behind the monument. Other problems were caused by traces of heavy deposits of brittle feldspar, while veins of silver run like worry lines across the face of Abraham Lincoln.

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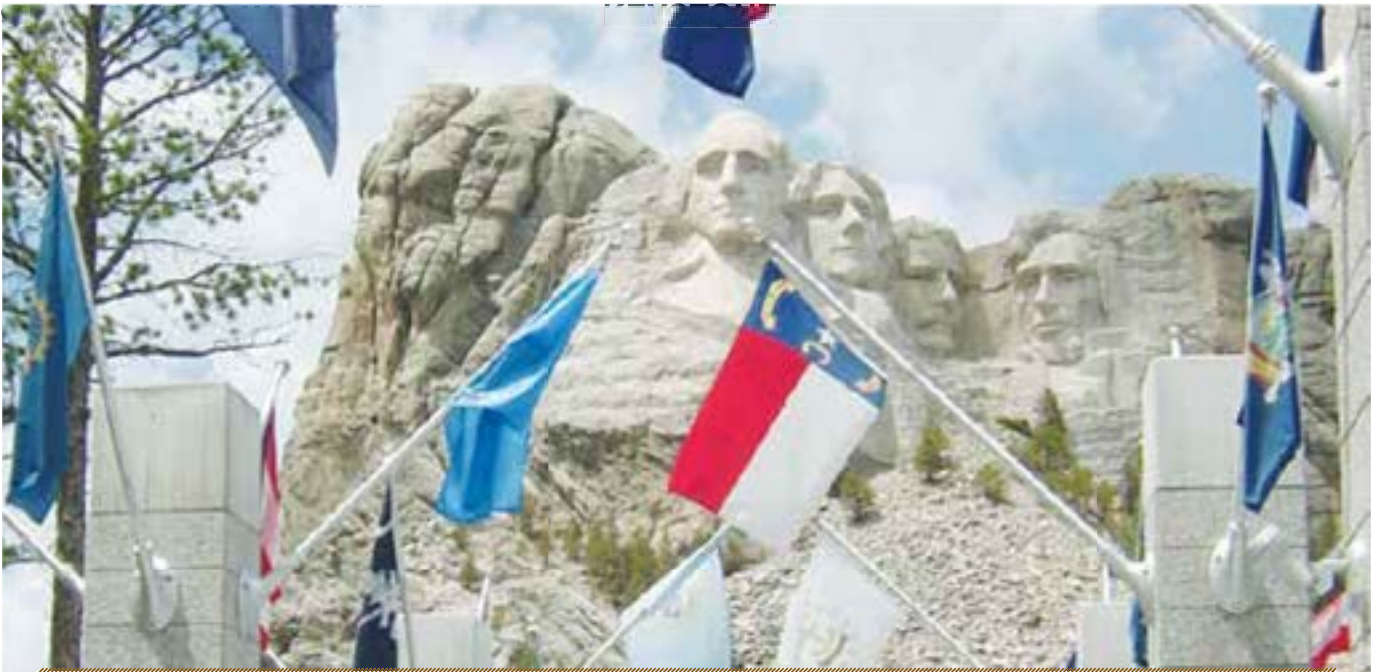
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**Did you know ....** the two most famous Declaration signers, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, died within hours of each other on July 4, 1826, on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Declaration of Independence signer Benjamin Harrison was the father of one U.S. president and the great-grandfather of another.



## AVENUE OF FLAGS

Flags are powerful symbols, which remind people of their common heritage, history and ideals. The Avenue of Flags was initially established as part of the celebration of America's Bicentennial at the request of a visitor. The 56 flags represent the 50 states, one district, three territories, and two commonwealths of the United States of America.

## PLACEMENT

The flags are arranged in alphabetical order with the A's on the walkway near the concession building and the W's near the Visitor Center/Museum. If you have trouble locating your flag, ask a park ranger for assistance.



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## Where the Buffalo Roam...



The park is home to as many as 1,300 head of North American bison, more commonly known as buffalo. Bison can grow to six feet tall and weigh more than 2,000 pounds. They are considered the largest native terrestrial mammal of North America.

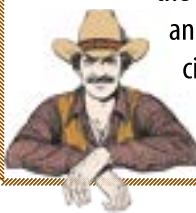
The animals have a short tail with a tassel, a hump at the shoulders, curved black horns on the sides of the head and dense shaggy dark brown and black hair

around the head and neck, which tends to look like a beard.

There were once millions of bison, but by 1900 it is estimated that fewer than 1,000 bison remained on the entire continent. Peter Norbeck, often known as the "Father of Custer State Park," recognized the situation and decided to take action to preserve this native beast. In 1914, the park, then known as Custer State Game Sanctuary, purchased 36 bison to start its herd. By the 1940s, the size of the herd had swelled to over 2,500.

The herd soon began to overgraze the park's rangeland and the bison numbers were lowered. Each year during the roundup, the size and the structure of the bison herd is adjusted according to the predicted availability of grassland forage. The spring birthing season rejuvenates the herd size toward 1,300.

**DID YOU KNOW...** The Crouch Line Railroad which ran up Rapid Canyon from Rapid City to Mystic from the 1890' to 1947 would cross 110 bridges (about 4 bridges per mile), while bending and twisting its way through only 30 miles of the Black Hills, all the while negotiating turns and curves sharp enough to equal 14 complete circles. Passengers would often joke that the engineer could slap hands with people in the caboose as they passed.





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# KEYSTONE



## RE-LIVE THE PAST

Keystone is a town with a split personality. Most visitors come to know “New Keystone” stretched along 16A, the main route to Mt. Rushmore. “Old Keystone” is the original gold mining settlement. In 1890, Keystone was one of the fastest growing boom towns in the Black Hills. Enjoy and learn the history in this unique part of town.

## A FACILITY WITH MANY STORIES TO TELL... TAKE A TRIP INTO YESTERYEAR



The Keystone Historical Museum is housed in the old Keystone Schoolhouse building of early Victorian architecture. Built in 1900, it served as Keystone’s full-time school until 1988. The Museum houses early day mining tools, historic pictures and photo collections, rock and mineral collections, and historic displays including Carrie Ingalls memorabilia

## PHOTO COLLECTIONS



**Keystone Musuem Article Sponsored by**



# MUSEUM

The Keystone Historical Museum houses marvelous photo collections of Keystone and her citizens over the years. An excellent genealogical resource and reference point.

## LEARN ABOUT...

- The people who discovered gold in Battle Creek
- The people who located Keystone's gold mines
- The people who founded the Town of Keystone
- The Black Hills Gold Rush
- The Black Hills Tin Boom
- The people who carved Mount Rushmore
- Gutzon Borglum - the Sculptor
- Peter Norbeck and Iron Mountain Road
- CC Gideon and the Pigtail Bridges
- Carrie Ingalls and The Little House on the Prairie
- Wild Horse Harry Hardin and Sugar Babe
- Keystone Consolidated Gold Mine, ca 1895

LIVING HISTORY SCHOOL Keystone, South Dakota



## DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF OLD KEYTSONE

Enjoy the **FREE WALKING TOUR** with over 20 locations which include historic mine sites, buildings, churches, schools and colorful characters. The tour educational and enjoyable, with plenty of activities for children. Drive, ride a bike or enjoy a leisurely stroll.



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# KEYSTONE WALKING TOUR



Follow the numbered signs and read about the history of one of the fastest growing boom towns in the Hills. There are 19 stations on the walking tour, each with a sign in description of the location. *The signs were provided by Craig Stump of Stump Signs and Graphics of Rapid City.*

## 1. BOARDING HOUSE

Originally built in the 1890s for Henry Loomis and family. It later served as the Goodyear Motel and a boarding house for Mount Rushmore workers.

## 2. ED HAYES HOME

One of the original homes in Keystone built in the 1890s for Ed Coad and family.

## 3. BIG THUNDER GOLD MINE

Registered as Reed's Placer Claim in 1893 by two German immigrants, August Engle and Fred Sierth (formerly the Krupp Tunnel).

## 4. UPHAM SALOON

Built in the 1890s, the Upham Saloon was one of many saloons in Keystone's history. It was destroyed by a mysterious fire.

## 5. HAYES & HAYES

Two brothers, John & Patrick Hayes, opened a double-wide mercantile store on this site in 1895.

## 6. FRANKLIN HOTEL

Built in the early 1890s, the hotel was owned and operated by William and Jennie Franklin. Bill was known as "Rocky Mountain Frank."

## 7. McDONALD MOTEL

The hotel was considered a luxurious hotel in the mid 1890s, advertising as "The rendezvous for the smartest people in the West." The south half housed the Harney Peak Bank, later known as the Keystone Bank.

## 8. T.G. HOY & CO.

Tom Hoy survived three fires and outlasted several pharmacies. He operated under the license of his father-in-law, Andrew Marble. The latter died in 1924, the last registered pharmacist in Keystone.

## 9. ICE HOUSE

From the first official Forest Service Ranger Station in the Black Hills, located on Box Elder Creek three miles south of present day Nemo near Steamboat Rock. Moved to this location in 2004. The two-story

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Sullivan Drug Store was at this location and the one-story City Meat Market was just to the south of the drug store.

#### 10. DOCTOR'S OFFICE

This office was built as a satellite office for Dr. Eugene B. Hultz, a physician from Hill City.

#### 11. BLACKSMITH SHOP

The Holy Terror Mine

A photograph of the first automobile introduced in Keystone in 1909 is displayed on the site of the last blacksmith shop in Keystone, owned by "Peg Leg" or Peggy Haase, a one-legged horseshoer (farrier).

#### 12. THE HOLY TERROR MINE

Founded on June 28, 1894, perhaps the richest gold mine in the southern Black Hills.

#### 13. HALLEY'S STORE

It is the oldest continuous business in Keystone. Built in 1896 as the Keystone Trading Company as a general mercantile store.

#### 14. KEYSTONE ICEHOUSE

Built in 1935, the ice house stored ice taken from a local pond in the winter and sold in the summer months.

#### 15. BIVOUAC AREA

The 4th Cavalry from Fort Meade camped in this area in the 1930s.

#### 16. HISTORIC HOMES

Homes built in the 1890s as seen as they appeared in the 1930s.

#### 17. LOG SCHOOL HOUSE

This original log schoolhouse was built in the early 1890s. Miss Mary Wheelock taught 40 students here in 1894-1895.

#### 18. KEYSTONE SCHOOL

Built with Victorian architecture in 1900, at a cost of \$10,000 for 300 students. It served as a schoolhouse until 1988. Now the Keystone Historical Museum featuring Carrie Ingall's memorabilia and James Langer's Gem and Mineral Collection.

#### 19. CHURCH

The Keystone Congregational Church was built in 1896 at a cost of \$2,000. It was used as a school before the Victorian schoolhouse was built.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The largest gold nugget currently in existence is called the "Hand of Faith." Discovered in 1980 with metal detector, weighed 61 pounds, 11 ounces.







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Innovation Award!



## Rushmore Tramway...

Rushmore Tramway Adventures has staked its claim as the most exciting destination in the Black Hills. Located just below Mt. Rushmore on the main highway in Keystone, you'll find a stellar collection of outdoor adventures: the Alpine Slide, Scenic Chairlift, Aerial Adventure Park, Zipline, and Free-Fall Jump Tower. These combine to offer a rich variety of ways to experience the joy of playing in the great outdoors.

Built in the mid-1960s, it was intended to give visitors not only a unique view of Mount Rushmore, but also a chance to enjoy the abundant beauty of nature at the top of its peak. Along with panoramic views of the surrounding scenery, the Tram's summit has always been a beautiful park area in itself. The hilltop's natural granite formations, fragrant Ponderosa pines and wildflowers were enhanced with walking paths, waterfalls and thousands more flowers, creating a peaceful mountaintop oasis.

In 2000, new owners added a rustic outdoor café and restrooms to the park, enabling guests to linger longer and thoroughly soak in the serenity.

In 2002 an alpine slide was installed as an alternate, exciting way to descend the hilltop (with chairlifting down still an option). Guests control the speed of their sled as they travel down the 2000 feet of fiberglass track, speeding down for a thrill ride or sliding slowing down through the trees and fresh mountain air.

To keep pace with a new generation of action-seekers, in 2013 the Tramway added more adrenaline-pumping options for enjoying this hill and its Ponderosas: a treetop obstacle course called the Aerial Adventure Park, and also a double zipline. These combine with the chairlift, alpine slide, and garden café and park to give a full-range of outdoor entertainment possibilities.

The original Tramway owner was quoted in a June 1966 Rapid City Journal article as saying "We think tourists and local residents will appreciate a sanctuary from the hustle and bustle—a place where they can come to reflect on the majesty of God, the glories of our country and the beauties of nature." That goal is still a mainstay of Rushmore Tramway's offerings.



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**Breathtaking view of:**  
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Cathedral Spires & the Needles  
Custer State Park & Sylvan Lake  
Badlands National Park

**Flights From Three Locations:**

**CRAZY HORSE HELIPORT**  
24564 Hwy 16/385 - Custer, SD  
(1.4 miles north of Crazy Horse Memorial)

**RUSHMORE HELIPORT**  
106 Hwy 16A - Keystone, SD  
(North side of Keystone adjacent to Presidents View Resort)

**BADLANDS HELIPORT**  
21020 SD Hwy 240 - Interior, SD  
(I-90 East of Rapid City. Exit 131 then south on 240 1.25 miles)

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# BIG THUNDER GOLD MINE

**Big Thunder Gold Mine** (originally named Gold Hill Lode) was discovered in 1892 by two German immigrant miners, W.B. Krupp and J.A. Engle. They migrated across America separately but met in Keystone, SD. Their common language connected them and they eventually became partners at 35 years of age. By 1914, the 70-year-old miners had cut 680 feet into the mountain and 240 feet underground....32 years of trial, discovery, anticipation, disappointment and accomplishment.

Julius Engle owned **Big Thunder Gold Mine** until his death on November 4, 1921, still clinging to the dream of "The Big Discovery."

**Big Thunder Gold Mine** is the safest and most maintained mine in the Keystone, SD mining district. It contains most types of rocks, structures and minerals indigenous to the area leading it to be a prime center to explore and expand Black Hills Gold Mining History.

An electric grid was placed over the area using the polarization method to determine the geological structure to a depth of 1,500 feet. This method creates an electric current that passes into the ground along an electrode array.

Electrical measurements determine the

type and composition of the rock below the grid. Physical core samples have verified the electrical results.

Geological results prove the potential for future gold mining in Keystone, SD. Exploration companies have been working in the area and have leased mineral rights for many of the area mines. A modern gold mine could lead to new discoveries at **Big Thunder Gold Mine**. With modern mining techniques, one may uncover Black Hills Gold Mining History within the walls of Big Thunder Gold Mine near Keystone, SD.

**Big Thunder Gold Mine** offers a claim panning experience in the creek like no other! Participants dig the material from the earth, classify the rock, learn to use a sluice in the stream and then pan the material out. Available in 2, 4, and 8 hour trips. **Gold Guaranteed! Reservation required: 605-666-4847**

The four hour experience is so popular that reservations must be made in advance and can be booked on-line at [www.bigthundermine.com](http://www.bigthundermine.com). Must be booked 24 hours in advanced.

It is the BEST creek/claim panning experience in the hills!

EUREKA, YOU WILL FIND GOLD!



## DID YOU KNOW?

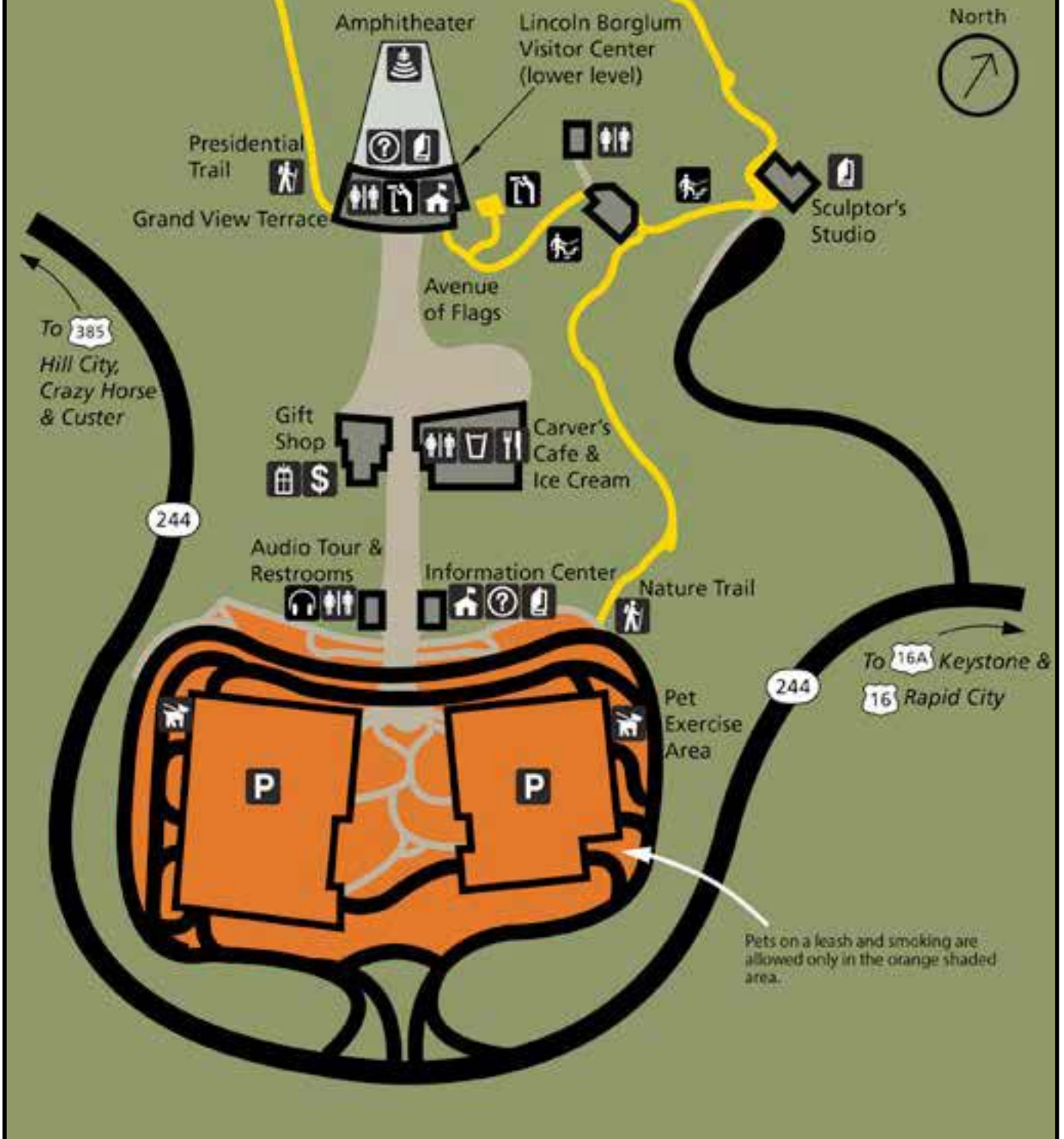
Although he was born and died in South Dakota, Sitting Bull had been buried in North Dakota in an abandoned and unkept graveyard. Wanting a more fitting memorial to this great man, Clarence Grey Eagle, with the approval of relatives, began talks with officials to return the remains to South Dakota. As time passed, Grey Eagle became fed up with red tape, and on April 8, 1953, he, with a dozen other men, a backhoe and an airplane, exhumed Sitting Bull's remains and reburied him along the Missouri River in his South Dakota homeland in a concrete block weighing 20 tons, effectively ending all talks. The grave is now marked with a bust which was carved by Korczak Ziolkowski, sculptor of Crazy Horse Mountain near Custer.







Mount Rushmore  
Grounds Map





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# Welcome to Hill City!



## DID YOU KNOW?



In population terms, Hill City has more Teddy Bears than people...over 10,000 bears!

# Candyland

PLAY



**MINI GOLF**

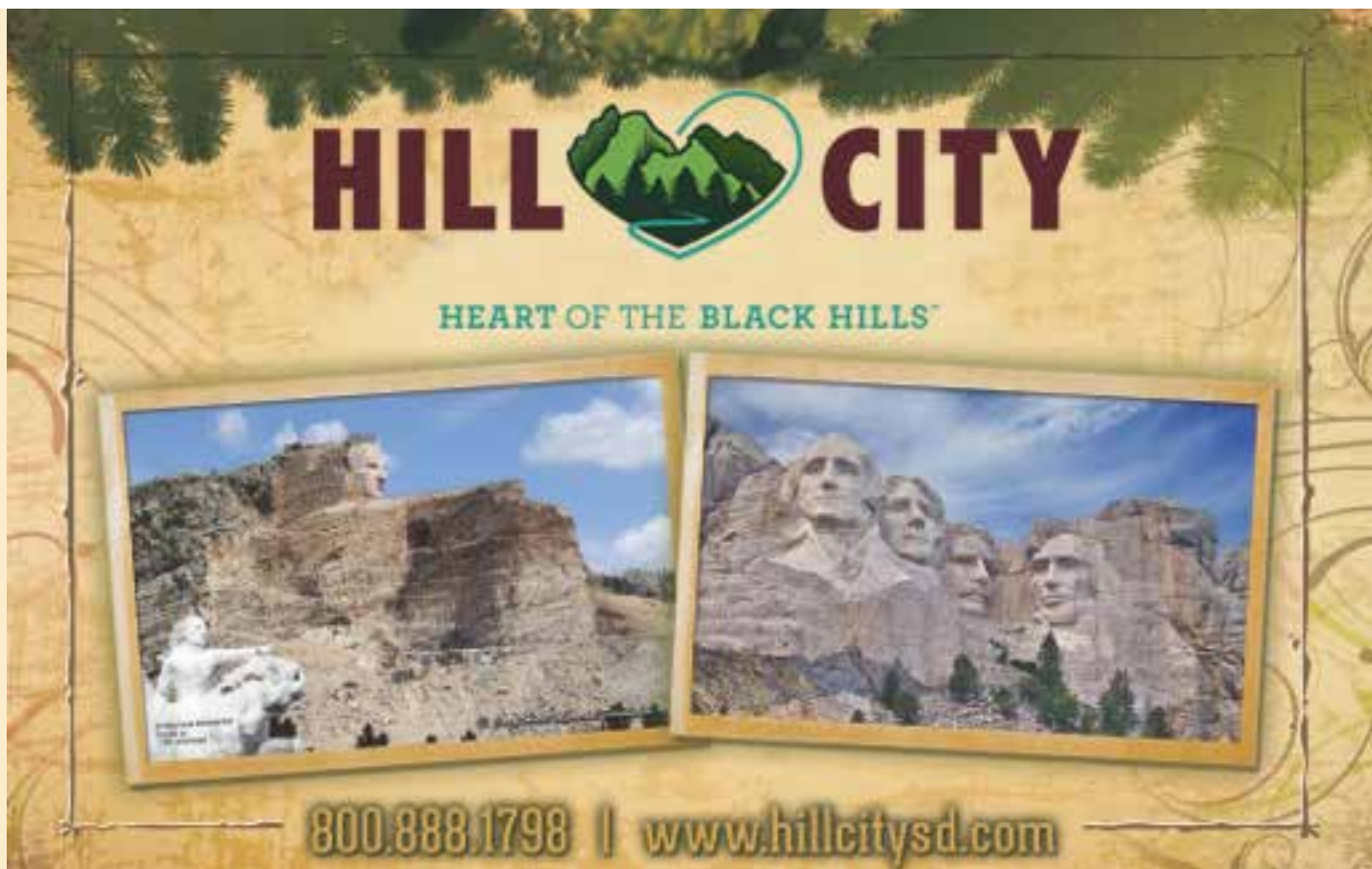


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## HILL CITY...

In 1887, miners flocked to Hill City, SD for gold nuggets. Today, vacationers in-the-know head to Hill City for its gold mine of Black Hills hospitality. Centrally located to the most popular attractions in the Hills, this quaint, little town of 948 has become the savvy traveler's favorite destination for making it easy to do it all – or do nothing – with their precious vacation time.

Just minutes from Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse, Custer State Park, Wind Cave National Park and Jewel Cave National Monument, Hill City lives up to its nickname, "the heart of the Hills."

By making Hill City their vacation headquarters, travelers enjoy easy access to attractions, hiking, biking and sight-seeing in every direction in the Hills.

Hill City ([www.hillcitysd.com](http://www.hillcitysd.com)) is a favorite destination for both locals and visitors because of its many popular events. With a growing reputation for its vibrant art scene, Hill City kicks off spring with the annual Black Hills Film Festival and Art Extravaganza. Home to many acclaimed artists and artisans year-round, Sculpture in the Hills brings even more beautiful work and renowned artists to the area. With new

events added and updated each year, the largest logging show in the area helps you transform yourself into a lumberjack and the Wine, Brew & BBQ puts you toe to grill with some of the world's best barbecue chefs. Watch, taste test and learn from the masters as they compete for cash prizes and a coveted spot in the Jack Daniels World BBQ Championship.

For outdoor enthusiasts, Hill City boasts easy access to over 200 miles of trails. The 109 mile Mickelson Trail was named one of the top ten most beautiful trails in the world and runs right through the center of town. If you're looking for something a little more on the wild side, the 111 miles of Centennial Trail are minutes away and take you through one of the most outstanding wilderness areas in the lower 48 states, the Black Elk Wilderness. And, to see it all at once, take a trek to the top of the highest mountain in South Dakota and east of the Rockies, Harney Peak with an elevation of 7,244'.

Be sure to include time in your plans to visit our award winning wineries and micro-breweries, step back in time at one of the many museums, enjoy the breathtaking scenery aboard the 1880 Train and enjoy a memorable meal at one of Hill City's many unique restaurants. When you're ready to wind down, numerous bed and breakfasts, hotels, motels and campgrounds will ensure you find the perfect lodging match for your travel style.

Come stay, play and explore in Hill City...and return home with a gold mine of memories from the heart of the Hills and your best vacation ever!





# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

# HILL CITY



## SMALL TOWN BIG EVENTS



Hill City, SD

Heart of the Hills

## SUMMER 2025 CALENDAR

### MAY EVENTS

24 ..... Daily Cultural performances begin at Crazy Horse Memorial  
30 ..... Brent Morris, Chute Rooster, Hill City 6pm-9pm

### JUNE EVENTS

7 ..... Spring Volksmarch, Crazy Horse Memorial  
14 & 21 ..... Mt. Rushmore Rodeo at Palmer Gulch, Palmer Gulch Resort, Hill City, 6pm.  
14 ..... The Big Mick, George S. Mickelson Trail  
15, 22 & 29 ..... 1880 Train Old West Shootout, Hill City, 5pm  
20-22 ..... Mickelson Trail Summer Trek, Black Hills

### JULY EVENTS

4-7 ..... Star-Spangled Independence Celebration, Main St., Various locations  
4 ..... Hill City Star-Spangled Parade, Main St. 10am  
6, 13, 20 & 27 ..... 1880 Train Old West Shootout, Hill City, 5pm  
13 ..... The Black Hills Raptor Center, The Farmer's Daughter, Hill City

### AUGUST EVENTS

3, 9, 17, ..... Mt. Rushmore Rodeo at Palmer Gulch, Palmer Gulch Resort, Hill City, 6pm  
17 & 31 ..... 1880 Train Old West Shootout, Hill City, 5pm  
22-23 ..... Wine, Brew & BBQ, Hill City

### SEPTEMBER EVENTS

6 ..... Special Day to Remember the death of Crazy Horse & Korczak Ziolkowski  
13 ..... Rails to Ails Bike Ride Hill City to Custer  
12-13 ..... Polkapalooza at Palmer Gulch, Palmer Gulch Resort, Hill City  
14 ..... South Dakota State Railroad Museum HOBOW Stew Meal, Hill City Center

**1880 Train Old West Shootout**  
Hill City  
Sundays - 5pm

**Daily Native American Performances**  
Crazy Horse Memorial  
Thursday Evenings Talking Circle Speaker  
(Start May 24th)

**Mt. Rushmore Rodeo**  
at Palmer Gulch Resort  
Hill City - Saturdays

# 1.800.888.1798

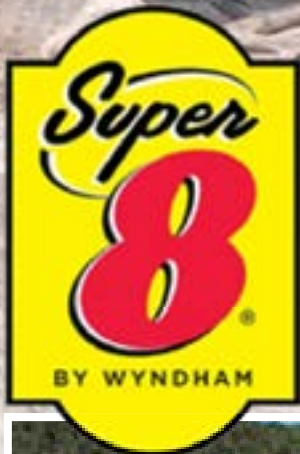
*Hill City is prioritizing safe travel and safe visits.*

For more information go to [www.visithillcitysd.com](http://www.visithillcitysd.com)

SMALL TOWN BIG EVENTS from:  
Black Hills Film Festival • Hill City Arts Council  
Hill City Area Chamber of Commerce



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Only franchised accommodations  
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# in the Heart of the Hills,

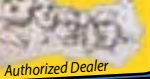
***Only Minutes to Mt. Rushmore,  
Crazy Horse, Custer State Park & Deadwood!***



***Places & Things to  
Visit & Do in Hill City!***



**Rushmore Mountain  
Taffy**



**Antiques Emporium   Wild West Pecan Co.   Crave by Black Hills Bistro   Full Service Salon & Tanning   First Impressions Salon**



*Just Outside Hill City...*

## Three Forks



## BAR • GRILLE CASINO & C-STORE

Everyone from settlement times' trailblazers to modern day tourists know this location as Three Forks, 4 miles NE of Hill City. It has been a popular crossroads for travelers in the central Black Hills for many generations, now located at the intersection of US Hwys 16 & 385.







*Located on Main Street in historic Harney Peak Hotel.  
Featuring special luncheon menu with a European flair.  
Evening menu offers tender Filet Mignon steaks.  
Reasonably priced. Homemade  
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## **FILET MIGNON**

6 oz. \$17.95 • 9 oz. \$19.95

Served with Baked Potato, Texas Toast & Salad

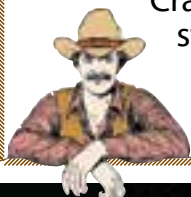
11:00 to 2:30 Luncheon with European Charm • Veranda Dining

Open Monday thru Saturday • 133 Main St, Hill City, SD 57745

605-574-2749 • Closed Sundays



### **DID YOU KNOW?**



Crazy Horse was a brilliant military strategist. His methods of warfare are still being taught in courses at West Point Military Academy.

# KRULL'S MARKET

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Local Favorites • Firewood • Propane • ATM • Large Parking Lot



### **GEM PANNING**



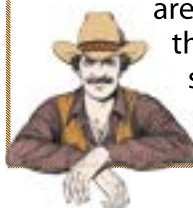
• Gifts  
• Minerals  
• Rose Quartz

3 Miles North of Hill City  
605-574-2760

### **DID YOU KNOW...**

South Dakota has 4.5 million acres of land owned by American Indian tribes, ranking fourth in the nation behind Arizona, Montana and New Mexico.

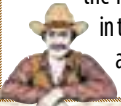
The name "Black Hills" comes from the Lakota words Paha Sapa, which mean "hills that are black". Seen from a distance, these pine-covered hills, rising several thousand feet above the surrounding prairie, appear black.





# HILL CITY

**DID YOU KNOW...** On average, the temperature drops three degrees F° for every one thousand feet of elevation. Black Elk Peak is the highest point in the Black Hills at 7,242 feet.



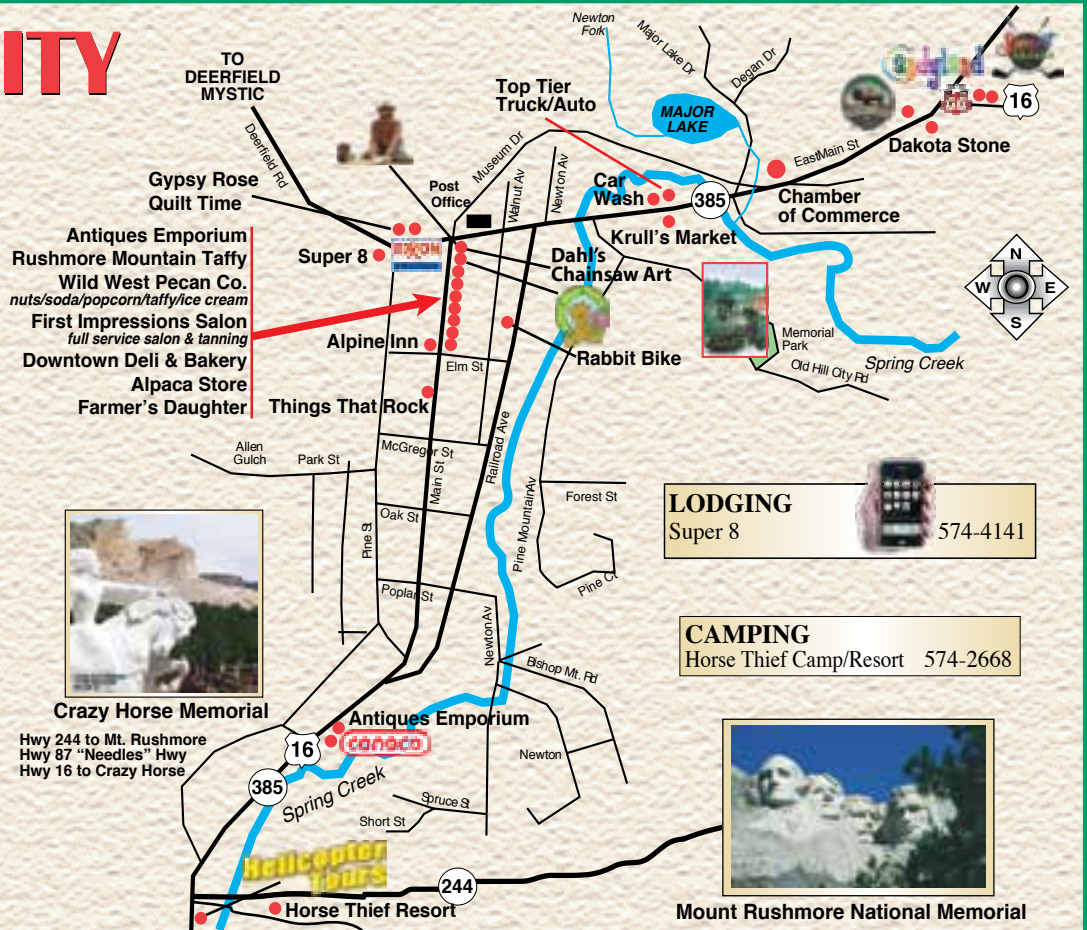
**Elevation** 4,974 ft.  
**Population** 650

## TOP ATTRACTIONS

BH Helicopter Tours  
Crazy Horse  
Dahl's Chainsaw Art  
Teddy Bear Town  
Smokey the Bear  
Helicopter Tours

## DISTANCE TO:

Keystone	15 miles
Custer	12 miles
Hot springs	43 miles
Deadwood/Lead	37 miles
Spearfish	81 miles
Sturgis	54 miles
Rapid City	23 miles



## LODGING

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Mount Rushmore National Memorial

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Hill City has a new, larger-than-life, citizen in 2021... no other than Smokey Bear himself! Thanks to the cooperation of seven wood carvers from across the nation with sponsorship by Alexander Enterprises of Hill City, Smokey sits on Hill City's main street at Dahl's Chainsaw Art at 30' tall and 25' from end to end.

Hill City's history with Smokey dates back to July, 1939 after one of the Black Hill's worst fires came dangerously close to the town. Professional fire fighters were joined by approximately 25 Hill City School boys who pitched in from day one through the four day blaze ordeal, attaining "One of the Best Crews" attributes by the National Forest Service.

The name "Rangers" was given to the school's athletic teams due to their tremendous service and later that year were given further permission by the National Forest Service to use "Smokey Bear" as their official mascot...which to date is still the only school allowed to do so.

Local wood carvers Jordon and Jarrett Dahl were joined by Scott Hanson of Alaska, Michael Koepfel of Wisconsin, Abby Peterson of Kentucky, Shane Thompson of California and Kyle Thomas of North Carolina. Project coordinator, Jordon Dahl stated to the local newspaper, "The camaraderie of all the guys getting together and coming up with different ideas and strategies... It was a lot of fun!"



**ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES!** *Smokey Bear*

**DAHL'S CHAINSAW ART**

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HILL CITY, SD

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# Hill City Highlights

**Black Hills Aerial Adventures** invites you to stare into the eyes of the granite faces of Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Crazy Horse Memorial; To soar above the majestic summit of Harney Peak, the highest point in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains; To chase a heard of roaming buffalo in Custer State Park; To marvel at the ancient lunar-like landscape of Badlands National Park. Round-trip helicopter tours – with the most stunning views of the most popular Black Hills and Badlands sites – are available at each of our three heliports: The Crazy Horse Heliport, The Rushmore Heliport, and The Badlands Heliport. Every tour at each location offers a new and exciting experience. Pick a heliport and begin your adventure.



**Candyland SD** was originally opened in May of 2017 and has been open every summer since then. Candyland is located in Three Forks which is the junctions of highways between Rapid City, Hill City and Deadwood. We love serving ice cream, coffee, italian sodas, hot chocolates, and so much more to any visitors we may have.



**Sweet Greens Mini Golf Course** located at Candyland SD is an exciting and fun course that features many different obstacles and a new challenge on every hole. Some of the fun obstacles that you will take head on are a up and over loop, jumps over water hazards, and even a Plinko inspired hole. Our golf course even feature a double level water falThis 18-hole mini golf course is one that is sure to be fun for adults and kids of all ages.



**Buffalo Shop...** Buffalo Shop is your premier destination for authentic, ethically sourced wilderness treasures. Specializing in expertly crafted taxidermy, Native American collections, cabin décor, and fine wildlife art, our shop offers a rich selection of buffalo rugs and shoulder mounts, birds, mammals, and more — all collected and prepared in full compliance with state and federal regulations, including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Whether you're furnishing a rustic lodge, curating a heritage collection, or seeking a one-of-a-kind centerpiece, Buffalo Shop blends tradition, artistry, and respect for nature. Every piece in our collection tells a story and honors the land from which it came.



**Hill City's "Smokey Bear" Sculpture....** Hill City has a new, larger-than-life, citizen in 2021... no other than Smokey Bear himself! Thanks to the cooperation of seven wood carvers from across the nation with sponsorship by Alexander Enterprises of Hill City, Smokey sits on Hill City's main street at Dahl's Chainsaw Art at 30' tall and 25' from end to end. People of all ages to enjoy. Experience the fun with free live daily chainsaw carving, photo opportunities, open air gallery and gift shop.



# BLACKHILLS ATTRACTIONS .COM







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Living  
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MEMORIAL®**



*All Photos © Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation*

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**SOUTH DAKOTA**

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# CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL

The world's largest mountain carving in progress is being sculpted in the Black Hills of South Dakota. In 1948, seven years after work stopped on nearby Mount Rushmore, grand-scale carving began on the Crazy Horse Memorial®.

Sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski (pronounced "Jewel-cuff-ski") had worked as an assistant to Gutzon Borglum at Mount Rushmore in 1939. That same year, Oglala Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear wrote Ziolkowski asking him to consider carving a giant sculpture dedicated to the American Indian. Standing Bear said "I would like the white man to know the red man has great heroes, also."

Ziolkowski, a determined artist, loved the challenge and was inspired to dedicate the rest of his life to the sculpture. Chief Henry Standing Bear and other leaders chose the Lakota warrior, Crazy Horse, for the subject. Crazy Horse was born in the Black Hills and is partially credited with Custer's defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn.

The artist spent several decades alone, drilling and blasting the 563-foot-tall likeness of the great Lakota leader atop his steed from the granite of Thunderhead Mountain. In comparison, the four heads of the presidents carved on Mount Rushmore

would be able to fit within the head and hair of Crazy Horse when completed.

After Ziolkowski's death in 1982 and his wife Ruth's death in 2014, the Memorial continued to progress and today is overseen by members of the Ziolkowski family, the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation board of directors and dedicated staff. On site, visitors can find the 1/34<sup>th</sup>-scale plaster model, the sculptor's original log home and workshop, the Indian Museum of North America® and its multiple galleries containing unique and historic collections, the Native American Educational and Cultural Center®, the Mountain Carving gallery, restaurant and gift shop.

The Crazy Horse Memorial® is funded solely by private donations and admission, and does not accept any government funding. The memorial is open daily year round - and in the summer is open from 8am till dark, with the Legends in Light® laser show performed nightly in season.

Crazy Horse Memorial® is located between Custer and Hill City on U.S. 16-385. For more information on special programs, events and admission please call 605-673-4681 or visit [www.crazyhorsememorial.org](http://www.crazyhorsememorial.org).

## Korczak's Heritage Inc.® at Crazy Horse Memorial®

*At Korczak's Heritage you'll find American-made items throughout the store and exclusive Crazy Horse Memorial® memorabilia – from beautiful handcrafted items made by skilled Native American artisans, a large selection of books on Native culture and western history and much more.*

*Laughing Water Restaurant® is named for the creek whose headwaters are at the base of Crazy Horse Mountain. Laughing Water Creek flows south from the mountain through the Crazy Horse Memorial® property, ultimately joining with French Creek. During the drought of the '30s, Laughing Water Creek never went dry and people came from miles around to fill their water barrels.*

*The restaurant features American food along with such Native dishes as delicious Tatanka (buffalo) stew, Native American tacos and buffalo burgers. End the wonderful meal with a Laughing Water Restaurant® signature dish, Indian Fry Bread and wojape.*

*Both are located at Crazy Horse Memorial® between Hill City and Custer on Hwy. 16/385. For more details, please call (605) 673-4681.*



©Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation

**DELICIOUS • UNIQUE**

Restaurant   Snack Shop	Exclusive Crazy Horse Gifts
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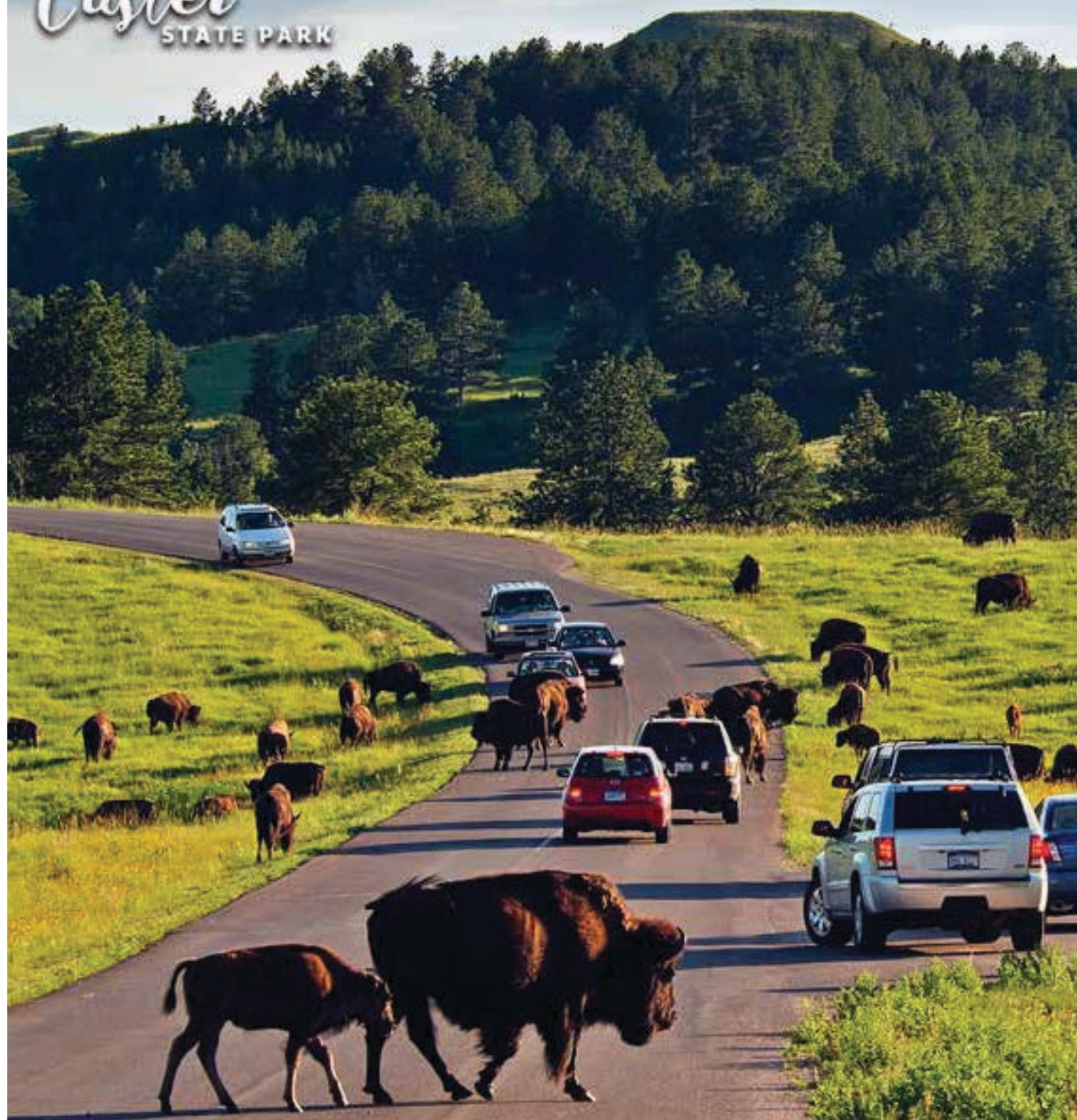
**KORCZAK'S HERITAGE, INC.**  
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# Custer

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A South Dakota State Park Entrance License is required.



**THE WILD IS CALLING.  
ANSWER.**





**DID YOU KNOW?**

One buffalo will eat approximately three to four percent of their body weight in forage daily. A mature cow will require 10 to 20 gallons of water daily.





# BUFFALO ROUNDUP

## SEPT 25<sup>TH</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 MARKS THE 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Yeehaw! A whip cracks in the distance and a cowboy yells, "Get after them. Cut 'em off. Their headed in the wrong direction! We've got to turn them back!"

Sound exciting? Well that's because it is! Especially when you are trying to herd 1,300 buffalo in a direction they don't want to go.

It all starts in early September when buffalo herdsman Chad Kremer begins planning for the park's annual Buffalo Roundup.

Kremer, along with the other members of the parks resource management team, open the gates along the Recreation Demonstration (RD) fence to allow the buffalo to drift into an ungrazed pasture.

"Picture in your mind a fence that runs across the park from east to west, one mile in from our southern boundary fence," Kremer describes. "This area, called the Recreation Demonstration area, is not grazed all summer, so when we open the gates along the fence, the buffalo naturally drift into the area."

As the old saying goes, the grass is greener on the other side of the fence.

However not all the buffalo drift into the area on their own. That is where a number of volunteer horseback riders and park staff come into play.

"We search the park high and low for buffalo throughout the month of September," Kremer explains. "When we find a group, we gather up the horseback riders and drive the buffalo toward the south end of the park into the RD pasture in preparation for the final push into the corrals. This final push – the annual Buffalo Roundup – happens on the last Friday of September.

### What is the Purpose of the Roundup?

The park began to gather the herd back in the 1960s when the decision was made to eradicate brucellosis from the herd. The herd was certified brucellosis free in 1965 allowing the sale of live animals. Since that time, the roundup has been used in conjunction with the fall sale as a way to manage the size of the herd and to provide an opportunity to brand and vaccinate the calves.

"Studies show that during normal moisture years, the park's grassland can support about 1,450 head of bison," explains Dr. Gary Brundige, resource program manager for Custer State Park. "That number fluctuates depending upon rainfall and the available rangeland forage."

The buffalo are on their own to forage. The park does not supplement their food supply.

"We inventory the range conditions each year and that determines the number of buffalo we sell at the fall auction in November," said Brundige. "We need to keep the buffalo numbers compatible with available forage, and that is why you may see varying numbers for the size of our herd. Right now we have about 1,300 buffalo in the herd, and we'll be building back to that target number of 1,450 in the future."

Brundige points out that for Custer State Park, the Buffalo Roundup is a management tool to prepare for the annual buffalo sale. But he says, "It is an event that is open to the public, and we are happy to share it with the thousands of guests who come to experience something out of the old west."

"It truly is a magnificent sight to see— buffalo rumbling across the plains driven by cowboys and cowgirls on horseback. It takes you back to days gone by and lets the spectators catch a glimpse of old west history," adds Brundige.

### The Buffalo Roundup

"Here they come!" a visitor shouts. Thirteen hundred-head strong. The dust billows, and you can feel the thunder as they pass by the south viewing area.

"Keep 'em going—they're headed toward the corrals!" a cowboy yells.

"Don't push them too hard, just keep 'em pointed in the right direction," another says.

Then another whip cracks. Cowboys holler and wave neckerchiefs as they push the herd into the corrals in front of the north viewing area.

As 1,300 head of buffalo head toward the crowds on the north hill, one visitor remarks, "I sure hope the fence holds them back."

"It always has," responds another. "But, boy oh boy, what a sight to see!"

With the roundup about in the bag, there is still one final push to drive the entire herd into the corral complex. That is often easier said than done.

It's here when the crowd generally cheers for the buffalo and often times it gets a bit dicey for the cowboys. But as the final buffalo work their way through the gate, the crowd gives a final "well done" cheer to all involved, and the cowpokes and their horses breathe a sigh of relief.





# STOP. STAY. SOAK IT ALL IN!

**W**hether you're a history buff, outdoor enthusiast, fossil & rock hound, hot air balloon adventurer, or simply need some R&R—Hot Springs is a great place to visit. From our rich historical beginnings and natural beauty, to our nationally renowned attractions, there's plenty to explore and soak in!



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# Frank Garcia...

## World Fossil Finder Museum

In 1979, Amateur- Paleontologist Frank Garcia worked as chief investigator for the Smithsonian Institution, collecting: prehistoric sea cows, whales, and dolphins. In June 1983, Garcia discovered the earliest, richest, Ice-Age discoveries in North



America. Experts described it to be one of the most significant paleontological finds on the planet. Garcia and his team uncovered

a 1.5-million-year-old prehistoric graveyard of what was once a bed of a prehistoric river that had attracted a wide range of animals. A rendition of this famed discovery can be found at the World Fossil Finder Museum.

Despite having no formal education, Mr. Garcia has become one of America's foremost paleontologists, discovering more than 20 previously unknown species (including two which were named after him). Many of these pieces reside in the World Fossil Finder Museum.

Among the many fossils that can be found in the museum, Frank's prized possession, a 47.5-foot-long Tylosaurus called "Debby Sue", which is named after his wife Debby. The discovery was made in Edgemont, SD in 2016. Included in the collection are White River Fossils from Nebraska as well as dinosaur bones from Wyoming and fossils from around the world.



The World Fossil Finder Museum is a one-of-a-kind experience that will bring you up close and personal with prehistoric life. Of the fossils on display, 75% were discovered by Garcia, and 98% of the fossils in the museum are original. Kids enjoy a one-of-a-kind experience receiving free fossils and a good laugh from Frank himself.



The World Fossil Finder Museum will focus on science, humanity & educating about fossils world wide!



We are a family friendly museum that wants to inspire and educate children and adults of all ages to enjoy learning about the natural wonders of the world.



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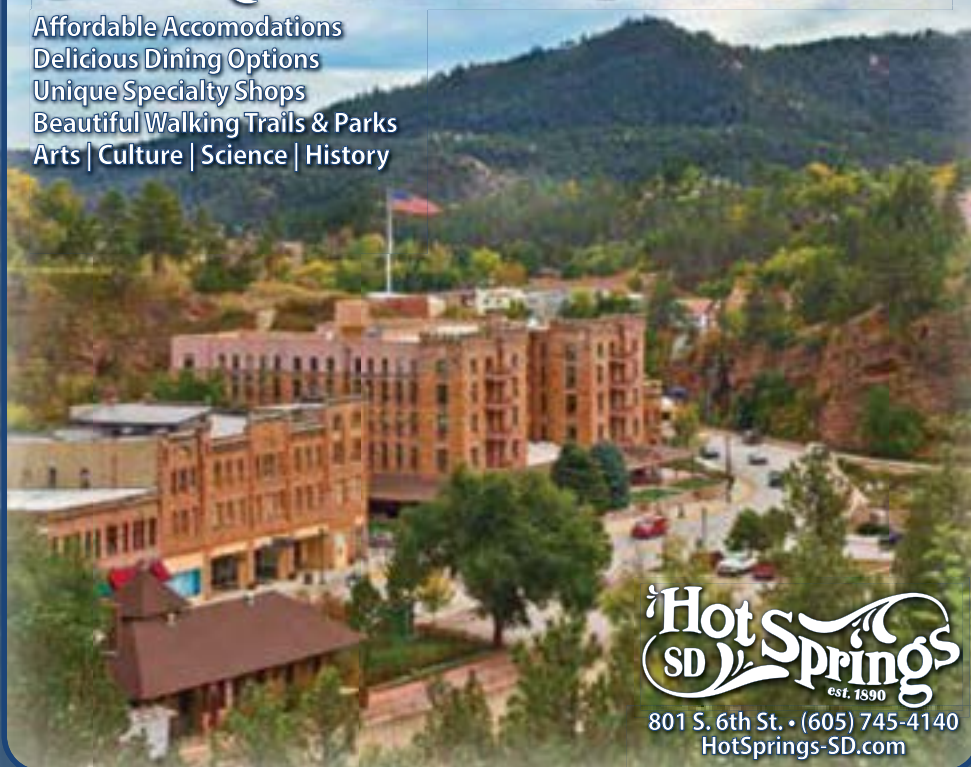


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## HOT SPRINGS...

Long before its official establishment in the late 1800s, the Hot Springs area had been known for generations among Native Americans for its rejuvenating warm mineral spring waters which were used by tribes for physical and spiritual cleansing and healing. When Hot Springs began to be settled by westward travelers, it became well-known for its bath houses, luxurious hotels, hospitals and health sanitariums, including Battle Mountain National Historic Landmark, which still today an active VA hospital renowned for its highly successful PTSD treatment program. In 2014, the State of South Dakota saw fit to officially designate Hot Springs as "The Veterans Town" of South Dakota.

Travelers can still find plenty of healing experiences – physical, mental and emotional - in this picturesque community nestled along Fall River, which winds its way through downtown past the distinctive pink sandstone buildings, nearly all built from local quarries. Evans Plunge, named for its founder, early Hot Springs businessman Fred Evans, is the Black Hills' oldest tourist attraction, and you can still soak and play in the warm 87 degree water year round. The Mammoth Site, a National Natural Landmark, is the final resting place of over 60 mammoths and other prehistoric creatures that fell into a sinkhole thousands of years ago and continues to be an active dig site, as well as a world-class museum.

Mere minutes north of Hot Springs, one can find Wind Cave National Park, with wildlife abound over the world's sixth longest

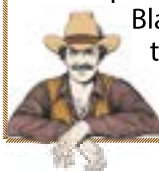
cave and one of our country's oldest national parks. To the southwest, the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary is not only home to hundreds of rescued wild mustangs, but also a working ranch, spectacular western scenery and both Native American and cowboy cultural history. The rapidly growing Angostura & Sheps Canyon State Recreation Areas boast the best fishing, swimming, boating, camping opportunities in the Southern Hills. Outdoors lovers will also find adventure at Cold Brook & Cottonwood Lakes and at the city's five parks.

And, of course, in Hot Springs itself you can explore the history of the area at the Pioneer Museum, located in an original sandstone schoolhouse, hike one of Hot Springs' many walking trails, including the one-mile long Fall River Freedom Trail, play a round of golf at the beautiful 18 hole Southern Hills Golf Course, consistently ranked one of the best places to play in South Dakota, drink the warm spring water from Kidney Springs, check out beautiful murals depicting the history and legacy of Hot Springs, spend time perusing the shops downtown, eat at one of the wonderful restaurants,

– ***Hot Springs is a vacation all its own!***



Hot Springs in South Dakota lives up to its name. Nestled in the heart of the Black Hills, residents of this area have been taking advantage of the healing springs for thousands of years. The Lakota called the warm waters "wiwila kata."



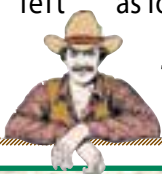


# Natural Wonders...

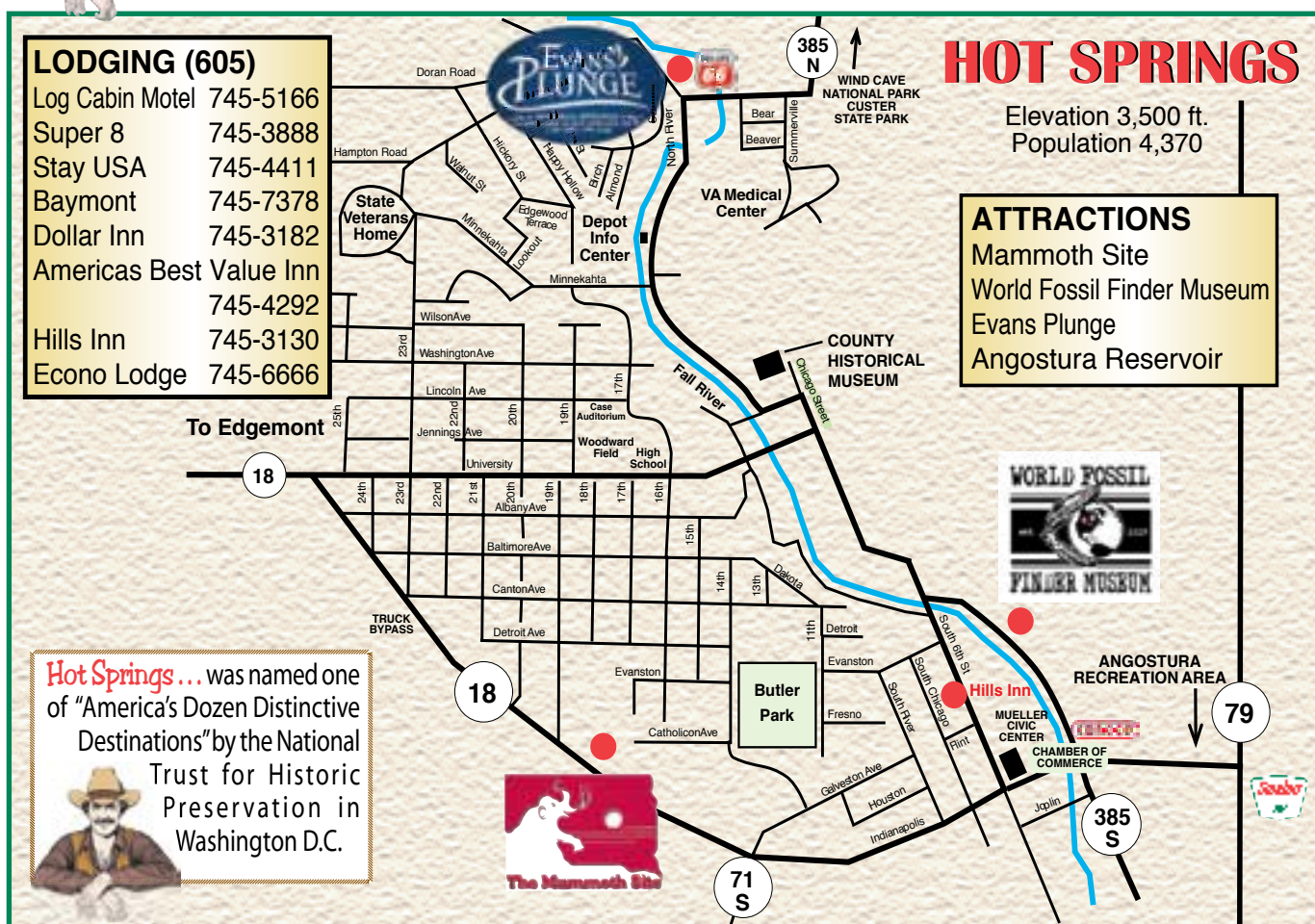
## DID YOU KNOW...

**Evans Plunge** is the world's largest natural warm water indoor swimming pool. The slide stretches 164 ft. There is an inflow of 5,000 gallons of water per-minute, with a complete change of water 16 times daily.

**The Mammoth Site** of Hot Springs contains the largest concentration of Columbian and woolly mammoth bones discovered in their primary context in the world! This National Natural Landmark is the only in-situ (bones left as found) display of fossil mammoths in America.



**Jewel Cave** is the third-longest cave in the world. More than 120 miles of passages have been surveyed. Calcite crystals that glitter when illuminated give the cave its name.



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# Hot Springs Highlights



**The Mammoth Site...** We Dig Big! The Mammoth Site is an indoor active paleontological dig site & Accredited Museum, boasting the largest concentration of Columbian mammoths in the world. Self-guided tours, summer dig programs for kids, hands-on activities, exhibits, sluice & concession stand. This is an educational experience for the entire family. Approximately 45 minutes from Rapid City.



**Evans Plunge Mineral Springs...** Visit the area's only indoor & outdoor warm natural mineral spring pools (87°). Quality family fun! Admission includes slides, rings, kiddie pool & health club w/ hot tubs, sauna, steam room & fitness equipment. Lifeguards on duty. Black Hills' oldest attraction! Swim, Soak & Play year-round! 605-745-5165, 1145 N River St, Hot Springs, SD [evansplunge.com](http://evansplunge.com)



**World Fossil Finder Museum...** A visit to the World Fossil Finder Museum will reveal a large variety of fossils from many places around the world. Here, you will examine the best representation of the Earliest Richest Ice Age fossil site on earth. The ultimate feature is a complete skeleton of the biggest & best swimming reptile found anywhere, the Tylosaur named "Debby Sue."



**Hot Springs**  
SD est. 1890

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
**2025**

**May 23-26.. Salute to Valor Festival**  
**May 26..... Stars, Stripes & Steps**  
**Stair Climb Challenge**

**June 7- Rockin' Riverside Summer**  
**Aug. 16..... Concert Series** (feat. Rowan Grace 6/7,  
Wild Blue 6/21, Ivory 7/5, Brandon Jones 7/19,  
Andy Babb & The Big Beautiful Band 8/9,  
Noise in the Barn 8/16)

**June 27-29.. Main St. Arts & Crafts Festival**  
**July 4..... Fourth of July/Duck Race**  
**Sept. 11..... 9/11 Grand Stair**  
**Climb Challenge**

**Oct. 5..... Oktoberfest**

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## Evans Plunge Mineral Springs—The Original Black Hills Tourist Destination

For thousands of years, the valley of healing waters, called “wiwila kata” by the Lakota (meaning warm springs), was held sacred and prized for the warm spring-fed river.

Wagons ho to 1890, over a quarter century before four presidents’ faces were carved on Mt. Rushmore, Fred Evans built the first structure over numerous small, sparkling springs and one mammoth spring of mineral water that made up the first Evans Plunge. These springs continue to flow at a rate of 5,000 gallons per minute and refresh the entire pool every one and a half hours. The warm mineral springs of Evans Plunge were seen as therapeutic and quickly made the community of Hot Springs a must-visit tourist destination.

Fast-forward to present-day, the springs at Evans Plunge Mineral Springs have seen two new structures take the place of the original 1890 building, with the most current building being built in the 1970s. Purchased from private ownership by the City of Hot Springs in 2013, Evans Plunge continues to provide visitors and residents of the area the opportunity to swim, splash and soak in the natural, warm, soothing waters.

Our 500,000 gallon indoor pool measures 200 x 50 feet and has two kids’ pools, a kid’s “Frog Slide”, “Jet Slide” and “Whale Slide”. There are areas for volleyball, basketball, and lap swimming. For those who like to swing like Tarzan there are the “rings” that in succession cross from one side of the pool to the other, a challenge not to be taken lightly.

Our seasonal outdoor pool has a “Tower Slide” and a chairlift for ADA accessibility. Two hot tubs, a sauna and steam room comprise our Health Club which is adjacent to the indoor pool. Upstairs health and wellness opportunities continue with cardio, spinning and weight rooms. There is something for everyone at Evans Plunge Mineral Springs.

The “Overlook” is a great location for non-swimmers to view the action while sipping a cool drink from our Snack Bar. Evans Plunge houses a gift shop next to the Snack Bar. We value our local and traveling guests, offering large group, AAA, veteran and senior rates.



# THE MAMMOTH SITE....WE DIG BIG!

Discover the world of the last Ice Age at The Mammoth Site located in Hot Springs, South Dakota about 45 minutes from Rapid City, South Dakota.

The Mammoth Site is an indoor active paleontological dig site and accredited museum.

The Mammoth Site boasts the largest concentration of mammoths in the world that have been unearthed with a count of over 60 mammoths and 87 other species.

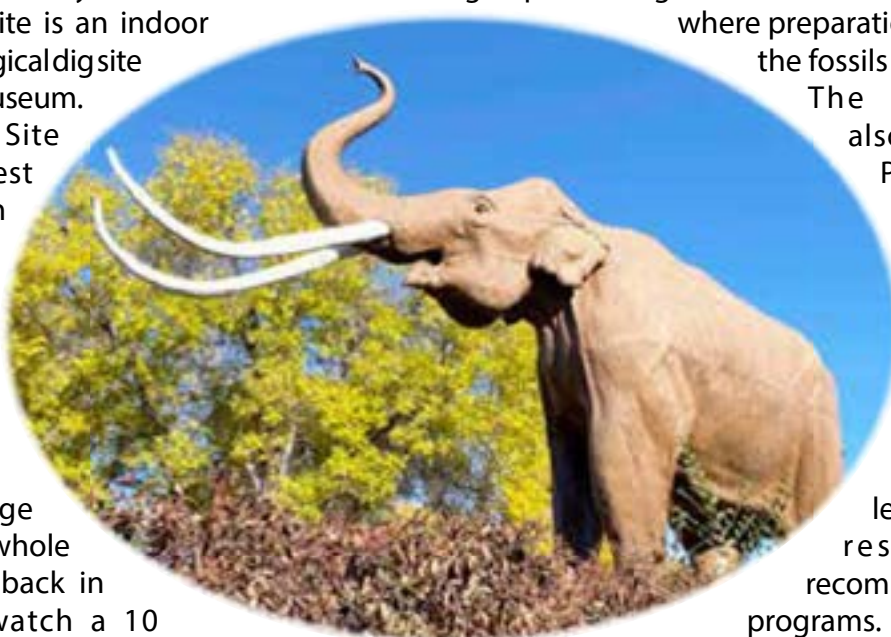
This is an Ice Age journey for the whole family traveling back in time. Visitors watch a 10 minute introductory movie in state of the art theaters followed by a self-guided tour. On the tour, visitors walk the edges of the sinkhole where Columbian and woolly mammoths and other species became trapped leaving a treasure trove of fossil remains.

After the tour, visitors are able to explore the Ice Age Exhibit Hall and travel downstairs to catch a glimpse through the windows into the laboratory where preparation and research of the fossils is conducted.

The Mammoth Site also offers Summer Programs for children, such as the Junior Paleontologist Program and the Family Dig Program that provides hands-on learning. Advanced reservations are recommended for these programs.

Allow at least an hour and half to explore this unique link to our past while making memories for the whole family.

The Mammoth Site is a 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit Organization and one of only four accredited museums in South Dakota.



**One of only Four  
Accredited Museums in  
South Dakota!**



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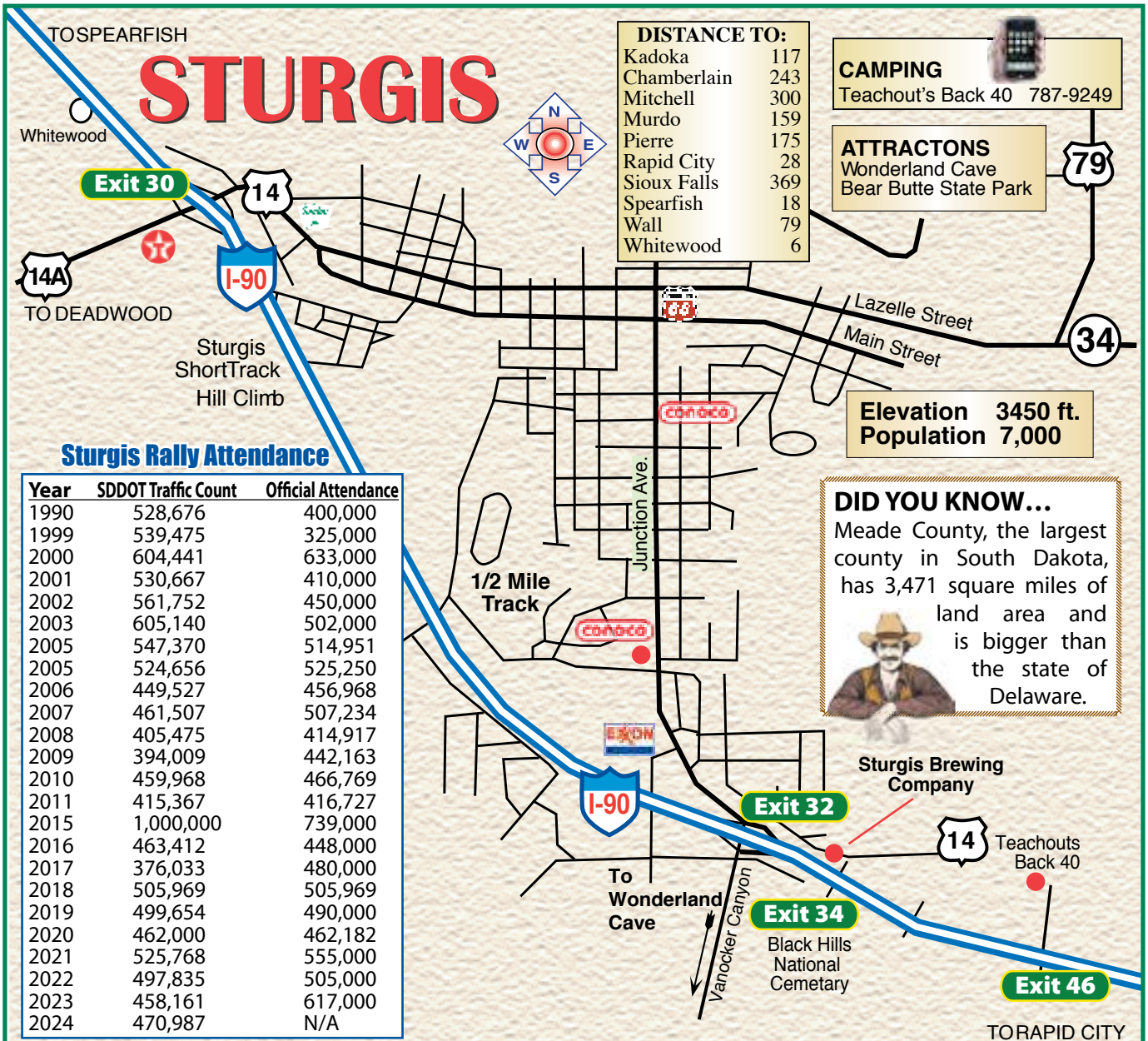
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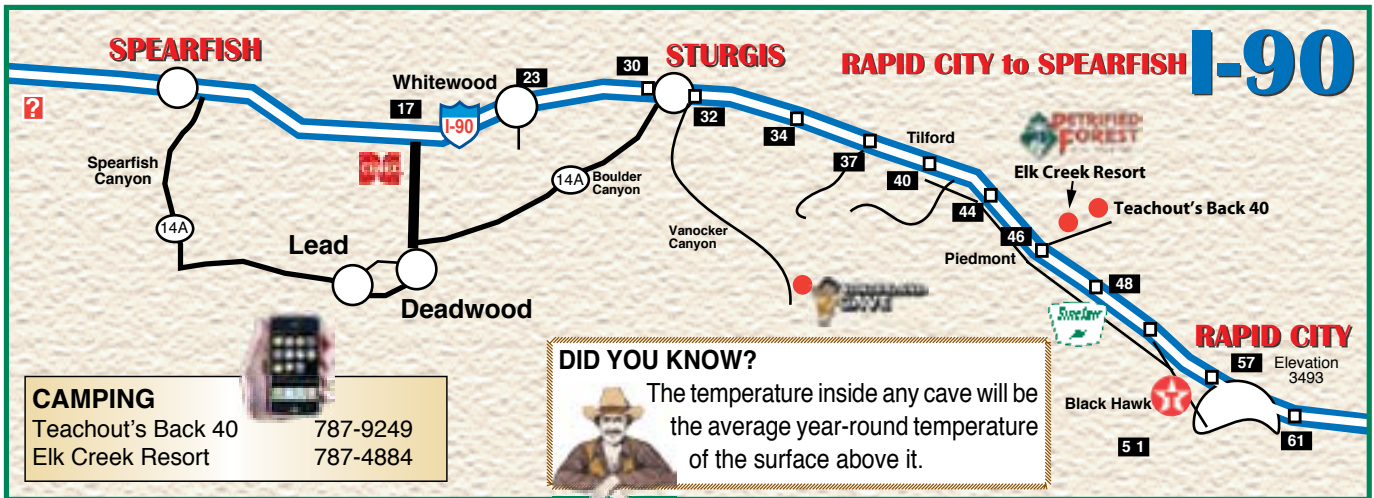
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The **Sturgis Motorcycle Rally** is an American motorcycle rally held annually in Sturgis, South Dakota, usually during the first full week of August. It began in 1938 and was originally held for stunts and races, but it has evolved into being a meeting for motorcycle enthusiasts from around the world. It brings significant income to the citizens of Sturgis, a town of only 6,627 people. It is one of the largest motorcycle rallies in the world.

The first rally was held on August 14, 1938, by the "Jackpine Gypsies" motorcycle club, who still own and operate the tracks, hill climb, and field areas where the rally is centered. The first event was called the "Black Hills Classic" and consisted of a single race with nine participants and a small audience. The founder is generally considered to be Clarence "Pappy" Hoel. He purchased an Indian Motorcycle franchise in Sturgis in 1936 and formed the "Jackpine Gypsies" that same year. The Jackpine Gypsies were inducted to the Motorcycle Hall of

Fame in 1997. Hoel was inducted into the AMA Hall of Fame the following year, in 1998.

The focus of a motorcycle rally was originally racing and stunts. In 1961, the rally was expanded to include the Hill climb and Motocross races. This could include half-mile track racing (the first year in Sturgis, there were 19 participants), intentional board wall crashes, ramp jumps and head-on collisions with automobiles.

The Sturgis Rally has been held every year, with exceptions during World War II. For instance, in 1942, the event was not held due to gasoline rationing.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

South Dakotans' own more motorcycles, per capita, than any other state...BY A LONG WAYS!

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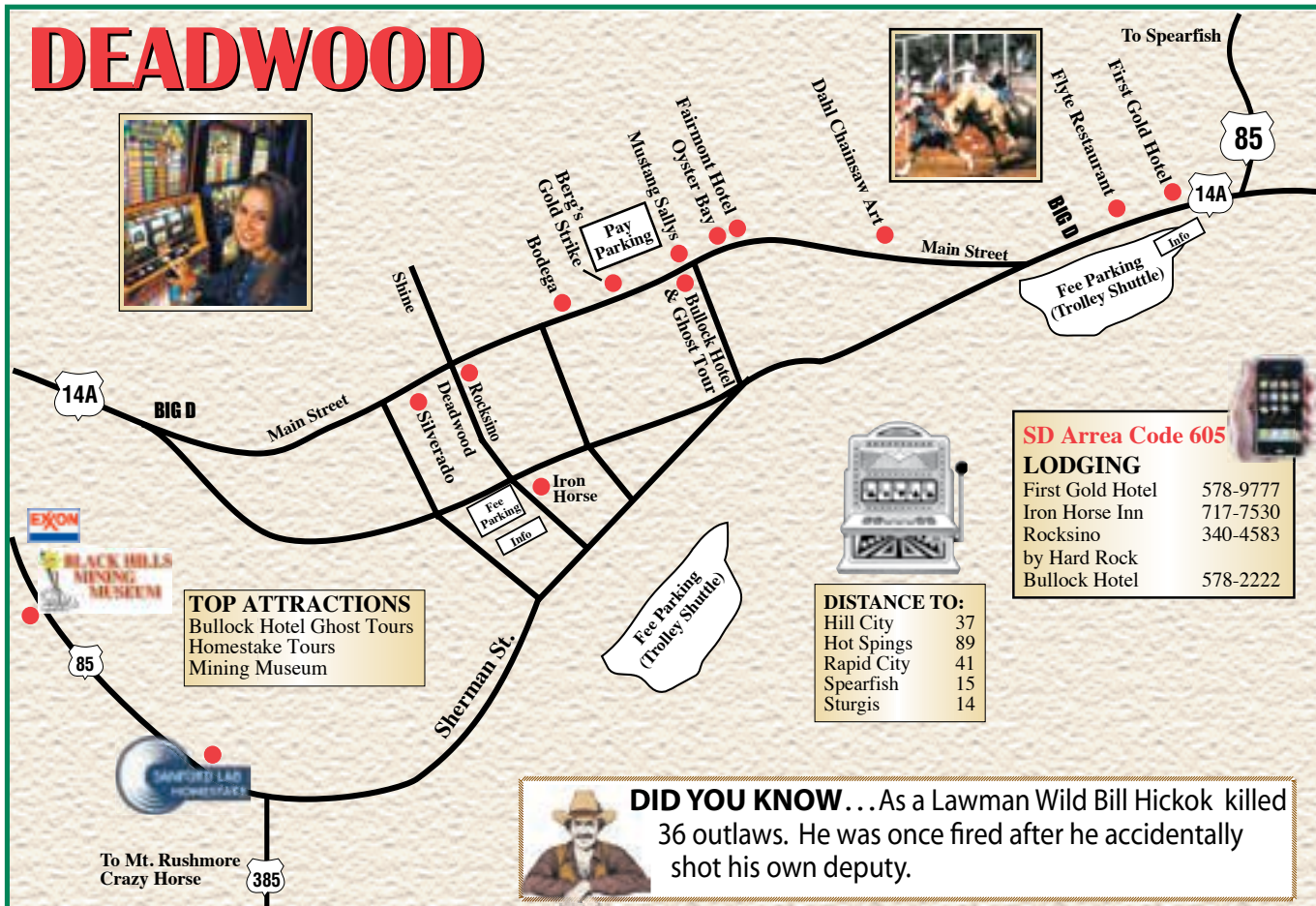
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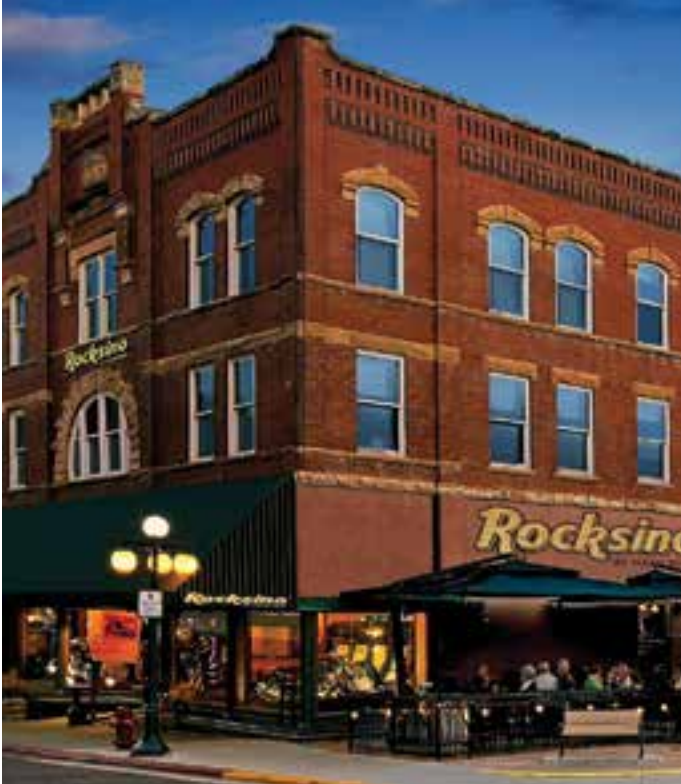



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## South Dakota Rodeos

### '25 South Dakota Rodeo Association RODEO SCHEDULE

Rodeo for Estelline, Estelline .....	June 20-21
Irene Rodeo .....	June 27-28
Pioneer Days Rodeo-Dupree.....	June 27-29
Buckhorn Rodeo-Britton.....	June 27-28
4th of July Rodeo-Ft Pierre.....	July 3-4
Wessington Springs Foothills Rodeo.....	July 4-5
White River Frontier Days Rodeo .....	July 11-13
Boss Cowman Rodeo-Lemmon.....	July TBA
Hermosa Rodeo-Hermosa.....	July TBA
Charles Mix Rodeo .....	July 19-20
Campbell County Rodeo-Herried.....	July TBA
Winner Elks Rodeo-Winner .....	July 25-27
Timber Lake Days of 1910 .....	July 26-27
Isabel Rodeo and Celebration.....	August 1-3
Perkins Country Rodeo- Bison, SD .....	August 2-3
Faith Stock Show & Rodeo .....	August TBA
Scottie Rodeo, Scotland .....	August 9-10
Bennett County Fair & Rodeo.....	August 30-31
Wagner Labor Day Rodeo .....	August 30-31
Buffalo Labor Day Rodeo.....	Sept TBA
Oelrichs Rodeo .....	Sept TBA
<b>SDRA FINALS- Huron.....</b>	<b>Sept 19-21</b>
<b>www.sd rodeo.com</b>	

### '25 South Dakota PRCA RODEO SCHEDULE

Back When They Bucked, Deadwood, SD	<b>May 25</b>
Casey Tibbs Match of Champions	<b>June 7</b>
Crystal Springs Rodeo, Clear Lake, SD	<b>June 26-27</b>
Kadoka Buffalo Stampede, Kadoka, SD	<b>June 27-28</b>
Black Hills Roundup	<b>July 2-5</b>
Breakaway Roping, Belle Fourche, SD	<b>July 2-4</b>
Sitting Bull Stampede Rodeo, Mobridge, SD	<b>July 10-12</b>
Wall Celebration, Wall, SD	<b>July 17-20</b>
Corn Palace Stampede Rodeo, Mitchell, SD	<b>July 18-20</b>
Burke Stampede Rodeo, Burke, SD	<b>July 20-26</b>
Deadwood Days Of '76 Rodeo, Deadwood, SD	<b>August 11-12</b>
Dacotah Stampede Rodeo, Aberdeen, SD	<b>August 19-21</b>
Range Days Rodeo, Rapid City, SD	<b>August 23-24</b>
Interior Frontier Days, Interior, SD	<b>www.prorodeo.com</b>



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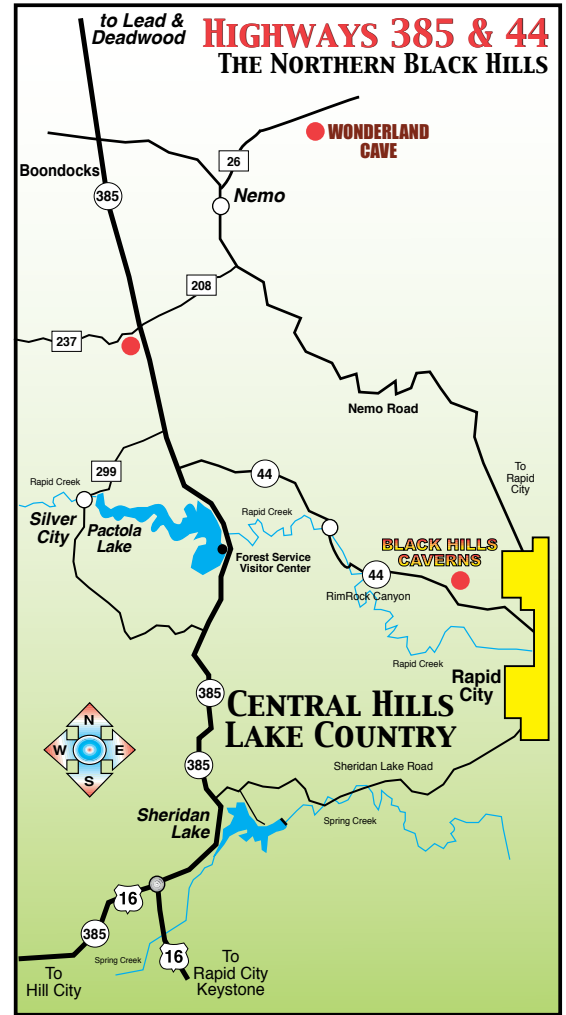
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# James Butler Hickok...

was an individualist, a ruggedly handsome man, a superb horseman, and an excellent marksman who could shoot from the hip with deadly accuracy. it rich.

## Deadwood Days

Hired as sheriff of Abilene, Kansas, he was diligent in his efforts to bring law and order to this western cow town until he accidentally shot and killed his deputy while routing a gang of ruffians. He was remorseful over this event and spent the remainder of his term in office at the poker tables in the Alamo Saloon. Concerned citizens questioned the propriety of their poker-playing peace officer, and public opinion eventually forced him to move on.

W.F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody talked Wild Bill into joining his Wild West Show, playing none other than Wild Bill Hickok. The show headed east in 1874. Wild Bill was a star attraction. As an actor he was a dismal failure—the victim of stage fright and failing eyesight. He was unaccustomed to big cities and did not adjust well to life on the road. His acting career ended in Philadelphia. Frustrated and blinded by stage lights, he fired a volley of blanks into the orchestra. Cody was forced to let him go.

The discovery of gold in the Black Hills of Dakota Territory presented new opportunities. Wild Bill and his good friend, C.H. "Colorado Charlie" Utter arrived in Deadwood Gulch in June of 1876 and staked out claims. Some say he expected to become marshall in yet another lawless frontier town. Others insist that failing eyesight caused him to seek refuge and anonymity in the Black Hills. Perhaps he, like thousands of others who joined the Gold Rush of '76, simply hoped to strike

During the short time he lived in the Black Hills, he became a familiar figure in Deadwood saloons and card parlors. He is remembered as an impeccably dressed gentleman who always sat with his back to the wall and poured drinks with his left hand, keeping his right hand free for action.

On the afternoon of August 2, 1876, Wild Bill joined a poker game in a Deadwood saloon. Contrary to his usual practice, he sat with his back to the door and took the seat only after being chided and cajoled by his friends. While the game was in progress, Jack McCall entered the saloon and shot Wild Bill in the back of the head with a .45 pistol. Wild Bill died instantly. His body slumped over the table; the cards fell to the floor. The combination of black aces and black eights became known as the Deadman's Hand.

The body of Wild Bill Hickok was buried in Mt. Moriah Cemetery overlooking the city, but the legend lives on, immortalized in the hearts of Deadwood citizens and vividly recreated by historians and fictional writers as well. The original wooden headstone, painstakingly inscribed by his good friend "Colorado Charlie," has long since disappeared, carried away in bits and pieces by those seeking, in some manner, to become a part of the legend. "Pard, we will meet again in the happy hunting ground to part no more"

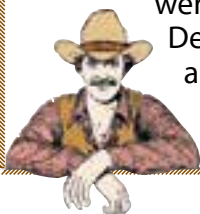
*C.H. Utter*



### DID YOU KNOW...

By the time of the Black Hills rush, the Chinese were a fact of life in western mining. When the strikes were made at Deadwood, it was almost a certainty that the Chinese would show up, and they did.

Chinatown in Deadwood grew up at what is now the lower end of Main Street. The town's Chinese did some placer mining, but most were involved in other work. Chinese laundries, restaurants and Imporium were common and there were Chinese bordellos. There were opium dens, but not where Deadwood's later generations told the tourists they were located farther up Main Street. To a considerable extent, the Chinese brought their own culture to Deadwood, but they were never really welcome. Current archaeology digs in the Chinese section of Deadwood are expanding our understanding of their presents.





## Bullock Hotel Ghost Tour...

Many believe that Deadwood's first sheriff, Seth Bullock, still haunts the streets of town, particularly inside the Bullock Hotel that he built and opened in 1895.

Apparently Seth's ghost wants to ensure that the staff is working hard, as paranormal events tend to increase when staff members stand idle, whistle or hum a tune. Sometimes items are inexplicably moved by unseen hands, and showers turn on, seemingly, of their own accord. These strange occurrences have happened according to both staff and guests, especially reports of a strong paranormal presence in the hallways of the second and third floors.

At the hotel's front desk an old podium contains two books outlining countless stories of visitors paranormal experiences at the Bullock, while many photos capture orbs, faces and apparitions.

Many famous paranormal investigations have occurred here over the years. Other frequently occurring ghostly activities include moving objects, televisions activating, voices, shoulder taps and smells of perfume and cigar smoke.

No visit to Deadwood is complete without a ghost tour of the historic Bullock Hotel.



# SETH BULLOCK...

Stories about gun-play in Deadwood have created some myths about its first sheriff, Seth Bullock. Bullock deserves western legend status, but not because he was a two-gun lawman. Born in Canada, Bullock gained experience in business and law enforcement on the Montana gold rush frontier.



Bullock wrote the Montana territorial legislature's resolution requesting creation of Yellowstone National Park. When Bullock came to Deadwood in 1876, his background made him a logical choice as Lawrence County's first sheriff, but he seldom wore a pistol. Seth captured stage robbers and foiled jail breaks, but his role in law enforcement was a tiny part of the real Bullock story.

He served as a South Dakota US Marshall and was the first supervisor of the Black Hills National Forest. He played a key role in establishing America's first national monument at Devil's Tower, Wyoming. A close friend of President Theodore Roosevelt, Bullock secured funding for the construction of a water reservoir north of Belle Fourche to irrigate thousands of acres of crop land. Seth hunted and fished with T.R. and guided his sons on many summer expeditions. Roosevelt called Bullock "My ideal typical American". Bullock's stone tower memorial to his friend still stands near Deadwood. Bullock's grave high in Mt. Moriah was so located so the Roosevelt memorial could be seen.

## MARTHA "Calamity Jane" CANARY (1850-1903)

In her short 53 years, Calamity Jane lived more than most. She worked on a bull train, performed in a wild west show, and was a prostitute of little repute—we assume because of her appearance.

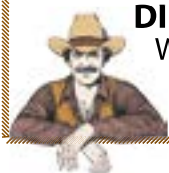


One story most historians claim to be strictly a figment of Calamity Jane's imagination was her claim to have been Wild Bill Hickok's sweetheart. His acts of charity and her willingness to nurse the sick attest to the warm, soft side of this rough and ready denizen of the Old West. In 1903, Calamity Jane died in the mining camp of Terry from a variety of ailments, chief among which was acute alcoholism. One can only wonder what the elegant and fastidious Wild Bill would have to say of Calamity Jane's dying wish—which, as you can see, was granted—to be buried next to him.

Deadwood's Methodist Church was the first church ever visited by Calamity Jane. It was her own funeral.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Wild Bill Hickok owed a \$50.00 drink tab to Saloon No. 10 at the time of his murder.



**DID YOU KNOW...** Gold is the only metal that will not oxidize, even if its buried in the ground for thousands of years.







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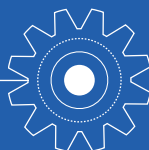
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**DID YOU KNOW...**

On a frigid Spearfish morning in 1943, the people of Spearfish were surprised by the sound of breaking window glass. People outside on the -4° day were all the more astounded for the cause of the freak accident, an unusually warm "chinook" wind, had increased the outside temperature by 59° in less than two minutes ... as recorded in the

Guinness Book of World Records.



**SPEARFISH REC & AQUATICS CENTER...** If you're looking to cool off in the summer heat, perfect your 3-point shot or improve your fitness level then the Spearfish Rec & Aquatics Center is the place for you! Opening in 2008, the City of Spearfish transformed an empty 71,000 square-foot box store into a state of the art recreation center and seasonal water park. The outdoor water park is open noon to 7:00 p.m., Memorial Day through Labor Day, and has something for all ages and swimming abilities including a baby pool, lap pool, deep pool and lazy river. The SRAC water park play features include a splash pad, a climbing wall, an adventure walk and three twisting water slides. The pool deck offers ample space for sun and shade! Inside the recreation center you can enjoy the two-court gymnasium lined for basketball, volleyball, tennis and indoor soccer or use the three-lane suspended walking track.

The SRAC offers a full cardio center with treadmills, ellipticals, ascent trainers, bicycles and more. In addition, the center has a full strength training room equipped with selectorized strength machines, free weights, squat racks and an alternative body weight training system utilizing TRX bands. Want more? Take a swing in the batting cages, play pickleball, join us for a roller skating party or for one of our many community, youth and family events. We can help you host your birthday party, family gathering, business meeting or sports tournament. The list goes on...so check us out because the Spearfish Rec & Aquatics Center is the place for fitness and fun! Visit us on the web at [SpearfishRecCenter.com](http://SpearfishRecCenter.com) or in person at 122 Recreation Lane, Spearfish.

For more information please call the SRAC at 605-722-1430.

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- **WALK THE NATURE TRAILS**
- **VISIT THE POND SHOP - UNIQUE GIFTS!**

*Established in 1896, D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives, formerly Spearfish National Fish Hatchery, is one of the oldest operating hatcheries in the country dedicated to fish culture and resource management.*

**South on Canyon St. • Spearfish**  
**[dcboothfishhatchery.org](http://dcboothfishhatchery.org)**

**The D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery** was constructed to propagate, stock, and establish trout populations in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming. After a very successful fish production history, the Hatchery ceased operations in the mid-80's and reopened with a new mission and partnerships to help preserve the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's historic and cultural heritage. The Hatchery is named after its first Superintendent.

Admission to the Hatchery grounds is always free. Visitors are welcome to stroll the hatchery grounds from dawn to dusk any day of the week, 365 days a year. However, the Pond Gift Shop, National Fish Hatchery Museum, Railcar, and Booth House are open during the summer season June, July and August, 9am to 6pm. May and September have limited hours. Stop by for great interpretive tours from our volunteers!

Please note: Because the Hatchery's attractions operate with the help of local and traveling volunteers, hours may vary or be shortened without notice.

**The Fish** - Visitors can get up close and personal with Cutthroat, Brown and Rainbow trout by feeding them from above or watching them through the underwater

viewing windows. Visitors can feed the fish 365 days a year, as the grounds are open from dawn to dusk.

**The Museum** - The National Fish Hatchery Museum was created to preserve the vibrant history and rich heritage of the American fisheries workers. The US Fish and Wildlife Service collects and preserves the historic objects from hatcheries throughout the country making them accessible to researchers and the public. In addition to collecting artifacts, interpretation of the history and technology of fish culture will enrich the experience of the greater community. By utilizing the museum collection, we hope to increase the awareness of the various roles and the inestimable value of fish culture and fisheries in everyday life.

**The Grounds** - Spanning 10 acres, the entire hatchery site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Ponds, rock walls, water systems and buildings contribute to the site's historic significance. Although many alterations have been made on the site over the years, each change tells a story about hatchery operations.

Two life size bronze sculptures can be seen on the hatchery grounds. The Spring Stocking Pond sculpture depicts the lives

of early fisheries workers. The Generations sculpture showcases the important role that fishing plays in American tradition and culture today. The bronze was completed in 1996 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the hatchery.

Two hiking trails outline the boundaries of the hatchery site. The trails offer scenic overlooks of the grounds and take you to historic sites such as the mort pit.

The Pond Gift Shop offers fishfood, nature and history books, nature and wildlife toys, gifts, and hatchery souvenirs. Visit the Shop for information about area attractions and the history of the hatchery.

**The Fisheries Railcar #3** - A replica of a Fish Railcar is available on the grounds showing and telling the story of transporting fish across the country from 1870s to the 1930s.



### TRAVELER'S COUPON

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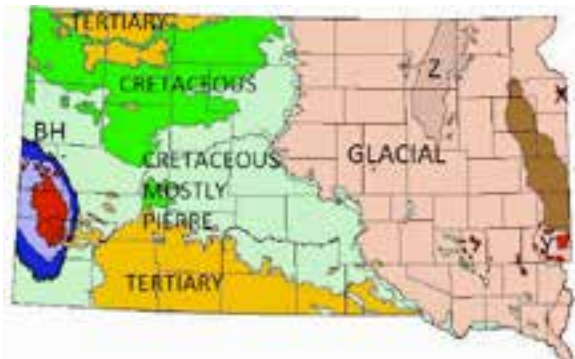
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One per coupon)



## THINGS THAT ROCK IN SOUTH DAKOTA . . . A GEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY PARADISE!

Imagine a solid wall of ice stretching a mile above your head and miles into the distance on all sides. As this last of the great glaciers receded (ever so slowly) about 10,000 years ago, it formed the "Mighty Missouri" River and divided what is now called "South Dakota" into two distinct parts. A drive through the state passes through the wet farmlands of the east, where crops like corn and soybeans are plentiful. In the arid rolling hills of the west, cattle graze where millions of bison once roamed. The locals divide the state geographically, even culturally into "East River" and "West River" and the geographic differences couldn't be more profound AND visible to the visitor's eye.



Scientists have variously described the Black Hills as "the oldest mountain range on the continent," "a mountain range, separate and distinct," or "containing the highest point between the Rockies and the Pyrenees." Dr. Jack Redden, the geologist who mapped the entire Black Hills for the USGS Geologic Map of the Black Hills, characterized it as "a geological dome on the front range of the Rockies." Regardless, over eons of time, winds and water have eroded the Hills . . . from the high rugged spires of the center stretching out to the Badlands and prairies of the High Plains . . . exposing multiple layers to create a great museum of geological time.

The Black Hills has also been said to contain "the richest 100 square miles on Earth." Rock hounds come to the area to explore or stake mining claims on more than 250 species of minerals and precious metals! Starting with the Gold Rush in 1874 and over the next 125 years, miners hauled more than 41 million ounces of gold and 9 million ounces of silver from the Homestake Gold Mine in Lead. During its operation it was the largest and deepest gold mine in the western hemisphere. Rugged geological outcroppings, myriad mineral deposits and rock beds can be found throughout area. Quartz, copper, silver, lead, mica, feldspar and numerous other minerals glitter along the roadside in beautiful and fascinating natural formations.

Loosely translated in white culture as "Black Hills," this ancient mountain range, called "Pahá Sapa" by the Lakota people who consider it sacred land, was formed in sedimentary layers in an inland sea some 65 million years ago. Dinosaurs roamed until molten granite intrusions forced their way upward to form the peaks at the center of what is now the Black Hills. Volcanic activity forced the layers of the earth upward and outward. With time and erosion they formed concentric geological circles that, when viewed from above, resemble an oblong target with distinct rings. Consequently, and very simply described, granite is found at the core, surrounded by rings of limestone and shale. In the aftermath of this great upheaval, dinosaurs were fossilized and

wood was petrified in the outermost ring of sandstone.

The center of the Hills is home to Custer State Park, the man made wonders of Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorial, and Mother Nature's grand spires of Sylvan Lake and the Needles Highway. A drive through the Hills from this center to towns like Spearfish and Hot Springs on the outer edges offer a full array of colors and landscapes . . . from deep and more lush green of the forests, through grays and deep reds of the inner circles of shale to the pale beige of the more rocky and dry sandstone cliffs.

South Dakota is a favorite among paleontologists who hunt for ancient bones and other traces of long-dead creatures. Both professionals and amateurs have made truly amazing discoveries in the state. From 1993-2008 scientists were at work at an active site called the "Big Pig Dig" in Badlands National Park. Excavation began after two visitors found a large backbone sticking out of the ground near the Conata Picnic Area. During that period, 15,000 fossils and ancient bones were found at the site.

The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, SD is also an active paleontological dig site, boasting the largest concentration of mammoth remains in the world! Discovered by chance in 1974 during excavations for a housing development, earth-moving equipment exposed South Dakota's greatest fossil treasure. The Site now has the world's largest Columbian mammoth exhibit and is a world-renowned research center for studies about the "Ice Age."

In 1990, scientists from the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research in Hill City discovered "Sue" on a ranch near Faith. She is the largest, most extensive and best preserved Tyrannosaurus Rex skeleton ever found! Her story is immortalized in the book *Rex Appeal* and in the Academy award-winning documentary, *Dinosaur 13*.

The Black Hills has some of the world's longest caves and caverns . . . Jewel Cave being the third and Wind Cave being the sixth . . . both of which are designated as national parks. Others include Black Hills Caverns outside of Rapid City, Rushmore Cave close to the monument and Wonderland Cave near Sturgis. These underground attractions offer views of rare and distinct geological formations, as well as hundreds of miles of passageways below the surface. Tours are offered at all of them.

Although they are engaging and entertaining, tales of gunslingers and gold miners just can't measure up to the infinite beauty and variety of the Black Hills. To imagine that molten magma was thrust through the earth's crust to solidify and become these mountains is humbling and awe-inspiring. One only has to see the geological wonders here to understand that human presence on earth is but one small dot on the her timeline. You many even be awed by the fact that we are here at all!

(NOTE: Admission to some of these sites, or parts of them, are free and others charge fees. Please check the individual sites regarding admission policies.)

### DID YOU KNOW...



The Black Hills were already millions of years old when the Rocky Mountains were formed.



# GOING FOR THE GREENS ... GOLFING IN THE BLACK HILLS

Imagine, a good lie on the fairway, about ten yards from the pin, an easy chip shot, maybe an 8 iron, no make it a 9, and your perfect shot arcs up and ... stops dead in the ... SAND! It's not a trap, it's the "green." Golf has been a popular sport in the Black Hills for many years, reaching back to the days of sand-greens. Today there are choices galore of professionally designed vivid green-greens, surrounded by lush pine forests. The sand is back on the beaches (or hazards) where it belongs!

The golfer can choose from a variety of twenty-six courses (more if you include miniature golf!) that are ... municipal, private club, in the boondocks and in the middle of town ... 9 hole and 18 hole ... all of them set in the beauty of the Black Hills.

Generations of locals and tourists have found it convenient to divide the Black Hills into the "Northern Hills" and "Southern Hills," characterized by changes in the terrain and vegetation, as well as geography. In the Northern Hills you'll find more courses surrounded by pine forest, interrupted here and there by stately stands of Black Hills spruce. In the Southern Hills you'll see more rocky outcroppings around the courses, in addition to the Ponderosa pines. Rapid City courses have more deciduous vegetation. Using it as a central starting point, you'll find golf courses in every direction. Here's a handy run down with the number of holes and phone numbers noted!



## IF YOU REALLY WANT TO STRETCH YOUR TEE SHOTS ...

### RAPID CITY OFFERS A VARIETY OF GREENS RIGHT IN TOWN ...

Hart Ranch Golf Course (18) South of town .....	605-341-5703
Arrowhead Country Club (18) .....	605-342-6389
Meadowbrook Golf Course (18) .....	605-394-4491
Rapid City Elks Golf Course (18) .....	605-393-0522
Rapid City Executive Golf Course (9) .....	605-394-4124
Fountain Springs Golf Course (9) .....	605-342-4653
La Croix Links (9) .....	605-394-5325

### COURSES VERY CLOSE TO RAPID CITY INCLUDE ...

Golf Club at Red Rock (18) West of town.....	605-718-4710
Prairie Ridge Golf Course (9) Ellsworth AFB .....	605-923-4999

### IN THE NORTHERN HILLS YOU'LL FIND ...

Newell Golf Club (9) .....	605-456-2195
Belle Fourche Country Club (9) .....	605-892-3472
Elkhorn Ridge Country Club in Spearfish (18) .....	605-722-4653
Spearfish Canyon Country Club (18) .....	605-717-4653
Lead Country Club (9) .....	605-584-1852
Tomahawk Country Club in Deadwood (9) .....	605-578-2080
Boulder Canyon Country Club Between Sturgis and Deadwood (9) .....	605-347-5108

### SOUTHERN HILLS GOLFING OPPORTUNITIES ARE AT ...

Rocky Knolls Golf Course in Custer (9) .....	605-673-4481
Southern Hills Golf Course In Hot Springs (18) .....	605-745-6400
Ridgeview Country Club in Chadron, NE (9) .....	605-432-4468
Legends Butte Golf Course in Crawford (9) .....	308-665-2431

(NOTE: Information is collected from course websites. Please call the course directly for information about admission policies, hours and green fees.)

If you like to day-trips there are a couple of options. It's not really in the Black Hills, but if you head north about 120 miles you'll find the **Buffalo Golf Course (9)**(605-375-3313) in Buffalo. Or head east toward the Badlands, but is there golf there? Yes, at the **Wall Community Golf Course (9)** in Wall (605-279-4653), home of the famous Wall Drug Store, about 50 miles east of Rapid City.

The Black Hills spread into Wyoming and so do the golfing opportunities. A straight shot west over the border from Custer will take you to the **Newcastle Country Club (9)**(307-746-2639). There's also the **Golf Club at Devil's Tower** in Hulett **(18)**(307-467-5773), **Cedar Pines Golf Course** in Upton **(9)**(307-468-2847) and the **Sundance Country Club (9)** (307-283-1191) in ... where else? ... Sundance. Sorry, Robert Redford doesn't live there, but that's where "The Sundance Kid" got his name.

Occasionally you might hear a discouraging word, but if you're a golfer, be sure to bring your clubs and join in ... you might even see the deer and the antelope play. Hey ... it could happen!



### On the Lighter Side of the Green...Mini-Golf!

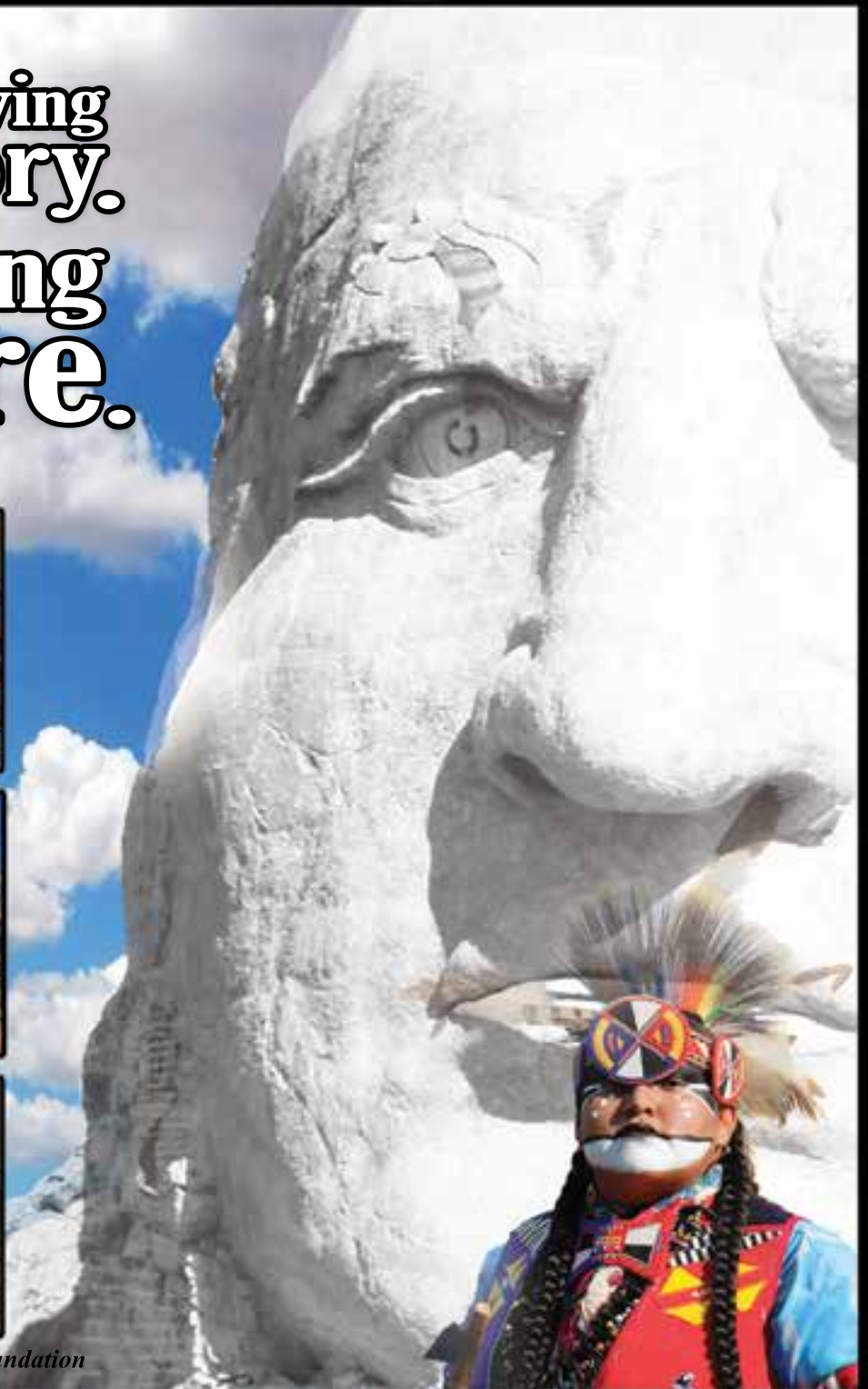
Deadwood Mini Golf, Deadwood.....	605-578-3386
Pirates Cove, Rapid City .....	605-343-8540
Holy Terror Mini Golf, Keystone.....	605-666-5170
Putz n Glo, Hwy 16 .....	605-716-1230



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