

South Dakota

TRAVEL GUIDE



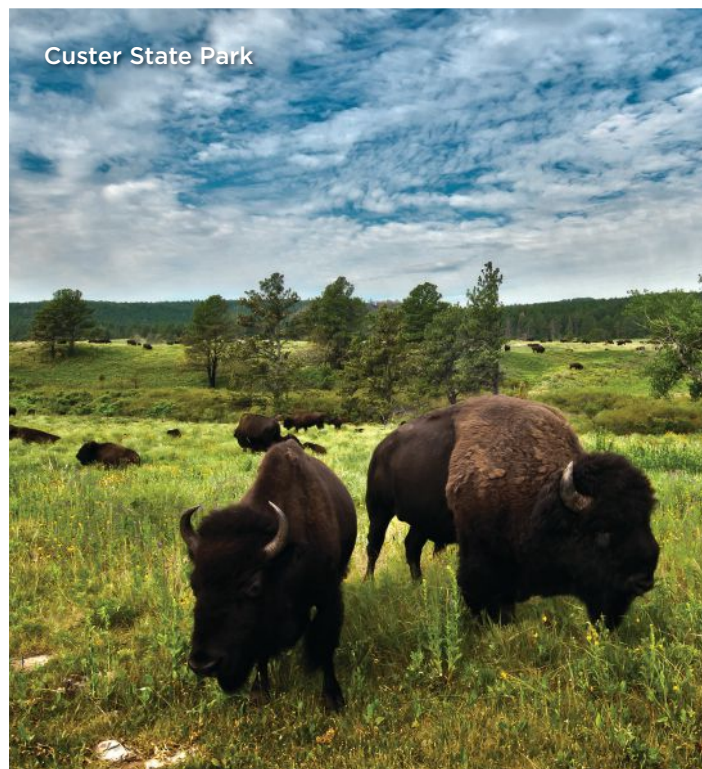


Mount Rushmore National Memorial

welcome

TO SOUTH DAKOTA

Travel to South Dakota for monumental moments, hidden gems, and once-in-a-lifetime experiences at some of the nation's most breathtaking attractions. Explore the state's "Great 8"—the colossal carvings, caves, and spectacular landscapes that put South Dakota on the map—or discover the little-known towns and quaint hideouts tucked off the beaten path. Step back in time and explore dinosaur fossil sites, relive Wild West history, and celebrate the Native American culture that still permeates the state today. From our national and state parks to our history and heritage, South Dakota is the home of Great Faces and Great Places. We are thrilled to welcome you for a visit.





Cover Photo Credit: Jonas Lampens (Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway).

For more information and travel inspiration, visit TravelSouthDakota.com

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Falls Park

getting to SOUTH DAKOTA

Sunflower field



AIR TRAVEL

With airports all across the state and daily inbound flights from nearly a dozen gateway cities, access to South Dakota has never been so easy. Take advantage of Wi-Fi, restaurants, and shops as well as onsite rental cars.

DIRECT FLIGHTS TO SOUTH DAKOTA

Atlanta, Georgia

(ATL—Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport)

Chicago, Illinois

(CHI—O’Hare International Airport)

Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas

(DFW—Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport)

Denver, Colorado

(DEN—Denver International Airport)

Houston, Texas

(IAH—Houston George Bush Intercontinental Airport)

Las Vegas, Nevada

(LAS—McCarran International Airport)

Minneapolis, Minnesota

(MSP—Minneapolis/Saint Paul International Airport)

Orlando, Florida

(SFB—Orlando Sanford International Airport)

Phoenix-Mesa, Arizona

(AZA—Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport and PHX—Sky Harbor International Airport)

Salt Lake City, Utah

(SLC—Salt Lake City International Airport)

Tampa Bay-St. Petersburg, Florida

(PIE—St. Pete/Clearwater International Airport)



GETTING AROUND

Explore South Dakota on Interstate highways or beautiful backcountry byways. I-90 traverses the state east to west while I-29 runs north to south. Travel scenic highways that span prairies, cut through quiet river bottoms and lure travelers to fragrant pine forests.

Discover eight places that put South Dakota on the map at travelsouthdakota.com.



ROAD CONDITIONS

safetravelusa.com/sd

In state: Dial 511

Out of state:
Dial 1-866-697-3511



WELCOME CENTERS

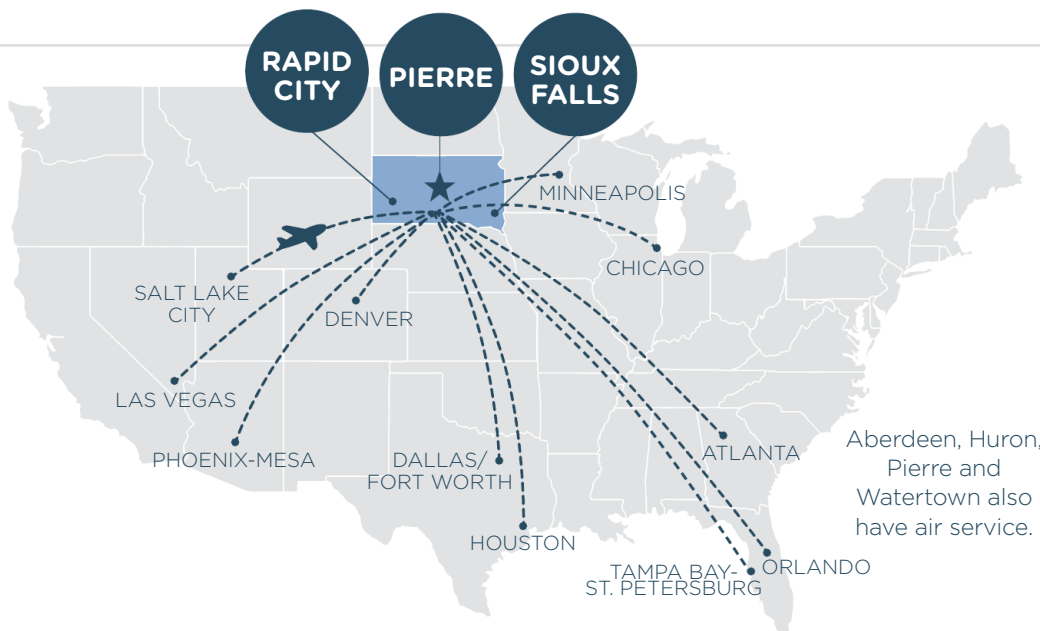
Get travel publications and information at Welcome Centers across the state.

Did You Know?



- The Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is one of the largest motorcycle gatherings in the world.
- South Dakota celebrates heritage tourism with dude ranches, farm tours, powwows and herds of bison stretching across the prairie.
- The National Music Museum in Vermillion features more than 15,000 instruments.

Badlands National Park





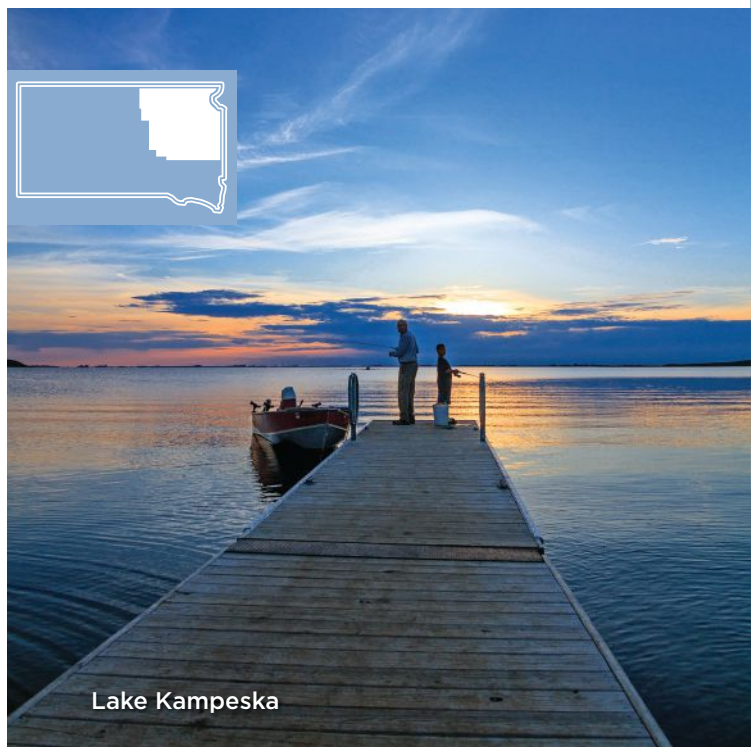
Regions

Pactola Lake

BLACK HILLS BADLANDS REGION

The western region represents a mecca of national monuments, amazing outdoor scenery and adventure, and rich Native American and Western history. The faces carved in the Black Hills granite that make up Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Crazy Horse Memorial will take your breath away.

Natural wonders like the caverns of Wind Cave National Park, the view at Badlands National Park, and scenic drives through Custer State Park inhabit the more than five million acres spanning through 12 national/state parks.



Lake Kampeska



Needles Highway

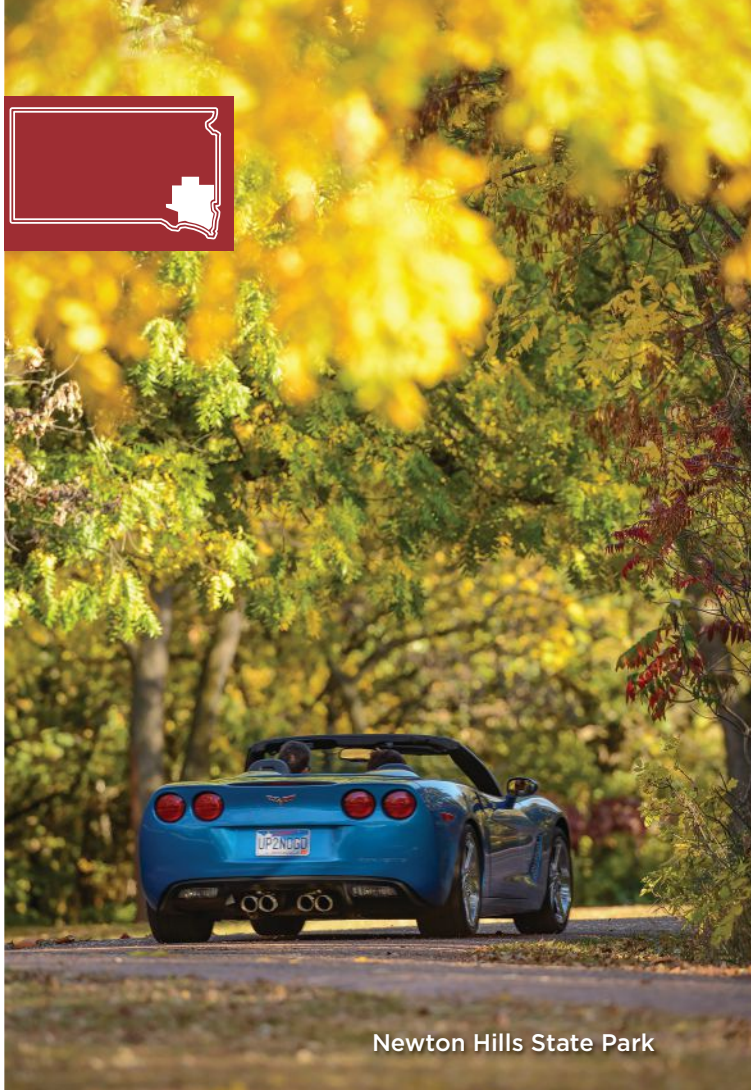
GLACIAL LAKES & PRAIRIES REGION

This northeastern region was formed by glaciers receding to the north more than 20,000 years ago. It is home to Storybook Land, where you can play amongst the cast of characters in Aberdeen, or step back in time in De Smet, where you can experience Laura Ingalls Wilder's homestead. If the outdoors are calling your name, take to one of the many trails through the region by hiking, riding an ATV, or snowmobiling. Throughout the region, rich history and breathtaking scenery can be explored.

MISSOURI RIVER REGION

The centrally located region is home to the state capital in Pierre and rich in history and outdoor adventure. Explore the history of the banks of the Missouri River. Visit historical Fort Pierre, where landmarks detail Lewis & Clark's expedition down the river. Continue your journey on the river's edge down the Native American Byway where a Native American cultural experience will be revealed as you journey through the Lakota Nation.

Missouri River



Newton Hills State Park

SOUTHEAST REGION

Outdoor adventure can be found in the southeast region. The Falls of the Big Sioux River, the Lewis & Clark Trail along the Missouri River, and 175 natural and man-made lakes make this region home to some of the best birdwatching and outdoor recreation in the state.



Black Hills National Forest



National Parks, Monuments and Memorials



Jewel Cave National Monument

JEWEL & WIND CAVES

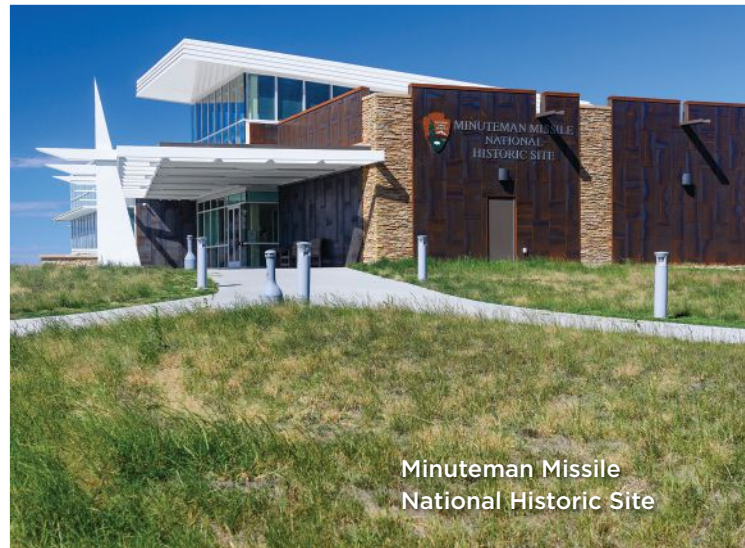
Travel into an underground oasis at Jewel Cave, the third-longest cave in the world, and Wind Cave, the sixth-longest cave in the world. With tours ranging from nature walks to wild caving adventures, Jewel Cave National Monument and nearby Wind Cave National Park feature rare subterranean specimens like unusual box work, frostwork, and popcorn formations, and stalactites, stalagmites and calcite crystals.

NEARBY CITIES Custer and Hot Springs

MINUTEMAN MISSILE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

This park hosts the once top-secret and only remaining components of the expansive nuclear missile field that was once located in southwestern South Dakota. The visitor center, Delta-09 missile silo, and tours of the Delta-01 Launch Control Facility provide a rare glimpse into the Cold War era.

NEARBY CITIES Wall and Kadoka



Minuteman Missile National Historic Site



Missouri River

MISSOURI RIVER

Bisecting South Dakota north to south, the Missouri River was a primary waterway on which early explorers, fur trappers and steamboats traversed the state. Today, tamed by giant dams, the Missouri is favored by fishermen, recreational boaters, sail boaters and jet skiers.

Explore the Lewis and Clark Information Center at Chamberlain for details on the explorers' journey through the state.

NEARBY CITIES Mobridge, Pierre, Chamberlain and Yankton



Mount Rushmore National Memorial

MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Known as “America’s Shrine of Democracy,” the 60-foot (18 m) tall faces of four great American Presidents is a tribute to the creation, expansion, preservation and development of the nation. Explore the monument in the Black Hills and visit the museum and Sculptor’s Studio to learn about the achievements and moments in history made by these four men. Explore the Presidential Trail and take in the popular evening lighting ceremony.

NEARBY CITIES Keystone, Hill City and Rapid City



Devils Tower National Monument

DEVILS TOWER NATIONAL MONUMENT

Just across the border in Wyoming, the striking beauty and sacred history of America’s first national monument draws thousands of visitors for horseback riding, exploration, and rock-climbing adventures that stretch 1,267 feet (386 m) high above the surrounding plains. Visit the Devils Tower Visitor Center to learn about the legacy of the monument and why it remains sacred to the indigenous people.

NEARBY CITIES Spearfish and Belle Fourche

BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK

With its lunar-like landscape and 244,000 acres (97,600 ha) of ragged ridgelines and sawtooth spires, this fossil-rich preserve is a world away from your regular day. Bison, bighorn sheep, pronghorn and prairie dogs inhabit the landscape, while clean air and remoteness make this a popular place for stargazing. The park’s beauty is accessible along the popular scenic drive, Badlands Loop Road, Hwy 240.

NEARBY CITIES Wall and Kadoka



Badlands National Park



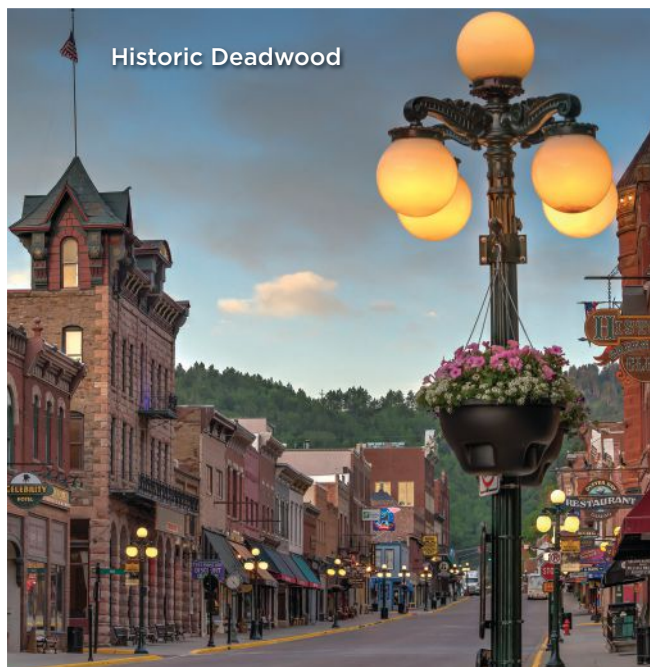
WESTERN CULTURE

Saloon #10

HISTORIC DEADWOOD

Established with the discovery of gold in 1876, Deadwood is still known today for gunpowder, gold and gambling. Walk back into the past and experience daily shoot-outs (summer) by Wild West reenactors. Stop by the new Welcome Center and also experience captivating museums, gaming halls and a historic cemetery.

DON'T MISS The Days of '76 Museum, a tribute to the town's pioneer past and cowboy heritage. Check out its impressive collection of carriages and wagons.



Historic Deadwood



De Smet

LAURA INGALLS WILDER

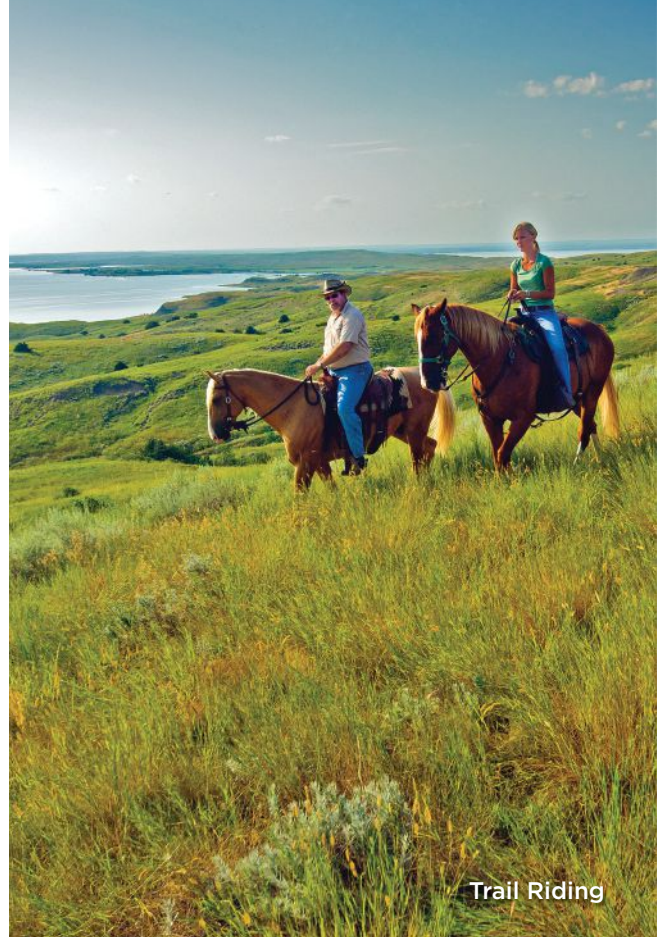
Made famous in the *Little House on the Prairie* books and TV series, De Smet celebrates the life of the Ingalls family in South Dakota. At the homestead, visitors drift back to pioneer life of the 1880s with costumed reenactors, wagon rides, one-room schools and live performances in summer.

DON'T MISS Held every year during the month of July, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant attracts visitors from around the world.

RODEOS

South Dakota's link to its cowboy roots is visible at dozens of rodeos held across the state each year. From bronc busting and barrel racing to bull riding and steer wrestling, even newbies get caught up in the excitement!

DON'T MISS The Days of '76 Rodeo each July in Deadwood, complete with historic parades and real cowboy action. In January, hit the Black Hills Stock Show and Rodeo in Rapid City.



TRAIL RIDING

Hankering for a horse, a cowboy hat and a Wild West adventure? Hit the trails and take a ride into the past. Dude ranches offer day trips to or weeklong vacations. Many offer trail rides, ATVing, hiking, mountain biking, kayaking and campfires beneath a sea of stars.

DON'T MISS Ghost Canyon Ranch, Keystone; Circle View Ranch, Badlands; Crow Creek Guest Ranch, Belle Fourche; and High Country Guest Ranch, Hill City.






OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

BIKE


Enjoy an easy ride at LaFramboise Island in Pierre or take to the Mickelson Trail in the Black Hills National Forest, named one of the top 10 bike trails in the world. Bikers of all skill levels are welcome. Bike rentals are close to most trails and guided tours can ensure you won't miss any hidden gems along the way.



Black Hills Mountain Biking

CAMP

From Newton Hills State Park in the southeast to Custer State Park in the southwest, campers are captivated by the outdoor opportunities that await them. Public and private campgrounds across the state offer everything from primitive campsites to full-service accommodations.



Lewis & Clark
Recreation Area



Sylvan Lake

PADDLE

Relax on the crystalline lakes in northeastern South Dakota. Explore the canyons waters of the Black Hills and paddle down the Missouri River where Lewis & Clark once took their famous journey. Stop in one of the local canoe and kayak rentals across the state and begin your water adventure.



LaFramboise Island, Pierre

HIKE

Hikers can find trails through pine forests and meadows in the Black Hills and Badlands as well as along eastern South Dakota rivers and lakeshores. Experience the beauty of 108 miles (174 km) of the Mickelson Trail or hike Black Elk Peak, where hikers who make it to the top are rewarded with miles of unhindered views as well as an up-close look at a historic fire lookout tower.



Mickelson Trail



Black Hills

ATV/UTV

Looking for a fast-paced way to explore the beauty of South Dakota? Rent an ATV or UTV and take advantage of the 600+ mile (966 km) Black Hills National Forest Motorized Trail System. Along the trail, stop to explore impressive rock formations, canyons, gulches, plains and lakes.



Native American Culture

DAKOTA, LAKOTA, NAKOTA

Travelers to South Dakota walk in the footsteps of nine tribes and legendary warriors like Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse. Today, their colorful history is celebrated with a myriad of special events, museums, historic sites and artwork.



Eagle Butte Powwow

POWWOWS

Nowhere is Native American pride, pageantry and culture more evident than at powwows held each summer throughout the state. Beautiful feathers, elaborate beadwork, and spirited singing, dancing, and drumming draw large crowds to popular powwows every year.

BEAR BUTTE STATE PARK

From the 1,200-foot (366 m) summit of Bear Butte, hikers can see four states. Learn more about this sacred site at the visitor center, camp at the base, or take a walk to the summit and gaze at the buffalo grazing below.



Bear Butte State Park



Dignity Sculpture

ART AND MUSEUMS

Immerse yourself in the history of the Dakota, Lakota and Nakota by visiting museums like the Journey Museum in Rapid City or the Prehistoric Indian Village in Mitchell.

CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL

This Black Hills carving pays tribute to all North American Indians and is the largest mountain carving in progress in the world. Take a trip to the top or wander through the Indian Museum of North America, nearby sculptor's home and studio, or the educational and cultural center.



Crazy Horse Memorial



Badlands National Park

South Dakota presents visitors with the opportunity to explore history and mystery, scenic byways, meandering waterways, and captivating museums. Here are a few “can’t-miss” stops for your trip:



SIoux FALLS

- The state’s largest city hosts diverse attractions, including Falls Park, Sculpture Walk, Great Plains Zoo, Outdoor Campus, and exhibitions at the Washington Pavilion.
- Check out the fun nightlife in the city’s craft breweries, wineries and restaurants.

MITCHELL

- The World’s Only Corn Palace features giant murals created from naturally colored ears of corn, as well as minarets and kiosks.
- Explore the remnants of an 1,100-year-old community at the Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village.

CHAMBERLAIN/OACOMA

- From beaches and boating to bike trails, campgrounds and waterside resorts, Chamberlain/Oacoma have been welcoming guests to the West for decades.
- The Lewis & Clark Information Center features a 55-foot (17 m) keelboat and exhibits explaining the Corps of Discovery’s journey.
- The 50-foot (15 m) Dignity sculpture represents the courage, perseverance and wisdom of the Lakota and Dakota culture.

MURDO

- Stretch your legs and view more than 275 classic cars, tractors, motorcycles and a myriad of antiques at the Pioneer Auto Show.

WALL

- At the world-famous Wall Drug Store (home of free ice water!), enjoy fabled jackalopes, singing cowboys, a western art gallery and great food.
- The Minuteman Missile National Historic Site provides a first-hand look at America’s nuclear defense during the Cold War.
- At Badlands National Park, you can see bison and bighorn sheep as you explore a beautiful world filled with steep canyons and towering spires.

RAPID CITY

- See the Journey Museum and Main Street Square before finding bronze sculptures of the nation’s presidents on nearly every street corner in the downtown area.
- From the Firehouse Brewing Co. to Prairie Edge Trading Co., this city is the gateway to the Black Hills and home to quaint shops, quality restaurants and ample lodging options.

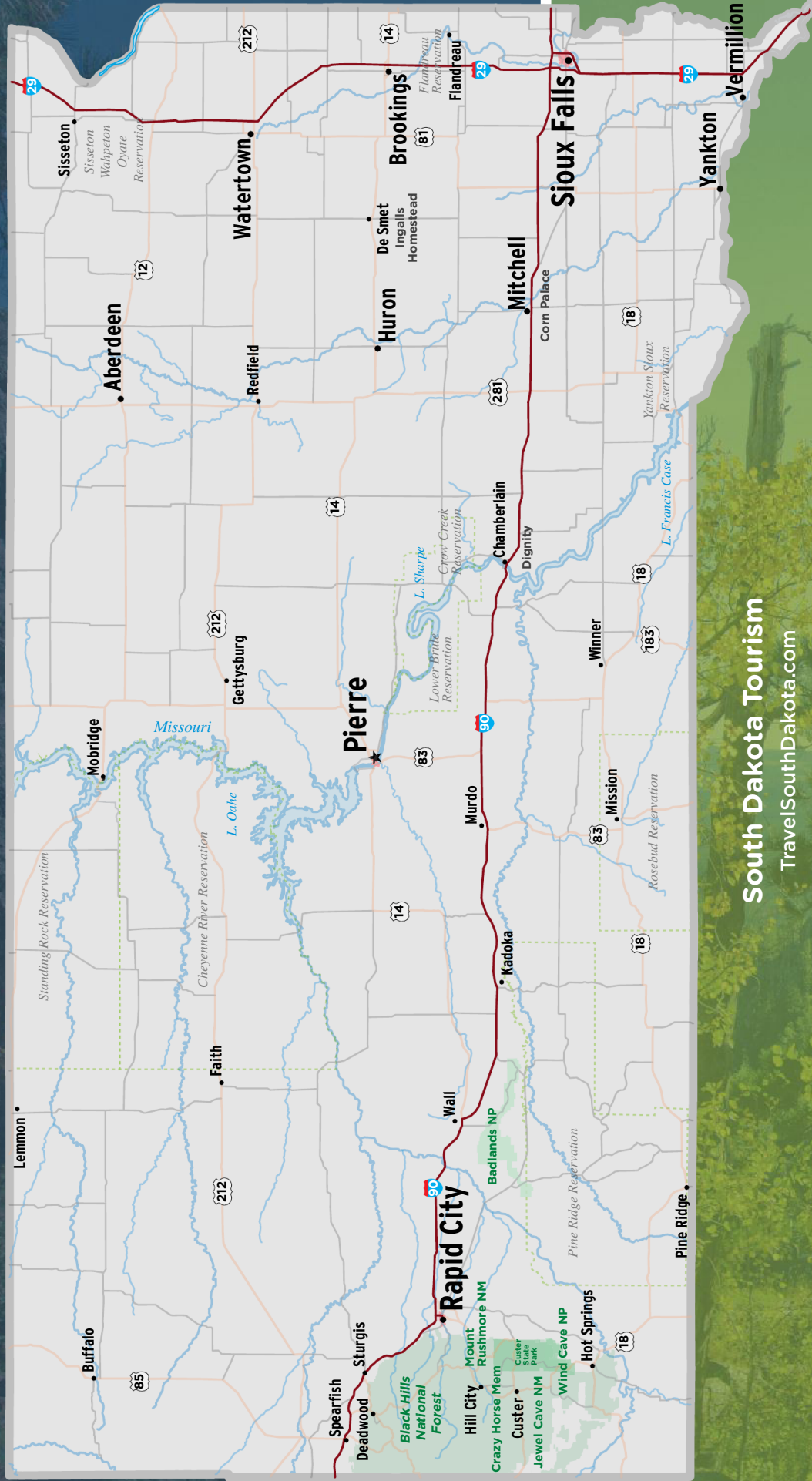
STURGIS

- During the first full week of August, this small town transforms into the mecca of motorcycling during the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

SPEARFISH

- Located at the mouth of scenic Spearfish Canyon, this university town hosts the D.C. Booth Historic Fish Hatchery, parks, gurgling streams and a vibrant downtown district.

South Dakota



South Dakota Tourism

TravelSouthDakota.com

605-773-3301