



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM
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South Dakota

Great Places
IN YOUR OWN
Backyard

SAVE YOUR Adventure Playlist

Build your itinerary on the lines below.



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NEEDLES HIGHWAY – CUSTER STATE PARK

South Dakota

Keep Exploring

Visit TravelSouthDakota.com/TravelLocal for trip ideas, hidden gems and sample itineraries. There's a big world out there in our state. Let's explore it responsibly.





Adventure isn't cancelled when you can vacation from home. Whatever your style, South Dakota has a great place for you. You only have to know where to look. Take a peek at this collection of hidden gems and build your ultimate SoDak bucket list.



In South Dakota there are places you can't explain. Places unlike anywhere you've ever been – unless you've been here. But, enough talk. Let's get to the SoDak magic!



~ NORBECK NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY // BLACK HILLS

If Gutzon Borglum's life's work is Mount Rushmore, Peter Norbeck's masterpiece is the road that gets you there. A South Dakota politician and conservationist, Peter Norbeck wandered the Black Hills backcountry on horseback, planting flags where his road would go. "I'd rather be known as an artist than a United States Senator," he once said of his work. Today the Norbeck Scenic Byway consists of four roads: SD 87 (Needles Highway), SD 89, SD 244 and US Route 16A (Iron Mountain Road). Each one offers a unique look at the Black Hills and deserves to be driven slowly.

PALISADES STATE PARK
GARRETSON

Split Rock Creek is really good at splitting rocks; just ask the Sioux quartz formations that form Palisades State Park. The water's been going at them awhile – these spires are about 1.2 billion years in the making. This bite-sized state park, only a 25-minute drive from Sioux Falls, is the perfect place to float a kayak or sling a hammock.



~ SICA HOLLOW STATE PARK
NEAR SISSETON

Home to a host of Native American legends, Sica Hollow State Park is also home to dozens of butterfly species who love the native wildflowers. Visit in August to catch the elusive monarch butterfly migration or come in September for the annual fall foliage show.

HIKES

Nature is pretty neat. In fact, it's one of the neatest things on this planet. Explore it further on a trail near you.

EASY HIKES

FARM ISLAND LOOP // PIERRE

Farm Island, named for the gardens planted here to avoid prairie fires, is a time capsule of South Dakota's oldest landscapes. The 1.8-mile loop makes its way around the island and follows in the footsteps of early fur traders and the Lewis & Clark expedition.

SPIRIT MOUND HISTORIC PRAIRIE // NEAR VERMILLION

Native American legends say 18-inch tall humans with remarkably large heads used to dwell on Spirit Mound, which was revered as a "mountain of evil spirits." Lewis & Clark made the hike in August 1804 and noted they "found none of the little people." Bummer.

WOODLAND TRAIL LOOP // NEWTON HILLS STATE PARK

Long ago, Newton Hills State Park was carved by receding glaciers, leaving behind some of eastern South Dakota's more striking landscapes. Explore the ancient forest on foot or horseback along the 4.6-mile Woodland Trail Loop.

MODERATE HIKES

FLUME TRAIL // RAPID CITY

In the 1880s, the Rockerville flume carried \$20 million in gold down from the hills. You can follow its sloping path on the historic Flume Trail, which runs 12.4 miles from Rapid City to Sheridan Lake.

BLACK ELK PEAK // BLACK HILLS

This 6.4-mile trail features Cathedral Spires views and sweeping scenery stretching into surrounding states. Stay patient for photo ops at the stone lookout tower at the peak. It was built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

NOTCH TRAIL // BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK

If you're an early bird, this 1.3 miler is a perfect sunrise hike for beating crowds and the heat (although we admit it's pretty awesome any time of the day). Highlights include a wooden ladder climb and the Notch View lookout.

HARD HIKE

76 TRAIL // SPEARFISH CANYON

This out-and-back trail climbs 1,000 feet in just three-quarters of a mile. It leads to 10/10 panoramic views of Spearfish Canyon at the finish point, Buzzard's Roost Overlook.



SPIRIT MOUND



NOTCH TRAIL



76 TRAIL



It's easy to entertain some people some of the time, but entertaining all of your family all the time is another story entirely. The solution? Take a day trip or make a pit stop at these family favorites.



@STEPH.POLLOCK

LEWIS & CLARK LAKE // YANKTON

409 paved campsites. 19 camping cabins. Six miles of bike trails. By the numbers, Lewis & Clark Lake Recreation Area is pretty impressive. Visit here, and you'll see the natural beauty is awe-inspiring as well. Bring a lawn chair and cooler for an afternoon on the sandy beaches of Lewis & Clark Lake.



INGALLS HOMESTEAD // DE SMET

Explore the home of the frontier's favorite family, the Wilders. Even if your kids don't know Little House on the Prairie, they'll love the activities here, like hay twisting and corn cob doll-making. Plus, every visitor gets to drive the covered wagon.



DINOSAUR PARK // RAPID CITY

Rapid City's original attraction is a tribute to Earth's oldest inhabitants. The concrete dinosaurs are the exclamation point at the end of the hiking trail, but views from the Skyline Wilderness Area are the biggest highlight.



WILDLIFE LOOP ROAD // CUSTER STATE PARK

It's like a zoo without fences where every animal you see is 100% free. The 18 miles of Wildlife Loop Road are the best bet in the state to see bison roam in their natural habitat. Drive slow and keep your camera ready.

Wallet Friendly
FAVORITES

Sprinkle in these bonus gems for free, or nearly free, fun.



A

**DIGNITY:
OF EARTH
& SKY**
CHAMBERLAIN

Just off I-90, this stainless steel masterpiece overlooks the Missouri River and Chamberlain's historic double-barrel bridge.



D

**STORYBOOK
LAND**
ABERDEEN

This free Aberdeen attraction is half zoo, half throwback theme park. Follow the yellow brick road to Munchkin Land and countless slides & attractions in a wonderland loosely inspired by the Wizard of Oz.



B

**SPLIT ROCK
CREEK PARK**
GARRETSON

The home of "beauty, mystery and legend" is minutes from Garretson and a stone's throw away from Sioux Falls. See where the famous outlaw Jesse James outran a posse and supposedly jumped Split Rock Creek on horseback.



E

**SPEARFISH
CANYON**
BLACK HILLS

You'll never hear "Are we there yet?" because the journey is the destination in Spearfish Canyon. Pretty deep, huh? So is the canyon. Quick hikes to a series of waterfalls and amazing views make this 17-mile stretch of highway one of South Dakota's prettiest drives.



C

**JEWEL CAVE
NATIONAL
MONUMENT**
CUSTER

Youth tickets are \$8 a piece for the underground adventure of a lifetime in Jewel Cave. Underground tours are paused for now, but keep checking for updates.



F

**THE
CAPITOL
BUILDING**
PIERRE

From the Lewis & Clark expedition to generations of state government, Pierre has a special place in the history of the Rushmore State. Explore South Dakota's past on a self-guided tour of the state capitol.

SOUTH DAKOTA'S
Secret Weapon

MINUTEMAN MISSILE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE – PHILIP

If 2020 had you pondering the possibility of nuclear war (what else could happen, right?), then you'll love this unique Black Hills attraction. Way back in the Cold War days, the United States military stashed 150 nuclear missiles in western South Dakota at places like the Minuteman Missile site. This specific silo, Delta-09, housed a fully operational

Minuteman Missile from 1963 until early 1993. Check out the silo before touring the launch control room at Delta-01, from which a crew of three airmen manned the facility. The park also has an immersive visitor center where you can learn more about South Dakota's role as a Cold War secret weapon.



South Dakota is storied. From the pioneer days to ages of Native American culture, frontier legends to Cold War relics, we have more than our share of historic stops. Here are just a few.

MITCHELL PREHISTORIC INDIAN VILLAGE

Uncover history at the Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village, an active archeological dig site on the shores of Lake Mitchell. A National Historic Landmark, the 1,000 year-old village was once home to ancestors of the Mandan people.



SOUTH DAKOTA CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER

Soak in centuries of Great Plains past at a one-stop shop for South Dakota history. This museum, molded into a hillside, takes you on a journey through the eyes of Native Americans, trappers, sodbusters, miners, farmers and cowboys. And that's only the beginning. One sculpture of special interest, the Sioux Horse Effigy, has toured museums in Paris and New York.



★ ★ ★ SOME BIG STARS HAVE CALLED SOUTH DAKOTA HOME ★ ★ ★



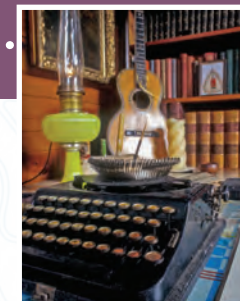
WILD BILL HICKOK

Famous in life. Famous in death. The high-profile gambler was murdered during a poker game in Deadwood's Saloon No. 10. What was he holding? Aces and eights, now known as "The Deadman's Hand."



CRAZY HORSE

This legendary warrior led the Lakota in a battle for their way of life. You can see him immortalized at the Crazy Horse Memorial® and learn his story at the Indian Museum of North America near the monument's base.



CHARLES "BADGER" CLARK

Cowboy poet Badger Clark lived alone in a Black Hills cabin, musing in his journals about the "shimmering lands of the sun" he called home. Today, you can visit his old haunt, the "Badger Hole," in Custer State Park.

TRAVEL SAFE. EXPLORE MORE. KEEP IT LOCAL.





LEWIE'S BURGERS – LEAD



@TRAVELING_NEWLYWEDS

FERNSON DOWNTOWN – SIOUX FALLS



THE LANDING – YANKTON



SD CHISLIC FESTIVAL – FREEMAN



CARVERS CAFE – MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MONUMENT



DEMPSEY'S – WATERTOWN & ABERDEEN

Feast YOUR EYES

WHAT'S BETTER THAN
AUTHENTIC DAKOTA CUISINE?

Sink Your Teeth INTO THIS

BLACK HILLS BURGER & BUN CO.

CUSTER

It only takes one bite to see why Black Hills Burger and Bun is a hot commodity. And it only takes one visit to feel like a regular in its welcoming atmosphere. The authentic flavors are tough to beat. So tough that, in 2014, this downtown Custer restaurant was **ranked #1 on Tripadvisor's list of America's Best Burger Joints**. High praise! Their secret ingredient is freshness – the choice chuck that goes into BHBB patties is ground daily in-house and served on fresh-baked, toasted buns.

What's on the menu? If you like it hot, you can't miss The Hot Granny, a blistering, bacon-quilted beef or bison patty smothered in cream cheese and jalapeño sauce. If your tastes run sweeter, The Hawaiian is a wild ride of grilled pineapple, jalapeños, bacon, teriyaki and Pepper Jack cheese. And for our meat-free friends, every beef patty can be subbed with a bean burger.





You can't beat the comfort of your own car for safe adventuring. Map a route to scenic roads and kitschy stops.



PIONEER AUTO SHOW // MURDO

If the History Channel's American Pickers opened a roadside museum, it would probably look a lot like Pioneer Auto Show. Explore generations of American culture in this huge collection of a little bit of everything.



◀ **BADLANDS LOOP STATE SCENIC BYWAY**

A trip through the Badlands is a smorgasboard for the eyes. Everywhere you look is something new to marvel at, as no two rocks look alike or look like anything you've ever seen. Bison, bighorn sheep, prairie dogs and antelope are the wildlife to watch for on this 38-mile loop.

◀ **VANOCKER CANYON**

Vanocker Canyon stretches between Sturgis and Nemo, which was once a lumber camp developed by the Homestake Mining Company. Large stands of birch and aspen pepper the hills around the road, making this drive even greater in the fall when the colors turn.

HIGHWAY 20

Of the twenty-odd towns you drive through between Minnesota and the Missouri River on Highway 20, only four have more than 300 people. It's a two-lane treat, one that gives you a real taste of rural America.



PETRIFIED WOOD PARK // LEMMON

Raise your hand if you've ever been to a petrified wood park. That's what we thought. This gem, made entirely of fossilized wood, is pure Americana. The park occupies an entire city block and the accompanying museum is open Memorial Day to Labor Day. It's a must stop if you find yourself in northwest South Dakota, and it's a fun road trip destination if you don't.



GIANT PRAIRIE DOG // BADLANDS RANCH STORE

The Giant Prairie Dog is for all the people who've looked at a prairie dog and thought, "It's cool, but I wish it was bigger." This six-ton, 12-foot-tall statue is surrounded by an actual prairie dog colony, full of critters we can only assume worship it as their concrete overlord.



SOUTH DAKOTA SNACKS

WILD DUTCHMAN SUNFLOWER SEEDS

Their homemade process is a difference you can taste. "Nobody wants to go through what we go through to make our seeds," says owner and grower Greg Bich.

THE ORIGINAL KIMBALL POPCORN BALL

Only in South Dakota can you find a small town famous for its popcorn balls.

COOP'S PRETZELS

These seasoned, MSG-free pretzels are made in Tea and quickly spreading all over the state.

STURGIS JERKY

Many brands use flour to add "fake" weight to their beef jerky. The Gapp family out of Sturgis has used 100% beef and a time-tested blend of spices since 1964.

DIMOCK CHEESE

They make cheese the old fashioned way in Dimock, South Dakota. Have been since 1931. Find your favorite in the 25 flavors of their renowned artisan cheeses.

DAKOTA STYLE CHIPS

Clark, which hosts a yearly Potato Days celebration, is a fitting place for Dakota Style to make their kettle chips. Try the chips for the flavor. Come to Potato Days to witness the mashed potato wrestling.



DAKOTA NATURE PARK BROOKINGS

The 135-acre Dakota Nature Park in Brookings is open to explore year round. Outside the walking paths, you can try your feet at snowshoeing (rentals are available from the visitor center at a rate of \$10 for two hours) or drop a line in the frozen pond.



FAT BIKING // SPEARFISH

Fat biking, named for the size of the wheels, is quickly gaining steam in the Black Hills. Rent a bike from Spearfish Canyon Lodge and start exploring on the spot.



BUTTERFLY HOUSE & AQUARIUM SIOUX FALLS

It's always summer – and a balmy 88 degrees – inside the Butterfly House & Aquarium. The butterflies get all the publicity, but the coolest feature may be the pools of rays and spineless sea urchins.



ROUGHLOCK FALLS



Spearfish CANYON

There are three eye-candy waterfalls in Spearfish Canyon – Bridal Veil Falls, Roughlock Falls and Spearfish Falls. Each impresses in a different way than the last: Bridal Veil Falls is the easiest-to-find, Roughlock Falls is the most sprawling and, finally, Spearfish Falls is the most powerful.

Waterfalls aren't the only attraction. Flitting about the creek are small gray birds that fly, bob and dive under the water. They're American dippers, North America's only aquatic song bird. They walk along the creek floor, hunting larvae, mayflies, beetles and a host of other things you'd never want on your plate.



Looking is fun, but what can you do here? Bike, for one thing. Spearfish Canyon is routinely listed as one of the best places to ride in the country. Fly fishers love casting a line for trout. And hikers will find a bevy of trails winding their way up the surrounding cliffs. When you're done adventuring, Spearfish has a long menu of local restaurants for refueling and toasting the day.

OFF THE *Beaten Path*



For a 110-foot mural, it's the Faulkton grain elevator's photorealistic details that impress visitors the most. The painting, which covers three sides of the elevator, depicts a boy & girl exchanging traditional cowboy hats. It's the work of Australian artist Guido Van Helten, who was brought to town by a Faulkton resident known locally as "Aussie Dave." It took Van Helten a month of ten-hour days in a lift to finish the project, one he believes represents the spirit of small-town America. "I liked the idea of someone driving through town just wondering why it's here," said Van Helten.

FAULKTON GRAIN ELEVATOR

SANDERSON GARDENS

Head east of Brookings and north of Aurora to shop "new food at used prices," fresh from the garden. Sanderson Gardens adheres to the honor system asking you to leave what you think is fair for the produce you pick.

