



South Dakota is known as the land of Great Faces and Great Places. The wide variety of opportunities and contrasting landscapes makes the Mount Rushmore State a must-see travel destination. In the northeast, the terrain is pockmarked by lakes which were formed by the scouring of glaciers during the Ice Age.

The southeastern region of the state gives way to more glacial lakes along with numerous manmade lakes constructed for water conservation and irrigation. Three major rivers course through the region as well, making southeastern South Dakota an ideal destination for outdoor recreation.

South Dakota's central region is dominated by a system of reservoirs comprising the Missouri River. This region of South Dakota is famous for its world-class hunting and fishing, and is also home to the state capital. The geography of the former three regions is primarily rolling prairies consisting of mixed-grass. This is due in large part to the geologic transformations of the ice age.

The western portion of the state is characterized in large part by the same tectonic activity that created the Rocky Mountains. This region is home to the world-famous Black Hills. Although geographically small in relation to other mountainous regions, the Black Hills of South Dakota are home to a number of renowned attractions. The region is characterized by granite outcroppings and lush, pine-covered hills and mountains. A short distance from the Black Hills is Badlands National Park, which is a terrain that gives an other-worldly appearance.



South Dakota Department of Tourism

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STATE FACTS

Capital: Pierre (pronounced Peer)
Population: 858,469 (Census July, 2015)
Nickname: The Mount Rushmore State
Bird: Chinese Ring-necked Pheasant
Dessert: Kuchen
Flower: Pasque
Animal: Coyote
Fish: Walleye
Insect: Honey Bee
Tree: Black Hills Spruce
Song: Hail, South Dakota
Sport: Rodeo
Motto: Under God the People Rule



CLIMATE - AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

January Temperatures: 10F (-12C) in the northeast to 25F (-4C) in the southwest. July Temperatures: 69F (21C) in the Black Hills to 75F (24C) in the south central part of the state.

Precipitation: 80-90% falls in rain, 14 inches (36 cm) in the northwest to 25 inches (64 cm) in the southeast; 22 inches (56 cm) in the Black Hills. Snowfall: 24-30 inches (61-76 cm) across most of the state; 60-100 inches (152-254 cm) in the Black Hills

FOUR SEASONS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Winter (December-early March): While temperatures may be wintry, cold spells usually alternate with milder weather. Snowfall is prevalent, providing excellent conditions for winter sports.

Spring (Late March-mid-June): Mostly sunny days, but this can also be the rainy season. Spring snow showers are a possibility through early May. Temperatures can range from the 40s (4C) to the 80s (27C). When the sun is shining, the early spring flowers are out in full force.

Summer (Mid-June-mid-September): Warm (sometimes hot) days and mild nights are the norm for this time of year.

Fall (Mid-September-November): Beautiful days with comfortable warm weather through September and crisp cool nights into November make fall an excellent time to explore South Dakota

SERVICES FOR TOUR OPERATORS

Press Releases, South Dakota Facts, Multimedia Gallery
Available at www.MediaSD.com



South Dakota Plains

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TRAVEL PROFESSIONAL'S E-NEWSLETTER & SOCIAL MEDIA

South Dakota's Travel Professionals E-Newsletter highlights destinations, attractions, upcoming events, timely tips, itineraries and more. Sign up today at www.TourSDakota.com to receive the Travel Professionals E-newsletter delivered to your inbox. Become a fan on our Facebook page where we also offer travel tips and information about events throughout the year.

PUBLICATIONS

Black Hills Map South Dakota Highway Map Escort Notes Great Parks, Monuments and Memorials (available in English, French, German, Japanese and Chinese) Group Tour Planning Guide, Vacation Guide, Lewis and Clark Trail Guide, Motorcycle Guide, Native South Dakota Guide, Our Culture and Heritage Guide to Archeology and Paleontology.

Visit www.TourSDakota.com to download publications.

2018 ANNUAL EVENTS

June 2-3, October 1 Crazy Horse Volksmarch (Crazy Horse Memorial)

July 6-8, 13-15, 20-22 Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant (De Smet)

August 3-12 78th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally (Sturgis)

August 17-19 Riverboat Days (Yankton)

September 28 53rd Annual Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup (Custer)

October 5-7 Black Hills PowWow (Rapid City)

www.travelsouthdakota.com/events



SOUTH DAKOTA MUST-SEE'S!

Badlands National Park
Black Hills National Forest
Crazy Horse Memorial
Custer State Park
Deadwood
Falls Park
Fort Sisseton Historic State Park
George S. Mickelson Trail
Jewel Cave National Monument
Laura Ingalls Wilder Homestead
Mount Rushmore National Memorial
Missouri National Recreational River
Native American Scenic Byway
Spearfish Canyon
Sturgis
Wall Drug
Wind Cave National Park
World's Only Corn Palace

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SOUTH DAKOTA

TRANSPORTATION

The primary airports in South Dakota are Rapid City Regional Airport in the west and Sioux Falls Regional Airport in the east. Rapid City is serviced by Allegiant, American, Delta and United. Sioux Falls is serviced by Allegiant, American, Delta, Frontier and United.

The primary roads for traveling through South Dakota are Interstate-90, which runs east to-west from Minnesota, through Sioux Falls, to Rapid City and continues into Wyoming. Interstate-29 runs from north-to-south from North Dakota through the northeast region of the state, through Sioux Falls and into Iowa/Nebraska.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

- Birding
- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Kayaking
- Mountain biking
- Photography
- Rock climbing
- Snowmobiling
- Snow skiing/snowboarding
- Water recreation
- Wildlife watching

Visit our Outdoors Page for a comprehensive listing of outdoor recreation activities!



WHAT'S NEW

The new **Deadwood Welcome Center** includes exhibit and display space; 24-hour space with information areas and restrooms, along with an indoor trolley waiting area and transit turnaround area. The facility also houses the Deadwood Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Bureau. Access to Whitewood Creek and Whitewood Creek Trail, which runs adjacent to the Welcome Center, is available onsite.

The **Arc of Dreams** is a massive stainless steel sculpture that will span across the Big Sioux River in Sioux Falls. The sculpture will be nearly the length of a football field. A 15-foot gap at the center of the sculpture will tower 70 feet above the river and represent the leap of faith visionaries take to make their dreams come true! The Arc of Dreams will be completed in 2018.

Located on Interstate 90 near Chamberlain, the **Dignity** sculpture features a 50-foot-tall Native American woman with a sweeping star quilt. Standing on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River, the statue is a symbol of the shared bond between earth and sky as well as a proud tribute to the Native American traditions of South Dakota.

ITINERARIES

Make sure to visit our itinerary suggestions on the [travel professionals](#) website.

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