



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: 882,235  
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: 10°F (-12°C) in the northeast to 25°F (-4°C) in the southwest. July Temperatures: 69°F (21°C) in the Black Hills to 75°F (24°C) 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 (4°C) to the 80s (27°C). 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](http://www.MediaSD.com)



Roughlock Falls

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# TRAVEL PROFESSIONAL'S E-NEWSLETTER & SOCIAL MEDIA

South Dakota's Travel Professionals quarterly E-Newsletter highlights destinations, attractions, upcoming events, timely tips, itineraries and more. Sign up today at [www.TourSDakota.com](http://www.TourSDakota.com)! Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for up to date info on all things South Dakota for visitors!

## 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.

## 2019 ANNUAL EVENTS

- Crazy Horse Volksmarch (Crazy Horse Memorial)
- Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant (De Smet)
- Sturgis Motorcycle Rally (Sturgis)
- Riverboat Days (Yankton)
- Buffalo Hills Powwow & Art Market (Rapid City)
- Buffalo Roundup (Custer State Park)
- Sioux Falls Jazz Festival (Sioux Falls)

For a complete listing of these events and more visit [travelsouthdakota.com/events](http://travelsouthdakota.com/events)



## SOUTH DAKOTA MUST-SEES!

- 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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## PUBLICATIONS

South Dakota Group Tour Planning E-Guide  
South Dakota International Guide (Available in German, English, French, Italian, Japanese, Simplified Mandarin, Traditional Mandarin)  
South Dakota Escort Notes  
South Dakota Vacation Guide  
South Dakota Highway Map  
Black Hills Map  
Native South Dakota Guide  
South Dakota's Tribal Lands  
South Dakota Motorcycling Guide  
Guide to Archaeology & Paleontology  
South Dakota Grasses, Wildflowers & Crops  
Lewis and Clark Trail Guide  
South Dakota Inspiration Guide  
South Dakota Pints & Platters; Your guide to Delicious Stops

Visit [www.TourSDakota.com](http://www.TourSDakota.com) to download publications.

## ITINERARIES

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

## 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!



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# SCENIC DRIVES

## **Spearfish Canyon State and National Forest Service Scenic Byway**

- 20 miles. Bridal Veil and Roughlock Falls. Spruce, Pine, Aspen, Birch and Oak trees cling to the hillsides. Spearfish Creek flows along the canyon bottom along the road. Park on Service Road 222 and hike to viewing areas above and below the water falls.
- Learn more [here!](#)

## **Peter Norbeck National Scenic Byway**

- 70 mile byway, spiraling bridges, hairpin curves, granite tunnels, mountain goats, deer and chipmunks. Features Custer State Park, Norbeck Wildlife Preserve, Black Elk Wilderness Area, Mount Rushmore National Memorial.
- Learn more [here!](#)

## **Wildlife Loop State Scenic Byway**

- Pine-covered hills, rolling prairies and red walled canyons. 1,300 head of bison, bighorn sheep, pronghorn deer, elk, prairie dogs, burros, wild turkey. Be sure to stop by the brand new Peter Norbeck Outdoor Education Center.
- Learn more [here!](#)

## **Badlands Loop State Scenic Byway**

- One hour drive, 39-mile loop. 16 scenic overlooks. Pronghorn antelope, mule deer, prairie dogs. Rugged rock pinnacles, buttes and mounds. Be sure to stop into the Ben Reifel Visitor Center.
- Learn more [here!](#)

## **Native American National and State Scenic Byway**

- Missouri River, tribal history, features Yankton, Crow Creek, Lower Brule, Cheyenne River and Standing Rock Sioux Tribes.
- Learn more [here!](#)



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