

Minuteman Missile National Historic Site

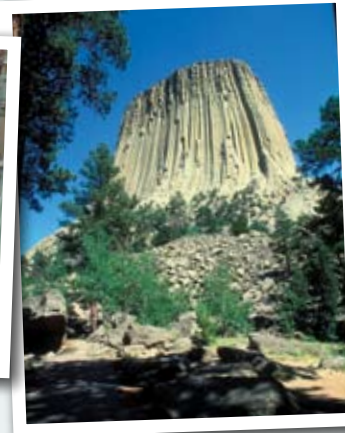
The Minuteman Missile National Historic Site is significant in representing the only remaining intact components of a Cold War nuclear missile field. Standing as South Dakota's first national historic site, it brings to life the history of the Cold War and the realities felt at the threat of nuclear warfare. View an actual Minuteman II missile and gain a sense of the true power behind the weapon. Tours are limited to six people. Located at exit 131 off Interstate 90 near Cactus Flat.



For information contact:
 Minuteman Missile National Historic Site
 21280 SD Highway 240
 Philip, SD 57567
 Ph. (605) 433-5552 Fax (605) 433-5558
 Reservations (605) 433-5552
www.nps.gov/mimi/

Devils Tower National Monument

Devils Tower rises 1,267 feet above the Belle Fourche River, just across the Wyoming border. American Indian legend has it that the rock sprang out of the earth and into the air, just in time to save two boys from a bear. The bear below pawed at the rock, resulting in the tower's fluted appearance.



For information contact:
 Devils Tower National Monument
 PO Box 10, Devils Tower, WY 82714-0010
 Ph. (307) 467-5283 Fax (307) 467-5350
www.nps.gov/deto

Wind Cave National Park

Wind Cave National Park protects an underground wonderland more than 100 miles long, making it the fourth-longest cave in the world. This natural wonder is filled with incredible displays of boxwork, honeycombed-shaped calcite that adorn the walls and ceilings. On the surface, the park's mixed-grass prairie and ponderosa pine forest are home to many animals including bison, elk, pronghorn, and deer. Tours are offered year-round.



For information contact:
 Wind Cave National Park
 RR 1 Box 190
 Hot Springs, SD 57747-9430
 Ph. (605) 745-4600 Fax (605) 745-4207
www.nps.gov/wica

Jewel Cave National Monument

Jewel Cave takes its name from the jewel-like calcite crystals that line its passages. Stalactites, stalagmites, dog-tooth spar, moonmilk and other unusual formations are found along the cave's explored passageways. With more than 135 miles surveyed, Jewel Cave is recognized as the second longest cave system in the world. Rangers lead guided tours through the cave.



For information contact:
 Jewel Cave National Monument
 11149 Building B12
 US Highway 16
 Custer, SD 57730
 Ph. (605) 673-2288 Fax (605) 673-3294
www.nps.gov/jeca

Destination: The Black Hills

Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Crazy Horse Memorial are located in the Black Hills National Forest in western South Dakota. Miles and miles of green pine trees and shimmering mountain streams offer an area packed with things to do. See the rugged beauty of Badlands National Park. Explore Custer State Park in search of wild buffalo. Take a tour of one of the caves. Or, better yet, do it all! It's easy since most of these attractions are within an hour's drive of one another.



1. Rapid City
2. Mount Rushmore National Memorial
3. Crazy Horse Memorial
4. Custer State Park
5. Jewel Cave National Monument
6. Wind Cave National Park
7. Badlands National Park
8. Devils Tower National Monument
9. Minuteman Missile National Historic Site



For more information contact:
 South Dakota Office of Tourism
 711 E. Wells Ave.
 Pierre, SD 57501-3369
 1-800-952-3625
 Ph. (605) 773-3301
 (605) 773-3256 fax
www.TravelSD.com



South Dakota

Great Parks, Monuments & Memorials



The Spirit of a Nation

Imagine trying to capture the spirit of an entire nation in one sculpture. That's the challenge Gutzon Borglum (1867-1941) faced in 1927 when he began work on Mount Rushmore National Memorial, America's Shrine of Democracy. Today, Borglum's massive granite carving towers majestically over the forests of the Black Hills, a symbol of the nation's rich history, rugged determination and lasting achievement.



Gutzon Borglum

The Story Behind the Mountain Exhibits in the Lincoln Borglum Museum tell the story of the people who turned a mountain into a tribute to a mighty nation. Several exhibits focus on Lincoln Borglum's father, sculptor Gutzon Borglum, whose ingenuity, ambition and pioneering spirit made the dream a reality. You'll also learn about the four presidents who inspired the sculptor. Interactive displays, 400 artifacts and 300 photographs let you experience the mountain's history through sight, sound and touch.

A Message that's Larger than Life Visitors to Mount Rushmore National Memorial are impressed by the magnitude of the carving. You can view the 60-foot presidential faces from several lookout platforms around the memorial. For a closer look at the faces, follow the scenic Presidential Trail, which takes you to the base of the mountain.

The monument is a grouping of four leaders who brought the country from colonial times into the 20th century. It memorializes the birth, growth, preservation and development of the United States.

Each of the presidents' faces measures 60 feet from forehead to chin.



Travel Tips

- > Mount Rushmore National Memorial is open year-round.
- > Admission to the park is free.
- > There is a parking fee.
- > The Avenue of Flags, featuring the 56 flags of American states and territories, leads visitors to the Grandview Terrace.
- > During the summer, you can tour Borglum's studio, which houses his major Rushmore models.
- > A lighting ceremony takes place nightly throughout the summer in an outdoor amphitheater.

For information contact:

Mount Rushmore National Memorial
PO Box 268, Keystone, SD 57751-0268
Ph. (605) 574-2523 Fax (605) 574-2307
www.nps.gov/moru

Badlands National Park This hauntingly beautiful landscape arises mysteriously from the surrounding prairie. The Badlands are a geological wonder featuring a maze of buttes, canyons and gullies formed by millions of years of erosion. The unusual rock formations are home to wildlife such as coyotes, mule deer, pronghorn, jackrabbits and bison. Visitors can explore the Badlands on ranger-guided tours, or they can venture off the trail into the Sage Creek Wilderness Area, where the only path is made by the tread of bison.



For information contact:

Badlands National Park
PO Box 6, Interior, SD 57750
Ph. (605) 433-5361 Fax (605) 433-5404
www.nps.gov/badl

Honoring American Indians

"My fellow chiefs and I would like the white man to know the red man has great heroes, too," wrote Lakota chief Standing Bear when he invited sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski (1908-1982) to carve Crazy Horse Memorial. Drilling and blasting on the colossal mountain began in 1948, and the face of Crazy Horse, completed in 1998, now stands as the fifth granite face in the Black Hills. Current work focuses on blocking out the 22-story-high horse's head.



Korczak Ziolkowski

Continuing the Dream Korczak's wife, Ruth, and seven of the 10 Ziolkowski sons and daughters have dedicated their lives to continuing the Crazy Horse dream. Using the sculptor's models, they are building upon his vision. They share Korczak's financial philosophy that Crazy Horse not be a government project, but rather it can be realized as a non-profit, humanitarian mission financed primarily from admission fees.

World's Largest Mountain Carving Just 17 miles apart, Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse in-the-making are two wonders of the modern world. Each provides a stone illustration of different aspects of American history. When completed, Crazy Horse will stand 563 feet high, 641 feet long, and it will be carved in the round. Drilling and frequent blasting on the mountain can be observed from the visitor complex, which features scale models and a DVD presentation on how and why the mountain is being carved. Crazy Horse is much more than the mountain. Tribes from all across the United States, Canada and Mexico have contributed artifacts to the Indian Museum of North America. The museum's exhibits illustrate the past and present lives of American Indians.

Travel Tips

- > The sculptor's studio-home and workshop, filled with fine art and antiques, are open to visitors.
- > Crazy Horse Memorial is open year-round.
- > The mountain is lit nightly for one hour beginning one-half hour after dark.
- > There is an admission fee to the non-profit memorial.
- > "Legends in Light" laser light multimedia program runs nightly Memorial Day - Native American Day in mid-October.



For information contact:

Crazy Horse Memorial
Avenue of the Chiefs, Crazy Horse, SD 57730-9506
Ph. (605) 673-4681 Fax (605) 673-2185
www.crazyhorsememorial.org

Custer State Park Custer State Park offers 71,000 acres of spectacular views and abundant wildlife. Scenic Needles Highway winds its way through pine-covered forests, past granite spires, around hairpin curves and through narrow tunnels. The 18-mile Wildlife Loop cuts through prime wildlife country. The park's famous bison herd roams freely here, along with deer, pronghorn, elk, coyotes, and prairie dogs. Visitors can leave highways behind in favor of miles of hiking, biking and horse trails that run through this nature lover's paradise. Stay at one of the four historic resorts or camp beneath the stars in one of the park's seven campgrounds.



For information contact:

Custer State Park
HC 83 Box 70, Custer, SD 57730
Park Headquarters
Ph. (605) 255-4515 Fax (605) 255-4460
www.custerstatepark.info
Park Visitor Center
(605) 255-4464