



Rapid City, the Black Hills & Badlands of South Dakota (5 day)

Overview:

Centrally located to the wonders of the Black Hills, including Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Crazy Horse Memorial, Rapid City provides unique historic attractions and one-of-a-kind views, all very affordably. With an abundance of accommodations, restaurants, activities, shopping and a great central location, Rapid City is the perfect hub for time spent touring the marvels of the Black Hills.

Tour Highlights:

- Mt. Rushmore National Memorial
- Crazy Horse Memorial
- Custer State Park
- Deadwood
- Badlands National Park
- Five nights in superior accommodations in Rapid City

Itinerary:

Day One: Rapid City

Tour **Rapid City** with stops at many free attractions. Begin your day at **The Journey Museum**, where you will take on an incredible trek through time, from the violent upheaval that formed the mystical Black Hills over 2.5 billion years ago to the continuing saga of the Western Frontier. Next visit the **Stavkirke** (Chapel in the Hills), a replica of an 850-year-old church in Norway. Outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy the **Outdoor Campus West**, another free attraction featuring educational outdoor activities. Or make time for a tour at one of the **Black Hills Gold jewelry factories**, found in Rapid City and watch as each piece of jewelry is hand-crafted. Enjoy lunch at one of Rapid City's many locally owned cafe's offering home cooked meals and local fare. The afternoon is perfect spent downtown at **Main Street Square**, where daily activity and entertainment abound. While in the downtown view the **City of Presidents** and get your picture taken with life-size bronze statues of our nation's presidents. Another must-see is **Prairie Edge Trading Co.** and **Alex Johnson Mercantile**; both shops offer unique hand-crafted Native American items. In the evening, Rapid City offers a variety of old fashioned chuckwagon supper and music shows.

Day Two: Central Black Hills

Begin your day at **Mt. Rushmore National Memorial**, our shrine of democracy and the highlight of any Black Hills tour. On the way to Mt. Rushmore, visit **Bear Country USA** and make a trip through their wildlife park featuring hundreds of black bear and other animals or stop at **Reptile Gardens**, offering informative and education shows featuring the world's largest collection of privately owned reptiles. Group-friendly lunch options can be found at the Carver's Café at Mt. Rushmore National Memorial or Laughing Water Restaurant at Crazy Horse. After you experience Mt. Rushmore, move on to the colossal **Crazy Horse Memorial**, a gigantic carving of Lakota leader Crazy Horse being blasted from a mountain in the Black Hills. The Crazy Horse complex also contains the beautiful Indian Museum of North America. End your day in the Central Black Hills a stop at **Prairie Berry Winery** and a tour

on the [1880 Train](#). Dining options are available at a variety of restaurants in Custer, Hill City or Keystone or enjoy a private dinner with a view at K Bar S Lodge. Then return to Mount Rushmore or Crazy Horse for their evening shows. During the summer season, Mount Rushmore holds a nightly patriotic lighting ceremony, while at Crazy Horse you can experience the laser light show, Legends in Light.

Day Three: Northern Black Hills

From Rapid City, head west on Interstate 90 to [Sturgis](#) with a stop at the [Black Hills Motorcycle Museum](#) to learn the history of the famous Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, or for American History buffs, visit the [Fort Meade Museum](#), home of the 7th Cavalry, re-formed after the disastrous Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876. Continue your tour of the Northern Hills in [Spearfish](#), home of the [D.C. Booth Historic Fish Hatchery](#). Start the afternoon with a drive through [Spearfish Canyon](#), a National Forest Scenic Byway with lunch in the canyon at the [Latchstring Inn Restaurant](#). Stop in the [Lead/Deadwood](#) area to visit attractions like the [Black Hills Mining Museum](#) or the [Homestake Visitor Center](#) in Lead or Deadwood's [Mount Moriah Cemetery](#), where the likes of Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane are buried. Take a city tour of Deadwood where more than 80 gaming casinos beckon with slots, blackjack and poker. Enjoy a variety of dining options in Deadwood before returning to Rapid City for the evening.

Day Four- Southern Black Hills

Your southern hills tour will take you through the beauty of [Custer State Park](#), one of the nation's famed state parks. Your trip includes the park's drive-through wildlife loop, home to one of America's largest wild buffalo herds, begging burrows, and a variety of other wildlife. If you are adventurous, try the [Buffalo Jeep Safari](#) through the 71,000 acre park. Enjoy lunch on your own in downtown Custer City before continuing through some of the longest caves in the world with a visit to either [Wind Cave National Park](#) or [Jewel Cave National Monument](#). Venturing south, you'll come upon one of the richest archaeological finds in recent years at the [Mammoth Site](#) in Hot Springs, a dig site home to 59 and counting mammoths. Just south of Hot Springs you will find the [Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary](#), where you get up close and personal on a wild horse herd tour! Evening entertainment opportunities include a hayride/supper in Custer State Park or dinner at one of the Park lodge restaurant's followed by a performance at the nearby [Black Hills Playhouse](#).

Day Five: The Badlands

This day tour takes you to a moonscape on earth. Departing Rapid City east [Wall](#). [Wall Drug](#), a tiny store, built in 1931, has boomed to become internationally known for its offering of free ice water, specialty shopping, and a unique backyard experience. While in Wall, also visit [Wounded Knee: The Museum](#) and learn about the last, bloody conflict between Native Americans and the US Army Cavalry. Continuing south, enter [Badlands National Park](#), 244,000 acres of a stunning example of geological variety: jagged cliffs, deep canyons and sharp buttes, formed by relentless forces of nature. Take time for lunch at Wall Drug before you depart or indulge at the [Cedar Pass Lodge](#) dining room in the Badlands. After touring the Badlands, journey onto the [Pine Ridge Indian Reservation](#), where you will have the opportunity to experience Native American culture at the [Red Cloud Indian School and Heritage Center](#) and view the [Wounded Knee National Historic Landmark](#). Alternate tour options to complete this day include South Dakota Air and Space Museum, where you can see 52 aircraft, missiles and indoor exhibits and the Minuteman Missile Silo National Historic Site, created to illustrate the history and significance of the Cold War, the arms race, and intercontinental ballistic missile development. Enjoy dinner in Rapid City at one of our group-friendly restaurants, a catered meal at a unique venue, or an old fashioned chuckwagon supper and music show.

For more information

Rapid City Convention & Visitors Bureau

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