

8 Days

South Dakota

day by day

Western South Dakota, United States, 8 Days

This itinerary has been planned to attend two unique gatherings in the Great Plains of North America. **THE ANNUAL BUFFALO ROUNDUP**, when herdsmen on horseback spur more than 1,300 American buffalo through the grasslands of Custer State Park. Held on the last Friday in September, it is open to the public. And the powwow or *wacipi* (Dakota, Lakota and Nakota for “dance”), a social event where friends and families meet, camp, visit and reconnect as tribal nations. Many powwows are held during the summer months, **THE BLACK HILLS POWWOW** – “He Sapa Wacipi Na Oskate” – in early October in Rapid City being the last social event of the year.

☉ DAYS 1-4: THE BLACK HILLS

Fly to Rapid City Regional Airport (RAP). Pick up your car at Alamo and drive to Sylvan Lake, Custer State Park (1 ½ hours). The original Sylvan Lake Hotel was a stopping point for adventurers hoping to scale Black Elk Peak, the highest point in America east of the Rockies. Some of the finest trails lead from Sylvan Lake to the peak.

Sleep and eat at the SYLVAN LAKE LODGE (2 nights) and THE RUSHMORE HOTEL (1 night).

DAY 1: CUSTER STATE PARK

Herd Tour (about 1 ½ to 2 hours): trek through the park in an open-air jeep in search of pronghorns, elk, and bisons. Scenic Drives: “Wildlife Loop Road” (18 miles), “Iron Mountain Road” (17 miles, 16A), “Needles Highway” (14 miles, Hwy 87). Wildlife: bisons, bighorn sheep, pronghorns, white-tailed deer, elks, coyotes, prairie dogs, wild burros and wild turkeys.

DAY 2: THE BUFFALO ROUNDUP

Depart for Custer State Park at sunrise. Arrive at the Buffalo Corrals along the Wildlife Loop Road for pre-Roundup activities (1 hour). Pancake breakfast is served from 6.15. The Buffalo Roundup begins at 9.30. Chuck wagon lunch (Buffalo barbecue) from 11 to 2pm. Buffalo handling (testing, branding and sorting) from 1 to 3pm. Three-day Buffalo Roundup Arts & Crafts Festival near the State Game Lodge on Hwy 16A. (Pics. 1-2-3)

DAY 3: HORSEBACK RIDING

Departs at 7.45am to Hollingsworth Horses, Custer. Free ride through the Black Hills National Forest. Drive to Hill City for lunch at the Prairie Berry Winery and shop (fruit wines, jams, compote, sandwiches). Drive to Hot Springs (1 ½ hours). Private tour at the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary (Pic. 4). Dinner at the Hot Spring Vault (burgers and beer). Drive to Downtown Rapid City (1 ½ hours).

www.custerresorts.com

www.custerstatepark.info

www.hollingsworthhorses.com

www.prairieberry.com

www.wildmustangs.com

www.thehotspringvault.com

☉ DAYS 4-6: THE BADLANDS & PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION

Sleep at the CIRCLE VIEW GUEST RANCH, Scenic (2 nights). (Pic. 5). Owners: Phil & Amy Kruse. Breakfast is served family-style in the Kruse family kitchen daily at 7.30am only: whole-wheat blueberry pancakes (a ranch favourite!), homemade blueberry almond granola



Day by Day



6



7



8



9



10

w/vanilla yogurt, soft scrambled eggs, hash-brown patties. Dining options: Cedar Pass Lodge (open seasonally from May-October), Cowboy Corner Service Station (Prime Rib Dinner each Saturday night), and the Wagon Wheel Bar. All about 4-6 miles east of the Ranch.

www.circleviewranch.com

www.cedarpasslodge.com

DAY 1: BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Depart for The Badlands National Park: drive to Scenic on Hwy 44 (50 min). (Pic.6) Please note that there aren't any services between the airport and the Badlands so make sure you have gas and supplies. Turn left on the 590 to Sage Creek Rim Road, continue on the Badlands Loop Road (38 miles, SD 240). The 1.5-mile Notch Trail offers a beautiful view of the White River Valley. Exit after the Cedar Pass Lodge/Ben Reifel Visitor Center (Park Headquarters) at the Northern Entrance to Highway 90 exit 110 and Wall. Drive to Wall (30 min) for lunch at Wall Drug Store. (Pics. 7-8-9). After starting out with something as simple as free ice water, Wall Drug Store is one of the world's most well-known roadside stops. The Western Art Gallery Restaurant seats over 520, and features the largest privately owned western and illustration art collection in the country. Est. 1931, Wall Drug Store is known for its famous homemade donuts, hot beef sandwiches, buffalo burgers, and 5 cent coffee. Drive to the Pinnacle Entrance and drive along Conata Road (590), turn left to Interior, look for the Circle View Guest Ranch between mile markers 115-116 (50 min). Star gazing/night sky in the Badlands National Park.

www.nps.gov/badll/planyourvisit/maps.htm

www.walldrug.com

DAY 2: PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION

Depart for Pine Ridge Area Chamber, Kyle (1-½ hours). Contact: Ivan Sorbel. Visit: Oglala Lakota College History Center, Kyle (historical photographs and artwork displays that chronicle the history of the Oglala Lakota from the early 1800s through the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890); Wounded Knee Cemetery; Red Cloud Heritage Center, Pine Ridge, located in the 1888 school building built by the Jesuits at Holy Rosary Mission on the campus of the Red Cloud Indian School; Cooney Table/Red Shirt Table Overlook; White River Visitor Center. Lunch at the Lakota Prairie Ranch Restaurant, Kyle. (Pic. 10) Attend The Beauty and the Beast Rodeo at the Three Mile Creek rodeo grounds. It runs every Wednesday night at 6pm in summer until late August. Open bull riding, junior bulls with an open barrel racing and a junior barrel racing.

www.pineridgechamber.com

www.olc.edu

www.redcloudschool.org

☺ DAYS 6-8: RAPID CITY

Drive back to Downtown Rapid City (1-½ hours). Overnight at THE RUSHMORE HOTEL (2 nights).

www.therushmorehotel.com

DOWNTOWN RAPID CITY HANDBOOK

EAT

Harriet & Oak (coffee and natural food)

(KÖL) (coal-fired oven, dinner)

Kathmandu Bistro (Nepalese)



11



12



13



14



15

Tally's Silver Spoon (American Fine Diner)
 Hay Camp Brewing Company (small-batch hand crafted ales)

VISIT

"HE SAPA WACIPI NA OSKATE", The Black Hills Powwow, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City. The Black Hills Powwow has become one of the premier American Indian cultural events in the United States, attracting thousands of dancers, singers, artisans and several thousand spectators from across several US states, Canadian provinces and beyond. (Pic. 11)

PRAIRIE EDGE TRADING CO. & GALLERIES: Native American Art & Crafts from the Northern Plains. Prairie Edge is a purveyor of beadwork and quillwork from local Lakota artists and craft workers. Books and music, fine art, jewellery. (Pic. 12)

SIoux TRADING POST: Native American botanicals, craft supplies and beads. Special selection of dried herbs - sage, lead plant, gumweed, sumac, and red willow - wildcrafted locally. Eclectic mix of traditional and contemporary American Indian craft supplies - from feathers, furs, and animal hides, to conchos, fringes, decorative shells, and glass beads.

THE JOURNEY MUSEUM AND LEARNING CENTER: American history, Black Hills history and Native American culture. An incredible trek through time, from the formation of the mystical Black Hills over 2.5 billion years ago to the continuing saga of the Western frontier. Dramatic displays present the geography, people and events that shaped the history and heritage of the region. Indian and non-Indian cultures are factually presented. Hands-on examples of rocks, fossils, artefacts and memorabilia encourage each individual to experience the history of the "Paha Sapa" through sight, sound and touch. (Pics. 13-14-15)

www.blackhillspowwow.com

www.prairieedge.com

www.siouxtrading.com

www.journeymuseum.org

EXTRA FAVOURITES

Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

Memorial Ice Cream Shop, Keystone (TJ's vanilla ice cream, based on Thomas Jefferson's original recipe from 1780).

Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation: built on Korczak, Ruth & Chief Henry Standing Bears' ideals of creating a memorial to honour the living heritage of the North American Indians. Indian Museum of North America (American Indian art and artefacts from tribes across North America).

Tatanka-Story of the Bison, Deadwood. Founder/Owner: Kevin Costner.

Earth Goods Natural Foods, Hot Springs.

Daily Bread Bakery, Hot Springs.

Turtle Town (handcrafted candies, chocolate truffles, fudges), Hill City.

Martin Mason Hotel (Historic), Deadwood.

Mind Blown Studio & Cafe, Deadwood.

www.mtrushmorenationalmemorial.com

www.crazyhorsememorial.org

www.storyofthebison.com

www.earthgoodsnaturalfoods.com

www.turtletown.com

www.martinmasonhotel.com

www.mindblownstudio.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION

South Dakota Department of Tourism

www.travelsouthdakota.com

The Real America www.realamerica.it

Alamo Rent a Car www.alamo.com

WESTERN
SOUTH DAKOTA

N

• *Spearfish*

• *Deadwood*

• *Sturgis*

Lake Oahe

Cheyenne River

PIERRE •

03 Rapid City

• *Wall*

E

BLACK HILLS 01

• *Custer*

Custer State Park

• *Scenic*

Interior •

02

BADLANDS
NATIONAL PARK

• *Hot Springs*

• *Kyle*

PINE RIDGE RESERVATION

• *Pine Ridge*

NEBRASKA

