



The Black Hills and Badlands

A Western Adventure in South Dakota!

The Black Hills and Badlands of Western South Dakota - Where seeing is believing!

The history of this area will capture your imagination as you gaze at expansive landscapes and roaming buffalo. The Black Hills are the very picture of the pioneer spirit, moving people to carve monumental visions into hillsides.

Join TRIPS as we visit Mt. Rushmore and the massive Crazy Horse Monument. Visit Custer State Park and learn about the Custer Expedition of 1874! Spend a day in Deadwood and hear the colorful history of Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane and Poker Alice! Marvel at the stark beauty of the Badlands with its' unique and beautiful buttes, plateaus and spires!

This is a perfect way to enjoy South Dakota, made all the more so, since you're staying in just one lodge! No packing and unpacking - just relaxed mornings with a glimpse of Mt. Rushmore and perhaps marshmallows roasting on the fire in the evening. What a delightful way to learn about, and experience the laid back lifestyle of Western South Dakota!

Day 1 - Your Journey Begins!

Your Badlands adventure begins as you arrive in **Rapid City**, gateway to the Black Hills, the Badlands and Mt. Rushmore. A TRIPS representative will meet you and assist with your hotel transfer to Keystone, SD, near the base of Mt. Rushmore. Here you unpack for your entire vacation! The **K Bar S Lodge** is the perfect mix of style and comfort, secluded in the beautiful Black Hills. After settling in, enjoy a welcome dinner at the Lodge.

Overnight: K Bar S Lodge, Keystone

(D)

Day 2 - Historic Deadwood!

This morning you head for historic **Deadwood**. Along the way, you'll hear stories of the gold seekers who made their way to the Black Hills during the Gold Rush of 1876. Deadwood became a notorious town and you visit legendary **Boot Hill** and see the graves of Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane. The history of this gold mining town will come to life as your escort recounts the colorful history of the town. Continue to **Lead**, home of the **Homestake Gold Mine**. The town of Lead is a sister city to Deadwood and the stories of the Gold Rush in the Black Hills territory will entertain and fascinate! A special surprise evening is in store featuring dinner and entertainment.

Overnight: K Bar S Lodge, Keystone

(B/D)

Day 3 - A Historic Train Ride!

This morning after breakfast, you visit the **Borglum Historical Center** for a self guided tour. Learn about Gutzon Borglum and his quest to build Mt. Rushmore. Next, you'll depart for a ride on the **1880 Train!** Hear the bellow of the engine and the whine of the whistle as it winds its way through the hills between Keystone and Hill City. Enjoy this scenic and historic ride followed by free time to explore the town of **Hill City** on your own. The quaint shops make this a great place to stroll main street and have lunch on your own. Return to the K Bar S for some time to relax before heading out for a delightful dinner!

Overnight: K Bar S Lodge, Keystone

(B/D)

Day 4 - Magnificent Mt. Rushmore!

This morning after breakfast, you depart for **Rapid City**. Your first stop will be at the Mt. Rushmore **Black Hills Gold** factory. You'll learn how the famous Black Hills gold jewelry is made and see the new diamond cutting process as well!. To be considered Black Hills Gold, items must be designed in a traditional tri-gold, grape leaf motif and be manufactured in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Your day continues with a visit to the **Journey Museum** which traces the history of this area from prehistoric times to the Great Plains of the American West. You'll travel through 200 years of history as you watch the epic story of the Lakota nation unfold and come to understand the historical events that forever changed the Lakota homeland. After returning to the K Bar S for a bit of free time, you'll depart early this evening for **Mt. Rushmore** where you'll be able to enjoy dinner at your leisure. Then, as the sun sets, watch the lighting ceremony of Mt. Rushmore bringing a whole different perspective to this magnificent monument.

Overnight: K Bar S Lodge, Keystone

(B/D)

Day 5 - Crazy Horse!

This morning you'll visit the 'work in progress' of what will become the world's largest sculpture as you visit the **Crazy Horse Memorial**. Sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski and Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear officially started the memorial in 1948 with the mission of honoring the culture, tradition and living heritage of North American Indians. After stopping for lunch, you'll continue to the **Mammoth** dig site in Hot Springs for a guided tour. This active dig site boasts the largest concentration of mammoth remains in the world, currently at 61! Discovered in 1974 during excavation for a housing development this is now a world-renowned center for Pleistocene studies. After your tour, continue to **Custer State Park** covering over 71,000 acres and home to a herd of 1500 free roaming bison. Elk, deer, mountain goats, bighorn sheep and feral burros also make this their home. The park is famous for spectacular scenery and grew in popularity when President Calvin Coolidge made it his 'summer White House'. You'll stop for dinner at Custer State Park Lodge where he famously announced he wouldn't seek a second term. After a full day, return to the K Bar S.

Overnight: K Bar S Lodge, Keystone

(B/D)

Day 6 - Mystical Badlands!

Today, you'll head out in a different direction as you explore the **Badlands!** This area of deep canyons and rounded buttes is eerie and haunting, and must have been quite a challenge for early settlers as they made their way across the region on their way to the Black Hills. Nature has sculpted the Badlands into a magnificent and strange landscape where you'll find **bighorn sheep**, bison and fox roaming the grass prairies. This scenic drive will surely leave you in awe! And no visit to the Badlands is complete without a stop at **Wall Drug!** Back in 1931, Wall Drug opened as a small drug store and began offering free water to their customers. It was quite a sales pitch, and today, Wall Drug is an institution in this part of South Dakota! This evening, you'll enjoy a farewell dinner at the lodge with a very special TRIPS guest!

Overnight: K Bar S Lodge, Keystone

(B/D)

Day 7 - Parting is such Sweet Sorrow!

You depart after breakfast this morning for the Rapid City airport and your flight home. Your memories of the natural beauty and bountiful history of the **Black Hills and the Badlands are sure to last a lifetime!**

(B)



Inclusions

- Round trip transfers to airport
- Round trip airfare to Rapid City, South Dakota (does not include checked baggage fee)
- Breakfast Daily (6)
- 6 nights lodging at the K Bar S Lodge in Keystone, South Dakota
- Dinner Daily (6) including a Dakota Territory Chuck wagon dinner
- Ticket for the r88o Train
- Admissions including the Journey Museum, Custer State Park, Crazy Horse Memorial, Boot Hill Tour of Deadwood, Mammoth dig site, Homestake Gold Mine and more
- Visit Badlands National Park
- Mt. Rushmore visit including the Lighting Ceremony
- Services of a TRIPS escort while in South Dakota
- Portage of one suitcase per person
- Government taxes and fees

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