

Mount Rushmore, South Dakota Gems & More!

Mon., June 9—Sun., June 15, 2025

Tour Highlights: Badland's National Park • Mt. Rushmore • Mt. Rushmore at night • Custer State Park • Buffalo Jeep Safari • Chuckwagon Supper • 1880's Train Ride • Deadwood • Bear Country USA • K Bars Lodge Meal • Wall Drug Store • View Crazy Horse Memorial

Developing Itinerary/Best of Americana Travel!

Day 1, Monday—First Night, Sioux City, Iowa!

Board at St. Stephens Catholic Church (175th & 84th Ave), Tinley Park, IL. Our tour begins in heading toward Rapid City, South Dakota, known as the Gateway to the Black Hills. We'll travel across Illinois and Iowa and stop for a farmer's lunch in Iowa. We continue after lunch through Iowa and travel along the Missouri River en route to our evening hotel in Sioux City. Enjoy a Northwood's welcome and get further acquainted with our travelers this evening. **B, L**

Day 2, Tuesday—Badland's National Park, Wall Drug, arrive at Rapid City, SD

This morning after breakfast we travel westward with wonderful scenery. We visit Al's Oasis for a great lunch. We're headed to Badlands National Park. We travel the Badlands Loop Road past many scenic lookouts. It's home to vibrant colors and rock formations created by Minera deposits. View dramatic landscapes, steep canyons, and towering spires which make for incredible photo ops. Look for bison, big horn sheep, and prairie dogs which inhabit the sprawling grasslands. Next we'll visit the famous Wall Drug with their free ice-water cups. There'll be time to tour the stores and streets and then check-in to our hotel for the next 4 nights in Rapid City, SD. **B, L**

Day 3, Wednesday—1880's Train Ride, Mount Rushmore, Keystone

This morning enjoy a short drive to Hill City to explore Main Street and board the 1880's train for a rail journey through history and scenery. The 1880 train is an authentic narrow gauge railroad dating back to the Black Hills Gold Rush. The train takes us to Keystone where we again board our bus for a short ride to visit the Mount Rushmore National Memorial, the epic sculpture of four American presidents— Washington, Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt and Lincoln. We'll have free time to explore and have lunch in the park. Afterward we visit the streets of Keystone, SD before heading back to our hotel.

B, D

Day 4, Thursday—Custer Park

Today we travel the winding roads of Custer State Park and view the amazing scenery, including another lookout point to see Mt. Rushmore. enjoy a delicious lunch at the State Game Lodge and then experience a most exciting Buffalo Safari Jeep Ride through the park. Later we'll round up for a fun-filled chuck-wagon dinner. **B, D**

Day 5, Friday—Bear Country USA, Deadwood

This morning we'll visit Bear Country USA with a walk-on guide for our journey through the park. You'll love this animal sanctuary! In the early afternoon we'll visit Deadwood, where mining has been an economic staple since the first discovery of gold in the Black Hills. This is the area of Old West legends Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickok. Explore on your own all the local attractions in the Old West Town complete with wooden sidewalks and the Wild Horse Gift Shop. Play a hand of Blackjack or Poker or try your luck at the slots! Later we'll enjoy supper at K Bar S Lodge and Mount Rushmore at Night (will view according to best weather conditions of day 3,4 or 5) **B, D**

Day 6, Saturday— Journey back East

After breakfast we'll board our motorcoach at the hotel and begin our eastward journey for an encore drive through the Badlands National Park. We'll continue east through South Dakota, visit the Sioux Falls area for dinner and sightseeing and then check in again at Stoney Creek Inn in Sioux City, Iowa. **B, L**

Day 7, Sunday— Homeward Bound

This morning we drive along the beautiful Missouri River. We'll have a planned mid-afternoon lunch in Iowa and the continue towards Illinois bringing us back home with everlasting memories of our Black Hills, Badlands, and Mount Rushmore adventure! **B, L**

Accommodations Information

Day 1 - Stoney Creek Hotel (*Sioux City, IA*)

Day 2—5 Double Tree Hilton (*Rapid City, SD*)

Days 6 - Stoney Creek Hotel (*Sioux City, IA*)