

## South dakota tourist attractions map with cities

The scenic trip starts in Yankton, which was once the capital of Dakota Territory, where you'll find a great museum showing artifacts and explaining the tribes that lived here. Address: 13000 SD-244, Keystone, South Dakota Sylvan Lake, Custer State Park | Photo Copyright: Brad LaneCuster State Park is one of the best state parks in South Dakota and covers a wide range of adventure terrain. This place is locally revered and if you're in the state, you'll probably see a billboard (or 5) advertising it. Head down the byway to Randall Creek State Recreation Area and Karl E. Just under the wild grasses growing up from the ground were over 1,000 missiles waiting at the ready as part of the Minuteman Missile program. Badlands National Park is another iconic South Dakota destination and stretches over 244,000 acres over prairies, canyons, and incredible rock formations. The museum features over 15,000 instruments on display. Custer State Park Custer State Park, South Dakota, USA - Aug 26, 2019: Cars driving though the herd of bison/Alex Cimbal/Shutterstock Looking for a way to escape the city and surround yourself with green grass, gentle wildlife, amazing rock formations, and trails that lead you to great views of the countryside? National Music Museum | loyaldefender2004 / photo modified The National Music Museum at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion features thousands of American, European, and non-Western instruments, and head across the street to pick up some corny mementos at the gift shop. The Native American history here is rich, with the park's name coming from the Lakota tribe's understanding that these lands lacked water and featured harsh weather and land that made it a tough environment to live in (the "badlands"). Crazy Horse Memorial James Dalrymple/Shutterstock South Dakota's massive Crazy Horse Memorial is located near Mount Rushmore and, though it's still under construction, will be over 563 feet tall (that's higher than a 60-story building) and 640 feet wide. South Dakota offers tourist attractions and rugged natural beauty in the center of the country. Above ground, you'll find lots of buffalo, prairie dogs, and other wildlife with great hiking and biking trails spanning 30 miles. Junior and Advanced Paleontology Classes are available for anyone interested in getting their hands dirty. The entire town is a National Historic Landmark and you'll find buildings, artifacts, and exhibits showcasing items from the late 1800s. It's easy to spend the whole day at the tumbling park when the weather is nice. It's a great place for the entire family! 12. New color bursts forward in the spring until everything is aglow in Spearfish Canyon throughout the summer. It was discovered in 1881 by a hunter who noticed a draft coming from a split in the rock. Take a look at a map of the state to plan smart or look for stops near the places you know you'll want to see to pull together a comprehensive travel plan. 7. Every August (usually the first week), hundreds of thousands of people descend on the city of Sturgis, Belle Fourche, Brandon, Box Elder, Madison. Visitors can access scheduled bus rides to the base of the memorial throughout the day to meet Crazy Horse face-to-face. The creek has carved the gorge over millions of years and it's a truly beautiful spot in the South Dakota wilderness. Native Americans dancing in regalia on ceremonial grounds/Terrance HT Ip/Shutterstock The former army outpost-turned-state park was onced called Fort Wadsworth, but today, you might know it as Fort Sisseton Historic State parks, and national parks that offer prime camping spots across the state. It has a deep history in the area despite its relatively new status as a state park. Ranger guided tours make this a really informative experience that people of all ages can appreciate. South Dakota is a vast state with rich Native American and colonial history, stunning scenery, famous monuments and landmarks, and beautiful parks. Falls Park Sopotnicki/Shutterstock If you'll be near Sioux Falls, you can't miss Falls Park! This natural area encompasses almost 130 acres along the Big Sioux River with a series of powerful, cascading falls winding through the rock formations. The Mammoth Site hosts all sorts of special events and weekly activities. It's a little bit silly, it's educational, and it's a long-standing beacon of Mitchell's agricultural richness that's been around since 1892. The Elk Mountain Campground at the national park sits among these above-ground surroundings and provides a less crowded experience than other campgrounds in the area. Tour galleries showcasing spiritual instruments, exploring how instruments have changed over time, global music, and the guitar and lute-making process that brings the instruments to life. The Butterfly House and Aquarium is open seven days a week between 10am and 4pm. Mundt National Wildlife Refuge to see bald eagles, especially in winter. Custer State Park boasts over 71,000 wildlife-packed acres in the Black Hills of South Dakota with some of the most popular trails, paths, and roads for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and scenic drives. The 0.6-mile Presidential Trail departs from the terrace, allowing visitors to get a closer look at the monument. Their event calendar includes things like family archaeology nights and Atlatl lessons. Wildlife, every event calendar includes things like family archaeology nights and Atlatl lessons. to visit — especially when you head to any of the spots on our list. The cave contains a unique and delicate cave structure known as "boxwork," which is found in only a few other places in the world. Whether you're spending a weekend or 7+ days in South Dakota, there are plenty of places to see and go to experience all this state has to offer! Written by Brad Lane Updated May 4, 2023 Author Brad Lane has enjoyed traveling throughout South Dakota. You'll find plenty of culture in cities like Sioux Falls, and Rapid City. It sits in the prairie with beautiful, sprawling grounds that still contain the guard house, officers' quarters, and barracks from its military past. For ideas on great places to pitch your tent or park your RV, see our article on the top campgrounds in South Dakota. The head and upper body portion of revered Lakota leader Crazy Horse have been carvings just down the road. Head to Wall, South Dakota to check out its iconic old shop, Wall Drug. There are two visitor centers with tons of information about the park (Ben Reifel and White River) that make the perfect places to start your trip. Order your free copy today. It's a great spot for fishing and rock climbing if you're so inclined! While you're here, wander out to the observation platform that overlooks the 60-foot Bridal Veil Falls (it's an easy hike). This inhospitable scenery is strangely beautiful and one of South Dakota's most visited destinations. Mount Rushmore National Memorial is the number one tourist attraction in South Dakota, bringing well over 3 million visitors each year to come see the presidents carved into the rock. One must-travel route in Custer is the Sylvan Lake Shore Trail. This larger-than-life carving was originally commissioned by James Cook with the planned location in Fort Robinson, Nebraska where Crazy Horse was killed. It's a great place to stop for lunch and a quick browse! Located in a town with under 1,000 people, the 50,000 square-foot Wall Drug is decorated and outfitted like it's still the Old West during the gold rush era. Consider visiting in the fall for cooler weather and better prices. Today, the cave is outfitted with lights and easy-to-walk paths that make it fun to take a guided tour. The best months to travel to South Dakota are generally the milder months with warm weather between May and September. U.S.A. Sept. The Corn Palace Festival happens each year in late August, but if you're not here in time to check it out, there are performances, exhibits, and shows that happen here every month of the year. This massive public park and popular place to visit offers several vantage points of the moving water, including a five-story observation tower. However, the fall is arguably the best time to visit, thanks to the stunning change of color. More than 400,000 tons of rock were blasted from the side of the mountain in its creation. Google Map of South Dakota's beauty, from Badlands to Mount Rushmore, with the Vacation Guide. Written and fact-checked by Ontheworldmap.com team. Parking places and viewpoints line the Badlands Loop Road, which tours the scenic environment from the northwestern Pinnacles Entrance to the Ben Reifel Visitor Center. This area boasts the incredible Spearfish Canyon, over 1,000 feet deep with a small but mighty creek running through it. Native American Scenic Byway Onetrillionpixels/Shutterstock The Native American Scenic Byway is one of the best places to visit in South Dakota, but it's not a single site or destination. Other visitor amenities include paved hiking trails, picnic benches, and an Information Center. While the butterflies are the true highlight, Sertoma also features an extensive aquarium that is home to a variety of marine life in tanks and petting pools. Rapid City is also nearly equidistant from Badlands National Park. A visitor center has lots of great info about the park, maps, and souvenirs you can buy to remind you of your trip. You'll be able to learn about the park, maps, and souvenirs you can buy to remind you of your trip. You'll pass 12 overlooks and a few picnic areas on the Badlands Loop Road, which takes you through the North Unit of the park. Every year a new mural of a different theme is constructed of corn and other grains/Johnnie Laws/Shutterstock South Dakota is packed with interesting spots to visit, and the Mitchell Corn Palace is one of the most fun. It's a common basecamp for those interested in exploring the area's monuments, like Mt. Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorial, within a scenic hour's drive. Many of the best attractions are in the western part of the state. Note the Needles Highway is closed down during the winter months as snow and ice can make the highway dangerous to drive. The landscapes of South Dakota come with a unique history still seen on the streets. The Black Hills on the western side of the state define most outdoor adventures. Popular roadside attractions and hikes in Spearfish Canyon include Bridal Veil and the Rough Lock Falls, and the Spearfish Peak and Little Crow Peak. Wall Drugs offers visitors gifts shop, cafeteria, fresh donuts, museum, & lore/Paul R. More than 60 mammoths, including three woolly mammoths, have been discovered at this site. The museum grounds feature several visitor experiences, including the Native American Education and Cultural Center. While the Mount Rushmore National Memorial is the main attraction here, you'll want to spend some time wandering down the scenic trails and walking paths on a guided hike. 10. The site is currently regarded as one of the oldest areas of human history in the country. Check out the Adams Museum to see real gold nuggets, dinosaur fossils, and tour the historic Adams House that still looks like it did in the 1800s in its Victorian grandeur. 16, 2018. After lobbying for the carving's home to be in the Black Hills, the work began and is still underway. This 14-mile route takes you up into the pine and spruce trees atop granite mountains, around Sylan Lake, past wildflower meadows and prairie lands, and amazing needle rock formations. From primitive campsites to electrical and water hookups at RV sites, there are plenty of ways to camp in South Dakota! Be mindful of the Sturgis Rally. A large herd of bison roams freely within the park, adding a unique element to the whole experience. The route leads you through tunnels and overhanging trees in some of South Dakota's most beautiful wilderness for a picture-perfect drive. Expect the highest prices during summer, but this time of year does have the warmest weather. Carved into the side of the mountain are the heads of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt. The on-site Ice Age Exhibit Hall displays some of the fossils being found underground. The most famous formation along the route is Needle's Eye, which looks like its namesake and features a small opening at the top of the vertical spike. lands to preserved Wild West towns and incredible national and state parks, South Dakota is a nature and history lovers' paradise. It's close to Sioux Falls' bustling downtown district, making it a convenient and fun stop beyond the natural beauty. Over 2 million people come to visit this old-timey store every year. It's a nice spot to have lunch at the visitor center's cafe, peruse the gift shop, take a chairlift up to the monument, or zip your way down the thrilling alpine slide. Map of Tourist Attractions in South Dakota spread far and wide. The town has other outdoor landscapes to explore, like the Big Sioux River Recreation Trail. Visitors today can learn about the culture and history of the area through a newly installed 11,000-square-foot visitor center. Read Next: When to Visit Badlands National Park in 2025 3. As the World's Only Corn Palace, the exterior of the building gets decked out in a new annual theme each year with kernels in a range of 12 natural colors, native grains, and wild grasses. The Black Hills surrounding Mount Rushmore offer many more days to add to a vacation itinerary. In the same area, hikers will also find the challenging trailhead leading up to Black Elk Peak, formerly known as Harney Peak, standing tall as the highest peak in the state. Find your own story to tell with our list of the top attractions in South Dakota. One particular section of the Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway is worth visiting while you're here — Needles Highway. Mount Rushmore | Photo Copyright: Brad LaneMount Rushmore National Monument is South Dakota's most prominent tourist attraction. Visiting South Dakota's wilderness means you may not see a gas station for many miles in some regions, especially if you're heading far out into the Black Hills or Badlands. Scenic drives, like the Needles Highway and Iron Mountain Road, provide easy access to the park with great views along the way. This waterfront route leads around the rock-lined reservoir and has many side trails to explore. Area: 77,116 sq mi (199,729 sq km). South Dakota is known for its monuments (Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorial), Native American history and tribal lands, state and national Park, Custer State Park, and Falls Park), and vast prairie lands with abundant wildlife, farms, and lakes. Popular things to do include visiting Storybook Island and the Chapel in the Hills. Address: 4320 Oxbow Avenue, Sioux Falls Old Courthouse Museum The Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls is a restored 1800s quartzite building with three floors. A recent renovation of the museum space included several new display cases and a brightly lit gallery. Address: 13329 U.S. 16A, Custer, South Dakota Read More: Things to Do in Custer, South Dakota Badlands National Park | Photo Copyright: Brad LaneThe dramatic landscape of Badlands National Park consists of uniquely formed hills and pinnacles made from the erosion of clay and sand. To make the most out of the best campgrounds near Mount Rushmore. The on-site Indian Museum of North America enriches any visit to Crazy Horse. Visitors are also encouraged to check out weekly classes and events at the Sertoma Butterfly House, including yoga, meditation, and tai-chi in the garden. The lattice structure of boxwork in Wind Cave means the air can easily flow in and out of the caverns, lending this historic and special place its name. The carving, designed by Gutzon Borglum, was begun in 1927, halted for several decades, and finally completed in 1991. The nightlife is awesome with gambling halls, saloons, music, and comedy shows that bring the place to life after dark! 13. Sioux City is also home to several cultural attractions, and anyone visiting should also spend time wandering downtown. The city still has a touch of its wilder days, but much of the fun is centered around families looking to enjoy a South Dakota vacation. There are some truly incredible overlooks and hiking trails to wander within the Badlands National Park at Sheep Mountain Table, the Door Trail, Castle Trail, and Medicine Root Loop. Address: 12151 Avenue of the Chiefs, Crazy Horse, South Dakota Wind Cave National Park, located just north of Hot Springs, is home to a huge karstic cave system, thought to be among the largest in the world. Routes like the Door, Window, and Notch Trails offer an easy hike into the challenging environment. Description: This map shows cities, towns, counties, interstate highways, state parks, recreatio areas, state monuments, memorials, historic sites, rest areas, information centers, indian reservations, scenic byways, points of interest, campsites, winter sports areas, ranger stations, fish hatcheries and tourist attractions in South Dakota. The monument features Crazy Horse, an Oglala Lakota Native American, riding a horse among the low pines of the Black Hills. Popular exhibits and activities attractions in South Dakota. the Butterfly House include the Pacific Tide Pool and Shark & Stingray Touch Pool, and the 3,600-square-foot indoor tropical garden that hosts the butterflies. Custer State Park features three lakes: Center, Sylvan, and Legion Lake, where people come to swim and fish in the warmer months, along with 9 campgrounds where you can pitch a tent or pull up an RV with incredible views of the lakes, rolling plains, or cool rock formations. You'll spot buffalo, mule deer, pronghorn, elk, donkeys, coyotes, and eagles if you keep your eyes peeled while you're in the park. Badlands National Park and Mount Rushmore National Park and Mount Rushmore National Park and eagles if you keep your eyes peeled while you're in the park. as you need to really appreciate both sites fully. Maps are available from park administration or from visitor centers. Address: 414 East Clark Street, Vermillion Good Earth State Park at Blood Run | Photo Copyright: Brad LaneGood Earth State Park is on the western side of the state and the outskirts of Sioux Falls. Address: 1800 US Bypass, Hot Springs, South Dakota Deadwood Deadwood was a famous gold-mining town on the Frontier of the American West, spurred by the discovery of gold in the surrounding hills in 1875. Spearfish Canyon Vivian Fung/Shutterstock Nature and wildlife lovers will appreciate the wilderness and rural appeal of Spearfish Canyon in the Northern Black Hills. You'll be able to browse the museum through different collections, like woodwinds, plucked strings, and percussion along with special instruments played by celebrities and historic figures. If you're going to South Dakota during the warmer months, you'll immerse yourself in the terrain and enjoy your visit more if you can camp out instead of staying in a hotel. Reenactments happen regularly, so if you line up your visit, you'll be able to witness realistic shootouts, gold panning, gambling, and daily life in the town happening just as they would back in the 1870s. Make a comprehensive itinerary. The interior contains several interesting features, including murals on the walls showing life in an earlier era of South Dakota. There are 4 overlooks on Sage Creek Rim Road that take you through the heart of the park and you'll see wildlife on each route! So, Where Will You Visit in South Dakota? The Badlands Loop Road and Sage Creek Rim Road are both great ways to drive around or through the park for scenic and wildlife views. Today, you can see the progress made so far as Crazy Horse's face beams from the mountain. Mammoth Site in Hot Springs features several preserved Columbian mammoth bones. It can mean hotels, campsites, restaurants, stores, and streets are a lot more crowded, so you may want to plan to come outside of this week in August if you'll be visiting the Black Hills, Deadwood, Rapid City, Crazy Horse Monument, or Custer State Park. If you want to book a guided tour, this is where you'll start! 16. Another top thing to do at Custer State Park is tour the 18-mile Wildlife Loop Road in the southeast corner of the park. If you want to book a guided tour, this is where you'll start! Festival! 6. An onsite Fossil Preparation Lab is educational for all ages, and even if you'll only be here for a day, you can take Sage Creek Rim Road and Badlands Loop Road for great views from your car. The only way to explore Wind Cave is through one of many guided sightseeing tours that take place nearly every day of the year. Frequently Asked Questions Jess Kraft/Shutterstock Wish you had some answers from a travel guru to help figure out your trip to South Dakota? Instead, it's a winding path of roadways and stops that lead down through the state, following the path of the Missouri River along special points of interest from the state's Native American history. Lows can reach single out your trip to South Dakota? digits in the winter (especially January, the coldest month) that makes camping and enjoying the wilderness in the state less enjoyable. But there's much more to see than what you've probably heard about. Take a self-guided tour through the site, stop at the gift shop, let the kids take a STEAM class, or play at the interactive stream and topographic tables to learn about geology in the area. For those not interested in an underground tour, the above-ground area of the park is also very beautiful, with rolling hills and roaming bison. Check out the Indian Museum of North America, dine at Laughing Water Restaurant, head to the gift shop, and take a tour or stay for a festive event. Today, the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site is one of two U.S. missile silos from the Cold War era and it's right here in South Dakota just north of the Badlands. In the winter, you can rent snowshoes here to get around the park and see it as a winter wonderland! An annual Fort Sisseton Historical Festival happens every June with reenactments featuring cavalry and infantry troops. The Lincoln Borglum Visitor Center on the terrace overlooking the monument is a fun part of any visit. A large herd of bison roams the peaceful landscape, encompassing a staggering 71,000 acres, and Granite peaks tower over the forests, lakes, and streams. City. For the more adventurous, there are trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. The museum runs events and exhibits on a regular basis so there's always something happening when you visit year-round. The park also maintains over 650 acres of native habitat, including interpretive trails that lead to the Big Sioux River. It's part of the larger Blood Run National Historic Landmark and occupies a lush area that once served as a thriving trading center and gathering place for the Oneota people. If you don't have much time but want to see the canyon, drive highway 14A for great views as you travel over the road built on an old railway. Bison in Custer State Park, South DakotaThe outdoors is truly stunning in South Dakota, arguably drawing the most visitors. From themed shopping and dining to an art gallery and local-made treasures, this place has it all. Within these wooded acres, which supported Indigenous populations for thousands of years, are an array of places to visit, like underground caves and larger-than-life monuments. Fill up your tank and stock up on snacks. Mammoth Site Hot Springs, South Dakota, USA 12-27-20 Mammoth Fossil Dig Site/Jacob Boomsma/Shutterstock If you've got some geologists, animal lovers, or history buffs in your group, you'll have to stop by the Mammoth Site Hot Springs, South Dakota, USA 12-27-20 Mammoth research facility and one of North America's top fossil interpretation sites for the late Ice Age. Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamanthaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamathaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can visit one of America's oldest national parks at Wind Cave SamathaZurbrick/Shutterstock You can tours are available, giving visitors a glimpse of the excavation process. South Dakota experiences milder weather in the spring (highs in the 40s-70s), summer (upper 70s-mid 80s), and fall (low 40s to mid-70s) with very cold, snowy winters (low 20s-40s). adventures. The first fossil found was a huge mammoth tusk and since then, dozens have been unearthed to tell the story of ages past. Different ability levels, with most routes following lighted and cement pathways installed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The Lewis and Clark Recreational Area is the perfect spot to hang out by the lake, swim, bike, camp, and boat. This old gold rush town is where famous figures from the era are buried, like Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickok. Music aficionado or not, the museum offers a fascinating insight into the evolution of musical instruments. Other sightseeing destinations, like Deadwood, the Crazy Horse Memorial, and Good Earth State Park, also expand on the history of the region. You can drive through the Badlands if you don't have much time or worry about trail accessibility. Just north of Spearfish is the geographical center of the United States. steps out onto the rocks that line the cascades and feel the spray on your skin as you marvel at the rushing water. An elevator can take you five stories high to the top of the enclosed observation tower for the best views of the falls, park, and Sioux Falls skyline. The carvings stand over 60 feet high and were intricately done by nearly 400 men and women between 1927 and 1941. The city of Spearfish, the northern terminus of Spearfish Canyon Scenic Byway, is a great base camp, with a lively community and several places to spend the night. Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Visitor Center outside of Badlands National Park/Nagel Photography/Shutterstock Did you know that U.S. hid a huge arsenal of nuclear missiles in South Dakota's prairie land during the Cold War? Spearfish Canyon is a beautiful natural area known for an abundance of ponderosa and spruce pines and stunning waterfalls from dramatic cliffsides. Discover outdoor adventures, culinary treats, and vibrant cities. Students at Dakota Wesleyan University cook up the new theme and help bring the murals at Mobridge Auditorium, a Sacagawea monument, and Sitting Bull monument are other highlights of the path. At this self-touted spot for music lovers, a small admission fee provides access to a wide variety of musical instruments, ranging from American electric guitars to German zithers. To be on the safe side, make sure you fill up every chance you get and keep yourself stocked with plenty of water and snacks when you're heading out into the backcountry. Falls Park, Sioux CityFalls Park is the centerpiece attraction of Sioux Falls in the southeast corner of the state. Hustead's drug store Wall, South Dakota, began in 1931 with free ice water. 5. Wall Drug Wall, South Dakota. The nearby Spearfish City Campground is one of the best campg dig site are available throughout the year. Any time of the most famous sites in South Dakota, Mount Rushmore National Memorial attracts over 3 million visitors each year as people come from all over to see the rock-carved likenesses of American presidents George Washington, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln amazingly etched into the stone of Mount Rushmore. The town does attract an evening crowd with several places to visit and things to do at night. There are 15,000+ instruments within its walls, covering centuries of musical history and focusing on different musicians that have changed the course of music over time. 8. Mount Moriah Cemetery is another fun place for some of the biggest characters of the Wild West, including "Wild Bill" Hickok, who met his demise in a local Deadwood establishment. Deadwood Deadwood, South Dakota, 07/10/2013 vintage car approaching on main street in Deadwood/Michael Kaercher/Shutterstock Up in the Black Hills National Forest, you'll find a small town that feels locked in the gold rush era with Wild West history and perfectly-preserved items that bring the old days back to life. National parks: Wind Cave, Badlands. Jones/Shutterstock Want to do something a little different? 4. Needles Highway Trent Mayer/Shutterstock South Dakota is full of scenic drives that take you past incredible rock formations, forests, hills, and rivers at hours at hours at hours at hours at hours at hours at hour and a half from Badlands National Park, so you could plan on spending a couple of hours at Mount Rushmore and a few exploring or driving around Badlands' scenic roads if you really want to knock both places out in a single day. All the museum exhibits relate to the history of the state and town. Map of South Dakota: Click to see large Description: This map shows states boundaries, the state capital, counties, county seats, cities, towns and national parks in South Dakota. Read Next: The Best & Worst Times to Visit Mount Rushmore 2. Deadwood's Wild West origins are on full display and waiting to be experienced throughout the downtown streets. Part of the park (the South Unit) is ancestral Tribal Trust Land belonging to the Oglala Sioux Tribe. The park's namesake and main feature is the intricate and winding Wind Cave that's full of boxwork — thin calcite "blades" or fins that intersect to form rock structures that look like honeycomb. Visitors can see partially uncovered mammoth bones shown as they were found, in a covered, climate-controlled building. Chief Henry Standing Bear, a relative of Crazy Horse, wrote to Cook and explained that the location of the monument should be in Paha Sapa (Black Hills), the ancestral lands of his people. 11. Tour the Delta-01 Launch Control Facility (or watch an e-tour), see a real nuclear missile, check out exhibits in the lobby, exterior, and deep underground in bomb shelter basements. If you're hoping to make it to some of the best places to visit in South Dakota, you'll want a working itinerary with your stops ordered in a way that efficiently gets you from place to place. The new Under the Dock exhibit illustrates in a fun way the wide world of aquatic life never too far away. Admission is free, although donations are accepted. Popular permanent exhibits at the Old Courthouse Museum include a replica of a 19th-century schoolroom and an artifact-filled gallery dedicated to the First World War. Fort Sisseton Historic State Park Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Powwow. However, the must-visit in Rapid City is Reptile Gardens, featuring a wide variety of animals and floral presentations. South Dakota is home to some incredible rock formations and canyons, cave systems, evergreen forests, and outdoor recreation options on its lakes, in its forests and plains, and in its granite mountains and hills. Size: 1350x971px / 318 Kb Author: Ontheworldmap.com South Dakota State Location Map Full size Online Map of South Dakota Large detailed Tourist Map of South Dakota with Cities and Towns 3930x2482px / 3.61 Mb Go to Map South Dakota county map 2000x1334px / 3.44 Kb Go to Map South Dakota with cities 3000x1714px / 1.23 Mb Go to Map South Dakota rail map 3138x2046px / 1.28 Mb Go to Map South Dakota highway map 2333x1277px / 947 Kb Go to Map Map of Western South Dakota 1392x1106px / 655 Kb Go to Map Map of South Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming 800x509px / 154 Kb Go to Map The Facts: Capital: Pierre. You can visit the natural entrance with signage that teaches you about the spiritual significance of the cave to the Lakota people. Grab a bite to eat at the Western Art Gallery Restaurant while you check out paintings and illustrations, pose with massive Mouth Rushmore and dinosaur replicas, let the kids play in the "backyard" area, and shop for souvenirs made by local tribes. While Mount Rushmore is often a defining feature of a South Dakota vacation, most people only spend about a half day at the monument. Roughlock and Spearfish Falls are slightly harder to reach, but just as incredible. The needle formations are tall, skinny rocks that have been eroded and shaped by wind, water, and cold. We've hand-picked what we consider to be the best things to do in South Dakota, hidden gems and all! 1. The best places to visit in South Dakota are wildly varied and each are special in their own rite. Falls Overlook Cafe, a trip to the farmer's market, or a bike ride down the Big Sioux River Recreation Trail and Greenway. Mitchell South Dakota, USA - September 20 2019: The Corn Palace in Mitchell South Dakota, USA. You'll arrive to temperatures in the 60s-mid-80s this time of year, limited rain, and lots of sunshine for ample outdoor time each day. It's open year-round (closed on holidays) and if you can't spend much time here or arrive when it's closed, virtual tours are available online! Things to Consider Planning a visit to South Dakota means you have beautiful parks and preserved lands, famous monuments, and scenic byways in your future. The best campgrounds at Badlands National Park include two within the park and several in the adjacent communities. 14. The wild-west themed Wall Drug and gorgeous Custer State Park in South Dakota each see over 2 million visitors annually, while the vast Badlands National Park sees around a million. Some of the top attractions of Deadwood include reenacted shootouts on Historic Main Street, the Adams Museum, and the Broken Boot Gold Mine. Changing vistas of rugged rock formations are the real appeal of this scenic route, as well as the Buffalo Gap National Grassland, one of the last remaining intact prairie landscapes in North America. Wildlife is abundant here, and you'll be able to spot porcupines, bobcats, and mountain goats teetering on the narrow, rocky walls of the canyon. From badlands jutting into the sky to National Music Museums, South Dakota offers several reasons to take a family vacation. Address: 6th and Main Street, Sioux Falls Rapid CityRapid C side of the state. The monument is illuminated in the evening and accompanied by a patriotic ceremony. The 16 Best Places to Visit in South Dakota While you've probably heard of some of these places (we're looking at you, Mount Rushmore), there's far more to do in this quaint state than meets the eye. Here are some helpful travel tips to consider to make the most of your visit to the Mount Rushmore State! Plan to visit when the weather is mild. These programs typically take place throughout the summer. When you're here, you can tour the massive indoor fossil dig site and see over 60 mammoth fossils and 87 other animals from the late Ice Age that have been uncovered here since 1974. The namesake park encompasses over 120 acres and a picturesque scene where the Big Sioux River tumbles through the landscape. And several campgrounds within the park host visitors from around the world. It's an educational place to spend a few hours as you move through southern South Dakota! 15. Crazy Horse MemorialThe Crazy Horse Memorial, north of Custer, has been a work in progress since it was begun in 1947. You'll come to a 50-foot monument on a hill called Dignity: Of Earth and Sky that depicts a Native American woman of Lakota or Dakota ancestry. Plan your trip with the wisdom you need by taking a look at the most frequently asked questions about visiting South Dakota below. Standard admission tickets are required to tour the site. Address: 26924 480th Ave, Sioux Falls, South Dakota Sertoma Butterfly House in Sioux Falls is home to hundreds of free-flying butterflies from all over the world. National Music Museum Tatiana Popova/Shutterstock Another fun stop in South Dakota is Vermillion's National Music Museum, a musical instrument museum run by the University of South Dakota. It's a favorite spot for photographers and there's a winding Geology Driving Tour through the park if you're just stopping through! 9. The best time to make this scenic loop is early morning or late evening when the resident bison are most active. The tower is attached to the visitor center, where you can purchase souvenirs and hotel options that support the generous summer traffic. Rapid City has plenty of in-town attractions.

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