



## Spotlight on South Dakota



*Highlights: Crazy Horse Memorial, Mount Rushmore, Badlands National Park, Wall Drug, Devils Tower National Monument, Choice on Tour, Black Hills Gold, Needles Highway, Custer State Park, Deadwood, High Plains Heritage Center*

7 Days • 9 Meals: 6 Breakfasts, 3 Dinners

**Day 1 Rapid City, South Dakota - Tour Begins** Welcome to the West. Your tour opens in Rapid City, long known as the gateway to the Black Hills. Tonight, you and your fellow travelers gather for a welcome dinner featuring a Native American chronicler who shares stories about the Lakota and Sioux way of life. (D)

**Day 2: Rapid City - Mt. Rushmore - Crazy Horse - Rapid City** Learn the history of some enterprising Westerners during a visit to the Chapel in the Hills. Then, **visit Crazy Horse Memorial** and learn the story behind the world's largest, still-in-progress mountain sculpture. The memorial includes the Indian Museum of North America, the Native American Cultural Center, the sculptor's studio, orientation center and theaters. Many Native American artists and craftspeople work at the memorial and welcome the chance to share how their culture influences their art. Next, **head for mighty Mount Rushmore** to spend some time with the epic figures of Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt and Lincoln as you stroll along the Presidential Trail that offers the closest access to this iconic sculpture. This evening, return to Mount Rushmore to see the nighttime lighting ceremony.\* (B)

**Day 3: Rapid City - Badlands - Wall - Rapid City** Today is all about wide-open spaces. **Explore the larger-than-life Badlands National Park.** Upon arrival at the visitor center, the stage is set for your adventure, with informative exhibits, displays and video to introduce you to this area. You'll explore the

Badlands Loop Road, a marvel of vibrant colors and rock formations created by mineral deposits. Afterwards, enjoy a stop at the legendary Wall Drug, a store that has barely changed since 1936. Do a little browsing, have a seat at the soda fountain, and take some time for lunch. (B)

**Day 4: Rapid City - Devils Tower National Monument - Rapid City** This morning, get your bearings as we head to the Geographic Center of the Nation in Belle Fourche. Then, cross state lines into the northeast corner of Wyoming to view the country's first national monument, Devils Tower, where **it's your choice!** Hike the 1.3 mile Tower Trail around the base of the monument -OR- explore the exhibits at the visitor's center to learn about the natural and cultural history of the park. While it was made famous as the backdrop in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, the tower is sacred to many Northern Plains tribes. You'll have time to explore the trails that surround the one mile circumference of this jaw-dropping geologic formation. (B, D)

**Day 5: Rapid City - Custer - Rapid City** Learn more about Black Hills gold on a tour through Riddle's Black Hills Gold and Diamond Factory. Watch skilled artisans handcraft South Dakota's official state jewelry and enjoy time to shop for some unique items to remember your trip by. **The Needles Highway is calling your name.** Travel through 14 miles of magnificent rock formations, curving tunnels and steep spires. We **continue our road trip through**

**Custer State Park** where you just might spot a buffalo, a band of bighorn sheep or a herd of majestic elk. (B)

**Day 6: Rapid City - Deadwood - Rapid City** Are you ready for Deadwood? This morning, we explore one of the Old West's most iconic settlements. This National Historic Landmark comes alive – it is as if you've stepped onto the set of an old-fashioned Western. Faithful recreations of turn-of-the-century streetlamps line Main Street as you make your way through historic, restored architecture. A local guide introduces you to the city's history during a tour that includes a visit to Mount Moriah Cemetery, where Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane rest. Enjoy some free time in Deadwood where gold, gambling and

gunpowder were once the order of the day. We will also make a stop at Kevin Costner's *Tatanka: Story of the Bison*. This interpretive center features large, awe-inspiring sculptures depicting the relationship of bison and the Lakota. This evening, it's our final roundup. Join your fellow travelers at a memorable dinner and Western show at the High Plains Heritage Center. (B, D)

**Day 7: Rapid City - Tour Ends** Your tour comes to a close today. (B)

