



# THE BLACK HILLS AND BADLANDS

## A TRIPS SIGNATURE WESTERN ADVENTURE IN SOUTH DAKOTA!

**SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 3, 2026**

### **Black Hills and Badlands of South Dakota - the perfect blend of colorful Wild West history and spectacular landscapes!**

The magnificence of this gorgeous area will capture your imagination as you gaze at sweeping Ponderosa Pine covered landscapes, roaming buffalo and granite hillsides carved into iconic images. Join us as we visit legendary Mt. Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Monument, along with Custer State Park where you'll learn of the pioneering Custer Expedition of 1874! Spend a day in Deadwood immersed in colorful tales of Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane and Poker Alice! Marvel at the stark beauty of the Badlands with its uniquely beautiful buttes, plateaus and spires! Ride an authentic 1880 steam-engine train on a historic trip through the Black Hills, and experience an exciting Jeep tour of the spectacular Needles! This is the perfect way to enjoy Wild Western South Dakota, made all the more so since you're staying in just one lodge! The top-rated K Bar S Lodge is nestled deep in the scenic Black Hills National Forest. 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 experience the lush forested splendor and laid back old-time lifestyle of Western South Dakota!

### **Itinerary**

#### **September 27, 2026 - Welcome to the Black Hills!**

You'll travel today to the beautiful Black Hills, where your adventure kicks off as you arrive in **Rapid City**, gateway to the Black Hills, 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'll unpack for your entire vacation! The **K Bar S Lodge** is the perfect blend of rustic style and upscale comfort, secluded in the heart of the beautiful Black Hills. Tonight at Fort Hays, you'll see buildings used in the filming of "**Dances with Wolves**," and enjoy a hearty **Chuckwagon Dinner** complete with entertainment. A true South Dakota Welcome!

Overnight: K Bar S Lodge, Keystone (D)

#### **September 28, 2026 - Historic Deadwood!**

This morning, you'll head out 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'll visit legendary **Boot Hill** and see the graves of **Wild Bill Hickok** and **Calamity Jane**. The history of this booming gold mining camp will come to life as your guide recounts Deadwood's colorful history. Continue up to **Lead**, home of the **Homestake Gold Mine** where more than 1.2 million kilograms of gold were extracted. Closed since 2002, it's now home to a scientific research lab on dark matter particles. Dinner is included tonight back at the Lodge.

Overnight: K Bar S Lodge, Keystone (B/D)

#### **September 29, 2026 - 1880 Train, Crazy Horse & Rushmore!**

Today after breakfast, you'll set out on a morning drive to **Mt.**

**Rushmore National Monument**, America's revered "**Shrine to Democracy**," to catch those perfect daylight photos! Then it's time to take a ride on the **1880 Steam Train**! Enjoy magnificent vistas, see mining encampments and enjoy some good old fashioned fun, as you follow the original route of the Chicago/Burlington Railroad laid down in the 1880s, servicing mines between Hill City and Keystone. After this scenic and historic ride, you'll get free time to explore the charming town of **Hill City** with lunch on your own, where the quaint shops, galleries and restaurants make it a great place to just stroll down main street. This afternoon, you'll visit the impressive 'work in progress' on what will become the world's largest sculpture when 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. Following some time to relax back at your lodge, you'll depart for an evening return visit to iconic **Mt. Rushmore**, set in the natural beauty of the Black Hills! The faces of Jefferson, Washington, Theodore Roosevelt and Lincoln truly come to life in the granite rock, symbolizing the courage, strength, preservation and growth of the United States!

Overnight: K Bar S Lodge, Keystone (B)

#### **September 30, 2026 - Black Hills Gold and Rapid City!**

Following breakfast, you'll depart for **Rapid City**, where your first stop will be at the Mt. Rushmore **Black Hills Gold** factory as you learn how the famous Black Hills gold jewelry is made! To be called Black Hills Gold, items must be designed in a traditional tri-color gold and grape leaf motif and be manufactured in the Black Hills. Your day continues with a visit to the **Journey Museum** tracing 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 events that forever changed the Lakota homeland. You'll then have time in **Rapid City** for lunch on your own and a bit of shopping. Along the street corners, you'll notice a series of **life-size bronze statues of our nation's past presidents**, a project honoring the legacy of the American presidency. Dinner tonight is at the **historic Alpine Inn** in Hill City, famous since 1886 for delicious meals served up in a friendly, homey atmosphere steeped in mellow old world charm.

Overnight: K Bar S Lodge, Keystone (B/D)

**October 1, 2026 - Mystical Magical Badlands and Wall Drug!**

Today you'll head out in a very 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 this forbidding terrain 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 foxes 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 at the time, and today Wall Drug is a beloved institution in western South Dakota! Return to your lodge afterward with

tonight's dinner on your own.

Overnight: K Bar S Lodge, Keystone

(B)

**October 2, 2026 - Jeep to the Needles / Custer State Park!**

After breakfast, you'll travel out to the spectacular unspoiled and untamed scenery of **Custer State Park**. There you'll experience the two most scenic and spectacular roads in all of the Black Hills: the impressive granite spires along **Needles Highway**, and the famous **pigtail bridges** and stunning views from **Iron Mountain Road!** Your **open-air Jeep** takes you through all six tunnels built to frame Mt. Rushmore, scenic overlook stops, and the awe-inspiring **Needles Eye!** After your tour, you'll enjoy a buffet lunch at the **Custer State Park Game Lodge**, also known as the 'Summer White House' after **President Calvin Coolidge** and his family lived there during the 1927 summer. After lunch, you'll further explore **Custer State Park** on its famous **Wildlife Loop** covering over 71,000 acres and home to a herd of **1500 free roaming North American bison**. Pronghorn antelope, elk, mountain goats, prairie dogs, bighorn sheep and wild burros also make this their home. Dinner is included this evening at the Lodge.

Overnight: K Bar S Lodge, Keystone

(B/L/D)

**October 3, 2026 - Parting is such Sweet Sorrow!**

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

(B)

CST # 2057913-10

\*\*Please note that itineraries are subject to change.

**Inclusions**

- Roundtrip airport transfers from Victoria, TX
- Roundtrip airfare to Rapid City, South Dakota (does not include checked baggage fee)
- **6 nights deluxe lodging at the K Bar S Lodge in Keystone, South Dakota**
- Breakfast Daily (6)
- **4 dinners and 1 lunch including Fort Hays Chuck Wagon, Alpine Inn and Custer State Park Game Lodge!**
- Ticket for the 1880 Train
- All admissions including the Journey Museum, Custer State Park, Crazy Horse Memorial, Boot Hill Tour of Deadwood, Jeep to the Needles, Homestake Gold Mine and more
- **Visits to Mt. Rushmore National Monument and Badlands National Park!**
- Services of a TRIPS escort while in South Dakota
- Portage of one suitcase per person
- Government taxes and fees



**BLACK HILLS AND BADLANDS**

**\$4,398.00**

per person / double occupancy

Single Supplement \$998.00

**Trip cancellation/interruption Travel Protection is available and recommended.**

Check with your club representative for details.

**Call today to reserve your space!!!**

Reservations for **"The Black Hills and Badlands"** are accepted on a first come/first served basis.

An initial **\$650.00** deposit is required to hold space on this tour.

This deposit is fully refundable up to May 21, 2026.

**Final payment is due in the TRIPS office on or before May 21, 2026.**

**Therefore, please make sure that payment is submitted to your club director at least 10 days prior to this date.**

100% non-refundable as of May 21, 2026.

**Prosperity Bank Travel Club**

Make checks payable to **Prosperity Bank c/o Doris Brown**  
 Travel Club Coordinator for South Texas / Bryan - College Station  
 101 S Main Victoria, TX 77901 (361) 572-6566

**Leslie Escalante** - Travel Club Director (361) 572-6504

**Luz Herrera** - Travel Club Administrative Assistant (361) 574-8431



The taxes, fuel surcharges, and other fees imposed by airlines and cruise lines have been included in the cost of your tour as of printing on April 10, 2026. Any increases in these fees or baggage fees imposed by any air carriers or cruise lines are the responsibility of the individual passenger. TRIPS makes arrangements with airlines, hotels and other independent parties to provide travel services you purchase. We do not own or operate any of the accommodation, transport or other facilities used in connection with our programs. We therefore cannot accept liability for negligence of the staff of these organizations. These parties are independent suppliers over whom we have no direct control. TRIPS is not liable in the event of any failure by any person or company to render any transportation, accommodation or other travel service provided on tours, or for expenses incurred due to delays caused by weather, strikes, war, civil disturbances, natural disasters, flight delays, government actions, mechanical failures or any acts of God. TRIPS cannot assume any responsibility for flight delays, cancellations or missed connections and is not liable for any expenses or consequences resulting therefrom, and such expenses are to be borne by the traveler. Specific airline Conditions of Carriage will apply. These conditions are the subject of International Agreements and may limit or exclude liability. The participant waives any claim against TRIPS for any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to, or death of, due to any act or negligence of any airlines, surface transportation companies, hotels or any person rendering any of the services or accommodations included. TRIPS cannot be held responsible for any claims, losses, damages for delay of baggage or other properties, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, upset and disappointment, distress or frustrations, whether physical or mental, resulting from the act or omission of any party providing services. The participant assumes and understands that all travel has inherent risk that may result in injury or death and that participation in activities, including but not limited to: driving, hiking, walking, touring, visiting archaeological sites, walking on uneven surfaces, riding on rough roads, rafting, boating, riding in helicopters, on trains, boats, swimming, horseback and any other activities. The information contained in this brochure and online has been compiled with all reasonable care, is accurate to the best of our knowledge and is given in good faith. All services are subject to the laws of the countries in which services are rendered. Payment for any TRIPS tour shall constitute consent to all provisions in these Terms & Conditions and is binding on all travel participants.