

Worksheet Itinerary for Deadwood Mickelson Trail Marathon
June 6th

Friday June 4th – Maricar and Peggy-leaving after school-no need to take the day off.

Peggy:

Newark (EWR) to Denver (Denver Intl.)	06/04/10	5:00 PM - 7:38 PM	Continental
Denver (Denver Intl.) to Rapid City (RAP)	06/04/10	9:20 PM - 10:31 PM	UNITED 58 EXPRESS/S

Maricar: 03252592511

For your boarding pass, use reference code **D6KW2Y** for online or airport checkin.

Fri, Jun 4, 2010 **Newark Liberty International Airport, (EWR) to Denver International Airport, (DEN)**

Depart: 05:00 PM	Newark, NJ (EWR) to Denver, CO (DEN)	Continental Airlines
Arrive: 07:38 PM		Flight 228 (on Boeing 737-800)

Requested Seats: 24D

Total Travel Time: 4 hrs 38 mins

For your boarding pass, use reference code **WZ8CSU** for online or airport checkin.

Fri, Jun 4, 2010 **Denver International Airport, (DEN) to Rapid City Municipal Airport, (RAP)**

Depart: 09:20 PM	Denver, CO (DEN) to Rapid City, SD (RAP)	United
Arrive: 10:31 PM		Flight 5896 operated by UNITED EXPRESS/SKYWEST AIRLINES (on Canadair Regional Jet)

Requested Seats: 9C

Total Travel Time: 1 hr 11 mins

Transport – Have to rent a car. Makes sense to rent a car since the shuttle from the airport to hotel is \$95 each way. To rent a car, it would be \$30 cheaper and we have it for more days. Make sure I take the Garmin Navigation with me. A one hour drive to Lodge at Deadwood.

Rental Car Confirmation Number: Primary Contact: Maricar Korff Rental Days: 3 Days

Confirmation #: 858341575COUNT

Rental Company: Alamo

Pick up Location: Rapid City Municipal Airport (RAP)

Vehicles At Terminal.

Telephone: 877.657.4874 (Promo Code: 10009590) (for questions about this reservation)

 210.507.6512 (Global) (for those dialing from outside the US and Canada)

 605-393-2664 to contact the rental location

Pick-up: 10:00PM Fri, Jun 4, 2010

Drop-off: 08:00AM Mon, Jun 7, 2010

Standard Car

Hours of Operation:

Sunday: 07:00AM - 11:59PM

Monday: 07:00AM - 11:59PM

Tuesday: 07:00AM - 11:59PM

Wednesday: 07:00AM - 11:59PM

Thursday: 07:00AM - 11:59PM

Friday: 07:00AM - 11:59PM

Saturday: 07:00AM - 11:59PM

Unlimited miles

Status: Automatic with Air Conditioning
Confirmed

Total - \$160.79 (\$80.40 each split)

Hotel The Lodge at Deadwood

100 Pine Crest Lane, Box 320

Deadwood, South Dakota 57732 Phone: (877) DWD-LODG

605.584.4800 www.deadwoodlodge.com

Your 622652 for your stay at The Lodge at Deadwood Peggy Mckean, 22 geat Court, Neptune NJ 07753 Arrival Date: 06-04-10 Departure Date: 06-07-10 Number of Nights: 3 Number of rooms: 1 Room Type: 2 Queen Deluxe Adults/Children: 1 Confirmation Number: 622652 Daily Rate: 149.00 + Tax

LOCATION: The Lodge at Deadwood is located in the Northern Black Hills of South Dakota just 7 miles from Interstate 90 at Exit 17, Hwy 85 and 11 miles from Exit 32. We are located across from Kevin Costner's Tatanka -"Story of the Bison".

PACKET PICK-UP: at the LODGE at DEADWOOD DEADWOOD, SD

FRIDAY ~ JUNE 4TH

2:00 PM TO 8:00 PM PACKET PICK UP

Saturday June 5th

Booked the Smart Alec GPS. 1-888-304-8997 or 605-348-4456 Spoke to Ken

Touring Ideas:

Frequently described as "Absolutely the Best Tour & Entertainment Package in the Black Hills of South Dakota." The Mount Rushmore Tour is perfect for group tours, family adventures, and international travelers who want an unforgettable experience in one fantastic vacation package!

Fort Hayes Cowboy Package

1 day Smart Alec Guide + Cowboy Breakfast + Chuckwagon Supper/Show

\$76 for 2 adults smart alec for \$30 \$22 per meal

We have a lots of locations that a SmartAlec will be available for rental.

City show version in nyc gps adventure guide if you want to try this in other states.

Confirmation Number:

Questions:

1. Which itineraries are best? Central Hills
2. Where do we pick up and return Smart Alec? Fort Hayes
3. We are there for two days. Which do you recommend?
4. Rental car. Should we get insurance for the animals?

5. What time do we have to be there for breakfast/dinner? 6:30 am to pick up device

Emily/Jerry Questions:

1. Are we ok if we finish after 6hrs?
2. Better to drive or take bus from our hotel?

Rapid City, SD

- [Fort Hays Chuckwagon](#), 2255 Ft. Hayes Dr., Rapid City, SD 57702 (4 miles south of Rapid City on Hwy 16w) - (605) 394-9653 - [Roamin Around Travel Store](#), 616 Main Street, Rapid City, SD 57701 - (650) 716-1660 - [Howard Johnson's Express](#), 950 North Street, Rapid City, SD 57702 - (605) 737-4656 - [Grand Gateway Hotel](#), 1721 N Lacrosse St, Rapid City, SD 57701 - (866) 742-1300

Keystone, SD

- [Iron Mountain Coffee](#), Located in the Keystone Mall, next to the Super 8 Motel, on the South end of town. -(605) 666-4220 - [Spokane Creek Resort](#), 24631 Iron Mountain Rd., Keystone, South Dakota 57751 -(605) 666-4609

Hills City, SD

- [Palmer Gulch Lodge/KOA Campground](#), 12620 Highway 244, Hill City, SD 57745 -(605) 574-2525 - [Rafter J Bar Ranch](#), 12325 Rafter J Bar Rd, Hill City, SD 57745 - (605) 574-2527 - [Crooked Creek Campground](#), 24184 US Highway 385, Hill City, SD 57745 - (605) 574-2418

Custer, SD

- [Custer State Park Game Lodge](#) Activities Center, 13391 US Highway 16A, Custer, SD - (605) 255-4541 - [Fort Welikit Campers & Rentals](#), 675 West Mount Rushmore Rd, Custer, SD - (605) 673-6600 - [Destination Black Hills](#) Custer, SD

Every day from mid-May through October, our sightseeing tour package starts at [Fort Hays Dances with Wolves Film Set](#) for a cowboy breakfast. When you're finished with breakfast, you can browse the Dances with Wolves film set and check out the [workshops](#). Make your own tin plate and/or rope, visit the blacksmith and browse the Dances With Wolves [gift shop](#). The tour departs and winds its way to places like Mount Rushmore, Custer State Park, and Crazy Horse, stopping for pictures of buffalo, big horn sheep and other wildlife along the way. Everyone gets an education and a belly full of laughs from our tour driver/guides as you spend the day traveling over 100 miles through the Black Hills national forest and ends by returning to Fort Hays for the [Chuckwagon Supper & Cowboy Music Show](#).

Mount Rushmore Tours Itinerary for:

[Mt. Rushmore & Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway](#) - **Yellow Route 71 mi.**

7:30 AM - Check in at **Fort Hays Dances with Wolves** film set. Enjoy the "**All-You-Can-Eat**" **Cowboy Breakfast** at our Chuckwagon.

8:50 AM - Board coach at **Fort Hays Dances with Wolves** film set. Your all-day, driver-narrated tour begins with stops at:

Mount Rushmore - We'll spend at least an hour visiting Mount Rushmore. There is plenty of time to see all the park has to offer including the sculptor's studio and the Lincoln Borglum Museum.

Iron Mountain Road - We'll wind over the Peter Norbeck National Scenic Byway as it takes you over Iron Mountain through scenic tunnels and pigtail bridges. Bring your camera for potential Kodak moments!

Custer State Park - Keep your camera ready and your eyes on the lookout for wildlife like buffalo, burros, antelope, elk, and rocky mountain bighorn sheep. We'll stop when it's safe.

State Game Lodge - Our lunch stop is the presidential summer White House for former president Calvin Coolidge. Here you can purchase a buffet or lunch from a menu. Try the buffalo soup!

Needles Highway - We continue through Custer State Park up Needles Highway passing through scenic tunnels and by scenic overlooks. Keep your camera handy; there are great pictures here!

Sylvan Lake - Stop for pictures at the spectacular man-made lake located at the bottom of Harney Peak.

Crazy Horse Mountain and Memorial - Staying for at least 1 hour, we'll visit the largest mountain carving in the world. You can visit the memorial and museums and learn about the sculptor Korzak Ziolkowski in his home studio museum.

5:30 PM - Return to **Fort Hays *Dances with Wolves*** Film Set

6:30 PM - 8:15 PM - Fort Hays Chuckwagon Supper & Cowboy Music Show - Supper Bell rings, calling everyone to the feed line where the cowboys serve up your Chuckwagon supper on a tin plate and serve your drinks in a tin cup! After Supper, the **Fort Hays Wranglers** take the stage for over an hour of music and comedy that will have your toe tappin', foot stompin', and your belly shakin' with good times. Bring your camera and capture some great memories.

<http://www.mountrushmoretours.com/>

<http://www.crazyhorsememorial.org//>

9:00 AM TO 6:00 PM PACKET PICK UP

11AM TO 12:30PM Last minute Race Day Registration for 5K and 1K at Deadwood Gulch Resort

1:00 PM KID'S WONDERFUL 1K ~ Deadwood Gulch Resort

1:00 PM (busses leave) MICKELSON FAST 5K ~ Deadwood Gulch Resort

2:30 PM Check in (NO RACE DAY REGISTRATION) for the Final 2K Kid's Marathon- Dwd Gulch

3 PM FINAL 2K KIDS MARATHON~ Deadwood Gulch Resort

5 PM The Lodge at Deadwood PASTA BUFFET (Advance ticket sales ONLY)

Race history:

Course Info

The Deadwood Mickelson Trail Marathon is a point to point course, beginning in the hamlet of Rochford, the first 1.5 miles are on the road. At this point, the course becomes the Mickelson Trail. The next 12 miles are a mixture of gentle uphill and flat terrain. From there to mile 19 is downhill, From 19.6 to about 20, there is a serious downhill... it's runnable, but you have to be careful not to become a "runaway." From this point to the end, the course is either downhill or flat and finishes at the historic Engine House at end of the line...the Deadwood Trailhead. The Half Marathon is also a point to point course, starting at the 13.1 mile mark of the full marathon, and follows the marathon course described above, also finishing at the historic Engine House of the Deadwood Trailhead.

Aid Stations

No more than 3 miles apart, usually closer to 2 miles.

Walker Friendly: The finish line is open for 7 hours

Contact Info:

> > From: DMTM Info <DMTMinfo@rap.midco.net>

> > Subject: RE: help with other questions

> > To: "'Maricar Korff'" <njchem@yahoo.com> ,

> "'Diana E Burton'"

> <dianab@juno.com>,
> ""peggy"" <peprun26@aol.com>
> > Date: Monday, February 8, 2010, 2:40 PM
> > Hi Ladies... I was just cc'd on an
> > email from Jerry Dunn to Peggy to give
> > him a call to answer your questions (605-641-3534).
> > He lives closer to
> > Deadwood than me and knows the area better, so if you
> can
> > call him that
> > would help you the most. If you still have
> questions
> > after talking to
> > Jerry, let me know and I'll get them answered.
> >
> > As far as packet pick up, sure...I can pack your
> > goodie bags/chips/shirts
> > and leave them at the front desk of the Lodge...BUT
> > :) could you please
> > email or call me the week of the race sometime
> > (605-390-6137) to remind me?
> > I made a note to do it, but it is CRAZY the week of
> the
> > race and I would
> > hate to forget, so if you could call just to double
> check
> > that would help
> > me.
> >
> > Thanks, looking forward to meeting you in June.
> >
> > Emily Wheeler
> > Wheeler Event Management
> > EmilyWheeler@rap.midco.net
> > 605.390.6137

If you are staying at the Lodge at Deadwood... Buses will pick you up in front of the hotel at 6:30 am (these buses are for hotel guest only, no exceptions) If you are staying at any of the hotels or motels in Deadwood, the Deadwood Trolley will pick you up in front of your hotel and take you to the Start Line Bus stop, where you will board your bus for your start line.....either the full marathon or the half marathon. If you are not staying in a Deadwood Hotel, and are driving in to catch your bus for your start line, you need to park at the Days of 76 Rodeo parking lot which is located on the north end of Deadwood. If you are parking at the Bus Stop area, PLEASE follow the directions of our Parking Attendants. They have a plan, and if you cooperate, all will flow smoothly. If you are being dropped off at the Bus Stop (Rodeo Grounds) your driver will be diverted to the right as you pull in to the parking lot. Again, please follow the Parking Attendants directions. Thanks for your cooperation.

The times that the Trolleys start running and the times that the Start Line buses begin leaving the Days of 76 Rodeo Grounds parking

lot for the two start lines is posted in the **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS** under SUNDAY, JUNE 6TH

Thank you making reservations for a SmartAlec Adventure guide. It's a great addition to your sightseeing adventure in the Black Hills. Please find your confirmation attached to this e-mail for details. If you have any changes or questions, please feel free to call us toll free at 888-304-8997.

Please pick-up your SmartAlec at Fort Hays easily located 4 miles south of Rapid City on Hwy 16w. You are free to arrive anytime after 8:00am to check in for your tickets and pick-up your SmartAlec.

You can also click on the link below to visit our map for directions to Ft. Hays from anywhere.

Online Directions to Ft. Hays

<http://www.communitywalk.com/location_info/71354/1879267>

**2255 Fort Hayes Rd
Rapid City, SD, USA**

605-348-4456

Ken Jones

SmartAlec Adventures

605-348-4456

Sunday June 6th – Marathon Day

5:00 AM FREE PARKING at Days of 76 Rodeo Grounds

5:15AM TO 5:40AM DEADWOOD TROLLEYS FREE will pick up all runners staying at any Deadwood Hotel to take them to START LINE. Bus Stop, where they board busses that will take them to their respective START LINES.

6:15AM TO 6:30AM START LINE BUSES leave from Days of 76 Rodeo Grounds Parking Lot for both the start lines. Busses WILL leave ON TIME.

6:30am Start line buses leave from the Lodge at Deadwood (for hotel guests only)

8:00 AM SHARP START TIME for MARATHON, HALF MARATHON and MARATHON RELAY

10:30AM TO 3:30PM Free bus service from Reunion Area to Deadwood Hotels and Days of 76 Rodeo Grounds parking lot.

Area Attractions:

Mount Rushmore Gutzon Borglum and 400 workers sculpted the 60-foot busts of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln to represent the first 150 years of American history. Visitors to the memorial come primarily to view the granite sculpture itself, but also of interest is the Sculptor's Studio built under the direction of the artist, Gutzon Borglum, in 1939.

Spearfish World-class Fly Fishing, Rock Climbing, Hunting and other Nature activities just around the bend from Deadwood. Home of

Spearfish Canyon and Spearfish Creek. For more information visit: www.spearfish.sd.us

Crazy Horse Memorial To be carved into a mountain by sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski beginning in 1947, the legendary Indian, Crazy Horse was chosen as the subject by the local Indians who insisted that he be carved into the Black Hills. The 563 foot work has taken over 50 years and despite the sculptor's death is still being sculpted to this day. Memorial includes the Indian Museum of North America.

Devils Tower National Monument Located in Devils Tower, Wyoming, 77 quick miles from Deadwood. The Tower and the surrounding 1,347 acres were designated as our nation's first National Monument by President Teddy Roosevelt in 1906. Scientists believe that Devils Tower is the core of a volcano exposed after millions of years of erosion caused by weather and the Belle Fourche River. If you are staying in the Devil's Tower area: Devils Tower Lodge – "Simply the Finest Accommodations, Rock Climbing instruction and Guiding in the Black Hills Area"

Badlands National Park Badlands National Park is located in the Southwestern corner of South Dakota just north of the town of Interior. The park consists of nearly 244,000 acres of sharply eroded buttes, pinnacles and spires blended with the largest, protected mixed grass prairie in the United States. Sixty-four thousand acres are designated official wilderness, and is the site of the reintroduction of the black-footed ferret, the most endangered land mammal in North America. The Stronghold Unit is co-managed with the Oglala Sioux Tribe and includes the sites of 1890's Ghost Dances. The park is open year round – 24 hours a day, seven days per week. Entrance fees are collected April through November. You can enjoy sightseeing by personal car, hiking, biking (established roads only), picnicking and camping.

Very fun race (about: 2009)

Course: 5 Organization: 4 Fans: 4

R. M. from New Jersey (6/30/09)

11-50 previous marathons | **1** Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Marathon

I really enjoyed running the Deadwood Mickelson Trail Marathon, even though it was the most difficult of my 11 marathons. This is by far the highest altitude that I've run at, although I didn't particularly notice it. My time was about 15-20 minutes off my usual marathon time, but I suspect that more due to the hills than to the altitude. Everybody knows that the first half goes uphill and the second half goes down. What I didn't know was that the first half hill was just one long continuous hill. I was expecting at least a little bit of a break where the terrain would level off for a minute or two so I could catch my breath. But no, it just kept on climbing and climbing. Wow. The second half downhill was very welcomed, but it was hard to enjoy it after working so hard in the first half. And the little uphill thrown in at Mile 19.5 was a bit of a jolt to the system as well. Still, the course was beautiful. I will agree with others that the hour and half wait in the cold at the start was unpleasant. (An this is what prevents me from giving 5 stars for Organization). Thank goodness the rain stayed away for the most part. A little shelter, plus some liquid (hot or cold) would have been nice. Spectators were sparse. I saw one guy about 5 times along the course. The person he was there to see must have been right behind me, and he kept driving up to the next suitable viewing spot. If it weren't for repeats like him, there'd be almost nobody out there. The spectators who were there cheered loudly. But don't do this race if you need a lot of crowd support. Personally, that doesn't matter too much to me; I do all my training runs without any crowd support, so I'm used to it. So in a nutshell: Beautiful but difficult course. Friendly people in a friendly town. Nice shirt and medal. Decent post-race food. Deadwood is a fun place to spend a couple days, and is very close to Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse, so you can get your tourist fix. For anyone who needs a marathon in South Dakota, this is a great choice.

Worth the trip (about: 2009)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 3

Bill Gaghan from Glastonbury, CT (6/30/09)

11-50 previous marathons

My wife and I flew out from Connecticut to run this race. As a 50-stater, it has been on my wish-list for years and I am glad to report that it lives up to its reputation and then some. Jerry and his great team of volunteers do a terrific job in organization, and the course is simply beautiful. As others have cautioned, beware of the impact that the climb will have on you at 5,000-6,000-foot altitude. As a guy who loves oranges when I eat them, major kudos to DMTM for having them at every aid station! It kept me going.... The tech shirts and finisher's medals are first-rate. There is plenty to see and do, so plan a couple of extra days, and see some of the sights. We drove out to Devil's Tower the day before the race and did a loop to Crazy Horse and Mt. Rushmore afterward. I highly recommend this race!

Beautiful trail race with easy terrain (about: 2009)

Course: 5 Organization: 4 Fans: 4

A. L. from Washington State (6/26/09)

11-50 previous marathons | **1** Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Marathon

This race was definitely one of the most beautiful races I have completed. The trail was wide, and even after pouring down rain all night, the packed gravel was easy to run on without trail shoes. I would recommend this for a beginner looking to do a trail marathon. I don't usually need food support throughout a race but for some reason I did this time, and I was thankful that they had support every 2 miles, as promised, even early on. It was cold and the 1.5-hour wait after the buses dropped us off at the start line was quite difficult. My only thought would be that maybe we don't need to get there so early? I never quite warmed up, even though I had a drop bag to help. If I were to do it again, unless they offered later buses, I would have had my family drop me off closer to the start time. I know they like you to use the buses for a lot of trail races but please consider the elements!

Great Times; Great Place (about: 2009)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 5

Greg Terry from Tippcity Ohio (6/19/09)

11-50 previous marathons | **1** Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Marathon

This was my 27th marathon, and second in South Dakota. Out of all of them, Mount Rushmore '07 and the Mickelson Trail are my favorites. The uphill is tough going, but I took it slow and enjoyed the scenery other runners and the aid stations. The Blackhills and Jerry Dunn are one of a kind. I will be back.

26.2 Miles of Breathtaking Black Hills Beauty (about: 2009)

Course: 5 Organization: 4 Fans: 1

R. J. from North Georgia (6/16/09)

11-50 previous marathons | **1** Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Marathon

It's billed as "26.2 Miles of Breathtaking Black Hills Beauty," and it is! It's a really well-run race, too. Aid stations are about every two miles. Spectators are virtually nonexistent, as only a few trailheads along the route are accessible to vehicles. Most of the route is along the Mickelson Trail, a sand/gravel rails-to-trails path through the beautiful Black Hills landscape past horse and cattle ranches, ghost towns, abandoned gold mines, over bridges, past creeks and beaver ponds, through one tunnel, past the gold mining town of Lead, and ending in Historic Deadwood.

As previous comments said, the climb is not too steep, but at altitude, it still takes some effort. The 13-mile descent gives the quads quite a pounding too, and after the long climb, legs are already tired. Great tech T-shirts and medals, and the RD personally greets each finisher. Nic

This year it was 38°F and raining, which is my only real complaint about the race. Marathoners were dropped off at the start in the tiny town of Rochford, SD, and the buses departed, leaving us shivering in the cold rain for 90 minutes before the start. Some sort of shelter would have been nice, but there was none! Half-marathoners were able to wait in the buses, which waited there until the start, and even had hot coffee. Why do the marathoner buses remain? Still, this is a great race, and I would recommend it to anyone who doesn't need spectators, bands, huge crowds and a flat, easy course. While you're in the area, there are plenty of great things to see.

Fantastic Race (about: 2009)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 3

J. M. from Illinois (6/12/09)

11-50 previous marathons | **1** Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Marathon

The course is absolutely spectacular. This is one of the most enjoyable marathons I have done. Be prepared for a tough race if you are a flatlander. I handled the gradual climb from 5,200 to 6,200 feet during the first half pretty well, but the continual downhill running in the second half absolutely killed my knees and legs.

Wonderful Trail Marathon (about: 2009)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 3

A. D. from New York City (6/9/09)

11-50 previous marathons | **1** Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Marathon

This was a wonderful, scenic, trail marathon. The trail is pretty resistant to rain, and was muddy/slick in only a few spots even though it had rained all night. We were very lucky, as the rain stopped as we got to the starting line and remained only a drizzle until we finished. The organizers did a good job getting us from the parking lots to the start, and from the finish line back to the parking lots. The map on the website shows a constant 800-foot climb from miles 2-13, followed by a constant 1600-foot drop from 13-26. This was amazingly true, as there was almost no rolling hills except for a small but annoying uphill around mile 19-20. If you can curb your enthusiasm during the uphill climb, you almost have a guaranteed negative split on the second half. Just make sure your knees and quads are trained for the downhill part. The trail has plenty of year-round markers on it, so it's pretty hard to feel lost. The pack does get pretty spread out, so you should be prepared for that. However, there are only a few places where you could possibly get lost, and then you only have to look for the trail sign. Most of the spectators were volunteers at the fluid stations, runner entourage, or relay runners. I'm a 50-stater, and I would recommend this marathon as the South Dakota Marathon because of my experience, and because it's held in June - when there are only a few marathons scheduled in the U.S.

Beauty never gets old (about: 2009)

Course: 5 Organization: 4 Fans: 3

Dave Graves from Vola, S.D. (6/8/09)

11-50 previous marathons | **4-5** Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Marathons

This is the fourth time I have run this race and was thinking it was time for a change in my marathon routine. But running it again is enough to inspire me to want to return. There isn't a quarter-mile on the 26.2-mile route that doesn't have beauty, even on an overcast and misty morning like we had this year. Using the Mickelson Trail also eliminates the need for crossing guards and isolates runners from the outside world. It's

nothing but you, your fellow runners, and God's creation. Spectator viewpoints are limited, but those trailheads and crossings do draw a good throng of well-wishers of participants. The aid stations were well spaced, and the offering of fruit was appreciated. Signs designating which trail offered water and which offered sports drink were appreciated. At the finish line it was encouraging to be greeted by running legend and race director Jerry Dunn. The chocolate milk at the refreshment table tasted great. My only suggestion for the race would be to have some type of shelter at the starting line. With buses taking runners to the start more than an hour before the start, there could be a real problem if it would rain, which almost happened this year. I would suggest a tent, or opening up the fire hall or chapel, if possible. Otherwise, there could be hundreds of soaked runners waiting around for the race to start.

Well put together race/Beautiful scenery (about: 2008)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 5

John Wog from Santa Monica, CA (9/30/08)

4-5 previous marathons | **1** Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Marathon

Everything about this race is fantastic. Great scenery, nice tech shirt and a really cool medal. Jerry and all the volunteers are great and had a lot of enthusiasm. There is a trolley that picks runners up and drops you back off at your hotel. The town of Deadwood is a lot of fun also. No one met - including the runners - could have been any nicer. Thanks, Jerry!!

Very scenic, challenging and well put together (about: 2008)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 5

R. B. from New York, NY (7/15/08)

11-50 previous marathons | **1** Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Marathon

This was my first time in South Dakota and I really enjoyed the area and race. The region around Deadwood is stunning in natural beauty (Crazy Horse, Mt. Rushmore, The Badlands, Goldmines, and Lake Pactola) and the people that I met were extremely friendly and fun. The race director did an amazing job organizing the event, there were adequate aid stations, the course was very tough and challenging, which was fun, many great volunteers lined the course, and the bus transportation to the start was on time and very convenient. There weren't a ton of spectators (which is expected since this is a wilderness trail race), but the ones around were very vibrant and encouraging. As you approach the last two miles outside of Deadwood, there are many more spectators and a lot of energy down the final stretch. I'd highly recommend this race to anyone who loves adventure, fresh air, a challenge and exploring the real Wild West! Also, the medals were top-notch (engraved and heavy) and the shirts were blaze orange and made out of a Dri-Fit type of material.

Beautiful Course (about: 2008)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 4

N. M. from St. Louis, MO (7/8/08)

6-10 previous marathons | **1** Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Marathon

Beautiful scenery on this "trail" marathon. The trail is a converted rail line, so it's smooth and flat. The first 13 miles went uphill, and with the elevation, it definitely could be felt. Not a PR course, but the views of the black hills make up for it. We stayed at the Days of 76 campground. RVers or tents, it was great because you could walk right to the bus for the ride to the start. At the finish line, the bus brought us right back to the campground area. Earlier posters were correct that there are not many places to eat in Deadwood other than in the casinos. (We brought our own food for the night before.) The city of Deadwood was very welcoming and the organization of the race was super. The weather was nice but a bit cool at the start and you have to wait outside for awhile before the start. It did hail for awhile in the middle of the race but stopped after about 15 minutes and the sun came out. I guess the lesson is to be prepared for any kind of weather. I definitely recommend the race if you like smaller sized marathons with great views!

Peak for the half marathon (about: 2008)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 2

T. H. from Ottawa Hills, OH (7/4/08)

6-10 previous marathons

I can't speak for the full marathon but the half is a winner. I wasn't in shape to run that uphill portion of the marathon, so I opted for the downhill half. This is one fast course. Having the word "Trail" in the name of the race shouldn't dissuade anyone from wearing racing flats. The course is mostly run on crushed red rock - no ankle-busters here. Organization was top notch, from the shuttle buses, to the porta-johns, to the speed of the results being posted at the race. As far as Deadwood, the casinos had a Mom and Pop feel to them. (Depending on your Mom and Pop.) They weren't crowded, and all the dealers were friendly. If that's not for you, travel in any direction. Devil's Tower to the northwest, and Mt. Rushmore, The Badlands, Custer State Park are all within a two-hour drive. Face it, if you're not from this part of the country, you might never see it all. But back to this half. If your half marathon PR is soft or less than a dozen years old, get yourself in racing shape in the spring and get yourself a PR. Twelve downhill miles and one mile uphill in the middle for a change of pace. The altitude wasn't a problem at all and the race, or go and enjoy the scenic course.

Awesome scenery - Awesome race (about: 2008)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 4

T. S. from St. Louis, MO (6/20/08)

11-50 previous marathons | **1** Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Marathon

This was my 17th marathon - all in different cities - but my first trail run. The scenery on the course was awesome - there were times that I was totally alone on the trail, just enjoying the beautiful day. I encountered two marathons first - running over a cattle grate in the road (although it was covered in plywood for us) and being hailed on (only for a few minutes) about 3 hours into the race. The trail was in excellent shape - no worries about the surface, in case you do not normally run on trails. It was very firm and smooth. The spectators were great - in the spots where they could get to along the trail. The water stops were all well stocked and the volunteers were GREAT!!! The race was very well organized. I

have nothing but praise for Jerry and his crew. I agree with the previous comment that the town of Deadwood was a disappointment - all casino. In fact, we were hard-pressed to find a restaurant that was not a casino "buffet." We eventually found a pretty decent place - the Deadwood Social Club. One other "non-touristy" recommendation: We stayed an extra day and found several great hiking spots in Spearfish Canyon. Gorgeous scenery; easy hikes to several waterfalls and nice vistas from the "mountaintops." Even a drive through the canyon is worth the trip.

Beautiful course, great organization (about: 2008)

Course: 5 Organization: 4 Fans: 4

C. S. from Belle Fourche, SD (6/16/08)

6-10 previous marathons | **1** Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Marathon

I've lived in South Dakota for just over 2 years now but missed out on this race the last 2 years because of other obligations - and after finally running it this year, I'm that much more sorry that I missed out on it twice. You'd be hard-pressed to find a more beautiful marathon course or better running venue than the Mickelson Trail. For most marathons, I'm totally oblivious of the scenery along the course, but this is definitely where you want to take the time to actually look around. Although the Mickelson itself is a very wide, well maintained trail, be warned that this is not a fast course. As others have mentioned, the uphill first half will take its toll if you don't pace it correctly. The grade is very gradual, which I think actually hurts a lot of people because they don't realize just how much uphill running they are doing, and by the time they reach the down second half, they're spent. If you take it easy in the first half, you'll have a much more enjoyable second half. The organization was great too. The expo was small, but what do you expect from a small race in Deadwood, SD (in other words, this ain't Boston)? Packet pickup was painless and I'm not just saying that because I volunteered there for a few hours. :) The shirts were nice (I believe this year was the first one with technical fabric shirts) and the bibs were also very cool (and personalized, if you registered early enough). The new finisher medals were also nice (metal this year, instead of the alabaster of past years). Volunteers were very helpful and friendly, aid stations were well organized with signs and volunteers directing you to either water or PowerAde. Jerry cares a lot about this race, and it shows. Spectators were not plentiful, but given the nature of the course, that's to be expected. What spectators there were were very supportive and there was a fair number at the finish line in Deadwood. This race isn't about throngs of cheering people along the course like some of the megathons; it's about taking a nice run through the woods. The only flaw I saw is one that's been mentioned in past reviews. It appeared that some of the mile markers were off, as much as 0.1 mile according to my Garmin (which I realize can be inaccurate itself, but over a tenth of a mile is a pretty large discrepancy). I realize the difficulty of getting the markers placed in the right spot along the trail, but it's something (really, the only thing) that can be worked on for next time. This race instantly became my favorite marathon. I know that I will never get a PR or a BQ here, but that's not the point of this one. I'm fortunate that I only live 30 miles from Deadwood, because I know I'll be coming back to this race for years to come. If you're a 50-stater and looking for a South Dakota race, pick this one.

Totally wonderful experience/trail/organization (about: 2008)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 5

Robert Shearer from Maquoketa, Iowa (6/14/08)

1 previous marathon | **1** Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Marathon

This was my first marathon. Great experience! Regular rest stops were well stocked and well organized. Read comments from marathons in other locations; they had none of those problems here. Absolutely beautiful trail!

Stunning course with great support (about: 2008)

Course: 5 Organization: 4 Fans: 5

M. M. from Sacramento, CA (6/13/08)

4-5 previous marathons | **1** Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Marathon

The first 13 miles are on a 1.5% grade or so, but it's helped by the fact that you are running in granite canyons with Ponderosa pines, across level meadows, and next to rivers and creeks. Great water/PowerAde stops, with most also offering oranges, bananas and pretzels. My only concern was that the only first aid facility I saw was at mile 13. I wonder about the ability to respond to runner injuries. But maybe there was a capability to deal with it that wasn't apparent to me. Lovely course, small but enthusiastic crowd support, and great volunteers and organization.

Scenic, well-organized, friendly atmosphere (about: 2008)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 5

c. h. from Billings, MT (6/12/08)

6-10 previous marathons | **2** Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Marathons

This was my 7th half marathon and I absolutely love this event. Jerry Dunn sees to all details and has the friendliest group of volunteers, and the course is spectacular. Plus, it's a great destination race with lots of tourist/sightseeing options in the Black Hills. The area had received several inches of rain that week but the pea-sized limestone gravel was in great shape with only a few wet/muddy spots. The weather was perfect and it was nice to get a tech shirt this year. We are already planning to do the Deadwood again next year.

A beauty (about: 2008)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 2

Dave Graves from Volga, S.D. (6/11/08)

11-50 previous marathons | **3** Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Marathons

There can't be a more beautiful course. Gorgeous mountain scenery with bridges to cross, a roaring creek to follow, and even a mountain tunnel to run through. This is my third time to run the event and the weather has always been good. The course is tree-lined in most places, providing shade and breaking the wind. The open places provided welcome sunshine after a brief, cold rain this year. Aid stations at about every two miles provided sports drink, water, and often oranges and bananas. Registration was smooth and vendors had some good deals. Spectators are

families of other runners. This course starts in a remote area and ends at the edge of town. So you need to bring your own cheering section. E you should be able to gain inspiration from the course and fellow runners.

Beautiful course with only one hill. (about: 2008)

Course: 5 Organization: 5 Fans: 3

d. s. from Shoreview, MN (6/10/08)

11-50 previous marathons | **1** Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Marathon

Beautiful course with only one hill, although it was 26 miles long. Thirteen miles up one side and 13 miles down the other. The course does have some elevation change, but is on an old railroad grade, so it wasn't particularly steep in any one spot. The race is a trail marathon, but is wide with a pretty smooth surface throughout. This was my 28th marathon and one of the prettiest I've run. The organization was first-rate, plentiful and volunteers wonderful. I highly recommend this race.

1. Have TO rent a car. Awesome car. Had a Subaru Outback.
2. David Williams surprised us and met up with us b/c he couldn't go with Diana to Wyoming.
3. Deadwood Lodge great hotel. But David stayed at the Hampton Inn which was a better location b/c you can walk around downtown and you can walk to the start from his hotel. You can't walk from Deadwood even though it was the host hotel and it was where packet pick up was.
4. Didn't have to pick up our packets. Saved for us at desk b/c we wanted to do heavy touring. Emily amazing. Worked with us. Nice thing about small marathons.
5. Went to Fort Hayes Cowboy Breakfast. Rented GPS to talk to us about sights. Smart Alec was good and talked about history and sights.
6. Drove to Mount Rushmore. Did ranger walking tours. Amazing gift shop where we found patches of all 50 states.
7. Drove to Crazy Horse monument and met up with David. They had a walk going on where you can climb to top of Crazy Horse.
8. Drove Needles Hwy. Amazing views and road.
9. Peter Nobeck HWY.
10. Had cowboy dinner and show with David.
11. Had to take bus to the start from hotel. Bus picked us up.
12. Amazing course. Uphill for first 11 miles. Gorgeous views and scenery. Met Tony Reed and ran together the last 10K. Tough course for me. Nice trail run.
13. Jerry at finish. Went to shooting demo then drove to Devil's Tower, Wyoming through Black Hills.
14. Had dinner with David in town. Then separated after.