

South Dakota Hike Trip Notes **September 23-October 2, 2016**

From www.ParksPlusHiking.com - It's finally here! This much-requested South Dakota Plus tour is packed with variety. The legendary Black Hills of South Dakota--stretching from the delicately banded colors of the surreal Badlands to stark, monolithic Devils Tower to the combination of prairie and underground of Wind Cave to the rocky outcroppings of the Needles--this trip has it all. Throw in Mt Rushmore, some Old West theme, abundant wildlife, and comfy lodging and you'll agree an adventure awaits.

Headlines

- Lots of tourist sites such as Mount Rushmore, Devils Tower, Sylvan Lake's Harney Peak, Crazy Horse from a distance, Badlands, Black Hills.
- Even more open and empty spaces reminding us of the waving fields of grain and to hold our hat in the strong winds.
- Hotels were better than usual and all historic in lovely settings.
- Hiking didn't even have any #5 tough days but the #4 days suggest I'd better start training for Hawaii and Yosemite.
- The elevation was often at 5,000' and UP which is felt by us sea-landers.
- Weather cooperated very well. The winds can't be expected to go away. The temperatures were from high 40s to mid-70s.

Photos

I rarely hand my camera over for pictures and I never take a selfie but thanks to Guide Nola, I have a few that I even liked.





On the backside of Sylvan Lake and then (of course) in front of Mount Rushmore with Debbie.



The ladders (explanation below) were a challenge. We didn't challenge ourselves to this labyrinth. We did walk around Devils Tower and found the light changing continuously. I was mesmerized by the rock climbers too. In another life?

From notes sent home

Friday travel and Saturday in Rapid City

After United - things picked up. I'm not prone to complain about airlines because I feel like their challenges are met pretty well. That was not the case for the start of this trip.

MY REPORT - Pretty crappy that I was booked out of Newark's terminal B. That had never happened before and I learned that United is only one week going out of terminal B. The smart ass who

answered the phone at the 1K desk acted like I should have known that of course United is in terminal B. NOT.

It went from bad to worse. I had to negotiate my suitcases two different floors in order to check in. And then hunt for that one single little ill-manned booth for United. No line for first class.

There is more. There is no United lounge in terminal B and taking the bus or monorail over to terminal C was not logical. There is a priority club but I had no reason to be carrying the pass and they wouldn't let me in without the actual physical pass. Forget the fact that I had my American Express platinum which gives everybody priority Pass benefits.

Pre-check was closed. It has been a long time since I've waited in such a line to get through full security.

To continue – it still got worse. Is there a word worser? The terminal is really third world. I learned that there is no air conditioning so there are huge big fans blowing on you like a typhoon. The announcements knowledge that they moved into terminal B so recently that they were not hooked up to the computer yet.

I'm not done. The restaurants were jammed full so there was no alcohol to soothe my frustrated nerves. Ha ha Ha. The plane was late too. Yes I know. I can hear the violins playing now. I'm sure all are laughing at me. Can you tell I was miffed? I would not travel so much where I not usually spoiled.

INTO HOTEL AT 1AM - That meant it was 3 AM my body time so I didn't come 'down' till about 2:30 AM. The hotel was a lot for the money as it was an upgraded comfort suites.

NEXT DAY GUIDED TOUR - not so long ago I came to Rapid City but didn't stay in town; rather Tom and I went direct to the spearfish Canyon area for a marathon and other general tourist sites. So today was to learn about some of the features of Rapid City. I can say it's probably not worth a trip in itself but that it was worth learn more about it.

From their 1972 major flood which was the second worst in American history and lost nearly 300 people, came a rebuild that includes many new parklands where there had been flooding.

From their Mt Rushmore headline came a series of full size bronze statuary along their main street of all American presidents.

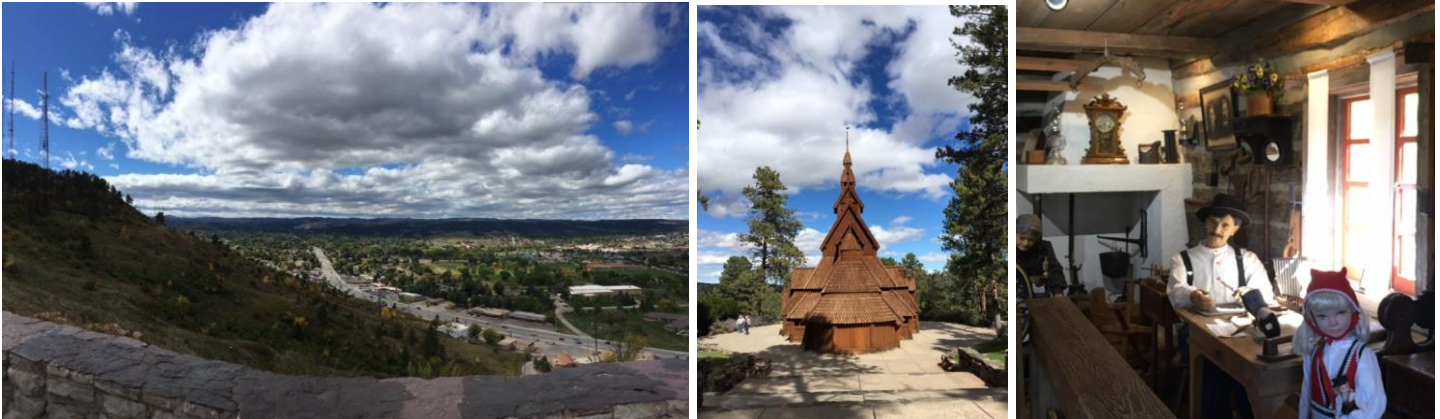
From their earlier Goldstrikes came some most interesting museums. The museum called "journey" included a geology area of interest explaining all the different types of rock formations in the area. The portions of the museum about the Indians and their history remain pretty sad. If you believe the writer Terry Tempest Williams, you would accuse Dakota of revisionist history.

THE TOUR SUMMARY - The Tour includes a trip up Skyline Drive to see an overview of east and west Rapid City, Dinosaur Park, Hangman's Hill, and a drive through the West Boulevard historical district with its lovely old homes. We drive through downtown Rapid City which features bronze statues of all but the last U.S. President, as well as the historic Alex Johnson Hotel and the Prairie Edge Native American Store. Then we drive over to the Civic Center to see a display of pieces of the Berlin Wall and the Rose Gardens. As we drive into the west side of Rapid City we will see the parks created from the ravages of the 1972 Flood. We will also see Storybook Island, the Formal Gardens, Canyon Lake Park and Stavkirke Chapel in the Hills, which is an exact replica of an 850 Norwegian church with its storehouse and log museum building. We go to the Journey Museum which depicts

the history of the area starting from the beginning of time in the Black Hills up through modern day Rapid City, and we go by the South Dakota School of Mines Geology Museum with its displays of fossils and a large mineral collection. There is the Dahl Fine Arts Center downtown or the South Dakota Air and Space Museum 8 miles east of Rapid City, which features numerous old Air Force planes including the B-1 Bomber.

WEATHER - The wind advisory should have been in effect on my trip from Denver to Rapid City because it was probably the roughest flight I have ever been on and that includes a lot of flights. I'm told that rough weather is not unusual here or on that flight path. The weather is warm but mild and very windy and is expected to get much cooler when we go to Custer.

PICS - The pictures include a panorama of the Black Hills from up on Skyline Drive, The Norwegian chapel in the hills, and part of the Norwegian small museum.



Sunday and Monday - The Bad Bad Badlands

Sunday both gave us really extreme wind and our first look at the bad Badlands. We thought they were amazing and extensive and not until the following day did we get more of a feel of how far ranging and how different the rock formations can be.

Our first two nights are in Cedarpass lodge which are lovely little updated cabins that I love. From our cabins there is almost a 360° view of these odd and huge rock formations. From morning until night at the colors continue to change.

Sunday's short hikes in three different directions were challenging both because of the wind and a series of ladder steps that you will see in a picture and understand. There was a bit of scrambling and certainly plenty of thoughts of "why am I doing this?" Then I saw the mother with her toddler on her hips negotiate in the same ladder that was spooking me. That put it in perspective that I was just being a wimp.

Monday's hike was to be about 10 miles but pretty much everybody's Garmin or pedometer measured closer to 12. The wind has died down and there was very little scrambling except for when we got off the trail. That's another story but I won't tell it because then you will know that I'm a wimp. Suffice it to say that I don't like going down drop offs that are about 6 foot.

I said that I loved Cedarpass lodge, but I wasn't as endeared to their restaurant, as evidenced by the fact that I would rather watch the debates than have dinner there. Me and 100 million people are also watching those debates and I think that most of us are crazy.

We pack up tomorrow and go over to Mount Rushmore. While I have been there before, strictly as a tourist.



Huge canyons that went on and on. The ladders were a challenge and left one of my quads pretty ruined. I favored one leg going down as it felt safer and I guessed at the time that I'd pay the price.



The castles in rocks. Yet lots of wide open spaces. Maybe that's why there's so much wind.



Inside Sylvan Lake Lodge with the view of the lake out our balcony and stuffed animals inside. Like being a City Girl, I could just as soon be a Zoo Girl. I don't need to hike within the Buffalo and related Buffalo Poop.

Tuesday and Wednesday from Sylvan Lake Lodge, Custer SD

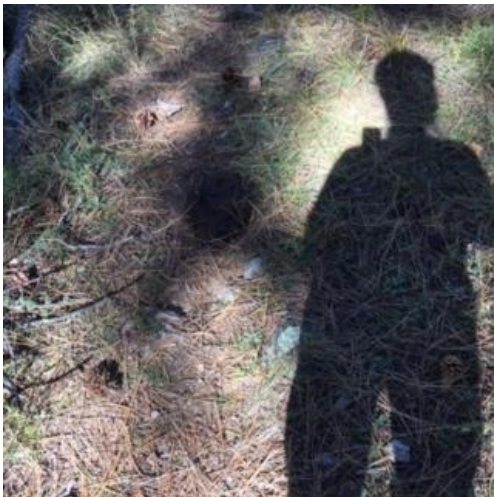
Our Lodge for two nights is from early 1900s but updated very nicely. So much of the area shows the wonderful benefits of having had the CCC and WPA of the 1930s. (Many of us wonder why we can't have some more of that for the unemployed.).

Needles highway is right at our back door. Tom and I drove the highway when I was here for the Leading Ladies Marathon in Spearfish Canyon a few years ago. It is still dramatic, even after all my

travels in between, and the highway into Mount Rushmore is thought of as an engineering marvel because the road is not just like extreme U-turns but rather like pigtails. The road crosses over itself.

Yesterday we hiked early and then ended at the touristy Mount Rushmore. I am a little bit troubled to realize that the mountain where the presidents are carved was a spiritual place of the Lakota Indians.

Today we started with the touristy Wind Cave tour and then hiked. I spent much of the hike wondering where was the highlight. Usually we are going up the mountain for an overview or to something special. In this case I guess it was a reminder of all the big wide open areas, pronghorn sheep, Buffalo, Buffalo poop, and lots of grasslands. When the wind blows some of the grasslands are lovely in the waves. But in the wide open sun, it is hard to appreciate it. We eventually came to a lovely stream crossing and then super high canyons and a long trail running along the stream. That was worth it.



I took my second night off dinner as I had plenty of leftovers from lunch and from dinner last night. I had enough togetherness and was too lazy to get cleaned up for dinner too. I haven't been a fan of restaurants for a very long time.

In my attached pictures, guess which one is my selfie along the poopy Buffalo Trail. Me and a big cow patty ie buffalo poop. The other one is from a couple days ago in the Badlands. I liked the



missive: LIVE. More to come.

Thursday and Friday - trip notes got lost in the shuffle of busy and lack of connectivity

We moved from Custer State Park and those very nice accommodations to Spearfish Canyon Lodge in Lead. If location is everything, the lodge can't be faulted. Tom and I were here for the leading ladies marathon a few years ago and the bridal suite was undoubtedly the best but our rooms on the hike were pretty nice. The lodge sits within the amazing rock canyon with a stream running along the side. So I had the sounds of running water. Even better, the golden fall colors abound. (There are very few red colors in SD except for poison ivy).

Thursday pre 1 1/2 hour drive to Spearfish: we hiked from the hotel up, up, up to Harney Peak - a Distance totaling over ten miles with the add on Sylvan Lake circumference. From the website: At 7,242', Harney Peak is the apex of South Dakota. We'll challenge ourselves to attain the summit where an old CCC-built stone lookout tower invites us to drink in the panoramic view encompassing the Needles, Black Elk Wilderness, and more! Just like that, you've "bagged" one of the fifty states' highpoints!

From the top of Harney Peak we could see down to the back of the stone mountain that contained Mount Rushmore. The variety of huge monolithic stone "needles" was amazing. Tom and I had once driven the needles highway but seeing it from up above was quite a different experience.

Speaking of different experience, it is rare to have so much wind and up at the top of Harney Peak it was practically enough to pick you off your feet. We couldn't handle the wind and cold and had to walk down the mountain a ways in order to have our picnic lunch.

On our drive we saw the huge mountain of "crazy horse" but didn't go to the complex.

Friday took us another 1 1/2 hour drive over into Wyoming to hike around devils tower. From the tourist pictures it looked like this huge monolith was standing all by itself on flat ground. I can tell you that not much of any of the hike except the tourist circle was flat at all. We added an additional loop down to prairie dog village where the little critters were popping up and down from their little hidey-holes. They are cute as is their little pipsqueak sound but they are in fact pretty much of the rat family.

The hike was a lot for a lot of us, it was very hot and I consumed nearly 70 ounces of water, and still felt dehydrated. I gave up going to dinner. That's never a hard choice as I'm not fond of restaurant food, the chit chat, the wait, etc.

Speaking of weather, we really have been quite lucky and when I complain of heat it was only mid-70s. Some days we started out in the 40s, sometimes up to the mid-60s, and sometimes in the open fields in heat in the mid-70s it felt awful. But overall it was quite good as we always had clear weather, blue skies, the puffy clouds, and only two days were there tough winds. Last year they had rain on this hike.

Seven days in South Dakota is probably not enough to really make comparisons but it seems to me that there is a lot of wide open clean green lovely areas. Uninhabited except for cows. I didn't see much of any junk encampments like some states where there is no control. I can only guess that South Dakota is a little too far away and just hasn't been found yet. The trailer camps and squatters surely are somewhere and more will come but for now South Dakota seems pristine.

Pictures are Harney's Peak now just (August 11) renamed Black Elk. The overview overlooks Needles and the backside of Mount Rushmore. I had never been through the complex of the Mount Rushmore visitor center. This time I went through the exhibits, the bookstore, the pathways, and watched the movie. Pretty touristy especially for an Indian spiritual area....

Then Devils Tower.



Up on the Peak where we couldn't stay due to the wind but we got a good view of the Needles and the back side of Mount Rushmore. Harney's Peak is the highest peak in SD. Around Devils Tower were prayer cloths and bundles. I should figure that out as its apparently something important to the Indians and signs asked tourists to leave them alone.



The backside of Mount Rushmore is in the background. Previously I saw Spearfish Canyon for the Leading Ladies Marathon but that was August. Now I saw it in the autumn. It was NO disappointment and one of the sweetest and loveliest canyons around. I've seen a few.

Thursday and Friday - part 2 pictures from Sylvan Lake and Devils Tower.

Devils Tower National Monument - Distance: 7 miles plus

From website: The nation's first national monument and one of the west's best known landmarks, Devils Tower beckons us this day. As part of our road trip into Wyoming we'll tackle the Tower and Red Beds trails encircling the fluted 867' foot high igneous rock sentinel which rises above the Belle Fourche River. A close encounter with aliens is not expected.



Sylvan Lake, just outside our lodge, and the huge monoliths at the backside. But not as big as Devils Tower.

What's next? Now time to get home for four days before heading off to Paris and Cap D'Ail on the French Riviera. Tom and I will be gone until October 26.

Participants

- Sandy and Marty Brennan - NJ
- Julie and Dave Hildebrand - NJ
- Debbie Guedalia - NJ
- Antonia Curiel – from Bethesda
- LeeAnn Carpenter - Dept of Commerce on DC
- Neil Chapin - Florida
- Joel Traylor - Kentucky - Eye Dr at vet admin

Itinerary

Fri Sep 23

4:55pm Depart Newark EWR via UA#1961
7:15pm Arrive Denver DEN for plane change

10:10pm Depart Denver DEN via UA# 4585
11:19pm Arrive Rapid City, SD RAP

Hotel Comfort Suites Hotel and Convention Center
1333 North Elk Vale Road, Rapid City, SD 57703 Tele (605) 791-2345
Yes refrig, microwave, and coffee; yes shuttle (go to airport shuttle booth and ask)

Sat Sep 24

12:00noon Pick up at hotel by private guide Eileen:

<http://www.affordableadventuresbh.com/> - The Rapid City Tour includes a trip up Skyline Drive to see an overview of east and west Rapid City, Dinosaur Park, Hangman's Hill, and a drive through the West Boulevard historical district with its lovely old homes. We drive through downtown Rapid City which features bronze statues of all but the last two U.S. Presidents, as well as the historic Alex Johnson Hotel and the Prairie Edge Native American Store. Then we drive over to the Civic Center to see a display of pieces of the Berlin Wall and the Rose Gardens. As we drive into the west side of Rapid City we will see the parks created from the ravages of the 1972 Flood. We will also see Storybook Island, the Formal Gardens, Canyon Lake Park and Stavkirke Chapel in the Hills, which is an exact replica of an 850 Norwegian church with its storehouse and log museum building. We can go to the Journey Museum which depicts the history of the area starting from the beginning of time in the Black Hills up through modern day Rapid City, or we can go to the South Dakota School of Mines Geology Museum with its displays of fossils and a large mineral collection. There is the Dahl Fine Arts Center downtown or the South Dakota Air and Space Museum 8 miles east of Rapid City, which features numerous old Air Force planes including the B-1 Bomber. If you are not into museums we can go to the Black Hills Gold Jewelry Factory for a tour of the jewelry making process and shopping in the outlet store. This narrated tour last about 4 hours.

Tried for: Mount Rushmore Tours – expecting tourist tour to be different than hiking tour but season ended last weekend

7:20-8:00 am – Rapid City hotel pick up

8:20-8:30 am – Keystone, meet at Borglum Historical Center

9:15-10:45 am – Crazy Horse Memorial

11:00-12:45 pm – Custer State Park scenic drive and stops also Iron Mountain Road

1:00-3:00 pm – Arrive Mount Rushmore National Memorial with included lunch at Carver's Café

3:15 pm – Keystone

3:45-4:15 pm – Drops in Rapid City – ask for downtown for a walk and dinner pre taxi to hotel

Hotel area has a steak house next door that opens at 4pm; across the highway, which is possible to cross, there are fast food places and a Perkins.

Debbie is at same hotel Saturday night with following flight schedule: Depart JFK via DL#213, through MSP DL#2464, arriving 10:32 PM.

Sun Sep 25 - Day 1 of hike

9:00am Meet at host hotel for start of hike

The Door, Window, Notch Trails - Distance: 3 mi - Difficulty: 3

As our week-long trip departs Rapid City we head east to Badlands National Park. We'll begin our week of hiking with a trio of shorter trails, specifically the Door, Window, and Notch trails. Twisting in and out of weird rock formations, exploring a break in the Badlands Wall, and ascending a log ladder to a fantastic view of the White River Valley will be highlights of a full day. We'll finish things off by heading to Cedar Pass Lodge, one of the newest National Park lodges in the country.

Lodging: Cedar Pass Lodge – 1st of 2 nights
20681 Sd Highway 240, Interior, SD 57750 Tel: 605 433 5460
www.cedarpasslodge.com – see video on website

From lodge website: Imagine viewing a land where sharply eroded buttes, pinnacles and spires are blended with the largest, protected mixed grass prairie in the United States. This extraordinary region is the Badlands, located in southwestern South Dakota, just 70 miles east of Rapid City. The best of these savagely beautiful badlands comprise the Badlands National Park, a unique region so ruthlessly ravaged by wind and water that has become a scenic wonderland. Most of the park is bordered by Buffalo Gap National Grassland, the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and private lands, primarily ranches and farms. The entire park is comprised of 242,756 acres, 64,144 acres of which have been designated as Wilderness. The South Unit, which includes the Palmer Creek Unit, consists of 133,300 acres. This particular area is also home to the Oglala Lacota Sioux. Today the Great Sioux Reservation, Pine Ridge, consists of 3,468.86 sq mi of land area and is the eighth-largest reservation in the United States, larger than Delaware and Rhode Island combined. This vast region was once home to the mysterious and little studied paleo-Indians who are thought to be some of the first inhabitants of the Badlands region. The Badlands have the most significant mixed-grass prairie, the best known Oligocene fossil resources in the world, and the area is filled with remnants of sea and turtle shells, leading proof this area was once under water.

We are excited to have all NEW cabins available for our guests staying in the Badlands. The new cabins are eco-friendly and were built to Gold Level LEED standards in Rapid City, South Dakota keeping local craftsmen working through the winters of 2012 and 2013. The final cabins were placed on site in the Park late in the fall of 2013. The cabin exteriors were designed to resemble the original cabins built in 1928 at Cedar Pass, using repurposed and energy saving efficiencies. The interiors are lined with fallen beetle kill pine from the Black Hills of South Dakota. The blue streaking you see in the wood is a trait left from the natural defense of the pine tree. We think its distinctive and makes each cabin truly one of a kind. Outfitted with custom made regionally hand crafted lodge pole pine furniture from Lonepine Lodgepole, a family owned Montana company, each cabin emits the comforts of American craftsmanship. Not forgetting the creature comforts mixed with environmental concerns the cabins have an in suite private bath and shower with on demand hot water heater, low flow devices and compact fluorescent lighting. A delightful surprise to our guests are the large, hand crafted pine deck chairs placed on the decks to enjoy the spectacular views of the Badlands. The cabins are furnished with lodge pole pine Queen beds or a King bed and a Queen daybed. The new cabins include: •32" Flat Screen TV with Satellite Reception •Energy Star - Mini Refrigerator and Freezer •Energy Star – Microwave •Coffee Maker •Hair Dryer •Bamboo Towels & Upgraded Bedding •Ceiling Fan and Lakota Lamp •Air Conditioning and Heat ultra quiet for your comfort

Mon Sep 26 - Day 2 of hike

Castle/Medicine Root Loop - Distance: 10 mi - Difficulty: 4

To the Native American Lakota, this harsh and desolate landscape was known as “mako sica,” meaning “land bad.” The Badlands, an amazing, mixed-grass prairie blending with sharply eroded fossil-rich sedimentary spires, pinnacles, and buttes is where we are hiking today. We are also more likely than not to encounter bighorn sheep grazing intently on our way out across the Badlands on the Castle and Medicine Root trails.

Lodging: Cedar Pass Lodge – 2nd of 2 nights

Tue Sep 27 - Day 3 of hike

Iron Mountain Loop, Mt Rushmore - Distance: 6 mi - Difficulty: 3

Today we transfer to the heart of the Black Hills. Keep your eyes peeled for mountain goats as we hike the ponderosa pine forests and inspiring rock formations of the Iron Mountain Trail. Afterward, we'll visit Gutzon Borglum's outdoor masterpiece of Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, and Lincoln—the giant granite sculpture known as Mt. Rushmore. We conclude the day with a short commute to Sylvan Lake Lodge, home for our next two nights.

Lodging: Sylvan Lake Lodge – 1st of 2 nights
24572 Sd Highway 87, Custer, SD 57730 Tel: 605 574 2561

From website: Rich in history and natural beauty, Sylvan Lake Lodge is Custer State Park's "crown jewel." In a spot suggested by architect Frank Lloyd Wright, the hotel sits in a hillside forest of pine and spruce trees, in harmony with the beauty of the rugged landscape. This stone and timber lodge overlooks the sloping hills and the breathtaking beauty of Sylvan Lake. The original Sylvan Lake Hotel was a stopping point for adventurers hoping to scale Harney Peak, the highest point in America east of the Rockies. Some of the finest trails lead from Sylvan Lake to the peak, including the challenging Harney Peak Trail and the more moderate Sunday Gulch Trail. Picturesque Sylvan Lake provides watercraft rentals, fishing, and a swimming beach. It also serves as a stunning backdrop for wedding receptions and other festive events. The Lakeside Lawn truly has no equal.

The current Sylvan Lake Lodge was built in 1937, with a new wing of lodge rooms added in 1991. There are 32 cabins in the pine- and spruce-covered hillside, including sleeping cabins, a honeymoon cabin, and housekeeping cabins. All units are climate controlled, fully furnished, and include daily housekeeping service. They also come with telephones, flat screen TVs, and coffee pots. All lodge rooms and cabins have bathrooms. Maid service, towels, and linens are provided in all units. Guest laundry facilities are available near the general store.

Wed Sep 28 - Day 4 of hike

Harney Peak - Distance: 9 mi - Difficulty: 4

At 7,242', Harney Peak is the apex of South Dakota. We'll challenge ourselves to attain the summit where an old CCC-built stone lookout tower invites us to drink in the panoramic view encompassing the Needles, Black Elk Wilderness, and more! Just like that, you've "bagged" one of the fifty states' highpoints!

Lodging: Sylvan Lake Lodge – 2nd of 2 nights

Thu Sep 29 - Day 5 of hike

Wind Cave National Park - Distance: 8 mi - Difficulty: 3

Our adventure takes a turn downward (underground that is) as we make our way south to Wind Cave National Park, established in 1903 as America's eighth national park. We'll first take a tour of Wind Cave's famous "boxwork," "popcorn," and "frostwork," enjoying the uniqueness of these relatively rare subterranean formations. Back on the surface, we'll then meander through an area of the park where forest and prairie meet, taking in a small portion of the 111-mile Centennial trail along the way. There we are likely to catch a glimpse of bison, prairie dogs, elk, pronghorn, and deer in their natural habitat.

Lodging: Spearfish Canyon Lodge – 1st of 2 nights
10619 Roughlock Falls Rd, Lead, SD 57754 Tel: 605 584 3435
<http://spfcanyon.com>

From website: Deep in the heart of one of the most breathtaking, beautiful canyons in the world, nestled alongside lofty pines and spectacular cliffs, you will find Spearfish Canyon Lodge. Built and decorated in the style of the old lodges of the West, you can let nature take over and open your mind to focus on either business or pleasure. The outside world is as near or far as you need it to be.

Our Premier Rooms feature two queen beds in an inviting and relaxing updated setting. These rooms have been completely re-done with gorgeous new wood decor. They also include a mini-fridge, coffee maker, and microwave station as well as a flat-screen TV. These rooms offer views of Spearfish Creek or the hotel entrance and canyon walls.

Fri Sep 30 - Day 6 of hike

Devils Tower National Monument - Distance: 7 mi - Difficulty: 4

The nation's first national monument and one of the west's best known landmarks, Devils Tower beckons us this day. As part of our road trip into Wyoming we'll tackle the Tower and Red Beds trails encircling the fluted 867' foot high igneous rock sentinel which rises above the Belle Fourche River. A close encounter with aliens is not expected.

Lodging: Spearfish Canyon Lodge – 2nd of 2 nights

Sat Oct 1 - Day 7 of hike

Crow Peak - Distance: 6 mi - Difficulty: 4

For our final hike in this land of many wonders we head to Crow Peak, a dominant landmark near the town of Spearfish. The mostly moderate trail climbs to the summit with its fantastic panorama of the Northern Black Hills including Spearfish Mountain and Bear Butte. After returning to the trailhead, we'll enjoy a final lunch together before shuttling back to Rapid City.

Lunch Debbie has shuttle from lunch location to airport

4:12pm depart via DL4568 thru Minn, connecting to DL2214, arriving JFK at 11:32pm

4:00pm End of hike and return to hotel by PPH

Hotel Comfort Inn Rapid City Convention Center – 1 night booked by PPH

Sun Oct 2

10:57am Depart Rapid City SD RAP via UA#5439

12:15pm Arrive Denver DEN for plane change

3:50pm Depart Denver DEN via UA#2018

9:36pm Arrive Newark EWR

Uber or car needed

Wind Cave & Badlands are included in the South Dakota hiking tour.

[Hoodoos, Calderas, and Boxwork: 6 Strange Geological Formations Found in National Parks | Find Your Park](#) from Natl Park Foundation's

Twelve Ways to Explore SD:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/experience/america/2016/09/12/south-dakota-12-ways-explore-state/90139380/?csp=travel>