



THE BLACK HILLS AND BADLANDS

A TRIPS SIGNATURE WESTERN ADVENTURE IN SOUTH DAKOTA!

SEPTEMBER 7 - 13, 2025

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 7, 2025 - 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 8, 2025 - 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 9, 2025 - Mt. Rushmore and Black Hills Gold!

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! Afterward, 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. 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/D)

September 10, 2025 - 1880 Train and Crazy Horse Memorial!

This morning after breakfast, 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. 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)

September 11, 2025 - 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. Return to your lodge afterward with tonight's dinner on your own.

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

September 12, 2025 - Mystical Magical Badlands!

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, and today Wall Drug is a beloved institution in western South Dakota! Dinner is included this evening at the Lodge.

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

September 13, 2025 - 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)

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

Inclusions

- Roundtrip airport transfers including gratuities
- 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)
- **5 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

\$4,098.00

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 30, 2025.

Final payment is due in the TRIPS office on or before May 30, 2025.

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 30, 2025.

Contact Laurie Baker at (419) 521-2712 or email lbaker@mymechanics.com

We accept most major credit cards.

Make checks payable to **Mechanics Bank/The Good Life**

c/o Laurie Baker 2 South Main Street Mansfield, OH 44902

Passport Name: _____ DOB: _____

Compliant DL: _____ Ohio effective on October 1, 2020

CST # 2057913-10



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