**South Dakota Camping Destinations**

SD Game Fish Parks Campgrounds <https://gfp.sd.gov/campsites/>

SD state parks charge a daily licensing fee of $6 and a non-resident fee of $7 and finally a $2 fee if you reserve by telephone in addition to campground site fee. If you are trying to get into a popular campground, call at 7AM central time to see if there is a last-minute opening. Only one park in the state has WIFI. The light feathery pollen of the cottonwood tree looks like a dandelion seed, but floats likes bubbles in the air towards your air conditioner and refrigerator vent intakes and can clog them. If you see a lot of fuzz on the ground near a prospective campsite, ask to be moved especially in hot AC weather.

SD Campground Owners Association <http://www.campsd.org/>

ID Idaho Power has numerous parks and camp grounds: <https://www.idahopower.com/recreation/parks-and-campgrounds/>

### SD Black Hills <http://www.blackhillsbadlands.com/>

**Iron Mountain Road** <http://www.ironmountainroad.com/> in the Black Hills connects Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Custer State Park and passes through some of the most beautiful scenery in the Black Hills, including three tunnels that frame Mount Rushmore in the distance. The road is famous for the "Pigtail Bridges" that allow travelers to drop or gain altitude quickly. Although the Iron Mountain Road is a work of art, Iron Mountain Road should also be avoided due to tunnel height**:**  
Doane Robinson Tunnel, 13' 2" wide by 12' 2" high;  
C.C. Gideon Tunnel, 13' 0" wide by 11' 0" high;  
Scovel Johnson Tunnel, 13' 2" wide by 12' 4" high.

SD Custer 57730, 13329 US Highway 16A, 605.255.4515 - **Custer State Park** <https://gfp.sd.gov/parks/detail/custer-state-park/> - Encompassing 71,000 acres in the Black Hills, Custer State Park is home to abundant wildlife and adventure; camping, hiking, biking, swimming, fishing, or relaxing. Wildlife Loop Road twists and turns its way through the prairie and ponderosa pine-studded hills that harbor many of the park's wildlife species and is OK for RVs. On most days, guests will come face to face with the number one inhabitant of the park, 1,350 free roaming buffalo. White-tailed deer, mule deer, and elk are most visible early in the morning and late in the afternoon near sunset. There are 9 campgrounds in the park. <https://gfp.sd.gov/csp-campgrounds/> Blue Bell, Stockade North, Stockade South & Legion Lake Campgrounds accommodates large RV’s with some electric hookups. Game Lodge Campground with some electric hookups. Stay away from Sylvan Lake Campground because you must pass through Needles HWY (SD Hwy 87N) narrow tunnels. Campground reservations at Custer State Perk can be very difficult to obtain. Consider alternatives such as Beaver Lake Campground in Custer which is affiliated with FMCA or campgrounds near Spearfish, Lead and Deadwood.

SD Custer 57730, Jewel **Cave National Monument**- Same Day Tours are available at Jewel Cave National Monument; tickets for same day tours are available on-site, in person, on a first come first served basis on the day of the tour. Cave tours can and often do sell out daily. Visitors are advised to come in the morning to purchase tickets for any time during the same day. Jewel Cave remains 49°F/9°C year-round <https://www.nps.gov/jeca/index.htm>  
SD Custer 57730, 25112 Golden Valley RD, 605-673-4647 Custer's Gulch RV Park and Campground <http://www.custersgulch.com/> – 60 full hookup sites. Located 0.5 miles from west entrance to Custer State Park and less than 3 miles from Custer City.Free wi-fi wireless internet access, clubhouse, volleyball, and horseshoes**.** LTVer Recommended. <https://custersgulch.blackhillsvacations.com/Ecomm/Shop/Stay/674998/1218220/>

SD **Deadwood** <https://www.deadwood.com/> - Boot Hill – The discovery of gold in the southern Black Hills in 1874 set off one of the great gold rushes in America. Practically overnight, the tiny gold camp boomed into a town that played by its own rules that attracted outlaws, gamblers and gunslingers along with the gold seekers. Final Resting Place for Wild Bill Hickok & Calamity Jane. In 1989 limited-wage gambling was legalized and Deadwood was reborn. South of town, the George S. Mickelson Trail leads through the Black Hills National Forest. The Deadwood Welcome Center just south of Main ST has adequate parking for an RV with live staffers to answer your questions. Main ST is walkable by most visitors. Reenactors of famous shootouts perform at different locations at different times of day but there are no shoot outs on Sundays. There are two different wineries (Naked & Belle Joli) that offer tastings for under $6.

SD Hermosa 57744, 24743 SD-79, 605 255-5460 Heartland RV Park & Cabins <http://heartlandcampground.com/> - located just 8 minutes from Custer State Park. 150 pull through, full hookup sites with free WIFI and cable, swimming pool, camp store, hot showers, laundry but not much shade. LTVer recommended. <https://bookings.rmscloud.com/obookings3/Search/Index/9805/90>

SD Hill City 57745 - **Hill City** [http://www.hillcitysd.com/visitor-info/visitor-information-center/#](http://www.hillcitysd.com/visitor-info/visitor-information-center/) -is the second oldest city in the Black Hills. Downtown Hill City includes many popular attractions including art galleries, unique gift shops, jewelry, clothing, antiques and a variety of wonderful restaurants. It is also home to 3 wineries. **George S. Mickelson Trail** <https://gfp.sd.gov/parks/detail/george-s--mickelson-trail/>- Stretching 109 miles from Deadwood in the north to Edgemont in the southwest, the Mickelson Trail has become known far and wide for the high-quality bicycling it offers. Many of the old railroad trestles, about 100 of them, are still in place. All have been restored, as have four hard rock tunnels, blasted long ago through hillsides. Watch for the remains of old cabins and ghost mines.

SD Hill City 57745, 12325 Rafter J RD, 605-574-2527 **Rafter J Bar Ranch** <https://www.rafterj.com/> - center of many Black Hills attractions. It is close to Mount Rushmore, Custer State Park, Crazy Horse Memorial, and Wind Cave. Six different mostly shaded camping areas with swimming pool. Call for reservations.

SD Hot Springs 57747, 26611 US Highway 385, **Wind Cave NP** <https://www.nps.gov/wica/index.htm> - Box formations - Tours are required to see Wind Cave - Bison, or buffalo, are grass eaters. They prefer open spaces, but they also like to get out of the heat during the summer months and can be found on the edges of the forests where they rest and use trees to rub the itchy winter fur from their bodies. Elk Mountain Campground <https://www.nps.gov/wica/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm> - Occupancy is on a first-come, first-served basis. There are 25 pull through sites in the campground. On B Loop there are no length limits for RVs. There are no showers or electrical hookups. In past years the campground has been quiet compared to other campgrounds in the Black Hills and finding a campsite has not been a problem Running water and flush toilets are available during warmer months.

SD Interior 57750, 25216 Ben Reifel Road, - **Badlands National Park** <https://www.nps.gov/badl/index.htm> - striking geologic deposits contain one of the world’s richest fossil beds. Drive the Highway 240 Badlands Loop Road which is a paved 2 lane RD. Hike the 10-mile RT Castle Trail which is level and passes along some badlands formations. Located near the Ben Reifel Visitor Center, the Cedar Pass Campground has 96 sites with scenic views of the badlands formations. There are some RV sites with electric only service. Pay showers, flush toilets, and water nearby. Forever Resorts manages the campground. For additional information, including questions about reservations, contact the [Cedar Pass Lodge](http://cedarpasslodge.com/campground/). at (605) 433-5476 or (605) 433-5460 <http://www.cedarpasslodge.com/campground/> Also checkout the Minuteman Missile Silo just outside the east end of the park at exit 131 for the Welcome Center, I-90, exit 116 to see the actual Delta-09 launch facility. Visits to the Delta-01 Launch Control facility require advanced reservations and are usually not available same day.

SD Interior 57750, 20720 SD Highway 44, 800-562-3897 Badlands/ White River KOA <https://koa.com/campgrounds/badlands/> - located 4 miles from Badlands National Park with sites under large shade trees beside the White River. Enjoy the pool, fun-bike rentals, mini golf, a large pet park, free WIFI, grocery store and gift shop. Full hookups available. LTVer recommended

SD Keystone 57751 **Mount Rushmore National Memorial** <https://www.nps.gov/moru/index.htm> **-** Pets on a leash (no longer than six feet) are only permitted in the parking garages.Day use only.

SD Montrose, **Lake Vermillion Recreation Area** <https://gfp.sd.gov/parks/detail/lake-vermillion-recreation-area/> - the park is located on Lake Vermillion which was created by damming the Vermillion River. The park has a swimming beach, boat ramp, volleyball and one 1.3-mile looped hiking trail called the Beaver Stream trail. Fishing is a very popular activity. The campground is in 3 different areas around the lake and many sites have electric hookups. The west campground has paved sites, flush toilets and showers, the beach area, dump station and has the best cellular service. Best west campground sites are #10e & 22e and are LTVer recommended. The east area has multiple waterfront sites with flush toilets and showers but requires a drive to reach the day use area. Site 32e is not waterfront in the east campground but has good shade. The north campground is not near the lake and requires a long walk to reach the beach area. Reservations by calling 800.710.2267 or <https://travel.campsd.com/campgrounds-and-rv-parks/all/lake-vermillion-recreation-area/reservations>

SD Platte 57369, 35316 SD HWY 44, **Snake Creek Recreation Area** <https://gfp.sd.gov/parks/detail/snake-creek-recreation-area/> – located on the Missouri River at the Lake Francis Case Bridge and has a North & South Campgrounds. SD recreation areas are like oases in the middle of nowhere with partially shaded campgrounds and water activities. Most people tow boats in and go play on the Missouri River using the area’s boat ramp. There is a children’s fishing pond located in a beautiful spot between the two campgrounds. This area also has a swimming beach at its South Campground. Make sure you bring supplies because there are no stores for miles. There are some partially shaded campsites located on the embankment of the Missouri that have beautiful views. Waterfront sites #15e, 17e, 119e & 22e are best in the North and waterfront sites #103e & 105e are best in the South. Site #90e has shade and a nice view of the rolling hills and site 80e has shade and a marsh view. Reservations by calling 800.710.2267 or <https://travel.campsd.com/campgrounds-and-rv-parks/all/Snake-Creek-Recreation-Area/Reservations>

SDRapid City **- Rapid City** <https://www.visitrapidcity.com/> **-** you’re within an hour**'**s drive of six nationalparks.

SD Rapid City 57702, Calumet RD **Sheridan Lake South Shore Campground** <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/blackhills/recarea/?recid=26163> – 129 sites in five loops. Thumper Loop site 101 was best with site 100 second best. Pit toilets. Water faucets but no hookups.

SD Spearfish 57783, 423 Hatchery CIR, 605.642.7730 **DC Booth Fish Hatchery** <http://dcboothfishhatchery.org/> – created in 1896 to propagate, stock and establish trout populations in the Black Hills. Trout eggs were obtained from Yellowstone and brought to Spearhead to hatch and raise until old enough to be released in other creeks and rivers. The Von Bayer Museum in the hatchery shows ingenious ways fish were quickly transported between the hatchery and the rivers for release. Fish carrying tanks were designed as backpacks, mule saddle tanks and milk containers in railroad cars. The hatchery museum is free.

SD Spearfish 57783, **Spearfish Canyon Scenic Byway** <https://www.blackhillsbadlands.com/scenic-drives/spearfish-canyon-scenic-byway> – the road runs up the canyon parallel to Spearfish Creek from Spearfish to Cheyenne Crossing. The spectacular limestone canyon walls, multiple waterfalls including Spearfish Falls and Roughneck Falls and superb trout fishing make this canyon a gem to enjoy. Mountain lions are native to the canyon and their paw prints are like a dog’s except the mountain lion can retract its claws and leave clawless paw prints.

SD Spearfish 57783, 404 S. Canyon RD, 605.642.1340 Spearfish City Campground <https://www.cityofspearfish.com/departments/city_campground/index.php> – located within walking distance of downtown Spearfish and adjacent to Spearfish Creek and the historic DC Booth Fish Hatchery. The campground has 60 full hookup sites with lots of shade trees, two restrooms with flush toilets and showers and free WIFI near the campground office. Most sites are level gravel. Reservations are held on a credit card but are completely cancelable until 11 AM of the day of your scheduled visit. Don’t use your GPS to reach this campground. LTVer recommended. Call the park for reservations 605.642.1340

SD Wall, - home to Wall Drug which is like South of The Border for crass commercialism but also the **USFS National Grasslands Office** <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/nebraska/recarea/?recid=10639> . This is the place to visit to find out about the history and the restoration of the National Grasslands in their exhibit hall. The reception desk rangers can give you a map of the 31 USFS campgrounds in the Black Hills National Forest. None of these campgrounds have hookups. If you are interested in dispersed camping, they can furnish you with the local Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) and show you how to read the map to find free dispersed camping. They can also make recommendations on good dispersed sites based on their experience.