



DAKOTA PRAIRIE LODGE & RESORT

PRAIRIE NEWS



UPCOMING DATES BIRD HUNTING 2024

We have been enjoying summer in the beautiful state of South Dakota – but we are also getting excited for an autumn that is full of bird hunting. Here are the bird hunting season dates for 2024 so that you can plan your trip to hunt at the Lodge this fall.



DOVE SEASON

Sep 1 - Nov 9



DUCK SEASON

Sep 21 - Dec 3



PHEASANT SEASON

Oct 19 - Jan 31

Call us today to reserve a spot!



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LODGE?



We have been soaking up the final days of summer here at the Lodge, and we are ready to enter autumn in full swing as we prepare for our bird hunting groups to start visiting us. What kind of prep have we been doing? Take a look at the truckload of shooting clays we just picked up (4,400 to be exact) and you will get an idea! It is always a good idea to practice your aim and take down some clay pigeons before a hunt. Most of our Lodge packages include unlimited clay pigeon practice.

The countdown to pheasant season continues (exactly 50 more days from this newsletter's release). In the meantime, we have duck and dove hunting to look forward to in September!

DOVE HUNTING SEASON STARTS TOMORROW!

This summer has been chock full of walleye fishing, prairie dog hunting, and plenty of projects around the Lodge. But now, we are ready to ring in the start of 2024's very first bird season. Dove hunting season begins Sunday, September 1 this year. While dove hunting is one of the most popular firearm sports, you may not realize that South Dakota is a hotspot for mourning doves. Flying doves can change direction on a dime, making hunting them a thrilling experience that's hard to match. Dove hunting is one of the most fun and gratifying hunts out there, and part of that reward stems from the challenge.

As any dove hunter knows, location is everything. Our local guides are attuned to the doves' routines, so we will ensure you get a chance to hit your daily limit of 15 doves. Want to try your hand at shooting these evasive birds? Book a hunt with us ASAP – spots are still available!



GUN SAFETY TIPS TO REMEMBER THIS HUNTING SEASON

As we gear up for a fall of amazing bird hunts, it is important to remember that safety is paramount whenever guns are in play. No matter what type of hunt you are on, be it deer, duck, dove, or pheasant, safe sportsmanship is the ultimate commitment to keeping your hunting trip fun and memorable in the right ways. Here are a few top gun safety tips to remember this fall...

#1: CLEAN YOUR GUN REGULARLY

Regularly cleaning your gun is an important component of gun safety – and there are a host of other benefits associated with gun maintenance, too. The easiest way to get more familiar with your gun is to disassemble it, clean it, and then reassemble it. When you know more about your gun, you will have an easier time fixing it if an issue arises. Additionally, clean guns are less likely to malfunction and are therefore much safer to use.



#2: KEEP YOUR GUN UNLOADED WHEN NOT ACTUALLY IN USE

Your firearm should only be loaded when you are in the field or on the target range or shooting area and are ready to shoot. When you are not using your gun, it is a good practice to store it in a secure and safe place, ideally separate from your ammo. Check the chamber before you put your gun away to ensure you do not accidentally fire it on your next use.

#3: POINT THE MUZZLE OF YOUR GUN IN A SAFE DIRECTION

The most basic gun safety rule is to never point your gun in a direction you do not want to shoot. This is especially crucial when loading or unloading your gun, but it is still important during other times. What does a "safe direction" mean? That means that if your gun fired, the bullet could not possibly strike anything. In some situations, a safe direction is up, and in other scenarios, pointing your gun down is safer. When hunting with us at the Lodge, your guide will share a reminder of gun safety practices before your hunt begins.



#4: WEAR APPROPRIATE GUN PROTECTION

All shooters should wear protective glasses, and many like to wear some kind of hearing protection while shooting. Exposure to shooting noise can damage hearing, and protecting your vision is essential. It is also important to wear the right hunting garb, like an orange vest.

PRAIRIE PUZZLE

August Question: How many eggs do mourning doves lay in one brood?

- a) 6 eggs
- b) 1 egg
- c) 4 eggs
- d) 2 eggs



Submit your answer by September 10, 2024, for a chance to win! Answers will be accepted via email, phone, or mail. Correct answers will be entered into the prize drawing to receive a FREE Dakota Prairie Lodge & Resort hat.