



ON DISPLAY: MUSEUMS AND ONE-OF-A-KIND EXHIBITS

From mammoths to music and space, South Dakota's museums create unique educational experiences for all ages. The wide variety of exhibits, artifacts and memorabilia found in the state's diverse museums are sure to keep visitors entertained and continuously learning throughout their trip.

[Adams Museum \(Deadwood, SD\)](#)

W. E. Adams, a pioneer businessman in the 1930s, founded the Adams Museum in historic downtown Deadwood. He wanted to honor and display the Black Hills' history and donated the building to the City of Deadwood. The board has been collecting treasures from the area ever since. Artifacts include Potato Creek Johnny's gold nugget, a rare marine reptile and a sketch of Wild Bill Hickok among other interesting Old West oddities.

[Atka Lakota Museum & Cultural Center \(Chamberlain, SD\)](#)

The Akta Lakota Museum, located on the campus of St. Joseph's Indian School in Chamberlain, is more than a traditional museum; it is an experience that provides visitors with a living lesson on the Native American way of life, both past and present. Visitors benefit from a mini-theater, interactive displays, English-Lakota descriptions, an outdoor Medicine Wheel Garden and a gift shop featuring a unique selection of Native American-made products.

[Brothel Museum \(Deadwood, SD\)](#)

Brothels were a fixture on the second story of several Deadwood Main Street buildings from 1876-1980. This aspect of Deadwood's history, although difficult and uncomfortable to talk about, had a huge impact on the community. A series of eight rooms have been curated with period-appropriate furnishings to help transport the visitor to another era. The Brothel is not an attempt to glamorize prostitution, nor is it meant to be an approval or condemnation of prostitution. Rather it is an integral part of the narrative of Deadwood's unique history.

[Children's Museum of South Dakota \(Brookings, SD\)](#)

Perfect for the curiosity of children, the Children's Museum features exhibits and demonstrations for all ages. Inside, you'll find exciting, hands-on exhibits that spark learning and creativity. Or, head outside to see Mama T. Rex and Max, the only full-size permanent animatronic T. Rex dinosaurs on display in the US. Visitors will be able to discover what makes up the prairies of South Dakota, who the people of the plains are, where they come from, and see the connection between the land and culture in the region.

[South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center \(Pierre, SD\)](#)

Discover the rich heritage and complex history of South Dakota at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. Award-winning rotating exhibits capture the spirit of The Mount Rushmore State and hands-on activities offer new experiences and learning opportunities at every turn. Admission is free for kids under 18. We are open daily, with extended hours Memorial Day through Labor Day (late May through early September). See our website for our hours.

[Days of '76 Museum \(Deadwood, SD\)](#)

The Days of '76 Museum stands as a tribute to the first pioneers to come to Deadwood. It features memorabilia and collectibles from the period, as well as American Indian artifacts. The museum has the largest and most extensive collection of horse-drawn vehicles in the state.

[The Journey Museum \(Rapid City, SD\)](#)

The unique museum covers the intricate history of the Western Great Plains and the people that inhabit the land. The exhibits cover the four major prehistoric and historical time periods to help visitors better understand the history of the Black Hills region. Visitors can explore the "Pap" Madison Cabin, which is the oldest known structure in Rapid City.

[Lincoln Borglum Museum at Mount Rushmore \(Keystone, SD\)](#)

To discover more about the origins of Mount Rushmore, travel 23 miles southwest of Rapid City and visit the Lincoln Borglum Museum. Borglum, the son of Rushmore creator Gutzon Borglum, was the memorial's first superintendent and oversaw its creation as both an engineer and a sculptor. The museum houses many interactive exhibits about the history and development of South Dakota's most famous monument, including a short film called "The Shrine," which serves as an introduction to Mount Rushmore.

[The Mammoth Site \(Hot Springs, SD\)](#)

Discovered in 1974, The Mammoth Site is now a museum that is home to more than 60 mammoth skeletons, in addition to skeletons of a llama, camel, prairie dog, wolf, fish and giant short-faced bear. Visitors can view the remains up-close and personal, and even see what the mammoths would have looked like if they were still alive today. Junior paleontologists (between 4 and 12 years old) can learn about dinosaurs and participate in digs for hidden replica fossils using real excavation tools.

[National Music Museum \(Vermillion, SD\)](#)

The National Music Museum is currently under construction with plans of a grand re-opening in 2022. This "Landmark of American Music," as recognized by the National Music Council, holds more than 15,000 different instruments that vary in time, period and origin. Home to one of the most extensive and inclusive collections in the world, the National Music Museum houses some of the oldest and best-preserved instruments in history, including one of a kind 18th century pianos, Dutch woodwinds, Italian stringed instruments and many more. The museum offers free concerts to the public that range in genres, from Celtic music to Bach to electronica.

[Native American Museum of North America at Crazy Horse Memorial \(Crazy Horse, SD\)](#)

THE INDIAN MUSEUM OF NORTH AMERICA® is home to a large collection of art and artifacts reflecting the diverse histories and cultures of over 300 Native Nations. The Museum, designed to complement the story being told in stone on the Mountain, presents the lives of American Indians and preserves Native Culture for future generations. The Museum was designed and built by Korczak Ziolkowski and his family in the harsh winter of 1972-73. The Museum incorporated Korczak's love of wood and natural lighting, being constructed from ponderosa pine, harvested and milled at Crazy Horse Memorial®.

[Petrified Wood Park & Museum \(Lemmon, SD\)](#)

Occupying nearly a full city block in Lemmon, the Petrified Wood Park & Museum is a curiosity that will pique an interest in both geology and architecture. With towers up to 20 feet tall, a castle comprised of petrified wood, and petrified dinosaur and mammoth bones, the petrified wood park will be a topic of family discussion for years to come.

[Pioneer Auto Show \(Murdo, SD\)](#)

The Pioneer Auto Show originated in 1954 by AJ 'Dick' Geisler and his family. Since then, the Pioneer Auto Museum (as it was known back then) and Dick have been a "must-see" for those road tripping through South Dakota, especially antique and classic car enthusiasts. The accompanying museum features over 275 classic cars, trucks and motorcycles, and hundreds of other collectibles like vintage gas pumps and bicycles and antique motor toys. Also on site is a 1950s diner, which offers a slice of nostalgia with a small town atmosphere.

[South Dakota Air and Space Museum \(Ellsworth AFB, SD\)](#)

The Ellsworth Air Force Base is home to the South Dakota Air and Space Museum. There are exhibits featuring missiles, a B1B bomber simulator, the interior of a Minuteman II launch control capsule, H-13 Helicopter and other military memorabilia. Kids and adults alike can explore these vintage vehicles and can take part in a bus tours around the base.

[South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum, \(Brookings, SD\)](#)

Founded in 1884, the South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum's exhibits and programming showcase how diverse, exciting and essential the history, culture and science of agriculture can be in South Dakota. It is housed in the historic Stock Judging Pavilion on the campus of South Dakota State University in Brookings. The Museum Store specializes in South Dakota made products that capture the spirit of South Dakota in every gift.

[South Dakota Art Museum \(Brookings, SD\)](#)

Explore the state's artistic gem! Galleries feature Native American art, Harvey Dunn, Paul Goble illustrations, Marghab Linens and dynamic exhibits by regional and national artists. The Museum Store features jewelry, pottery and original works of art by local and regional artists along with books about South Dakota history and culture.

For additional information, visit TravelSouthDakota.com.

Media Contacts

Katlyn Svendsen, South Dakota Department of Tourism, Katlyn.Svendsen@travelsouthdakota.com, 605-773-3301

Ciara Forest, South Dakota Department of Tourism, Ciara.Forest@travelsouthdakota.com, 605-773-3301

Stephanie Palmer, South Dakota Department of Tourism, Stephanie.Palmer@travelsouthdakota.com, 605-773-3301