

ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS WORTH THE STOP

The Mount Rushmore State offers something for everyone, and that's no exception for the road tripper. These fun and quirky roadside attractions make the driving travel experience that much more enjoyable. Each stop represents the unique American spirit of the state.

1880 Town (Murdo, SD)

The popular roadside stop is modeled after the original 1880 Town and has more than 30 buildings fashioned after models from 1880 to 1920. The buildings are authentically furnished with thousands of relics, historical accounts and photographs. Other fun features to explore include the Casey Tibbs exhibit, props from the film "Dances with Wolves" and several interactive activities offered for kids.

Dinosaur Park (Rapid City, SD)

Located on 20 acres on Skyline Drive, Dinosaur Park is home to life-size concrete dinosaur figures. Children are invited to climb on the gigantic dinosaurs and the whole family will enjoy the 100-mile views that reach all the way to the Badlands National Park.

Giant Prairie Dog (Cactus Flats, SD)

Just off of I-90 on the main road to Badlands National Park stands a 12-foot concrete prairie dog. Just down the road, visitors will enjoy the actual prairie dog towns nearby. In addition to offering a memorable photo opp, there is a small general store that sells some of the best bites west of the Mississippi, including one of their staples, 50 cent bags of peanuts.

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 from vintage gas pumps and bicycles to antique motor toys. Also on site is a 1950s diner, which offers a slice of nostalgia with a small town atmosphere.

Porter's Sculpture Park (Montrose, SD)

Located just off of Interstate 90 on the eastern side of South Dakota, Porter's Sculpture Park features works of art made in an industrial style, using scrap metal, old farm equipment and railroad tie plates. The largest piece showcased in the collection is the 60-foot-tall bull head. The impressive sculpture took three years to build, weighs 25 tons and is equal to the size of one of the presidents' heads on Mount Rushmore.

Wall Drug (Wall, SD)

One of America's most treasured roadside attractions, Wall Drug started as a tiny drug store in the 1930s and has since expanded into a 76,000-square foot emporium. The fun stop offers everything from free ice water and five-cent coffee to those passing through, to a place to pick up travel essentials and activities for kids, including the Backyard playground area. Visitors will find a restaurant that seats 520 featuring the largest privately owned western and illustration art collection.

World's Largest Pheasant (Huron, SD)

Driving north along Highway 37 to Huron, road trippers will be greeted by the world's largest pheasant. The large fowl, which is also the official South Dakota state bird, offers a playful photo opp for those passing through. The 28-foot-tall, 22-ton pheasant made of fiberglass and steel marks Huron as a premier pheasant hunting location since 1959.

World's Only Corn Palace (Mitchell, SD)

The World's Only Corn Palace stands as a tribute to the agricultural heritage of South Dakota. The building's exterior display is completely decorated with new murals each year made from thousands of bushels of corn, grains and native grasses. 13 different colors and shades of corn are used to create new scenes for the theme of the year. The murals are stripped at the end of August and the new ones are completed by early October. The original Corn Palace, called "The Corn Belt Exposition," was established in 1892.

For additional information, visit TravelSouthDakota.com.

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