

# STATE AND NATIONAL PARKS & SITES



↑ Mount Rushmore!



**Badlands National Park (Interior)** - The other-worldly landscape of Badlands National Park features a maze of buttes, canyons, pinnacles and spires, a result of millions of years of wind and water erosion. Families can visit the park's 244,000 acres and view a wide range of animals, like bison, prairie dogs, coyotes, eagles and hawks. Adding to the adventure of the national park, families can also go camping and join the ranger-led Night Sky Program for stargazing.

**Black Hills National Forest (Western South Dakota)** - The Black Hills, in western South Dakota and northeastern Wyoming, consists of 1.2 million acres of forested hills and mountains, approximately 110 miles long and 70 miles wide. The name "Black Hills" comes from the Lakota words Paha Sapa, which mean "hills that are black." Seen from a distance, these pine-covered hills, rising several thousand feet above the surrounding prairie, appear black.

**Custer State Park (Custer)** - Few truly wild places remain in this country. Custer State Park is one of them. Nearly 1,300 bison wander the park's 71,000 acres, which they share with pronghorn antelope, elk, mountain goats and a band of burros. Hiking trails, scenic drives, bike rides and safari tours are perfect ways to explore this impressive South Dakota attraction.



**George S. Mickelson Trail (Black Hills)** - Stretching out 109-miles through South Dakota's Black Hills, the Mickelson Trail offers visitors some of the best terrain to choose from when it comes to hiking, biking, horseback riding, and even cross-country skiing. The Mickelson Trail surface varies from gravel to crushed limestone and features more than 100 converted railroad bridges and four rock tunnels, all fit for exploration. The trail was built along a former railroad corridor, so its nearly level grade makes it an ideal outing for visitors of all ages.



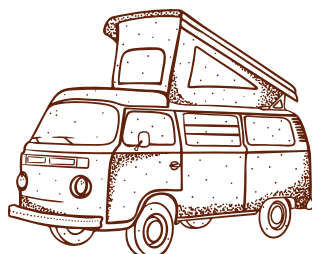


**Jewel Cave National Monument (Custer)** - The third-longest cave in the world features a variety of cave tours below the surface and a 1,279-acre park with nature trails above ground. With a name derived from the crystals that line its walls, Jewel Cave is even more significant as one of the longest caves in the world, with more than 208 miles of mapped and surveyed passages.

**Minuteman Missile National Historic Site (Philip)** - During the Cold War, a vast arsenal of nuclear missiles were placed in the Great Plains. Hidden in plain sight, for thirty years 1,000 missiles were kept on constant alert; hundreds remain today. The Minuteman Missile remains an iconic weapon in the American nuclear arsenal. It holds the power to destroy civilization, but is meant as a nuclear deterrent to maintain peace and prevent war.

**Missouri National Recreational River** - The Missouri River served as part of the trail Meriwether Lewis and William Clark traveled as they explored the new territory, making history a vital part of the communities that line the river. The portion of the river from Fort Randall south to Nebraska is officially known as the Missouri National Recreational River. This stretch of the river is protected by the National Park Service and looks today just as it did when Lewis and Clark explored that area in 1804 and 1806. Visitors can embark on a variety of outdoor activities on and along the banks of the river, including hiking, biking, camping, fishing, kayaking, and water skiing.

**Mount Rushmore National Memorial (Keystone)** - Known as America's Shrine of Democracy, Mount Rushmore National Memorial features the 60-foot faces of four great American presidents – George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln, respectively. These presidents represent the country's birth, growth, development and preservation.



**Wind Cave National Park (Hot Springs)** - Intricate, wind-carved rock formations, ancient stalactites and a seemingly endless network of sprawling caverns are all hallmarks of the world-famous Wind Cave National Park. If you're looking for a truly unique spelunking experience, this is the place. Wind Cave was the first cave designated a national park. Explore one of the world's largest mapped cave systems, decorated with rare boxwork formations along the cavern walls. Above ground, explore 33,970 acres of forests and prairies that act as a natural sanctuary for bison, elk, prairie dogs and more.

South Dakota is home to more than 60 state parks & recreation areas, the full list can be found [here](#).

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