



WINTER EXPERIENCES

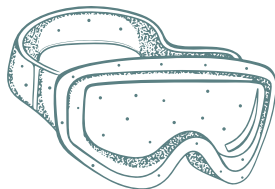
Delight in a frosty frolic during the winter in South Dakota, where magical, snow-covered landscapes offer endless winter adventures.

Andy's Trail Rides (Lead) - Located in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota, Andy's Trail Rides offers trail rides and sleigh rides. Andy has been on horseback since he was old enough to walk and started leading trail rides at the age of nine. Not a typical head-to-tail trail ride, you'll be led up secluded elk trails that wind around wooded mountain terrain. As the horses wind their way through stands of trees, over fallen logs and across creeks, they head to the mountain peak for breathtaking 85-mile view.

Christmas at the Capitol (Pierre) - Each Christmas season, the South Dakota State Capitol building in Pierre gets adorned, inside and out, for Christmas at the Capitol. Nearly 100 decorated trees line the halls and fill the rotunda. The festivities last from just before Thanksgiving to right after Christmas.



Fat Tire Biking (Black Hills) - South Dakota offers hundreds of miles of hiking trails, many of which are perfect for fat tire biking. Spearfish Canyon, home to the Dakota Five-0 Race and the 28 Below Fat Tire Race, is a favorite spot for biking in any season.



Frontier Christmas (Fort Sisseton Historic State Park) - Step back in time for a classic Frontier Christmas at Fort Sisseton! Celebrate the holiday season the way they did on the prairie – complete with crafts, homemade bread, roasted chestnuts, and so much more. Enjoy caroling, sleigh rides, and the magical lighting of candles on the Christmas tree.



Frozen Falls in Spearfish Canyon (Spearfish) - Spearfish Canyon is one of South Dakota's greatest natural attractions, perfect for outdoor recreation and wildlife enthusiasts alike. During the winter months, the water freezes over the limestone cliffs, making for some of the most breathtaking scenery in the Black Hills. Many of the frozen falls in Spearfish Canyon are accessible by a short hike. When conditions permit, Spearfish Canyon is an excellent location for ice climbing!

Great Bear Ski Valley (Sioux Falls) - Great Bear Recreation Park features more than 200 acres of outdoor fun just minutes from downtown Sioux Falls. From exciting winter sports to beautiful nature trails and indoor and outdoor event venues, there is always something great happening at Great Bear. The Ski Valley features skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing and snow shoeing in the winter.

Ice Fishing - In South Dakota, anglers don't quit when the water freezes. They just drill holes to reach the water! Ice fishing begins as soon as lakes and rivers freeze over, usually around mid-December. Pike, walleye, bluegill and perch can be found along the Missouri River and throughout the glacial lakes in northeastern South Dakota. Ice thickness guidelines according to South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks and get your license, too!

Ice Skating - Throughout South Dakota, in community's large and small, ice skating is a favorite pastime and an integral part of local culture.



Snowmobiling - With more than 1,500 miles of snowmobile trails, there's plenty of room to roam in South Dakota. Whether you're looking for the open prairies and rolling hills of eastern South Dakota or the mountain trails and ponderosa pine of the Black Hills, South Dakota has it all. Based on trail conditions, the annual season runs December 15 – March 31.

Snowshoeing - South Dakota boasts more than 60 state parks and recreation areas, featuring scenic hiking trails and offering excellent opportunities for snowshoeing during the winter months. Several parks offer snowshoe rentals, so get the family ready for a fun outdoor adventure!

Terry Peak Ski Area (Lead) - Terry Peak Ski Area is South Dakota's premier destination for a winter vacation, featuring skiing and snowboarding. The family-friendly ski resort is located in the northern Black Hills, near historic Deadwood. The summit stands at 7,100 feet tall, with the highest lift service between the Rockies and the Alps. A variety of terrain keeps everyone interested. A sizable Terrain Park includes a Half Pipe plus a variety of jumps and rail features. There are two lodges for rest and relaxation.



Winter Market at Main Street Square (Rapid City) - There's no better way to embrace the festivities of the holiday season than attending Winter Market in Rapid City's Main Street Square. This event is set against a backdrop of twinkling lights and a charming outdoor ice rink. Watch figure skating performances and listen to live music as you browse surrounding vendor booths stocked with locally made treasures to find meaningful and well-made gifts for yourself or your loved ones. The celebration continues by coinciding with the Festival of Lights Parade.

Winter Wonderland (Sioux Falls) - From mid-November through Mid-January, Falls Park in Sioux Falls becomes a Winter Wonderland. Ooh and ahh at hundreds of thousands of twinkling lights, more than 400 wreaths, 270 decorated trees, color-changing spotlights and numerous animated light displays. Whether you walk or drive through the experience, this annual tradition is a must-see for the whole family.



CONTACT US

Travel South Dakota
711 E Wells Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota, USA 57501
605-773-3301

Katlyn Svendsen,
Global Public Relations & Content Services Senior Director,
Katlyn.Svendsen@travelsouthdakota.com

Stephanie Spronk,
Social Media Manager & Global Media Representative,
Stephanie.Spronk@travelsouthdakota.com

Kortney Moser,
Social Media & Public Relations Representative,
Kortney.Moser@travelsouthdakota.com

MediaSD.com
TravelSouthDakota.com

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South Dakota