



ADVENTURES
in good company



SOUTH DAKOTA HILLS AND THRILLS

Trip Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Learning about the fascinating natural history & human history of this area
- Experiencing the magic of Mount Rushmore during the evening lighting ceremony
- Hiking South Dakota's highest mountain (Black Elk Peak)
- Staying at the cozy and beautiful Hinterwood Inn and Cabins
- Biking on the Mickelson Trail
- Swimming in Sylvan Lake
- Getting an aerial view of Mount Rushmore from a zipline

Phone: 877-439-4042

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TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location: Keystone, South Dakota

Activities: Multisport

Arrive: Meet at the Rapid City Regional Airport (RAP) at 3:30 PM. If you are driving straight to Hinterwood, meet there at 4:30 PM. 24110 Leaky Valley Road Keystone, SD 57751 (605) 574-95111

Depart: The last day of the trip is Day 5. If you are flying, we'll have you back to the Rapid City Regional Airport (RAP) in time for flights out after 11am. If you are driving, you can leave at any time in the morning.

Trip Overview

South Dakota is an undervalued gem of a vacation spot, full of wildlife and outstanding outdoor adventure but with the ample space to spread out and enjoy. Nestled into the black hills is a lush valley where we'll stay in modern and Pinterest worthy cabins, close to adventure hot spots like Custer State Park, Mount Rushmore and Ziplining!

Rating

This trip is suitable for any woman who enjoys hiking and relaxed non-technical biking. While the elevation gain is substantial on our first hike, it is an out and back route so any participant wanting to turn back early may do so. The total biking mileage is 22 miles but it is over flat even terrain and participants can opt out of biking altogether and replace with more hiking around the cabin retreat property. A rating of 3 requires aerobic conditioning, such as walking vigorously up hills, jogging, cross country skiing or stair stepping for 30 - 45 minutes at least 3 - 4 times a week. There are typically 4 to 6 hours of daily activity. **Rating:** 1 2 **3** **4** 5

What's Included

- 1 - 2 experienced AGC guides based on group size
- Four nights lodging at the Hinterwood Inn & Cabins with the entire property to ourselves!
- All meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on the Day 5. Guides will prepare most breakfast and dinners with picnic lunches while doing activities. The group will go out for the final dinner on Day 4.
- Round-trip transportation to/from Rapid City Regional airport (RAP) to our lodging and transportation for all destinations listed on the itinerary
- Park entry fees

Not included: Travel to and from South Dakota from your place of origin, alcoholic beverages, guide gratuities and travel insurance

OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

Welcome to South Dakota; a spacious slice of paradise, with sprawling prairies, glacial lakes and fertile farmlands. Our adventure base for the next few days has everything we need to unwind and enjoy the outdoors. Fly into Rapid City Regional Airport (RAP) by 3pm. We'll pick you up at 3:30pm and drive to our lodging together as a group. The Hinterwood Inn and Cabins is a family owned and operated retreat, nestled in the verdant hills of Keystone, SD, just a short drive to Mount Rushmore. This afternoon we'll settle into our rooms and get to know each other before sharing our first meal together. Tonight, we'll kick off the vacation with a visit to the Mount Rushmore evening lighting ceremony at 8pm. (D)

DAY 2

Custer State Park is considered one of the world's top 10 wildlife destinations. We'll have the entire day to soak up views that may include whitetail and mule deer, antelope, mountain goats, elk, coyotes, birds, wild turkeys, prairie dogs, bighorn sheep, and "begging burros". Did we mention the herd of over 1,300 bison that freely roam its grounds? Today we'll start early with a hike up Black Elk Peak (6.4 miles round trip, 1,499 ft elevation gain. It's an out and back trail so you can turn around early to make it shorter. Conversely there are great add ons like Little Devil's Tower and Cathedral Spires which make the total mileage 7.7 miles). At the peak of 7,242 feet above sea level stands the highest point in the United States east of the Rockies and a CCC built fire tower with incredible panoramic views. On a clear day you can see parts of Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana as well as the granite cliffs of the Black Elk Wilderness. This afternoon we'll relax on the shores of Sylvan Lake with a picnic lunch and a refreshing swim. Depending on time and interest, there may be an option to drive the park in search of Bison or return to Hinterwood for downtime before dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 3

Today we trade hiking boots for bikes as we explore the George S. Mickelson Trail. Named for one of South Dakota's former governors, this 109 mile long bike trail was an ambitious project that converted more than 100 bridges and 4 rock tunnels from railroad lines to trails, hence the rails to trails designation. It follows gentle slopes and passes through beautiful black hill country and National Forest land. (If you're not a fan of recreational cycling, you're welcome to hang back at the cabins as there are interesting hiking trails on site.) We'll embark on a full day low key cycle with a sweet reward afterwards - wine tasting! Prairie Berry Winery started their operations over 20 years ago and has won over 1,000 awards since. Wine isn't your favorite drink? You're in luck! The same successful wine family expanded into small batch brewing, opening Miner Brewing Company next door. The owner, a 5th generation South Dakotan named Sandi prides herself on using nearby ingredients for her handcrafted beer: from local honey to handpicked wild fruits such as chokecherries, buffalo berries, and rosehips to indigenous yeast and hops, it all comes from South Dakota; even the wheat for her Wheat beer comes from her family farm. (Cycling distance: 18 miles, mostly flat or downhill with some gentle grade inclines) (B, L, D)

DAY 4

Today we'll stretch our legs on a different path in Custer State Park, the Sunday Gulch Trail. Though the mileage is low (3.9 mile loop), the trail is steep in some places with boulders (and handrails!) and offers an up close view of the fascinating geological formations of the park. This afternoon we'll get our thrills in with a zipline adventure tour! On this two hour nonstop fun tour, we'll see Mount Rushmore from a different angle as we soar through the lush forests of the Black Hills on 5 ziplines. For those interested in great views of Mount Rushmore but don't want to zipline, you can take the relaxing chairlift to the summit where you can walk around on short nature trails before heading back down the hill on the chairlift. Tonight we celebrate our adventure with a step back in time, going out to eat at a local restaurant with 1900's decor. (B, L, D)

DAY 5

It's over too soon! What a great way to spend a long weekend. On our last day we'll have a leisurely breakfast before packing up and heading back to the Rapid City Regional Airport (RAP) for flights out after 11am. (B)

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

Getting There

If you are flying, fly in by 3:00 PM for our 3:30 PM meeting at the Rapid City Regional Airport (RAP). It's a small airport, so we'll meet just outside the airport entrance as a group. If you are driving straight to Hinterwood Inn and Cabins, meet there at 4:30 PM. 24110 Leaky Valley Road Keystone, SD 57751 (605) 574-95111

If you would like assistance with airfare, we recommend contacting our AirDesk Partner, [Exitto Travel](#). Start by submitting this [form](#). Just fill in your dates and destinations, including any additional notes about preferred carriers, class of service, possible stopovers, etc., and an agent will typically respond via email within a few hours. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

Please note: Most of the international airlines are in-network for Exitto, so they do not charge extra for their services (and often have access to discounted rates). When necessary, processing fees out-of-network carriers are minimal at around \$35-\$50 per ticket.

Accommodations

We'll spend the entire trip at the [Hinterwood Inn and Cabins](#) about 40 minutes from Rapid City Regional Airport (RAP) in South Dakota. Full price spots on the trip are for a private room with a queen bed with shared bathrooms, common areas and kitchens. There are 3 single supplements available (private room and private bathroom) for \$300 each. Discounted spots are also available: 10% for 2 people sharing a private space with 1 king bed and 1 daybed, private bathroom, kitchen and common area, and \$250 off for 3 Murphy bed spots (sharing bathroom with 2 other cabin-mates, Murphy beds are in the living room of each cabin).

Travel Insurance

We recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit www.travelexinsurance.com or call 1-800-228-9792 and reference location number 06-0331.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

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