

THE **TRAVEL CLUB**

Pre-Departure Itinerary **South Dakota & Badlands** *Tuesday, June 19 – Monday, June 25, 2012*

The Black Hills and Badlands of South Dakota are filled with American history, natural beauty, and the legends of the old west. This historic region is home to **Mount Rushmore**, the 14 miles of magnificent rock formations that comprise **Needle Highway** and **Badlands National Park**, a magnificent landscape teeming with jagged ridges, pinnacles, towers, buttes, ravines and gulches. **Crazy Horse Memorial** is the world's largest sculpture, still in progress, while a drive through **Custer State Park** might bring a glimpse of the 1,500-head herd of bison that roam freely throughout the park, often stopping traffic along the 18-mile **Wildlife Loop Road**. You'll visit the national historic landmark town of Deadwood, an authentic Lakota encampment and the **Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary** where hundreds of wild horses run free.

Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Rapid City
- Six nights' first-class accommodations: Radisson Hotel, Rapid City, SC
- Ten meals: six breakfasts, four dinners
- Round-trip airport/hotel transfers
- Sightseeing and touring

Rates

\$1,929 per person double occupancy
\$1,899 per person triple occupancy
\$2,409 for single reservations
Add \$50 for current air taxes and fees.
Cancellation waiver and travel insurance is \$165.
Although not required, we recommend purchasing the waiver. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$300.

Features

1880s train ride, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Needle Highway, Custer State Park, Deadwood tour, Lakota encampment, Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary, Badlands National Park;

OPTIONALS: Rapid City—Night at the Journey Museum

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Rapid City, South Dakota - Tour Begins

Rapid City is the gateway to some of the most intriguing and beautiful attractions in America. Experience the authentic west when you visit the inspirational memorials of spectacular Mt. Rushmore and visionary Crazy Horse. Delight in the tranquility of the Black Hills, Badlands and Custer State Park.

Today dinner will be included.

Accommodations: Radisson Rapid City

The Radisson Hotel is located in the historic downtown district of Rapid City which features exceptional dining, shopping and entertainment. The comfortable and spacious guest rooms feature all the amenities for an enjoyable stay. The restaurant is a great place to sample Midwestern cuisine with a Mediterranean flare.

Day 2: Rapid City - Keystone - Rapid City

Travel back to a time when steam locomotives and railroads were the primary form of transportation in America. Your journey between Hill City and Keystone on an 1880's train transforms you into an early American riding the rails in hopes of finding a new future. Later, a short ride brings you to Mount Rushmore, whose four figures carved in stone represent the first 150 years of American history. Stroll along the Presidential Trail, providing the closest access to the sculpture.

Today breakfast will be included.

Accommodations: Radisson Rapid City

Day 3: Rapid City - Crazy Horse - Custer - Rapid City

Today you visit Crazy Horse Memorial, the world's largest sculpture still in progress. The memorial includes the Indian Museum of North America, Native American Cultural Center, the sculptor's studio, and an orientation center and theaters. Many Native American artists and craftspeople create their works at the memorial and are on hand to discuss the influence of their culture on their art. Then, travel through 14 miles of magnificent rock formations on the Needle Highway*. Its curving rock tunnels and steep rock spires provide a breathtaking backdrop. Later, drive through Custer State Park where a band of bighorn sheep, a herd of majestic elk, or buffalo may be sighted! Tonight, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

Accommodations: Radisson Rapid City

Day 4: Rapid City - Deadwood - Rapid City

Learn about Black Hills gold on a tour through Mt. Rushmore Black Hills Gold and Diamond Factory...here you'll see skilled artisans handcraft South Dakota's official state jewelry. Then, visit Prairie Edge, a Plains Indian store and museum filled with native art, crafts and jewelry. Created by hand, their work remains faithful to the Plains Indian spirit and tradition. Next, travel to Deadwood, a rollicking, rambling western town named as a national historic landmark. Authentic recreations of turn-of-the-century street lamps light the way through accurately restored architecture. Upon arrival, a local guide will introduce you to the history of the city including a visit to Mount Moriah Cemetery and Kevin Costner's TaTanka: "Story of the Bison," an interpretive center that depicts the relationship of bison and man through interactive exhibits. Journey through an authentic Lakota encampment where everything from tepees to live Lakota interpreters offers a snapshot of Indian life during the height of the buffalo culture in 1840. Enjoy time at leisure in Deadwood where gold, gambling and gunpowder were the three key ingredients that created this town in 1876.

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

Accommodations: Radisson Rapid City

Day 5: Rapid City - Hot Springs - Rapid City

Today, travel to Hot Springs to see the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary to view America as it was 300 years ago. Experience a guided tour through part of this endless prairie of 11,000 acres, where over 400 wild horses run free. You'll also see Indian petroglyphs over 10,000 years old, a prairie dog town, an authentic Native American Sun Dance site, and the movie set from the classic, Crazy Horse.

Today breakfast will be included.

Accommodations: Radisson Rapid City

Day 6: Rapid City - Badlands - Wall - Rapid City

Start your day with a visit to Badlands National Park. Upon arrival, make a stop at the visitor's center to view its informative exhibits and displays as well as see a video introducing you to this area. The Badlands loop is a marvel of vibrant colors and rock formations caused by mineral deposits. Next, enjoy a stop at Wall Drug, an authentic store from 1936, where there is time for lunch and browsing. This evening, enjoy a wonderful dinner at the K Bar S Lodge, nestled in the woods of Keystone. The comforts of home and warm hospitality combine with fine food, good drink and plenty of interesting conversation with your hosts.

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

Accommodations: Radisson Rapid City

Day 7: Rapid City - Tour Ends

Today you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight home

Today breakfast will be included.

Personalize your tour by adding an optional activity.

Rapid City, SD

A Night at the Museum \$50

Your private "night at the Museum" takes place at the Journey Museum, for an incredible trek through time, from the violent upheaval that formed the mystical Black Hills over 2.5 billion years ago to the continuing saga of the Western Frontier. Opened just for you this evening, the museum brings together four major prehistoric and historic collections to tell the complete story of the Western Great Plains- from the perspective of the Lakota people and the pioneers who shaped its past, to the scientists who now study it. Discover where dinosaurs lie buried beneath the prairie soil. Learn why the Sioux call their sacred Black Hills the "Center of the Universe" Experience the hardships of the homesteaders as they settled the formidable wilderness. Your journey begins with an array of appetizers and a glass of wine or beer followed by plenty of time for independent exploration. When the journey is complete, you will fully understand the legacy of the land and its people. Duration approximately 3 hours. Transportation provided.

PLEASE NOTE: *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured.* We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

PLEASE NOTE: *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*