



Gladstone Parks & Recreation

50+ Travel

The Blackhills & The Badlands

July 14-19, 2014

Day 1: Monday, July 14th

Today you travel to the great state of South Dakota. You will stop for lunch in Sioux City before continuing on to Mitchell, South Dakota to see the world's only **Corn Palace**. Established over one hundred years ago as a gathering place to enjoy a fall festival, the Corn Palace is redecorated each year with naturally colored corn and other grains and native grasses that make it the agricultural show-place of the world. You will overnight in Mitchell at the **Kelly Inn**. (Dinner is included today).

Day 2: Tuesday, July 15th

You continue west today stopping to see the stunning panorama of **Badlands National Park**, a 244,303-acre landscape that is both barren and beautiful. Wind and rain erosion have created an eerie moonscape of deep gorges and jagged saw tooth ridges, with rock layers painted in subtle hues of sand, rose, gold, and green. You will travel the Badlands Loop Road, snaking through the passes, offering nine scenic overlooks and a visitor center at Cedar Pass. Your lunch is included at Cedar Pass Lodge. This afternoon you'll stop at the famed **Wall Drug Store** in Wall, SD. What started as a small unsuccessful drugstore became famous by offering free ice water to tourists in 1936. The same tradition is carried on today but the store is now very large, with thousands of tourists every year. Later you will arrive in Rapid City, SD. and to your home for the next three nights, the **Hilton Garden Inn**. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included today).

Day 3: Wednesday, July 16th

This morning you'll experience history and breathtaking scenery when you ride an authentic **1880s train** from Hill City to Keystone. The 1880 Train is an authentic narrow gauge railroad dating back to the Black Hills Gold Rush. Your next stop is **Mount Rushmore** to see an epic sculpture featuring the faces of four exalted American presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. These 60-foot high faces, 500 feet up, look out over a setting of pine, spruce, birch, and aspen in the clear western air. Next you will visit **Custer State Park**. Located in the beautiful **Black Hills**, this park is full of lush forests, and majestic mountains. It is also home to one of the world's largest bison herds, 1,500 strong. You'll experience a thrilling **Buffalo Jeep Safari** where you'll take an open-air ride into the backcountry in search of bison while guides tell you all about the park and its amazing wildlife. This evening you'll enjoy a **Chuckwagon Dinner and Cowboy Show** located on the film set of the movie "Dances with Wolves." (Breakfast and dinner are included today).

Day 4: Thursday, July 17th

Travel to Hot Springs and witness America as it was 300 years ago at the **Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary**. On a guided tour, you'll see hundreds of wild horses; stallions, mares and foals living in their natural habitat. You'll also see the Crazy Horse movie set, Native American ceremonial sites, and petroglyphs. Your next stop is the **Mammoth Site** in Hot Springs. More than 26,000 years ago, large Columbian and woolly mammoths were trapped and died in a spring-fed pond near what is now the southwest edge of Hot Springs, South Dakota. Discovered by chance in 1974, the Mammoth Site is the world's largest Columbian mammoth exhibit and research center for Pleistocene studies. Early days of digging proved the value of the discovery...there could be the remains of up to 100 mammoths along with fossils of other Ice Age animals. Then it's off to **Crazy Horse Memorial**. On the invitation of Chief Henry Standing Bear and other Native American elders, sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski began carving Crazy Horse monument in 1947, in an area of the Black Hills that is sacred to the Lakota. Crazy Horse monument tells the story in granite of the great and patriotic Native American hero, Crazy Horse, who died in 1877 at the age of 35. Still in progress, the memorial is the largest sculpture in the world. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included today).

Day 5: Friday, July 18th

You'll depart Rapid City this morning and stop at the Minuteman Missile Silo site where a park ranger will talk about the history of the minuteman missiles and their role in the cold war. There were 150 U.S. Minuteman missiles and 15 Launch Control Facilities standing guard in the western part of South Dakota. Two of these sites, the Delta-01 Launch Control Facility and the Delta-09 Launch Facility, have been preserved as **Minuteman Missile National Historic Sites** to provide visitors with a unique Cold War history lesson. You will visit the Delta -09 Launch Facility and the Visitor Center where you'll see an orientation video. Later you arrive in Sioux Falls where you will experience The Greatest Show on H2O at **Catfish Bay**, a water skiing comedy adventure including acting, singing, dancing and amazing stunts. Your hotel is the **Holiday Inn City Centre** in Sioux Falls, SD. (Breakfast and dinner are included today).

Day 6: Saturday, July 19th

This morning you will enjoy a guided tour of **Sioux Falls**, South Dakota's largest city. Sioux Falls is named for the Sioux Tribe of American Indians and the waterfalls of the Big Sioux River, located a few blocks from today's downtown district. The falls remain a popular local landmark and tourist attraction. You will stop for lunch at Famous Dave's BBQ in Sioux City, Iowa, before making your way back to Gladstone. (Breakfast and lunch are included today).

**Per Person Tour Price: Double - \$1145.00
Single - \$1555.00**

Price includes motor coach transportation, hotel accommodations, tours, 13 meals, and driver's gratuity.

Cancellation policy: A full refund will be issued if participant cancels before the deadline for final payment. After that time, a full refund cannot be guaranteed. It will be at the discretion of hotels, restaurants and attractions. A \$5.00 processing fee will be withheld for any refunds issued.

For reservations or further information, please contact:

**Paige Robbins
Gladstone Parks & Recreation
7010 N. Holmes
Gladstone, MO. 64118
816-423-4086**