

# NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA ADVENTURE

Monday, July 17 - Saturday, July 22

Rapid City & Deadwood, South Dakota and Medora, North Dakota

South Dakota is the land of Great Faces and Great Places. From awe-inspiring Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Crazy Horse Memorial to the Mighty Missouri River, Badlands National Park and the World's only Corn Palace, every part of the state is unique. North Dakota is just as unique with the Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the Pitchfork Fondue and Medora Musical.

As we travel west toward South Dakota, we will visit the **Corn Palace** in Mitchell. The original Corn Palace, called "the Corn Belt Exposition" was established in 1892. Early settlers displayed the fruits of their harvests on the building exterior in order to prove the fertility of South Dakota soil. The exterior decorations are completely stripped down and new murals are created each year. The theme is selected by the Corn Palace Festival Committee and murals are designed by a local artist.



A tour of the **State Capitol** in Pierre, South Dakota will make an interesting stop on our tour. On June 25, 1908 when the cornerstone for the South Dakota State Capitol was laid, Governor Coe Crawford said in his address: "The new Capitol will do more than comfortably accommodate the officers who are to labor within its walls for the people whom they will serve. It will stand throughout the coming years as an expression of beauty and art, and as the people come and go and linger within its walls, they will see in it an expression of the soul of the state."

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**Wall Drug** is a stop that has to be made when travelling in South Dakota. In 1936 the struggling drug store owners came up with the idea to put up signs saying "Free Water" on the highway that went past the small town of Wall. By the following summer, they hired eight girls to handle the business generated from those homemade signs. Today, Wall Drug draws up to twenty thousand people on a good summer day.

Just east of the Black Hills is the **Badlands National Park**, famous for its deep gorges and sharp lunar-like spires. This National Park contains some of the most spectacular vistas and scenery in the world. The Badlands also contain places of spiritual and historical significance for the local Lakota community. We will enjoy a leisurely drive through the Badlands and learn more about the history of this 242,756 acre piece of land.

Our tour continues into Rapid City. We will spend some time at the memorial prior to the evening lighting ceremony at **Mount Rushmore**. This National Memorial symbolizes both national pride and an awesome feat of engineering. Carved from a mountain of granite and standing proud since 1941, Mount Rushmore, protrudes from the granite as a true “Shrine of Democracy” with the faces of George Washington, commander of the Revolutionary Army and first U.S. President; Thomas Jefferson, founder of the Declaration of Independence; Abraham Lincoln, abolisher of slavery; and Theodore Roosevelt, corruption reformer and wildlife conservationist.

A visit to South Dakota is ever changing as we will view **Crazy Horse Memorial** which is the world’s largest sculpture-in-progress; frequent drilling and mountain blasts make each visit unique. When complete, Crazy Horse Memorial will stand 563 feet tall by 641 feet long. The project was started in 1948 to carve a mountain to honor the heritage, tradition and culture of North American Indians.

Born bold and bawdy in 1876, legendary **Deadwood** is awaiting our arrival. This historic mining camp, built on a rowdy history of gold, gambling and gun powder, has taken that notoriety and turned itself into South Dakota’s entertainment Mecca. It’s the same prospect today of riches that lured prospectors and gamblers to Deadwood more than a century ago. In addition to some free time to try your luck at one of their many casinos, we will enjoy a guided tour and learn more about its colorful history, peopled with such characters as Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane and Poker Alice.

Traveling out of South Dakota into North Dakota we will visit the **Theodore Roosevelt National Park**. When Theodore Roosevelt came to Dakota Territory to hunt bison in 1883, he was a skinny, young, spectacled dude from New York. He could not have imagined how his adventure in this remote and unfamiliar place would forever alter the course of the nation. The rugged landscape and strenuous life that Theodore experienced here shaped a conservation policy that we still benefit from today. Theodore Roosevelt National Park lies in western North Dakota, where the Great Plains meets the rugged Badlands. A habitat for bison, elk and prairie dogs, the sprawling park has 3 sections linked by the Little Missouri River. The park is known for the South Unit’s colorful Painted Canyon and the Maltese Cross Cabin, where President Roosevelt once lived. The Scenic Loop Drive winds past several overlooks and trails.

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## *South Dakota/North Dakota continued...*

“The Greatest Show in the West” is live and outside all summer long! The **Medora Musical** is the rootin’-tootinest, boot-scootiniest show in all the west! There’s no other show quite like it. Set in the outdoor splendor of the rugged North Dakota Badlands, this professionally produced, high energy, western-style musical show is proudly dedicated to the legacy of America’s 26th President, Theodore Roosevelt, and the time he spent here in the Badlands of the Dakota Territory. Prior to the performance of the Medora Musical we will be treated to a special **Pitchfork Steak Fondue Dinner**. Every evening the chefs load steaks onto pitchforks and fondue them western style. We can savor our steak as we overlook the picturesque Badlands from atop a bluff at the Tjaden Terrace. Our steak dinner comes with all the fixin’s. This unique dining experience was featured on the national television show, Best Of, on the Food Network!

A visit to the **Cowboy Hall of Fame** is in order while we are in Medora. The North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame strives to preserve the history and promote the culture of North Dakota’s Native American, Ranching and Rodeo communities by informing and educating people of all nations and cultures about the state’s rich and colorful western heritage. The character and legacy of the American West comes to life inside the walls of the Cowboy Hall of Fame.

In stark contrast to the Colonial, Classical Revival, Renaissance style building we saw in Pierre, South Dakota the **North Dakota State Capitol** is an Art Deco 21 story skyscraper in Bismarck. The tower is located on a 160-acre campus that is the site of many other government buildings. The numerous parks, walking trails and monuments on the grounds give visitors information about the state’s history and is one of the city’s tourist attractions. An afternoon tour of the Capitol and grounds will be included.

An abundance of natural beauty, family attractions, great wildlife parks and some of America’s most famous Old West history are what we will experience on this six day tour to the Badlands, Mount Rushmore, Deadwood and Medora.

### COST PER PERSON:

Double.....	\$890.00	Triple .....	\$775.00
Quad.....	\$715.00	Single .....	\$1,275.00

Tour includes: Deluxe motorcoach transportation, five night’s accommodations, five breakfasts, four meals (lunches or dinners), and all services and admissions scheduled.

Departure time from Medford	6:30 a.m.
Approximate return time	6:30 p.m.