

Fiona Sandwich Dept of Tourism

We hope that you will join us in the Black Hills for our first traveling meetup! Here is a list of things our family has enjoyed, and some other things your family might like, but we haven't done. You might wonder, "What's in South Dakota?!" It is one of our favorite places to visit and close to so many wonderful sites/sights. I have included them here to help you plan your trip.

HAVE DONE (AND LOVED!):

CUSTER FIREWORKS - Watch fireworks from Pageant Hill. Pack patience if you are staying north of Custer. It takes a while to get out of town.

BISON ART - Drive around Custer and find all the bison. Which is your favorite? This has been a source of inspiration for Summer Camp prompts!

DAHL'S CHAINSAW ART - check out the Yeti, Smokey and Buffalo around Hill City and Custer

FOOD IN CUSTER:

CUSTER WOLF - this is our absolute favorite place for burgers. The BCJ burger is our family favorite.

PURPLE PIE PLACE - you just have to stop and get a piece of pie (or ice cream)!

Our host for the Meetup is **LAST MILE BREWERY** in Rapid City. They have a food truck as well - **THE RAMBLER**, but there are frequently other food trucks at their brewery.

HONORABLE MENTIONS: (Haven't done, but recommended)

SKOGEN KITCHEN (Custer)

SPEARFISH CANYON (Spearfish)

MAMMOTH SITE (Hot Springs)

HOT SPRINGS (Hot Springs)

BEAR COUNTRY USA (Rapid City)

REPTILE GARDENS (Rapid City)

FLYING IN? Fly into RAP

DRIVING? Rapid City is about:

6 hours from Denver.

5 hours from Bismark.

8 hours from Minneapolis.

5 hours from Billings.

If you need recommendations on places to stay, please reach out.

QUILT SHOPS:

Quilted Buffalo - Custer

Farmer's Daughter - Hill City

Nuts & Bolts Fabric - Edgemont

Quilt Connection - Rapid City

Fabric City - Rapid City

The Sewing Center - Rapid City

Fabric Junction - Sturgis

Heartfelt Quilt Shop - Spearfish

The Bakery Fabrics - Belle Fourche

The Quilt Bank - Newell

CUSTER STATE PARK

If you haven't been here before, this is a must go! We have spent quite a bit of time here, and it's never enough time!

Take time to drive along the Wildlife Loop - you'll see more buffalo than you did at Yellowstone! Take your pic with the friendly burros. Keep your eyes out for mountain goat. Spot the big horn sheep! This road is so awesome!!

Custer SP has many great hikes.

Take a drive along Iron Mountain Road, and spot Mount Rushmore - this is really fun! You'll see Mount Rushmore if you drive south to north, but it's really neat to drive the opposite way too. We really liked the pigtail turns - really unique, and the trusses on the bridges - really beautiful.

Favorite places to camp in the park: Legion Lake. This is our fave because it's quiet, and there is a restaurant across the street - a good burger (not as great as Custer Wolf), then take an easy hike around Legion Lake.

We have stayed in Blue Bell campground; this has a vintage travel feel. So charming!

We've also stayed at Center Lake - this one is good for last minute/day of reservations.

MOUNT RUSHMORE

So iconic. This is a great place to spend the day. Be sure to take the Presidential Trail hike, and get a Root Beer Float with Thomas Jefferson's ice cream recipe. This is my favorite ice cream. Yum!

Note, that you'll need to pay for parking even if you have a Park Pass.

WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK - Be sure to check out the natural entrance to the cave! It's pretty neat!

JEWEL CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT - This part of the Black Hills is STUNNING! We haven't been here; I visited when I was little, but I don't remember it. But we drove through this way a few years ago, and it was absolutely stunning!!!

CRAZY HORSE

MICKELSON TRAIL - Take a hike along the Mickleson Trail, once a railroad is now a part of the rails to trails system. There is also a fantastic book about the Mickelson Trail with suggestions of things to do, history about various places along the trail, and things you will see along the trail!

MAIN STREET/DOWNTOWN HILL CITY, KEYSTONE, CUSTER

MINI GOLF IN CUSTER - this was really fun and kept my attention for a full game!

STORY BOOK ISLAND - if you have children, this is a must do. I thought it would be

(cont'd) kitschy (it is), and boring (it's not).

CHAPEL IN THE HILLS - This is really cool! It's a replica of a Norwegian stave church.

PRESIDENTIAL WALK IN RAPID CITY - Walk up and down each street and find all the Presidents. How good is your memory? Do you remember their order?

BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK - It can be HOT in July, so if you go take LOTS of water, and go early in the day. If you can't go early in the day, you can drive through Badlands and see most things. It's well worth a drive!

MINUTE MAN MISSILE NM

WALL DRUG - if you are driving to the Black Hills, keep your eyes open for Wall Drug bill boards. For us coming from Denver, the first bill board is around Chugwater Wyoming!! It's a tourist trap, but you really should check it out. (Take your pic with the jackalope and add that block to your NP quilt!!)

HISTORIC DEADWOOD - This is a fun area to visit.

ADAMS HOUSE - if you like history, then this might be a good option for you. We took the tour many years ago, and I recall it being an excellent tour.

MT. MORIAH CEMETERY - it was interesting to walk/hike through and see who's buried here.

GEOLOGIC CENTER OF THE UNITED STATES - Belle Fourche. It's not the most glamorous stop, but HAVE you been to the center of the United States?!

If you've been to all these places, perhaps venturing in to Nebraska is for you! We took a trip to the panhandle of NE a few years ago; it was quite delightful! It's only about 90 minutes from Rapid City, and well worth a drive/stay. These are things that you can do in a day trip from Rapid.

TOADSTOOL GEOLOGIC PARK - WOW! I thought this place was SO neat!!!

FORT ROBINSON STATE PARK - This is where Crazy Horse died. The fort is well preserved, and there are variety of museums here. Some are included with the State Park, but the historical museum is not - we did not visit this. However, there is still plenty to do without visiting the historic museum.

There is also a great Rails to Trails trail here!

AGATE FOSSIL BEDS NM - another interesting national park. If you are here, you should visit!

Honorable mentions (because they are farther from Rapid, but while I'm planning your trip, here are more ideas)

SCOTTSBLUFF NM, CARHENGE

