

# tatanka<sup>2015</sup>

*a guide to* CUSTER STATE PARK



Buffalo are dangerous.  
Please do not approach.



# Welcome

*Thank you for choosing to visit Custer State Park. Several times during the course of the year I am reminded of how fortunate I am to work in such a great place. Those reminders come in many different forms—through hikes with my family or through conversations with visitors who are bubbling with enthusiasm over the many wonderful features here.*



*To truly understand why this is such a great place to work, one has to go behind the scenes and see that the success goes way beyond a few. The staff and volunteers of the park are the true backbone. Without the hard work and dedication of the full-time staff, as well as that of the seasonal employees and volunteers who continue to show up year after year to give their time and talents, Custer State Park would not be the special place it is. Whether paid or volunteer, everyone puts forth a great effort in making this place ready for visitors day after day. Custer State Park is not just a job; it is a home away from home. Welcome!*

*Matt Snyder, Superintendent  
Custer State Park*

## TATANKA

*Tatanka is the Lakota word for bison or buffalo.*

**Volume 36 • 2015**

The Tatanka is published by the S.D. Department of Game, Fish and Parks. Dennis Daugaard, Governor of South Dakota; Doug Hofer, Director, S.D. Division of Parks and Recreation; Matthew Snyder, Superintendent, Custer State Park; Brooke Smith, *Tatanka* Editor

Front Cover: Photo by Chad Coppess, SD Department of Tourism. Other photos provided by S.D. Departments of Tourism and Game, Fish and Parks, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ron Fry.





## CONTENTS

Things to know | 4

Wildlife | 6

Buffalo Roundup: 50th Anniversary | 10

Activities | 12

Trails | 14

Park programs | 16

Annual events | 18

Lakes and streams | 20

Scenic drives | 22

History | 24

Lodging | 26

Camping | 28

Dining and shopping | 30

Area state parks | 32

Black Hills Playhouse | 34

Black Hills area map | Inside back

Custer State Park map | Back cover

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the S.D. Department of Game, Fish and Parks is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: S.D. Department of Game, Fish and Parks, 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501-3182; or to the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20240.

235,000 copies of this publication were printed at a cost of 15 cents each.



# things to know

## ENTRANCE FEES

Annual Park Entrance License | \$30

Second Annual Park Entrance License | \$15

Transferable Park Entrance License | \$65

Temporary Vehicle License (1-7 consecutive days) | \$15/vehicle or \$10/motorcycle

Motorcoach License | \$3/person per continuous visit

Camping fees | See page 29

**An entrance license is required of all park visitors. Only people traveling non-stop on U.S. Highway 16A are exempt from this requirement.**





## GENERAL PARK GUIDELINES

Regulations are designed to protect both park visitors and park resources. Park rangers enforce the park's laws and regulations.

- Feeding and disturbing wildlife is against park regulations. DO NOT approach the buffalo.
- Open fires are prohibited unless in an approved fire grate located in campgrounds or picnic areas.
- Visitors are not allowed to jump or dive from bridges, rocks or cliffs into any of the park's lakes, ponds or streams.
- Removal of any natural or cultural features such as antlers, rocks or artifacts is prohibited.
- Loaded firearms are not allowed in the park. Unloaded and cased firearms may be transported in a vehicle.
- Open carry is not permitted. You may carry a concealed weapon with a valid concealed permit.
- Pets need to be on a leash no longer than 10 feet. Pets are not allowed in any park buildings or on designated swimming beaches. Please clean up after your pet. Do not leave pets unattended.

## LOST AND FOUND

All lost and found items and records are kept at the Peter Norbeck Visitor Center, centrally located in the park near the State Game Lodge.

If you find or lose an item, stop at one of our five entrance stations and fill out a lost and found form. Our staff will deliver the item and the completed form to the visitor center for you.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Custer State Park

Park Headquarters | 605.255.4515

Peter Norbeck Visitor Center | 605.255.4464

Wildlife Station Visitor Center | 605.255.4054

Email | [custerstatepark@state.sd.us](mailto:custerstatepark@state.sd.us)

Web | [www.custerstatepark.com](http://www.custerstatepark.com)

Facebook | [www.facebook.com/CusterStatePark](http://www.facebook.com/CusterStatePark)

### Camping reservations

1.800.710.2267

[www.campsd.com](http://www.campsd.com)

### Custer State Park Resort

Information | 605.255.4772

Reservations | 1.888.875.0001

Email | [info@custerresorts.com](mailto:info@custerresorts.com)

Web | [www.custerresorts.com](http://www.custerresorts.com)

## VISITOR CENTER HOURS

### Peter Norbeck Visitor Center

*April 1 - Memorial Day:* 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Memorial Day - Labor Day:* 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

*Labor Day - September 30:* 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

*October 1 - 31:* 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*November 1 - March 31:* Closed

### Wildlife Station Visitor Center

*Memorial Day - Labor Day:* 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

*Labor Day - September 30:* 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*October 1 - Memorial Day:* Closed



The Civilian Conservation Corps built the Peter Norbeck Visitor Center as the park museum during the winter months of 1934-35. The young men of Camp Lodge, ages 17-25, created a structure that blends into the surroundings. They used their talent in construction and native materials of logs and rocks to create a building to educate the public on the park's natural and cultural history.

Interpretive exhibits and displays allow visitors to gaze into the eyes of a 1,900-pound bison and witness tree rings dating back 330 years. Displays reveal much about the history of the area, from Black Hills geology to the efforts of an 1876 gold panner.

The Peter Norbeck Visitor Center is the main location for the park's educational programs. Each guest should visit the center to learn more about the park.

The Wildlife Station Visitor Center is located along Wildlife Loop Road and is the place to stop for questions that come up during your drive down the scenic road. If you saw a beautiful prairie flower or a new critter, staff will help you identify it. Staff can also direct you to the area where the park's buffalo herd was last seen.



# wildlife



Pronghorn



Wildlife Talks





Safari Jeep Tour

## CUSTER STATE PARK WILDLIFE

Custer State Park is one of the few places in the world where you're able to see an abundance of wildlife in their natural habitat. You'll encounter a variety of wildlife throughout the park's 71,000 acres, including along trails, in the campgrounds and beside the road. Wildlife Loop Road is particularly known for its common sightings of buffalo, pronghorn and prairie dogs, but keep a keen eye out for white-tailed and mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep and a host of birds and smaller wildlife as well. For the best results, travel the loop during the early morning or later in the evening, when wildlife are most active.



# wildlife

## Elk

Elk are the second largest member of the deer family with only moose larger. They are mainly forest dwellers where they browse and graze on understory vegetation. Elk are shy and seldom seen during the daytime hours. Mature bulls grow and shed heavy, wide antlers.



## Pronghorns

Pronghorns, commonly referred to as antelope due to their similar appearance, live on the open grassland. The name pronghorn comes from the buck's large pronged horns. The horn sheaths are shed each year. The fastest land animal in North America, pronghorns can run 60 mph for great distances. True antelope live in Africa and have unbranched horns that never shed.



## Mountain Lion

Chiefly nocturnal and reclusive toward humans, mountain lions are found within the Black Hills and Custer State Park. These predators feed on several species, including deer, elk, rabbits and wild turkeys. Even though you may not see them, these big cats are a part of South Dakota's wealth of wildlife.



## Coyotes

Coyotes hunt in all habitats in Custer State Park. Their diet is varied, but consists mainly of small mammals. They also eat larger game as well as insects, fruits and berries. Coyotes are gray and have a drooping, bushy tail and a pointed nose. The coyote is South Dakota's state mammal.



## Mule Deer

These deer are aptly named for their large ears. Their black-tipped tails, which are short and narrow, are carried down when the deer runs. Mule deer often bound with a stiff-legged gait as if bouncing on powerful springs when they flee.



## White-tailed Deer

White-tailed deer live mainly in the timberlands. As its name implies, the white-tailed deer has white hair on the underside of its tail. When the animal runs, the tail is flipped up and looks like a waving white flag.





### Bighorn Sheep

South Dakota's original bighorn sheep was the Audubon subspecies. When it became extinct about 1922, a herd of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep was introduced to Custer State Park. Bighorns have a sturdy but graceful build. Their coats consist of short hair, not wool. Rams have thick, curled horns and ewes have smaller curved horns.



### Prairie Dogs

The black-tailed prairie dog is found on the dry, upland prairie. It is a rodent that lives in large social groups called towns. The round mound of dirt that surrounds the prairie dog hole keeps rain water from running into the burrow and serves as an observation post to watch for danger. Prairie dogs get their name from their bark-like call.



### Birds

The park's diverse habitat makes for exciting bird watching. Visitors can find the mountain bluebird, white-winged junco, golden eagle, prairie falcon and western tanager, to name but a few. A bird checklist is available at the visitor centers.



### Burros

The burros in Custer State Park are not native to the Black Hills. They are descendants from the herd that once hauled visitors to the top of Harney Peak. The rides were discontinued years ago and the burros were released into the park where they have become a popular visitor attraction. Through the years, visitors have stopped to photograph the burros. Visitors need to understand there is a risk taken when one approaches any animal, including the burros. Please use your own judgment if you come across the burros while traveling in Custer State Park.

## HUNTING -

### A MANAGEMENT TOOL

Some animal species in the park are managed through hunting programs. Hunting helps reduce the size of populations, preventing overcrowding within the park. Control of numbers ensures adequate forage for all species and prevents habitat loss and competition between species.

Most hunting seasons typically occur from mid-September through early January. Turkey hunting takes place in the spring from mid-April through mid-May each year.

The fees collected from hunting licenses generate revenues which help fund wildlife management programs.

Species managed through hunting in the park include bison, elk, deer, pronghorn, mountain lion and turkey.

### Mountain Goats

The mountain goat was not found in South Dakota until 1924, when it was introduced to the Black Hills. Today, they are found in the granite outcroppings and crags around Harney Peak, Needles and Mount Rushmore areas. The mountain goat is unique to North America and is not a true goat. The all-white mammal feeds on grasses, ferns, moss and lichen among other high-elevation plants. The animal grows a dense wool undercoat and a long outer coat of hair. Both sexes have sharp, slender, black horns.



## PLEASE DON'T FEED US!

Feeding the park's wildlife is prohibited. In fact, feeding any wild animal can be dangerous to both you and the animal.



## BUFFALO

The park is home to as many as 1,450 head of North American bison, more commonly known as buffalo. Bison can grow to 6 feet tall and weigh more than 2,000 pounds. They are considered the largest native terrestrial mammal of North America.

There were once millions of bison, but by 1900 it is estimated that fewer than 1,000 bison remained on the entire continent.

Peter Norbeck, often known as the “Father of Custer State Park,” recognized the situation and decided to take action to preserve this native beast. In 1914, the park, then known as Custer State Forest and Game Sanctuary, purchased 36 bison to start its herd. By the 1940s, the size of the herd had swelled to over 2,500.

The herd soon began to overgraze the park’s rangeland and the bison numbers were lowered. Each year during the roundup, the size and the structure of the bison herd is adjusted according to the predicted availability of grassland forage. The spring birthing season rejuvenates the herd size.

# BUFFALO ROUNDUP

## 2015 MARKS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Yeehaw! A whip cracks in the distance and a cowboy yells, “Get after them. Cut ‘em off. Their headed in the wrong direction! We’ve got to turn them back!”

Sound exciting? Well that’s because it is! Especially when you are trying to herd 1,300 buffalo in a direction they don’t want to go.

It all starts in early September when buffalo herdsman Chad Kremer begins planning for the park’s annual Buffalo Roundup.

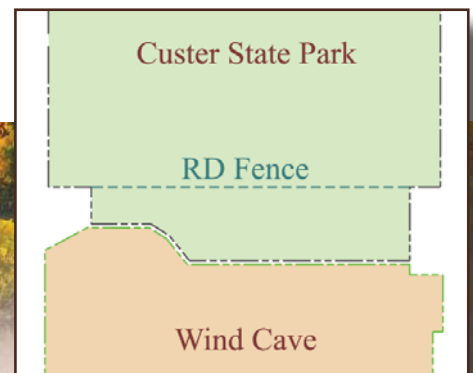
Kremer, along with the other members of the parks resource management team, open the gates along the Recreation Demonstration (RD) fence to allow the buffalo to drift into an ungrazed pasture.

“Picture in your mind a fence that runs across the park from east to west, one mile in from our southern boundary fence,” Kremer describes. “This area, called the Recreation Demonstration area, is not grazed all summer, so when we open the gates along the fence, the buffalo naturally drift into the area.”

As the old saying goes, the grass is greener on the other side of the fence.

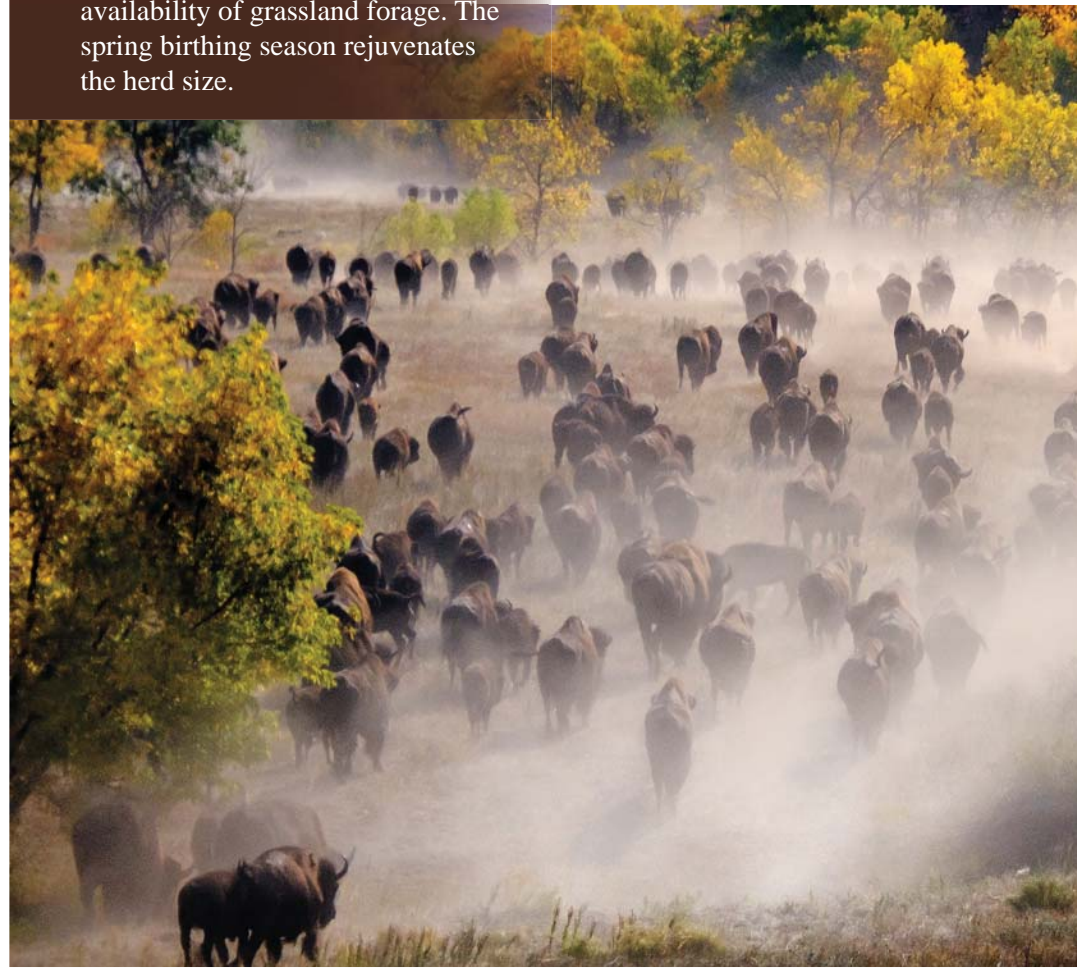
However not all the buffalo drift into the area on their own. That is where a number of volunteer horseback riders and park staff come into play.

“We search the park high and low for buffalo throughout the month of September,” Kremer explains. “When we find a group, we gather up the horseback riders and drive the buffalo toward the south end



## BRANDING BUFFALO

Bison calves in Custer State Park are branded with a single-digit number with an “S” underneath. The “S” stands for “State,” indicating they are part of the State’s herd in Custer State Park. The number is the last digit in the year they were born. If kept for more than 10 years, staff can determine the animal’s age by its appearance.







*While the Buffalo Roundup has always been open to the public, it increased in popularity following the movie Dances with Wolves. In the beginning, 200 to 300 watched as the herd was driven into the corrals, today approximately 14,000 people enjoy this fall event.*

## BUFFALO AUCTION

The park generally sells 250 to 450 head of buffalo at the live auction which is held the third Saturday of November each year.

### Last year's average prices

Mature Bred Cows: \$2,542.86  
 Mature Open Cows: \$1,672.50  
 2-year-old Bred Heifer: \$3,237.50  
 2-year-old Open Heifer: \$1,812.50  
 Yearling Heifers: \$1,801.39  
 Yearling Bulls: \$2,002.94  
 Heifer Calf: \$1,183.50  
 Bull Calf: \$1,557.39  
 2-year-old Grade Bull: \$2,300.00

of the park into the RD pasture in preparation for the final push into the corrals. This final push – the annual Buffalo Roundup – happens on the last Friday of September.

### What is the purpose of the roundup?

The park began to gather the herd back in the 1960s when the decision was made to eradicate brucellosis from the herd. The herd was certified brucellosis free in 1965 allowing the sale of live animals. Since that time, the roundup has been used in conjunction with the fall sale as a way to manage the size of the herd and to provide an opportunity to brand and vaccinate the calves.

**brucellosis, n.** Infection with bacteria of the *Brucella* genus, frequently causing spontaneous abortions in animals and a remittent fever in humans.

“Studies show that during normal moisture years, the park’s grassland can support about 1,450 head of bison,” explains Dr. Gary Brundige, resource program manager for Custer State Park. “That number fluctuates depending upon rainfall and the available rangeland forage.”

The buffalo are on their own to forage. The park does not supplement their food supply.

“We inventory the range conditions each year and that determines the number of buffalo we sell at the fall auction in November,” said Brundige. “We need to keep the buffalo numbers compatible with available forage, and that is why you may see varying numbers for the size of our herd. Right now we have about 1,300 buffalo in the herd, and we’ll be building back to that target number of 1,450 in the future.”

Brundige points out that for Custer State Park, the Buffalo Roundup is a management tool to prepare for the annual buffalo sale. But he says, “It is an event that is open to the public, and we are happy to share it with the thousands of guests who come to experience something out of the old west.”

“It truly is a magnificent sight to see—buffalo rumbling across the plains driven by cowboys and cowgirls on horseback. It takes you back to days gone by and lets the spectators catch a glimpse of old west history,” adds Brundige.

### The Buffalo Roundup

“Here they come!” a visitor shouts. Thirteen hundred-head strong. The dust billows, and you can feel the thunder as they pass by the south viewing area.

“Keep ‘em going—they’re headed toward the corrals!” a cowboy yells.

“Don’t push them too hard, just keep ‘em pointed in the right direction,” another says.

Then another whip cracks. Cowboys holler and wave neckerchiefs as they push the herd into the corrals in front of the north viewing area.

As 1,300 head of buffalo head toward the crowds on the north hill, one visitor remarks, “I sure hope the fence holds them back.”

“It always has,” responds another. “But, boy oh boy, what a sight to see!”

With the roundup about in the bag, there is still one final push to drive the entire herd into the corral complex. That is often easier said than done.

It’s here when the crowd generally cheers for the buffalo and often times it gets a bit dicey for the cowboys. But as the final buffalo work their way through the gate, the crowd gives a final “well done” cheer to all involved, and the cowpokes and their horses breathe a sigh of relief.

## ARTS FESTIVAL

**September 24-26, 2015**

During the park’s 75th Anniversary in 1994, the Buffalo Roundup Arts Festival was added to the weekend festivities and has grown to attract thousands of guests.





1.888-875-0001  
www.CusterResorts.com  
info@custerresorts.com

# activities



Chuckwagon Cookout



Rock Climbing



## ◀ BUFFALO SAFARI JEEP TOUR

Reservations recommended: 605.255.4541

Departs from: State Game Lodge Information Booth

Get up close to the wildlife! Daily departures between 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Guide takes you to the herds on exclusive off-roads. 1-1/2 to 2-hour historical and educational tour of the backcountry.

**Adults:** \$48

**Children (under 12):** \$43

**Group (10+):** \$43/person

## HAYRIDE CHUCKWAGON COOKOUT

Reservations required by 2 p.m.: 605.255.4531

Departs from: Blue Bell Lodge

Old-fashioned hayride on a vehicle-drawn wagon takes you on scenic back roads to a mountain meadow canyon for an authentic Chuckwagon feast. Live sing-along folk entertainment throughout the entire evening.

### MENU INCLUDES:

- 8 oz. choice sirloin steak or a 1/3 lb. hamburger (vegetarian option available)
- Cowboy beans
- Corn bread and honey
- Potato salad
- Coleslaw
- Watermelon
- Cookies
- Chuck wagon coffee and lemonade

A souvenir cowboy hat and bandanna for each paying guest.

**Adults:** \$52

**Children (under 12):** \$45

**Children 3 years and under:** Free

**Group (10+):** \$45/person

## WATERCRAFT RENTALS

See page 20

## BUFFALO SAFARI & CHUCKWAGON COOKOUT COMBO

Reservations recommended: 605.255.4541

Departs from: State Game Lodge Information Booth

Full Guided Buffalo Safari Jeep Tour followed by the evening Chuckwagon Cookout in a mountain meadow canyon. No hayride with this activity. Departure time varies seasonally between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m.

**Adults:** \$87

**Children (under 12):** \$77

**Group (10+):** \$77/person

## HORSEBACK RIDING

Reservations required: 605.255.4700

Departs From: Blue Bell Lodge Stables

*Note:* Children must be able to ride alone and meet minimum safety requirements to ride the trail. Pony rides also available.

Please arrive at the stables 30 minutes prior to scheduled trail ride to complete the required paperwork.

### 1-HOUR

• Adults: \$43

• Children (under 12): \$36

• Group: \$36

### 2-HOUR

• Adults: \$65

• Children (under 12): \$45

• Group: \$45

**HALF-DAY (Lunch included):** \$140 per person

**FULL-DAY (Lunch included):** \$225 per person

## ROCK CLIMBING

605.255.4515

Custer State Park offers world class rock climbing on the granite spires in and around the Needles. Contact the park office for a climbing brochure that lists areas both inside and outside the park for climbing.



Horseback Riding



Hayride



# Trails

Custer State Park offers trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding. In addition to designated trails, hiking is allowed anywhere in Custer State Park.

## HIKING TRAILS

### **Badger Clark Historic Trailhead**

*Location: 0.5 miles south of US 16A on Badger Clark Rd (CSP 9)*  
*Length: 1 mile (loop)*  
*Difficulty: Moderate*

### **Creekside Trail (TRACK Trail™)**

*Location: Parallel to US 16A From Game Lodge Campground to Grace Coolidge Campground*  
*Length: 2 miles (one way)*  
*Difficulty: Easy, paved (handicap accessible)*

### **French Creek Natural Area Trailhead**

*Location: West End - 3 miles from Blue Bell Lodge on North Lame Johnny Road (CSP 4); East End - 4 miles south of the State Game Lodge on Wildlife Loop Road*  
*Length: 12 miles (one way)*  
*Difficulty: Moderate*

### **Grace Coolidge Walk-In Fishing Area Trailhead**

*Location: South End - Parking area along US 16A, across from Grace Coolidge Campground; North End - Adjacent to beach at Center Lake*  
*Length: 3 miles (one way)*  
*Difficulty: Easy to moderate*

### **Legion Lake Trailhead**

*Location: Within Legion Lake Campground*  
*Length: 1 mile (loop)*  
*Difficulty: Moderate to strenuous*

### **Lovers Leap Trailhead**

*Location: Across US 16A from the Peter Norbeck Visitor Center, behind the schoolhouse*  
*Length: 3 miles (loop)*  
*Difficulty: Moderate to strenuous*

### **Prairie Trailhead**

*Location: Along Wildlife Loop Road, 13 miles from the State Game Lodge or 5 miles from the Blue Bell Entrance Station*  
*Length: 3 miles (loop)*  
*Difficulty: Moderate*

### **Stockade Lake Trailhead**

*Location: 0.3 mile south of US 16A on Stockade Lake Drive*  
*Length: 1.5 miles (loop)*  
*Difficulty: Moderate*

### **South Dakota Centennial Trail**

Approximately 22 miles of the Centennial Trail are located within Custer State Park. Three trailheads provide access points to the park's portion of the trail.

### **Iron Creek Centennial Trailhead**

*Location: North of SD Hwy 87, Needles Highway on Camp Remington Road (CSP 345)*

### **Badger Hole Centennial Trailhead**

*Location: 0.5 south of US 16A on Badger Clark Road (CSP 9)*

### **French Creek Centennial Trailhead**

*Location: 3 miles from Blue Bell Lodge on North Lame Johnny Road (CSP 4)*

## HARNEY AREA TRAILS

### **A. Cathedral Spires Trailhead (Trail #4A)**

*Location: 2.5 miles east of Sylvan Lake on Needles Highway*  
*Length: 1.5 miles to Cathedral Spires (one way)*  
*Difficulty: Strenuous*

### **B. Little Devil's Tower Trailhead (Trail #4)**

*Location: 1 mile east of Sylvan Lake on SD Highway 87 (Needles Highway)*  
*Length: 1.25 miles (one way)*  
*Difficulty: Strenuous*

### **C. Sunday Gulch Trailhead (Trail #6)**

(Closed during winter season)  
*Location: Reach the trailhead by following the Sylvan Lake Trail behind the dam to Sunday Gulch*  
*Length: 2.8 miles (loop)*  
*Difficulty: Strenuous (ice may be present along trail into early June)*

## TRAIL RATINGS

**Easy:** The trail mainly follows level ground.

**Moderate:** Parts of the trail follow steep slopes and rocky areas.

**Strenuous:** Much of the trail follows very steep slopes and rocky areas.



#### D. Sylvan Lake Shore Trail (Trail #1)

*Location: Sylvan Lake. The trail may be accessed at various points along the lakeshore. Granite formations line portions of the lake.*

*Length: 1 mile (loop)*

*Difficulty: Easy*

#### E. Sylvan Lake Trailheads to Harney Peak (Harney Peak is located in the Black Elk Wilderness/Black Hills National Forest; however, this trailhead is located in Custer State Park)

*Location: Sylvan Lake Day Use Area north of SD Highway 87 (Needles Highway).*

*Two trailheads are*

*located at the Sylvan Lake Day Use Area. Trail 9 begins just*

*across the footbridge leading to the swimming beach. Trail 4 begins at the*

*furthest southeast corner of the day use parking area.*

**Trail #9**

*Length: To Harney Peak, 3.3 miles (one way)*

*Difficulty: Moderate*

**Trail #4**

*Length: To Harney Peak, 3.5 miles (one way)*

*Difficulty: Moderate*

## CUSTER STATE PARK TRAIL GUIDE

For maps and detailed information about the trails, stop at the park's Visitor Centers.

## HARNEY AREA MAP

A more detailed map of the Harney Peak area trails is available at the visitor centers and at Sylvan Lake entrance station, store and lodge.





# park programs

Weekly interpretive program schedules are available at the visitor centers and are posted at campground bulletin boards Memorial Day through Labor Day. Get more information at the Peter Norbeck Visitor Center.

All park programs are offered free of charge; however, a park entrance license is required to enter the park.

## PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

### Daily

9 a.m. Wildlife Loop Road Caravan  
10 a.m. Junior Naturalist Program  
11 a.m. Patio Activities  
1 p.m. Story of the Bison  
2 p.m. Patio Activities  
3 p.m. Junior Naturalist Program  
6 p.m. Wildlife Loop Road Caravan  
9 p.m. Evening Programs

### Sunday

9:30 a.m. Hook 'em & Cook 'em  
1 p.m. Canoeing Basics

### Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Hook 'em & Cook 'em  
1 p.m. Canoeing Basics

### Thursday

9:30 a.m. Hook 'em & Cook 'em  
1 p.m. Canoeing Basics



Junior Naturalist Birding Program



Guided Nature Hike



## JUNIOR NATURALIST PROGRAM

As part of the Junior Naturalist Program, kids ages 7 to 12 take part in several different levels of activities to earn a certificate, gold seal and embroidered patch. Activities highlight the park's resources through guided nature hikes, recreational activities, living history demonstrations, evening programs and other fun and educational offerings.

## CALLING ALL PUPS!

The Pups program offers younger kids the chance to learn more about nature. Similar to the Junior Naturalist program, the Pups activity book is designed for kids ages 4 to 6 to complete with the help of an adult.

Information on how to take part in the Junior Naturalist and Pups Programs is available at the Peter Norbeck or Wildlife Station Visitor Centers.

## WILDLIFE LOOP ROAD CARAVAN

Grab your binoculars and experience the beauty and wildlife on a guided tour of the park's Wildlife Loop Road, located in the southern portion of the park.

## ◀ CANOEING BASICS

Participants will learn the basic techniques of canoeing including carrying and entering the canoe, paddling and water safety. Participants should plan on getting wet!

## PATIO ACTIVITIES

The park offers family-friendly patio talks on topics ranging from Lakota uses of bison, pine-needle basket making, horns and antlers, geology, animal tracks and more. Patio talks are designed as a hands-on, come-and-go, informal presentation allowing visitors to interact with a park naturalist on the patio of the Peter Norbeck Visitor Center.

## THE STORY OF THE BISON

Hear the story of the bison when their numbers literally blackened the prairies to their demise from market hunters and their path back from the brink of near-extinction.

## GUIDED NATURE WALKS

Naturalists lead visitors through open grasslands, dense forests and towering granite spires, allowing hikers to learn about the park. Guided nature walks are offered most days.

## HOOK 'EM & COOK 'EM FISHING

Grab your fishing pole or borrow one of ours to try your luck in some of South Dakota's most beautiful lakes and streams. Park naturalists reveal the secrets of fishing for trout in the Black Hills and offer some tasty recipes for the catch.

South Dakota fishing license required.

## EVENING PROGRAMS

Evening interpretive programs are presented in four of the park's campgrounds—Blue Bell, Center Lake, Game Lodge and Stockade Lake North. Naturalists present programs on subjects that include buffalo, plants and wildlife, habitats, conservation, outdoor recreation, geology, astronomy and park history.

## GEOCACHING ADVENTURE

Custer State Park offers eight locations for visitors interested in geocaching. Participants will travel through the park's diverse natural and cultural sites and several seldom-seen areas of the park.

Obtain a geocache list at the Peter Norbeck Visitor Center. This activity runs April 1 to Oct. 31.



Hook 'em and Cook 'em Fishing





# annual events

50th annual

## Buffalo Roundup

Friday, September 25, 2015

- The roundup takes place near the corrals on Wildlife Loop Road.
- Two viewing areas are set aside for spectators – the north and south viewing areas.
- Arrive between 6:15 and 7:30 a.m.
- The buffalo are usually corralled around noon, with sorting to take place at the corrals starting at 1 p.m.
- Reservations not required.
- Food concessions available on site.

2016 Roundup is September 30

### JANUARY

#### Game Lodge Snowshoe Hike

*January 10, 1 p.m.*

Peter Norbeck Visitor Center

### FEBRUARY

#### Valentine's Lover's Leap Snowshoe Hike

*February 14, 1 p.m.*

Peter Norbeck Visitor Center

#### Ice Fishing Program

*February 21, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.*

Stockade Lake Beach Area

### MARCH

#### Sylvan Lake Snowshoe Hike

*March 7, 1 p.m.*

Sylvan Lake General Store

### APRIL

#### Earth Day Bluebird Box Workshop

*April 18, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.*

Peter Norbeck Visitor Center

### MAY

#### Open House and Free Fishing Weekend

*May 15-17*

#### Custer State Park Seasonal Volksmarch Trail Open

*May 16 - Sept 30*

### JUNE

#### National Trails Day - June 6

*Prairie Trail Hike, 9 a.m.*

Meet at Peter Norbeck Visitor Center

*Little Devil's Tower Hike, 1 p.m.*

Meet at Sylvan Lake General Store

*Badger Clark Trail Hike, 4 p.m.*

Meet at Badger Hole Historic Site

#### Nature Day Camp: Kids Fishing Day (ages 7-12)

*June 10, 9:30 a.m. - noon*

Angostura Recreation Area near Hot Springs

#### Nature Day Camp: Kids Fishing Day (ages 7-12)

*June 17, 9:30 a.m. - noon*

Rocky Point Recreation Area near Belle Fourche

#### Father's Day Bluebird Box Workshop

*June 20, 6 p.m.*

Angostura Recreation Area near Hot Springs

#### Nature Day Camp: Kids Fishing Day (ages 7-12)

*June 24, 9:30 a.m. - noon*

Custer State Park Game Lodge Campground



## STURGIS MOTORCYCLE RALLY

**August 3-9, 2015**

Every August, thousands of motorcyclists visit the Black Hills during the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and Races.

While many visitors enjoy the rally, others would rather avoid the motorcycles and visit at another time of the year.

To help our guests plan their stay, below are the next several years' rally dates, so you can either join 'em or avoid 'em.

**August 8-14, 2016 | August 7-13, 2017 | August 6-12, 2018**



## JULY

**Nature Day Camp: Track Detectives (ages 7-12)**

*July 8, 9:30 a.m. – noon*

Angostura Recreation Area near Hot Springs

**Nature Day Camp: Nature Explorers (ages 7-12)**

*July 15, 9:30 a.m. – noon*

Rocky Point Recreation Area near Belle Fourche

**Nature Day Camp: Track Detectives (ages 7-12)**

*July 22, 9:30 a.m. – noon*

Custer State Park Game Lodge Campground

## AUGUST

**Nature Day Camp: Nature Explorers (ages 7-12)**

*August 5, 9:30 a.m. – noon*

Angostura Recreation Area near Hot Springs

**Nature Day Camp: Nature Explorers (ages 7-12)**

*August 12, 9:30 a.m. – noon*

Custer State Park Game Lodge Campground

**10th Annual South Dakota Bat Festival**

*August 15, 6 p.m.*

Custer State Park Game Lodge Campground Tatanka Theatre

## SEPTEMBER

**50th Annual Buffalo Roundup**

*September 25*

**22nd Annual Buffalo Roundup Arts Festival**

*September 24-26*

## OCTOBER

**Halloween Night Hike**

*October 23-24, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.*

Custer State Park Peter Norbeck Visitor Center

## NOVEMBER

**50th Annual Buffalo Auction**

*November 21*



Events are subject to change. Visit [www.custerstatepark.com](http://www.custerstatepark.com) for more information.



# lakes & streams

## WATER SPORT RENTALS

Legion Lake Lodge  
Sylvan Lake Lodge

Life jackets provided. All persons under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

**Paddleboats:** 3-5 people

**Canoes and Kayaks:** 1-3 people

**Hydrobikes:** 1 person

- **Half Hour:** \$12/person
- **1 Hour:** \$17/person
- **Family Rate:** \$43/ 4-6 people for 1 hour/1 boat
- **Daily Rate:** Available upon request and availability

## FLY FISHING GUIDES & CLASSES

President Coolidge is known for the days he spent fly fishing right here along the banks of Coolidge Creek!

605-255-4541

Departs from: State Game Lodge

Starting at \$200 - \$250 and up.

## FISHING LICENSING FEES\*

<i>License</i>	<i>Resident</i>	<i>Non-Resident</i>
One-Day	\$8	\$16
Three-day	N/A	\$37
Annual	\$28	\$67
Youth Annual	N/A	\$25
Family Annual <sup>+</sup>	N/A	\$67
Senior (65 and older)	\$12	N/A
Combination	\$55	N/A
Senior Combination	\$40	N/A
Junior Combination (16-18)	\$27	N/A
Game Fish Spearing & Archery		
Fishing Permit	\$5	\$5

## BLACK HILLS FISH LIMITS\*\*

<i>Species</i>	<i>Daily</i>	<i>Possession</i>
Perch	15	30
Crappie	15	30
Bluegill	15	30
Trout	5	10
Bullhead	No limit	No limit
Northern Pike	6	12
Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass	5	10
(any combination of the two)		

\*\*See pages 20-21 of the 2015 Fishing Handbook for exceptions in certain waters of the Black Hills. The handbook of regulations and information may be picked up from most businesses selling fishing licenses and at the Peter Norbeck Visitor Center.

The possession limit is the number of fish any licensed angler may possess at any given time.

N/A = License option not available

\*License agents may charge an additional administrative fee.

<sup>+</sup>Family license is for one daily and possession limit of fish for all family members combined.



## SWIMMING

Swimming is allowed at the park's five lakes: Center Lake, Legion Lake, Stockade Lake, Sylvan Lake and the Game Lodge Pond.

There are no lifeguards on duty. Jumping from cliffs and rocks into the water is illegal and strictly prohibited. Pets and glass containers are prohibited from all zoned swimming beaches.

## BOATING

For your safety, wear a personal flotation device (PFD), or life jacket, whenever you are on the water. PFDs are mandatory for all people riding in a boat on South Dakota waters.

Boating is permitted within Custer State Park with the following restrictions:

- Sylvan Lake, *Electric motors only*
- Legion Lake, *Electric motors only*
- Stockade Lake, *All boats allowed*
- Center Lake, *Only slow, non-wake boating allowed*

All South Dakota waters:

- Class A boats (up to 16'): One wearable PFD for each passenger; Fire Extinguisher; Horn/whistle
- Class 1 boats (16' up to 26'): One wearable PFD for each passenger; One throwable type PFD; Fire extinguisher; Horn/whistle

Non-motorized boats over 12 feet and all motorized boats, regardless of length, are required to have a valid boat license from South Dakota or another state.

## FISHING

Fishing is allowed anywhere in Custer State Park. A valid South Dakota fishing license is required.

Anglers will find rainbow, brown and brook trout in the park's waters. Only one trout can exceed 14 inches, but there is no minimum size restriction. (Stockade Lake has a 15-inch minimum size limit on large and smallmouth bass.)

It is legal to use artificial lures, flies, worms or other bait. Minnows cannot be used except on Stockade Lake. A variety of sport and panfish are found in Stockade Lake including northern pike, bass, perch, crappie, bluegill and bullhead.

Licenses, bait and tackle are available at each of the four resort areas. For daily limits and rules, please refer to the 2015 Fishing Handbook, available at the park office and the Peter Norbeck Visitor Center.

### Ice Fishing

Ice fishing is a popular winter activity in the park. Fishermen go after trout in Sylvan, Center, and Legion Lakes and try their luck at panfish, bass, and northern pike at Stockade Lake. Be sure to purchase your license and bait prior to your arrival, as these services are not offered in the winter months.



Legion Lake



Stockade Lake



French Creek



Sylvan Lake



An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that curves through a dense forest of tall, green trees. The road has yellow and white lane markings. The title 'scenic drives' is overlaid in a large, white, serif font in the upper right corner.

# scenic drives

## TUNNEL INFORMATION

Tunnels are found on three highways in or near Custer State Park. Drivers of travel trailers, campers, recreational vehicles and buses should be aware of the tunnel sizes. Numbers correspond to the tunnels shown on the map on the back page.

### Iron Mountain Road -- US 16A N

1	14' 0" Wide	12' 9" High	Has by-pass
2	13' 2" Wide	12' 2" High	Has by-pass
3	13' 4" Wide	12' 4" High	No by-pass

### Sylvan Lake Road -- SD 87/89, N. of Sylvan Lake

4	10' 6" Wide	10' 7" High	No by-pass
---	-------------	-------------	------------

### Needles Highway -- SD 87 N

5	8' 4" Wide	12' 0" High	No by-pass
6	9' 0" Wide	12' 3" High	No by-pass

## TAKE YOUR TIME

These winding drives are enjoyed at a slower pace. When making plans, please allow ample time to travel at a safe speed – generally 25 miles-per-hour or slower.



## NEEDLES HIGHWAY - 14 MILES

The Needles Highway is more than a 14-mile road – it's a spectacular drive through pine and spruce forests, meadows surrounded by birch and aspen and rugged granite mountains.

The road's name comes from the needle-like granite formations which seem to pierce the horizon along the highway.

The roadway was carefully planned by former South Dakota Governor Peter Norbeck, who marked the entire course on foot and by horseback. Construction was completed in 1922.

Visitors traveling the highway pass Sylvan Lake and a unique rock formation called the Needle's Eye, so named for the opening created by wind, rain, freezing and thawing. Expect travel time of about 45 to 60 minutes.

## WILDLIFE LOOP ROAD - 18 MILES

The 18-mile Wildlife Loop Road takes visitors through the open grasslands and pine-speckled hills that much of the park's wildlife call home.

Visitors will often see bison, pronghorn, white-tailed and mule deer, elk, coyotes, burros, prairie dogs, eagles, hawks and a variety of other birds. The morning and evening hours are the best times to view the wildlife, when they are most active.

On the southeast part of the loop, the Wildlife Station Visitor Center gives visitors shade and information on wildlife and outdoor habitats. Expect travel time of about 45 minutes.

## ◀ IRON MOUNTAIN ROAD - 18 MILES

This winding road runs between Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the junction of US 16A and SD 36. Constructed in 1933, only a portion of this road lies within the park, but it is a must-see.

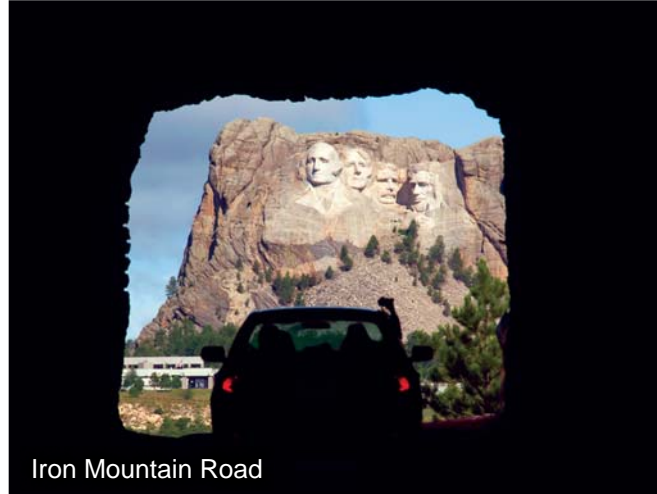
Along the highway, visitors will find wildfire exhibits, pigtail bridges, magnificent Black Hills scenery and tunnels that frame Mount Rushmore. Expect travel time of about 45 to 60 minutes.

## PETER NORBECK SCENIC BYWAY

The Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway complements the park's three scenic drives and includes some of the most dramatic natural and historic features in the Black Hills.

Sites include the Needles, Mount Rushmore and a bird's eye view of the rocky peaks and forested hills of the Black Hills National Forest.

This designated scenic byway includes all or portions of two scenic drives within the park. The byway was named for former South Dakota Governor Peter Norbeck who planned and surveyed most of the roads located within the park. Expect travel time of about two to three hours.



Iron Mountain Road



Needle's Eye



Wildlife Loop Road



Needles Highway



# history

---





## ◀ STATE GAME LODGE

It was a proud moment when the Game Lodge was officially opened on August 8, 1921. But on October 19, 72 days later, the Game Lodge burned to the ground. It was quickly rebuilt and reopened on June 15, 1922. The State Game Lodge became the “Summer White House” for President Calvin Coolidge in 1927 when his intended stay of two weeks turned into nearly 13 weeks.

The lodge saw another Presidential visit in 1953 when President Dwight Eisenhower stayed at the lodge for three days while addressing the Young Republicans and dedicating Ellsworth Air Force Base in Rapid City.

## THE HOME OF BADGER CLARK

Charles Badger Clark was South Dakota’s first poet laureate. He lived in the park for the last 30 years of his life. The stories of Badger Clark, his life and poetry are stories of a man living an independent life.

Today, the “Badger Hole” remains much as it was when Badger lived there. The cabin is open daily for public tours from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## THE GORDON STOCKADE

In the summer of 1874, an expedition led by Lt. Colonel George A. Custer discovered gold in the Black Hills. Under the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie, however, this region belonged to the Plains Indians, and white settlement was not allowed.

Word of the discovery spread quickly, and a group of gold seekers from Sioux City, Iowa, moved into the Black Hills the following winter. Upon their arrival, the Gordon Party built a log fortress on the bank of French Creek to protect themselves from a possible Lakota attack.

Today, as you approach the replica of Gordon Stockade, interpretive signs tell the story of this short-lived, illegal occupation.

## MOUNT COOLIDGE LOOKOUT

The Mount Coolidge Lookout and Fire Tower was built in 1940 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. It rests atop a 6,023-foot peak and is used for communications and spotting fires.

The turnoff is located on SD 87. A 1.7-mile gravel road leads visitors to the top of the mountain, but large vehicles and motorhomes should avoid making the trip, as the road is narrow and winding. From the top, visitors can see as far as the Badlands—60 miles away.

## CCC BUILDINGS

With the depression in the 1930s came the Civilian Conservation Corps program (CCC). These young men created many improvements throughout Custer State Park and the nation. Their mark can still be seen today, as they constructed what is now the park’s two visitor centers, Mount Coolidge Fire Tower, many bridges as well as the dams that created Stockade, Center, and Legion Lakes.



Badger Hole



Gordon Stockade Replica



Mount Coolidge Tower



Wildlife Station Visitor Center





1.888.875.0001

[www.CusterResorts.com](http://www.CusterResorts.com)

[info@custerresorts.com](mailto:info@custerresorts.com)

# lodging

## SPECIALTY CABINS

### CENTENNIAL CABIN at Legion Lake

[ Sleeps 12 ]

- Full kitchen and dining room with fireplace
- Living room with 2 sofa sleepers
- 2 separate bedrooms and loft sleeping
- 1 full bath

### GAMEKEEPERS CABIN at State Game Lodge

[ Sleeps 14 ]

- Full kitchen and dining room
- Living room with 1 sofa sleeper
- 5 bedrooms
- Full and 3/4 bathrooms

### REUNION CABIN at State Game Lodge

[ Sleeps 28 ]

- Full kitchen and dining room
- Living room with 2 sofa sleepers and 2-story fireplace
- 3/4 bath
- 4 bedrooms each with its own full bath
- Sleeping in loft



## BLUE BELL LODGE

- 29 CABINS - climate controlled, fully furnished, telephones, flat screen TVs and coffee pots. Sleeping and housekeeping cabins available.
- Restaurant and bar - breakfast, lunch and dinner. Indoor/outdoor seating.
- General store with gas pumps
- 2 indoor banquet spaces

## LEGION LAKE LODGE

- 26 CABINS - climate controlled, fully furnished, telephones, flat screen TVs and coffee pots, microwaves and small refrigerators. Sleeping and housekeeping cabins available.
- Restaurant - breakfast, lunch and dinner. Starbucks® coffees and TAZO® tea. Beer and wine available. Indoor/outdoor seating.
- Convenience store and gift shop

## STATE GAME LODGE

- 40 LODGE ROOMS - queen, double queen, king and suites. 7 historical rooms, varied bed types.
- 24 CABINS - climate controlled, fully furnished, flat screen TVs and coffee pots. Sleeping and housekeeping cabins available.
- Restaurant and bar - breakfast, lunch and dinner. Indoor/outdoor seating.
- Gift shop in lodge
- Open air event space

## CREEKSIDE LODGE

On the State Game Lodge grounds

- 30 OVERSIZED LODGE ROOMS; double queen and suites, some with private patio or deck.
- Open year-round
- 2 meeting rooms

## SYLVAN LAKE LODGE

- 35 LODGE ROOMS - queen, double queen, king and suites. Elevator available in lodge.
- 32 CABINS - climate controlled, fully furnished, telephones, flat screen TVs and coffee pots. Sleeping and housekeeping cabins available.
- Restaurant and bar - breakfast, lunch and dinner. Indoor/outdoor seating.
- General store and gift shop
- Indoor event space



Legion Lake Cabin



Centennial Cabin



Reunion Cabin



10-person cabin at Sylvan Lake



## CAMPING RESERVATIONS

www.campsd.com

1.800.710.2267

1.714.602.4453 international

### Reservations

Campsite and group areas can be reserved one year in advance.

Camping cabin reservations can also be made a year in advance, but must be made at least two days prior to your arrival. Call the park office at 605.255.4515 to check on availability for last minute trips.

### Fees

There is a non-refundable reservation fee of \$7.70 for non-residents.

Camping fees for the entire stay must be paid at the time the reservation is made.

### Cancellations

If you cancel your reservation, you will be charged one night's camping fee for each campsite reserved or \$25 per camping cabin.

Because of its unique use, French Creek Horse Camp cancellation policy is different.

- *30 or more days before arrival:* you will be charged one night's fee for each campsite reserved
- *29 - 14 days prior to arrival:* one-half of your entire camping fee
- *Less than 14 days prior to arrival:* all your camping fees.

## CAMPING

Camping fees are collected daily and are based on the number of camping units in your party. A camping unit is a powered vehicle, motorhome, camping bus, pull-type camper, tent or any other device used for sleeping.

Additional tents for a family (parents or grandparents and unmarried minor children) are considered a single camping unit. In some areas of the park, up to two camping units may occupy one site, but each unit will be charged a camping fee. Double-ups are not available at all campsites. Please check with park staff.

Check-out time for campsites is noon. Check-out time for camping cabins is 11 a.m.

## CAMPING CABINS

*Locations:* Blue Bell, Game Lodge, Stockade South, French Creek Horse Camp

*About cabins:*

- Sleep four to five people.
- Linens are not included.
- Check-in time is 4 p.m.
- Check-out time is 11 a.m.
- No smoking or cooking in the cabins.
- Pets, except for service animals, are not permitted in cabins.

# camping

*Amenities:*

- Heating and air conditioning
- Electricity
- Picnic table
- Fire ring
- Porch
- Bunk bed and double bed
- Table
- Benches

## PRIMITIVE CAMPING

For a more primitive outdoor experience, backpackers will find the French Creek Natural Area much to their liking. Hikers using this area can camp anywhere along the canyon bottom. Open fires are prohibited.

Campers must self-register at the stations located on each end of the natural area. The fee is \$7 per person, per night.

## HORSE CAMP

The French Creek Horse Camp is designed specifically for campers with horses. Reservations are required. It is located near Blue Bell Lodge on North Lane Johnny Road (Custer State Park Road 4).

One corral is provided for each site and a second can be rented for an additional \$5/night fee upon arrival. Horses are not allowed to graze and riders must bring

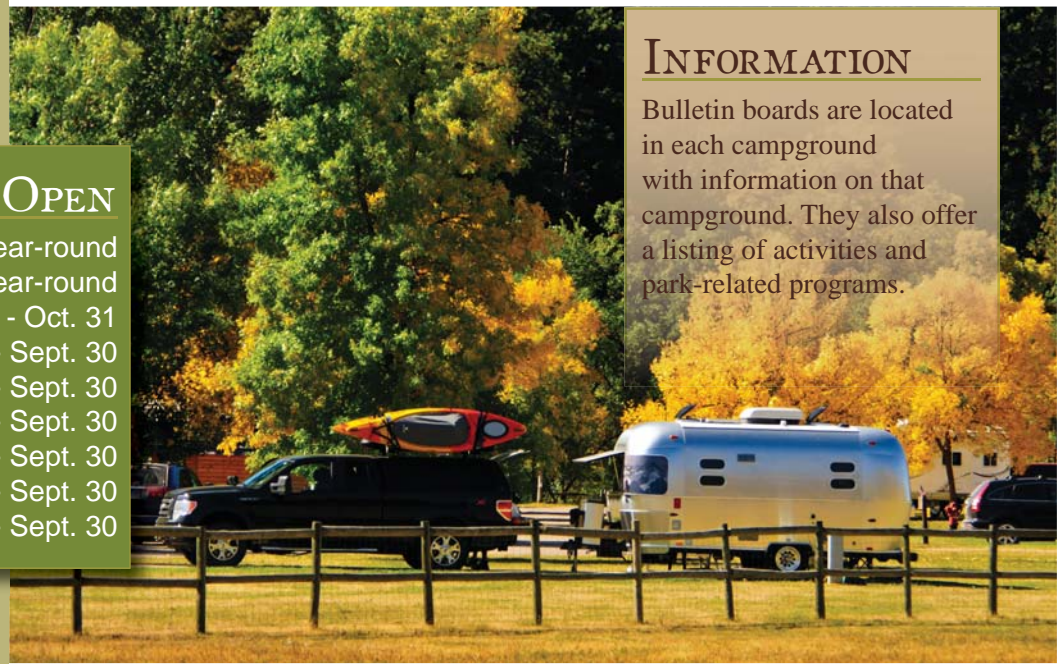
## CAMPGROUND

## OPEN

Game Lodge.....	Year-round
French Creek Horse Camp.....	Year-round
Blue Bell .....	May 1 - Oct. 31
Center Lake .....	May 1 - Sept. 30
Grace Coolidge.....	May 15 - Sept. 30
Legion Lake .....	May 15 - Sept. 30
Stockade South .....	May 15 - Sept. 30
Stockade North.....	May 15 - Sept. 30
Sylvan Lake .....	May 15 - Sept. 30

## INFORMATION

Bulletin boards are located in each campground with information on that campground. They also offer a listing of activities and park-related programs.





their own feed. All hay brought into the park must be certified weed-free.

## GROUP CAMPING

Group campgrounds are located near Stockade Lake and the Game Lodge Campground. These areas feature picnic shelters, vault toilets, fire grates, picnic tables and water on site. Showers and flush toilets are available within walking distance from the campgrounds. Evening programs are located nearby on most nights during the summer. Designated swim beaches can also be found close by.

## NON-PROFIT YOUTH CAMPING AREAS

The park offers two primitive areas (tent camping only) for non-profit youth groups to use for a reduced fee. Call 1.800.710.2267 for reservations.

## SAME DAY RESERVATIONS

### Center Lake Campground

- All open sites can be reserved beginning at 6 a.m. MT each day.
- Checkout time is noon MT.
- Campers occupying a “same day reservation site” must call before 6 a.m. MT to extend their stay.
- Campers are required to place a camping unit on their site by 10 p.m. MT on the night of their arrival. If they fail to do so, they would be charged a cancellation fee and forfeit the remainder of their reservation.



CAMPGROUNDS	Number of sites	Campsite fee	Campsite w/electricity	Camping cabins*	Camping cabin fee	Showers	Flush toilets	Vault toilets	RV dump station	Large trailer sties	Handicap access	Laundromat	Concessions	Fuel	Evening program	Hiking trail	Fishing dock	Boating (motorized)	Swimming	Fishing	Playground	Resrvable sites*	Accessible sites
Blue Bell*	31	\$21	\$25	23	\$50	•	•	•		•	•	✓	✓	✓	•					✓		30	1
Center Lake+	71	\$19				•		•		•					•	•		•	•	•	•	71	
Game Lodge*	57	\$21	\$25	11	\$50	•	•	•	•	•	•	✓	✓	✓	•	✓			•	•	•	55	2
Grace Coolidge*	27	\$21	\$25			•	•		✓	•	•	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	•		26	1
Legion Lake*	22	\$21	\$25			•	•			•	•		✓			•	✓		✓	✓	✓	21	1
Stockade Lake North*	42	\$21	\$25			•	•	•		•	•				•	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	•	40	
Stockade Lake South*	25	\$21	\$25	13	\$50	•	•	•			•				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	23	
Sylvan Lake*	39	\$21	\$25			•	•	•			•	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓		36	
French Creek Horse Camp*	29		\$30	3	\$50	•	•	•	•	•	•					•				•		26	
SPECIALIZED CAMPING AREAS																							
French Creek Natural Area*	\$7/person															•				•		0	
Game Lodge Group Area*	\$7/person, minimum \$140					✓	✓	•	✓	•		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	•	✓	all	
Stockade Group Area*	\$7/person, minimum \$140					✓	✓	•							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	•	✓	all	
Non-profit Youth Areas*	\$0.50/person, minimum \$6							•															

\* Reservations available at [campsd.com](http://campsd.com) or by calling 1.800.710.2267. • Within the campground ✓ Available within one mile + Same day reservation, see above. Camping fees subject to sales tax.





1.888.875.0001

[www.CusterResorts.com](http://www.CusterResorts.com)

[info@custerresorts.com](mailto:info@custerresorts.com)

# dining & shopping





## ◀ BLUE BELL LODGE

605.255.4531

Comfortable Old West saloon-style setting. Specialty burgers and sandwiches, salads, buffalo and steak. Peaceful patio overlooking French Creek.

## LEGION LAKE LODGE

605.255.4521

Relaxed and inviting atmosphere for families on the go. Breakfast, lunch and dinner on the lakeside deck. Hard ice cream and fresh baked pies. Proudly serving Starbucks® coffees.

## STATE GAME LODGE

605.255.4541

Eloquently historical. Dinner is a culinary treat. Entree selections highlight local game such as trout, pheasant, buffalo and elk. Reservations recommended.

## SYLVAN LAKE LODGE

605.574.2561

Fantastic forest views! Newly remodeled. Exquisite cuisine featuring buffalo, fresh fish and wapiti (elk) tenderloin. Reservations recommended.

## CONVENIENCE STORES, GIFTS & SOUVENIRS

A gift shop is located at the State Game Lodge, and general stores can be found at Legion Lake, Blue Bell and by Sylvan Lake. The Coolidge General Store is a short distance from the State Game Lodge. All are stocked with souvenirs and supplies, including:

- Apparel for the whole family
- Quality bison and wildlife items
- Personal care products
- Groceries and beverages (beer and liquor at some locations)
- Grab-and-go food
- Camping, fishing supplies and fishing licenses
- Gasoline can be purchased at the Blue Bell and Coolidge General Stores.
- Watercraft rentals available at Legion Lake and Sylvan Stores.



Game Lodge Catering



Blue Bell Store



Game Lodge Dining Room



Legion Lake



# area state parks

Your Custer State Park entrance license is valid at Angostura Recreation Area near Hot Springs, Bear Butte State Park near Sturgis, Rocky Point Recreation Area near Belle Fourche and all South Dakota State Parks. An additional trail pass is required for the George S. Mickelson Trail. There is no fee for Roughlock Falls Nature Area in Spearfish Canyon.





## ANGOSTURA RECREATION AREA

Located 10 miles SE of Hot Springs, off US 18/385,  
Phone: 605.745.6996

Angostura Reservoir is a water-lover's haven in the southern Black Hills. With plenty of room for boating, fishing and swimming, this recreation area attracts visitors to its clear waters and natural sand beaches. Five campgrounds offer camping and cabins along the reservoir's shores. The park also features hiking and biking trails, volleyball, horseshoes and a nine-hole disc golf course.

## BEAR BUTTE STATE PARK

Located 6 miles NE of Sturgis off SD 79, Phone: 605.347.5240

Mato Paha or "Bear Mountain" is the Lakota name given to this site. The mountain is sacred to many American Indian tribes. A rugged two-mile hike to the summit rewards visitors with a view of four states. The park also features campsites, an education center, fishing, a horse camp and connects to the Centennial Trail for hikers, bikers and horseback riders.

## ◀ GEORGE S. MICKELSON TRAIL

Runs 109 miles from Edgemont to Deadwood, Phone: 605.584.3896

The George S. Mickelson Trail runs through the heart of the Black Hills. The trail's gentle slopes and easy access enables people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the scenery of the area. The multi-use trail is enjoyed by hikers, bikers, horseback riders, snowshoers and cross-country skiers. A trail pass is required and can be purchased at one of the many trailheads.

## ROCKY POINT RECREATION AREA

Located 8 miles E of Belle Fourche off SD 212, Phone: 605.641.0023

A popular fishing and boating park, Rocky Point Recreation Area is located on the 8,000-acre Belle Fourche Reservoir. The reservoir was created in 1911, when Orman Dam was constructed to store water for agricultural use. At the time of its completion, Orman Dam was the largest earthen dam in the world. In 1989, Orman Dam was designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

## ROUGHLOCK FALLS NATURE AREA

Located 1 mile W from the Scenic Byway at Savoy on FDR 222 in Spearfish Canyon, Phone: 605.584.3896

The Roughlock Falls Nature Area is located in Spearfish Canyon and is considered one of the most beautiful locations in the Black Hills. The water feeding Roughlock Falls flows into Spearfish Canyon from Little Spearfish Creek.

The area is spectacular to view and photograph. Designated walking paths and hiking trails provide the opportunity to explore the area. Bird watching, wildlife viewing, fishing and picnicking can all be enjoyed in the nature area.



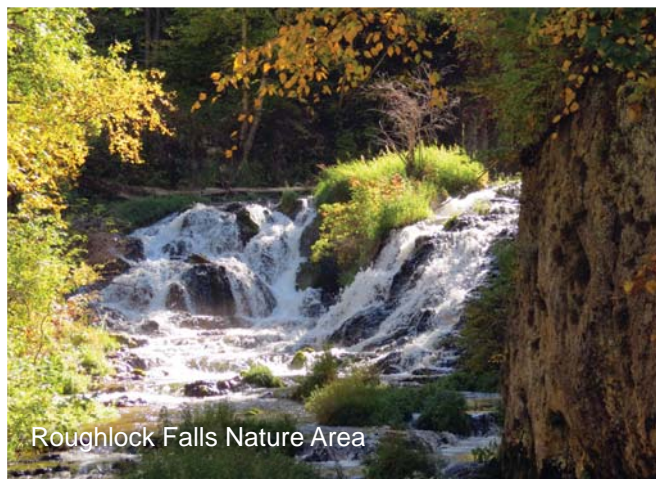
Angostura Recreation Area



Bear Butte State Park



Rocky Point Recreation Area



Roughlock Falls Nature Area



# Black Hills Playhouse

*Nestled right next to Center Lake Campground, this professional theatre company has played to audiences since 1946. Casual atmosphere and air-conditioned theater, featuring concessions and lovely picnic grounds.*



photo courtesy Sage Studios

## 2015 SHOWS

### TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

**June 12-28**

Scout, a young girl in a quiet southern town, is about to experience the dramatic events that will affect the rest of her life. The play centers on the feisty, fearless Scout, race relations in the South and the relationship of Scout's father, Atticus, with his daughter. A beautiful play with a meaningful and timeless message. Rated: PG-13

### SHE LOVES ME | July 3-19

Feuding employees in a perfumery in Budapest loathe each other and take

refuge in romantic pen pal exchanges until they finally realize that they have been writing to each other. Great show for old and young alike with music by the team that created "Fiddler on the Roof." This is one you won't want to miss! Rated: PG

### SHREK THE MUSICAL

**July 24 - Aug 9**

Make room for ogre-sized family fun as the greatest fairy tale never told comes to life in a whole new way in this breathtaking Broadway musical adaptation of the hit movie Shrek! Rated: PG

### MOONLIGHT & MAGNOLIAS

**Aug 12 - 23**

If the story that inspired this play hadn't actually happened, the premise would seem preposterous. Movie producer David O. Selznick locks himself in his office with screenwriter Ben Hecht and director Victor Fleming for five days to write the screenplay for the movie version of "Gone with the Wind." Fast-moving and dynamic, it's a story that will keep you laughing! Rated: PG-13 for language

## PERFORMANCE TIMES

**Tuesday - Saturday: 7:30 p.m.**

**Sunday\* & Wednesday: 2 p.m. matinees**

Visitors should arrive at least 1/2 hour before curtain. Reservations are recommended.

\*except for play changeover days, please check [blackhillsplayhouse.com](http://blackhillsplayhouse.com).

## FOOD & EVENTS

Picnics, tours, live music, pre-show talks and more. Fabulous old-fashioned 4th of July picnic package featuring live music, fried chicken and fixin's and matinee of the musical *She Loves Me*. Check website for more information.

## TICKET PRICES

**Adults: \$32**

**Kids (18 & younger): \$15**

**BLACK HILLS  
PLAYHOUSE 2015**

**\$3 per person**  
off theatre performance

Present this coupon for discount or use online with code CSP15. Discount offers may not be combined.



THE BLACK HILLS  
PLAYHOUSE



BLACK HILLS PLAYHOUSE  
24834 SOUTH PLAYHOUSE ROAD  
CUSTER, SD 57730  
605.255.4141



# BLACK HILLS & BADLANDS of South Dakota & Northeastern Wyoming

## MAP LEGEND

Copyright ©2015 by BH&B  
Computer generated by BH&B

- 112 Interchange Exit Number
- 14 U.S. Hwy. Marker
- 44 State Hwy. Marker
- 21 Forest Service Road
- 12 County Road
- 12 Visitor Information
- ★ ★ Mileage Between Stars
- Paved Highway
- Multi-Lane Divided Hwy.
- Gravel Road
- Black Hills National Forest
- Custer State Park
- Wind Cave National Park
- Tunnel
- George S. Mickelson Trail

## Road Trips Suggested Itineraries

- Southern Hills - 78 miles
- Mt. Rushmore and Custer State Park - 67 miles
- Central Hills - 71 miles
- Northern Hills - 143 miles
- Devils Tower - 121 miles
- Special Routes

## Black Hills Tunnels

Buses, Trucks & Trailers Note

Route	Location	W	H
US 16A	6.5m S of Keystone	13'4"	12'4"
US 16A	4m S of Keystone	13'2"	12'2"
US 16A	3m S of Keystone	14'0"	12'9"
US 16A	1m N of Keystone	47'0"	18'0"
SD 87	6m SE of Sylvan Lake	9'0"	12'3"
SD 87	2m SE of Sylvan Lake	8'4"	12'0"
SD 87	1m N of Sylvan Lake	10'6"	10'7"



Black Hills & Badlands Tourism Association  
Copyright ©2015 by BH&B

www.blackhillsbadlands.com  
1 Kilometers 10  
1 Miles 5





# Explore Custer State Park

Custer State Park  
13329 US Highway 16A  
Custer, SD 57730  
605.255.4515  
custerstatepark@state.sd.us  
www.custerstatepark.com

