

Motorcycling in South Dakota



Events

Hot Harley Nights July 11-13, 2014
Sioux Falls, SD www.jl-harley.com

Hot Summer Nights July 16, 2014
Sioux Falls, SD www.dtsf.com

Wounded Knee Memorial Ride August 1-2, 2014
Eagle Butte, SD www.woundedkneememorialrun.com

Sturgis Motorcycle Rally August 4-10, 2014
Sturgis, SD www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com

Sturgis:

South Dakota has become a must-visit destination for motorcycle enthusiasts around the world. Why? One word – Sturgis. The Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is one of the best-attended cycling rallies in the world. Sturgis is located in the heart of the Black Hills of South Dakota, centrally located among some of motorcycle enthusiasts' favorite scenic rides.

While many motorcyclists first drive South Dakota's highways, interstates and country roads on a trip to Sturgis, they often find other reasons to return.

The Sturgis Motorcycle Rally started out as a small hometown event in 1941. It has grown exponentially each year and now offers a variety of big-name concerts, camping sites, events and shows, and endless displays of new and classic motorcycles. Average attendance is in the hundreds of thousands, with the largest estimated attendance of more than 600,000 at the 60th Anniversary in 2000. Attend once, and it becomes clear why this slightly out-of-the-way place has become a favored destination for so many motorcyclists.

Beyond Sturgis:

The Black Hills offers some of the best and most [scenic motorcycle rides](#) in the United States. One of the most popular events is the Mayor's Ride. The Mayor of Sturgis leads a large crew of riders on a cruise from downtown Sturgis to Mount Rushmore National Memorial to Custer State Park and back.

In addition to the activities in and immediately around Sturgis, many visitors take day-trips throughout the Black Hills and beyond. Within easy riding distance are many attractions including [Mount Rushmore](#) (62 miles), Crazy Horse Memorial (67 miles), Custer State Park (75 miles), Spearfish Canyon (20 miles), Deadwood (13 miles) and the Badlands (110 miles).

South Dakota: East to West:

The rugged terrain of the Black Hills isn't the only popular destination for a motorcycle ride. Many visitors enjoy the wide open spaces of other South Dakota highways that span the state. For instance, the Native American Scenic Byway takes travelers from the border of Nebraska through central South Dakota all the way up to North Dakota. Riders can see native prairie grasses, the winding Missouri River, and the wildlife and scenery that have made South Dakota famous. In northeastern South Dakota, riders can enjoy beautiful glacial lakes on their journey through the area.

Find detailed ride directions, maps and more in our [South Dakota Motorcycle Guide \(PDF\)](#) or order a [free print version](#).

South Dakota Scenic Byways



Native American Scenic Byway

This Scenic Byway cuts through the heart of South Dakota's mixed-grass prairie as it follows the river's path extending through the heart of the Great Sioux Nation. The route takes travelers through the lands of the Yankton, Crow Creek, Lower Brule, Cheyenne River and Standing Rock Sioux Tribes. The Corps of Discovery reported seeing an abundance of wildlife when they passed through this area. Today, your chances of spotting prairie dogs, pronghorn and deer as you drive the byway are still good. Several tribes also maintain bison and elk herds. Besides the animals, you'll be captivated by the wild, rugged country, much of which remains undeveloped. The route begins near Running Water.



Peter Norbeck National Scenic Byway

This 70-mile drive offers breathtaking views of some of the Black Hills' most stunning scenery. The popular Needles Highway (SD Highway 87) and Iron Mountain Road (US Highway 16A) are both part of the byway. Needles Highway features tunnels, hairpin curves and slender granite pinnacles. Three granite tunnels on Iron Mountain Road perfectly frame the faces of Mount Rushmore National Memorial in the distance. Also on the route are three pigtail bridges, built in the 1930s, which have a corkscrew shape.



Spearfish Canyon State and National Forest Service Scenic Byway

Flanked by towering limestone cliffs, this 20-mile route along US 14A, cuts through Spearfish Canyon. A forest of spruce, pine, aspen, birch and oak covers the hillsides while Spearfish Creek flows along the canyon bottom. Bridal Veil and Roughlock Falls are highlights along the route. Summer's lush greenery gives way to brilliant fall foliage.



Badlands Loop State Scenic Byway

This approximately 30-mile drive on SD 240 cuts through the middle of breathtaking formations of Badlands National Park. As the byway follows the natural contours of the Badlands escarpment, it also weaves in and out of the native grasslands full of hundreds of species of plants and animals. Scenic overlooks, with names like Seabed Jungle, Pinnacles and Prairie Wind, offer outstanding photo opportunities.



Wildlife Loop State Scenic Byway

The Wildlife Loop Road (SD Highways 87 and 16A) in Custer State Park is pure nature at its best. There are open grasslands and rolling hills speckled with pine. Many of the park's wildlife species occupy this area and are commonly seen. They include bison, bighorn sheep, pronghorn, deer, elk, coyote, prairie dog and numerous birds. Also, some of the park's wild "begging" burros live at the southernmost end of this road. This 18-mile route follows the diverse landscape offering views of mountain foothills, prairie meadows and lush streambeds. The park is home to one of the

world's largest publicly-owned bison herds.

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