

South Dakota Hiking: Badlands, Mount Rushmore & Black Hills Lodge Based

5 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969

MT+SOBEK™


MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

➤ South Dakota Hiking: Badlands, Mount Rushmore & Black Hills Lodge Based

The Land of infinite variety beckons! Enrich your mind and immerse yourself in the majestic wonders of South Dakota. Walk the dimly lit passageways of Wind Cave National Park & Jewel Cave National Monument. Search for fossils in the otherworldly terrain of Badlands National Park. Stand in awe before the colossal visages of Mount Rushmore National Memorial, a true testament to human ingenuity and artistry. A unique and exciting adventure awaits us each day! Join your seasoned guide as they share their deep knowledge of local geology, flora, and fauna woven by the rich tapestry of ancient history. Watch as the barren landscape of Badlands gives way to the evergreen forests and sparkling mountain lakes of the Black Hills. South Dakota is brimming with natural treasures above and below ground that are just waiting for you to explore!

Details

Arrive:	Rapid City, South Dakota
Depart:	Rapid City, South Dakota
Duration:	5 Days
Group Size:	4-12 Guests
Minimum Age:	18 Years Old
Activity Level:	

Testimonials

I would highly recommend Mt Sobek for an amazing travel adventure. It was truly worth the money.

Every detail was taken care of. It made for a stress free trip and one where you can truly enjoy the beauty and culture around you.

Kristin W.

Mt. Sobek had us covered all the way from A to Z. We came in fully prepared thanks to all of the detailed and helpful guidance. The accommodations were amazing, the dining was phenomenal and our guides were such knowledgeable, impressive professionals. We were able to forget about all the stresses at home on our amazing journey.

Susan H.

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.

📞 1-800-974-0300

✉ info@mtsobek.com

Why Take This Trip With Us?

REASON #01

Our expert guides provide travelers with helpful hints, techniques and hiking tips, plus knowledge on local wildlife, geology, and history.

REASON #02

MT Sobek's legacy of preservation and protection enables us to operate over 30 Global National Park adventures.

REASON #03

This adventure covers the best of Badlands National Park and Black Hills National Forest, including classic trails and hidden gems.

What to Expect



ACTIVITIES

Hiking 1 to 6 miles on dirt and rocky trails.



LODGING

Stay in one-of-a-kind cabins inside the National Park and bordering the National Forest.



CLIMATE

Expect sunny days but rain and snow are possible. Daytime highs are in the 50s to 70s F, with crisp mornings and evenings.

Meet Our Guides

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips' success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.

Growing up in Montana and New Mexico instilled an early love of the outdoors in Alisa. Following her childhood dreams, she spent nine adventurous summers working in and exploring magnificent Glacier National Park. Her winters were dedicated to skiing in Big Sky, Montana, and in between she explored other outdoor adventures around the country. While rafting the Grand Canyon in 2016, she realized she wanted to become a guide and has since led river and hiking trips in 14 national parks. She lives the life she loves and loves the life she lives, as the saying goes!

Alisa Leddy

Making his home in Greater Yellowstone, Stephen takes advantage of exploring the region year-round. He has a wealth of experience leading hiking and multisport adventures in national parks around the country. When he's not guiding, he revels in the diverse beauty of the landscapes around him, roaming along winding rivers and tackling mountain slopes. He is excited to share his love of the outdoors with you.

Stephen Seleb

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.

 1-800-974-0300

 info@mtsobek.com

Itinerary

DAY 1

WELCOME TO BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK

We meet in the lobby of our host hotel in Rapid City for a quick orientation before making our way to Badlands National Park. We'll make a short stop en-route at the famous roadside attraction, Wall Drug - no South Dakota Road trip would be complete without it! After a quick cup of their famous 5-cent coffee, we'll make our way to Sage Creek Rim Road. This scenic road winds its way through the park and provides incredible views and the occasional (and welcomed) bison jam. Our mellow hike today allows us to truly immerse ourselves in this bizarre landscape as we do a little exploring on the badland's colorful bedrock. Late this afternoon we tour the park's impressive visitor center before making our way to the historic and quaint, Cedar Pass Lodge, the only lodge inside the park. We'll have dinner at the lodge's restaurant before settling into our private cabins for the night. Lunch and dinner included.

Activity: 2-3 miles hiking with 197' elevation gain and loss

Meals: L, D

.....

DAY 2

FROM BADLANDS TO THE BLACK HILLS

Rise early this morning and enjoy the sunrise over the badlands from the inviting, handcrafted pine chairs on your patio. Today we'll hike the winding Castle Trail through an alien landscape and vast prairie lands. Once we return to our trailhead, we say our goodbyes to Badlands National Park and head over to the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, a unique relic of the Cold War. This afternoon we make our way west toward the lush forests and jagged granite peaks of the Black Hills. We'll spend our remaining nights in private, rustic cabins in the charming town of Custer.

Activity: 4-5 miles hiking with 142' elevation gain and 161' loss

Meals: B, L, D

.....

DAY 3

TOUR JEWEL CAVE & VISIT THE IMPRESSIVE, CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL

Today we'll explore one of the largest caves in the world, and the impressive stone carving of the famous Lakota leader, Crazy Horse. At Jewel Cave, we'll follow a 7 mile paved path surrounded by sparkling calcite crystals, dripping stalactites & stalagmites, and glossy flowstone. After our cave exploration, we'll enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by our guide and hike the only trail above ground in the park. Late this afternoon we visit the unfinished, incredible, Crazy Horse Memorial. Once completed this imposing stone carving will be over three times the size of Mount Rushmore. We'll tour the extensive museum and take a rustic bus ride right to the base of the mountain. We end our day with dinner in Custer where our guide shares what exciting adventures await us tomorrow. All meals included.

Activity: 3.5-4.5 miles hiking with 507' elevation gain and 491' loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4

HIKE TO THE CATHEDRAL SPIRES & VISIT THE ICONIC, MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Today's hike takes us to the arresting Cathedral Spires, striking granite pinnacles named for their resemblance to the organ pipes in a Cathedral. These unique rock formations were chosen as the original canvas for Mount Rushmore, but it was quickly discovered the rock was too thin to support the massive edifice that sculptor Gutzon Borglum envisioned. This afternoon we soak in the incredible views on the Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway as we make our way to Mount Rushmore National Memorial. We can enjoy different views of this national treasure as we follow the Presidential Trail stopping at the Sculpture's Studio along the way. We enjoy our final, celebratory dinner together in Custer this evening.

Activity: 5 miles hiking with 1,161' elevation gain and 1,175' loss

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

WIND CAVE & MAMMOTH SITE

This morning we'll explore another mysterious underground labyrinth. The shimmering calcite crystals of Jewel Cave are replaced with the extremely rare, delicate boxwork formations found in Wind Cave. Before our ranger-led cave tour, we'll hike a short trail so we can appreciate the magic above ground in the vast mixed-grass prairie. After our illuminative cave tour, we'll celebrate our final meal together while we discuss all the intriguing & distinct differences between these two caves. On our final adventure together we'll explore a different kind of underground treasure, the Mammoth Site, an active paleontological dig site that has uncovered the remains of 60+ Mammoths. This afternoon we return to our host hotel in Rapid City recounting all the incredible things we've done and seen during our time together.

Activity: 1-2 miles hiking with 241' elevation gain and 235 loss

Dates

May 27 - 31, 2025

Sep 25 - 29, 2026

Sep 19 - 23, 2025

Sep 26 - 30, 2025

Oct 6 - 10, 2025

Jun 7 - 11, 2026

Jun 13 - 17, 2026

Jun 18 - 22, 2026

Sep 13 - 17, 2026

Sep 19 - 23, 2026

For full terms and conditions please visit www.mtsobek.com/terms. Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.



1-800-974-0300



info@mtsobek.com

Inclusions & Exclusions

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portorage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses

For full terms and conditions please visit www.mtsobek.com/terms. Please note that our itineraries are subject to change.

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.



1-800-974-0300



info@mtsobek.com



► The World of MT Sobek

At Mountain Travel Sobek, we believe life is an adventure and adventure is life.

As the originators, innovators and leaders in adventure travel for more than five decades, we passionately create, craft and share indelible, transformative journeys to the world's most memorable places. Our more than 200 unique and once-in-a-lifetime trips are designed to inspire and exhilarate, enliven and excite--opening eyes and minds through profoundly personal connections with nature and culture.

Our small group and custom adventures span the globe, and the spectrum—of interests, environments and activities—every one expertly planned and knowledgeably and passionately guided. And our commitment to making every experience a remarkable one has earned us preferred travel outfitter status for National Geographic Active Expeditions, Active New York Times Journeys, and Smithsonian Active Journeys.

We are *the* adventure company.

Awards



GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.

📞 1-800-974-0300

✉ info@mtsobek.com



TWO HUNDRED ADVENTURES.

SEVEN CONTINENTS.

A WORLD OF DISCOVERY.

Where's Your Next Adventure?



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969

MT•SOBEK™

MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

1-800-974-0300 | MTSOBEK.COM

1266 66TH STREET, SUITE 4, EMERYVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94608-1117

FOLLOW US ONLINE @MTSOBEK