

Main Street life here is irresistibly charming, with art galleries that are ahead of the trends and gift shops and fashion boutiques styling their way into your heart. The vibe is friendly and relaxed with more than a touch of refined dining and hospitality to make your experience special. Hotels and great restaurants, unique events, free attractions and exceptional places like South Dakota's largest movie theater screen at the restored Elks Theatre set the stage for a big time in downtown Rapid City.

# The City of Presidents

Peek over Jefferson's shoulder and see how you measure up to Reagan's cowboy boots. You'll meet life-size bronze statues of 42 past U.S. Presidents on street corners throughout downtown Rapid City in a free self-guided walking tour. **CityofPresidents.com** 

## Main Street Square

Located in the heart of downtown Rapid City, Main Street Square is a fun-filled public space that features more than 150 events each year, from live concerts to festivals to granite sculpting. The core of the plaza is an interactive fountain and great lawn in the warmer months, and transforms to an outdoor ice rink larger than the Rockefeller Center rink in the winter. Surrounded by The City of Presidents statues, boutiques, eateries and galleries, Main Street Square is a destination the whole family can enjoy. It's [FUN]<sup>2</sup>! For more information and event listings, visit

MainStreetSquareRC.com.

## **Summer Nights**

The good times that take over here during the summer months are bound to lure you into the streets for some friendly revelry. Summer Nights is a weekly festival hosted in historic downtown Rapid City every Thursday, June–August from 5:30 to 9 pm. The event features live music, a kid's activity area, food and beverage vendors, as well as art vendors. Admission is free. **RapidCitySummerNights.com** 

# **Art Night Downtown**

Held every second Friday from June through September from 5 to 8 pm, Art Night brings businesses and artists together to create interactive experiences for everyone. You will never know what is around the next corner as you walk throughout downtown visiting local businesses and enjoying our vibrant creative community. Something new will "pop up" at each event! ArtNightDowntownRC.com

#### **Art Galleries & Museums**

Experience the cultural riches of Rapid City through museums and galleries that both preserve heritage and move artistic expression forward. At the Museum of the American Bison, The Journey Museum & Learning Center and the Museum of Geology, the area's storied past is revealed through artifacts and exhibits. A thriving creative scene is on display at Rapid City galleries like the Dahl Arts Center, Rapid River Gallery, Suzie Cappa Art Center and James Van Nuys Gallery. You'll find artistic traditions continuing to inspire at Alex Johnson Mercantile and Prairie Edge Trading Company & Gallery.

#### City View Trolley

Hop on for a narrated tour of Rapid City attractions, beginning at the Milo Barber Transportation Center, winding through downtown and continuing west to Stavkirke Chapel. There are 15 stops along the route that allow guests to get off and enjoy the attractions. Narration through GPS technology provides trolley passengers information about historic and present-day Rapid City. RapidRide.org/city-view-trolley.php



The cultured experience and Native American heritage you seek in Rapid City finds its expression at a variety of galleries and museums throughout town. Not only will you find Native American exhibits and fine arts displays, but interactive exhibits that tell the story of Rapid City's historic and beautiful past.

# The Journey Museum & Learning Center

Travel a short distance from downtown to take an incredible trek through time as interactive displays tell the story of the Black Hills. It's a journey to understanding the legacy of this storied land and its people. **JourneyMuseum.org** 

## **Dahl Arts Center**

The Dahl Arts Center in downtown Rapid City offers a variety of cultural exhibits, as well as classes, seminars and free art adventures. It has served as the premier western South Dakota center for contemporary visual arts, arts education and performing arts since its opening in 1974. **TheDahl.org** 

#### The APEX Gallery

The APEX Gallery on the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology campus offers educational art and science exhibits that rotate every four to six weeks. Exhibits here reflect a cross section of cultural expressions and perspectives. **SDSMT.edu/ApexGallery** 

# The City of Presidents

History and public art meet on the street corners of downtown Rapid City, featuring life-sized bronze statues of our nation's past presidents in poses that reveal their stories. The City of Presidents statues are considered one of the largest publicly owned art displays in the country. **CityOfPresidents.com** 

# Memorial Park/Berlin Wall Exhibit

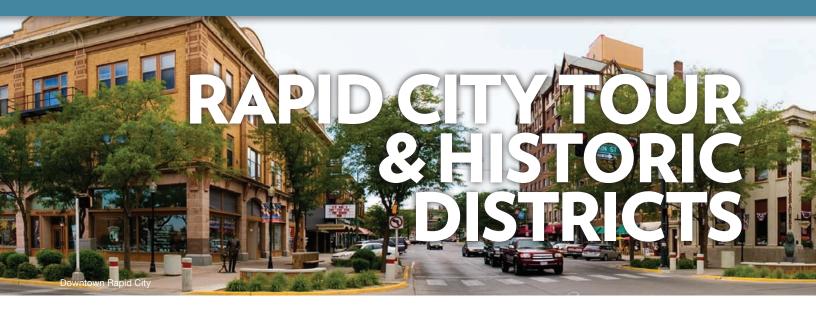
Cold War relics tell their tale in the Berlin Wall Exhibit, located in Memorial Park alongside Rapid Creek in the center of Rapid City, along with a number of sculptures and memorials, a rose garden near Memorial Lake and a band shell.

## The Black Hills Symphony Orchestra

Enjoy the beautiful sounds of the Black Hills Symphony Orchestra. Over 90 musicians perform a variety of pieces each season. **BHSymphony.org** 

#### **Black Hills Community Theatre**

Enjoy full stage productions at the Black Hills Community Theatre, which has been performing Broadway and Off-Broadway plays and musicals for more than four decades. **BHCT.org** 

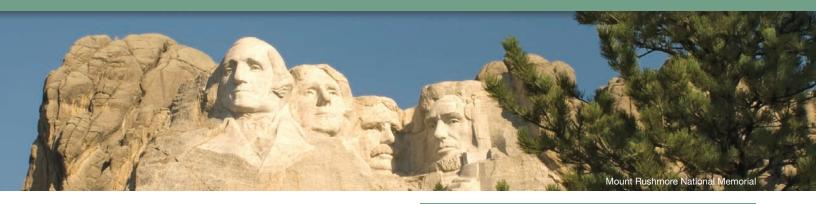


Finding your way to special places in Rapid City couldn't be easier with the self-guided City Tour. The City View Trolley, an optional means of local exploration, offers visitors a narrated tour available June through August.



# CITY TOUR AND HISTORIC DISTRICTS

- Black Hills Visitor Information Center
- 2 Memorial Park / Berlin Wall
- 3 The Outdoor Campus-West
- 4 Storybook Island
- **5** Cleghorn Springs State Fish Hatchery & Visitors Center
- 6 Chapel in the Hills
- 7 Canyon Lake Park
- 8 Formal Gardens
- 9 Dinosaur Park
- 10 Dahl Arts Center
- 11 Museum of Geology
- 12 APEX Gallery
- 13 The City of Presidents
- 14 The Journey Museum & Learning Center
- 15 West Boulevard and Downtown Historic Districts
- 16 Rapid City Visitor Information Center



# **Mount Rushmore National Memorial**

It doesn't get any bigger than this national treasure. More than two million visitors from across the country and world come to Mount Rushmore National Memorial every year to see this monumental sculpture of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. The work of sculptor Gutzon Borglum began in 1927 and took 14 years and \$1 million to complete. Interpretive programs and exhibits are available by rangers and an audio tour guides your route through the Memorial. A film is shown at the Lincoln Borglum Museum. From mid-May through late September, the Memorial offers an evening lighting ceremony.

25 miles southwest of Rapid City. U.S. Hwy/16A and S.D. Hwy/244.

Restaurant, Presidential Trail, visitor services, visitor centers, Sculptor's Studio, audio tour building, Lincoln Borglum Museum, gift shop and book shop.

Information Center and Lincoln Borglum Visitor Center

Open daily / year-round 8 am - 10 pm Mid-May to mid August 8 am - 9 pm Mid-August to September 8 am - 5 pm October to mid May

Amphitheater, Sculptor's Studio and evening lighting ceremony open mid-May through September.

For more information, call 605-574-2523 or go online to nps.gov/moru.



# **Badlands National Park**

Take a short drive to another world. Badlands National Park with its crater-filled surface is one of the richest Oligocene Epoch fossil beds, dating back 37 million years. When the Lakota first discovered the moon-like landscape, they called the area "Mako Sica" or "Bad Land." The jagged spires, eroded buttes and deep crevasses of the Badlands offer unique scenery that you can explore on foot, horseback or by car. The park is also home to a variety of wildlife, like buffalo, bighorn sheep, antelope and the black-footed ferret. The Ben Reifel Visitor Center offers exhibits and an informational video about the park.

50 miles east of Rapid City - Interstate 90 or S.D. Hwy/44.

Ben Reifel Visitor Center on Badlands Loop Road, S.D. Hwy. 240. Open daily / mid-June to early August 8 am - 5 pm Mid-April to mid-May, Early September to late October 8 am - 7 pm Summer 8 am - 4 pm Winter

Drive-through loop with scenic overlooks, hiking trails and camping. For more information, call 605-433-5361 or go online to nps.gov/badl.



# Wind Cave National Park

Explore a mysterious world that's not seen the light of day. Wind Cave National Park is one of the longest caves in the world and one of the oldest national parks. Spelunkers come to see the world's largest display of boxwork, a rare honeycomb-like calcite formation. Above ground are 28,295 acres of prairie and ponderosa pine forest, home to bison, elk, antelope, mule, prairie dogs and other wildlife. The Visitor Center offers exhibit rooms featuring cave exploration, cave formations, early cave history, the Civilian Conservation Corps, park wildlife and resource management, as well as an informational video about the park.

65 miles southwest of Rapid City – U.S. Hwy/385 and S.D. Hwy/87.

Visitor Center Open daily / year-round 8 am - 4:30 pm Daily with extended Summer hours 8 am to 6 pm mid-June to early August

Tour times and prices vary; see website and call to confirm. Light jacket and sturdy shoes recommended. Tours available for visitors with special needs. Hiking trails and camping available.

For more information, call **605-745-4600** or go online to **nps.gov/wica**.

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