

Travel with the J: South Dakota

Itinerary (subject to change without notice.)

Sunday, August 21 – Friday, August 26 2022



Day 1 – Sunday, August 21 / Welcome

Depart Chicago O'hare Airport to Rapid City; we'll be met at the luggage carousel. Continue to the hotel to check in. Enjoy an early **dinner** then venture to Mt. Rushmore for the "lighting ceremony". The program officially commences at 9:00pm with a Ranger presentation followed by a 20-minute movie culminating with the gradual lighting of Mt. Rushmore.

Day 2 – Monday, August 22 / Deadwood and South Dakota's Jewish History

Breakfast at the hotel then take the scenic route through Pactola Reservoir and Sheridan Lake to the historic town of Deadwood – home to Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane. Enjoy free time to explore and lunch on your own. After lunch we'll tour the town and stop at Mount Moriah Cemetery to visit the graves of Deadwood's famous citizens. Here we will learn about Deadwood's Jewish history. Spend some free time casino hopping and souvenir shopping before we return to Rapid City. **Dinner** will be in Rapid City (if possible, with the President of the Jewish Community).

Day 3 – Tuesday, August 23

Breakfast at the hotel. Today our Black Hills adventure starts at Custer State Park – with over 71,000 acres it is a habitat for one of the largest free-roaming bison herds (1500 animals!) in the west. Look out for other animals – wild turkeys, bighorn sheep, prairie dogs and "begging burros". Continue to the Crazy Horse Memorial now under construction and carved out of Thunderhead Mountain on land considered sacred by some Native Americans located between Custer and Hills City. Work started in 1948 on this sculpture of Crazy Hours, an Oglala Lakota warrior and is still in progress. When finished it will be the world's largest sculpture. **Lunch** is at Crazy Horse. Return to Mt. Rushmore after lunch for daytime viewing. Visit the museum, walk the Avenue of Flags and perhaps visit the President's Path to view the four President's faces from different angles. **Dinner** at one of the city's top restaurants.

Day 4 – Wednesday, August 24

Breakfast at the hotel. Head east through South Dakota's interior along the Cheyenne River to Badlands National Park. This is one of the finest Oligocene fossil beds of mammals that flourished 27 – 34 million years ago. Ravines, ridges, low hills and cliffs display the variegated color that makes this area so dramatic. Tour the scenic loop and weather permitting, walk some of the short trails into the ravines and hills of the area. Make a fun stop for **lunch** at the famous landmark Wall Drug before returning to the hotel. **Dinner** will be at one of the city's top restaurants.

Day 5 – Thursday, August 25

Breakfast at the hotel. Start the day with a tour of Rapid City. Drive south via Skyline to have a panoramic view of the city. Continue through Bear Country – over 250 acres of towering pines and rolling meadows for a view of most of North American mammals. During our three-mile drive through several enclosures, encounter black bear, elk, reindeer, deer, cougars, bobcats, rocky mountain goats, bighorn sheep, Dall sheep and buffalo. Continue to Hill City to explore this small town and grab a bite of lunch on your own. Next is the Black Hills Gold Factory to see how this historic jewelry is made. The last stop is a trek through time at the Journey Museum. Learn how the Black Hills were formed, discover fossils and dinosaurs and listen to the legends of the Lakota Sioux People. Walk in the footsteps of pioneers and gold miners. Return to the hotel and enjoy a farewell Chuckwagon **dinner** and entertainment at Fort Hays.

Day 6 – Friday, August 26

Breakfast at the hotel.

Depart for the airport and return flight