

Ride America Tours

P.O. Box 1903 Clemmons, NC 27012

www.rideamericatours.com

South Dakota Tour 2019 Itinerary

September 7 – September 14

Day 1: Today, we deliver your bike to Rapid City, SD, our base of operations for the tour. Those flying in to Rapid City Regional Airport (RAP) may call for a shuttle and enjoy a free ride to the hotel. After check-in, a Ride America Tour representative will be available to assist you with collecting your bike and gear, and to answer any questions you may have regarding the exciting days ahead. Be sure to gas-up your bike this evening in preparation for the ride tomorrow.

Day 2: After breakfast, we'll head over to Rapid City Harley-Davidson for souvenirs (and other necessities) and then make our way into the Black Hills and to the awe inspiring Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Leaving Mount Rushmore, we make our way to the old mining town of Keystone, SD, where we can have lunch and try our luck at panning for gold at Big Thunder Gold Mine before returning to Rapid City for the evening.

Day 3: Today we ride the legendary scenic roads of the Black Hills as they should be ridden, that is, ahead of the 400,000 Sturgis Rally goers that converge on this tiny area in July. Keep your cameras at the ready as you experience the beauty and the abundant wildlife of Custer State Park. Watch for herds of buffalo, mountain goats, deer, and antelope and feel the excitement of riding along Iron Mountain Road and Needles Highway where "Dancing With Wolves" was filmed.

Day 4: After breakfast, we travel south to Crazy Horse Memorial, a monumental carving of the Lakota Warrior Chief begun in 1947 and continuing to this day. The carving is dedicated to the history and culture of the North American Indian and the project does NOT accept funding from either the Federal or State governments. You will leave the site with a renewed appreciation for the rich heritage of Native Americans. Continuing our ride, we make our way to Deadwood, founded in 1876 after gold was discovered in a creek nearby. Deadwood's most notable residents include Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane and Seth Bullock. On August 2, 1876, Wild Bill was shot and killed while playing poker in one of Deadwood's saloons. He was holding aces and eights, later to be known as "Dead Man's Hand". Enjoy browsing the many shops or try your luck at the local casinos before heading back to Rapid City for the evening.

Day 5: The Badlands National Park is our destination today. The Badlands spectacular shapes, colors and canyons are the results of over 70 million years of soil deposition and erosion and are guaranteed to capture the imagination as you ride through this geologic wonderland. As always, be sure to have your camera close by. Leaving the Badlands, we will visit Wall, SD, home of Wall Drug Store, made famous by providing free ice water to travelers passing through on their way either east or west since 1931 to the present day. We will be sure to carry on the tradition by having a cold glass of ice water before heading back to Rapid City.

Day 6: Today, we saddle up for a ride to Devils Tower National Monument, an amazing rock formation rising some 1,200 feet above the surrounding landscape. The 1977 movie “Close Encounters of the Third Kind” was filmed at Devils Tower. In route, we will stop in Sturgis, host to the 72nd Sturgis Rally this year, and pay a visit to Sturgis Harley-Davidson. Be the first to get a “been there/done that” T-shirt and other Sturgis souvenirs. Continuing our ride into Wyoming and to Devils Tower, enjoy the amazing scenery every turn. Returning to South Dakota, we will stop at the famous Full Throttle Saloon, the “Biggest Biker Bar In The World” and meet the owners Michael Bullard and Jessie Dupree of TV fame.

Day 7: After breakfast, prepare yourself for an incredible ride through Spearfish Canyon where we will stop often for pictures. Watch for wildlife including an abundant Deer population. Scenes from “Dancing With Wolves” were filmed in Spearfish Canyon. A casual dinner will be hosted by Ride America Tours this evening in appreciation of you and your fellow tour participants. The event is always filled with good fun and great fellowship.

Day 8: After a brief ride in the morning, sadly, the tour ends today. Following checkout, participants should return their bikes to the Ride America Tours attendant for transport loading in the afternoon.

Additional Tour Information:

Other Tour Information:

- Approximate Riding Distance: 1,200 miles
- Fuel surcharge may apply

Shipping Bikes: Bikes will be delivered to the staging area approximately 7 days prior to the tour start date. Bikes will be loaded onto Ride America Tours’ custom designed motorcycle transport between the hours of 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM that day. Staging areas vary and participants will be notified of the location, date and time well in advance of each tour.

Returning Bikes: Bikes will be unloaded upon arrival of the transport following the end of your tour and returned to the initial staging area within 7 days. Details for pickup will be provided well in advance of each tour.

NOTE: In compliance with Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, gas tanks **ARE NOT** to be filled prior to transport. Bike registration, keys/fobs must remain with the bikes for loading/unloading. Additionally, bike registrations must be available along with personal contact information, i.e., Emergency Contact Numbers, and Cell Phone Numbers. These items will be placed into an envelope and attached to the bike prior to transport. An envelope will be provided to you at time of shipping.

Packing Recommendations For The Tour: When considering what to pack, make a list of everything you think you need, and then divide the list in half. After that, divide what's left in half and you'll have a list of items you might actually need. (Hint: You'll not change cloths every day on a cross-country motorcycle trip and washers and dryers are readily available.) So, for this Tour, we recommend one set of "Street Cloths" a pair of comfortable walking shoes, personal wear, toiletries, sun screen, chap-stick, riding gear including helmets, boots, eyewear, leathers, jackets, gloves, rain gear and both warm and cold weather apparel. This time of the year prepare for cool mornings and warm afternoons. Dress in layers. Riding gear stowed inside saddlebags and tour packs may travel with your bike if secured.

Note: Prescription drugs, and other valuables such as jewelry, cash, cameras, etc. must remain in your possession at all times.

Excursion and Park Fees:

Admission to Mt. Rushmore National Memorial is free but there is a \$10 parking fee for automobiles and motorcycles. Parking fee at Crazy Horse is \$7/person for motorcycles. Entrance fee to Badlands National Park is \$10 for motorcycles and is good for 7 days. Entrance fee to Devils Tower National Monument is \$10 for motorcycles.