

Early Ford V8 Club Proposed Tour Black Hills South Dakota

Tour hosted by the Eastern South Dakota Early Ford V8 Club #166. The tour is designed to be five days in mid-September covering about 500 miles in the Black Hills region of South Dakota.

The Black Hills are a small mountain range in western South Dakota and extending into Wyoming. The name "Black Hills" is a translation of the Lakota *Pahá Sápa*. The hills were so-called because of their dark appearance from a distance, as they were covered in trees. The Black Hills can be divided into two areas: "The Southern Hills" and "The Northern Hills". The Southern Hills is home to Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Needles Highway (a national scenic byway), Wind Cave National Park, Jewel Cave National Monument, Harney Peak (the highest point in the United States east of the Rockies), Custer State Park (the largest state park in South Dakota, and one of the largest in the US), the Crazy Horse Memorial (the largest sculpture in the world), and the Mammoth site in Hot Springs (the world's largest mammoth research facility). Attractions in the Northern Hills include Spearfish Canyon (a national scenic byway), historic Deadwood, Fort Meade (it was here that the "Star Spangled Banner" first became the official music for the military, long before it became the National Anthem) and Sturgis (home of the world famous motorcycle rally first held in 1938). Plus Devils Tower National Monument, located in Wyoming, the United States' first national monument.

Registration day, welcome mixer and dinner.

-Sturgis, SD sits on the borderlands between the Black Hills and the prairie. Sturgis offers many opportunities to explore the rich history of the area with Fort Meade, local museums plus a short drive to see Bear Butte.

-Welcome mixer, dinner and car corral will be a casual and fun event where the participants can meet tour hosts, get detailed tour information and show off their cars.

First day- 130 miles Sturgis, SD to Sundance WY.

Scheduled stops include Belle Fourche, SD and Devils Tower national park.

-Belle Fourche (French for "beautiful fork") named by French explorers for the confluence of the Belle Fourche River and Hay Creek.

-Devils Tower was the first declared United States National Monument, established on September 24, 1906.

-Sundance WY. Sundance is nestled in the valley of the Bear Lodge Mountains in Northeast Wyoming on the western edge of the Black Hills. History and folklore abounds, the Sundance Kid did his only jail time here.

Second day- 70 miles Sundance, WY to Deadwood, SD.

Scheduled stops include Spearfish, SD, Spearfish Canyon and Homestake gold mine

-Spearfish officially incorporated in 1888, Spearfish is ideally situated in the scenic valley of Spearfish Creek and at the mouth of Spearfish Canyon. The Federal Fish Hatchery, established in 1898, is known as the D.C. Booth Historic Fish Hatchery. In 1906, Matthew's Opera House opened as the center of entertainment in Spearfish. After extensive renovation, Matthew's Opera House still provides an historic setting for the arts.

- Spearfish canyon-**National scenic byway**. Twenty miles through natural beauty and unique scenery Spearfish Creek lines the canyon floor. Canyon waterfalls make for popular roadside attractions. Bridal Veil Falls and Roughlock Falls are must-sees. The speed limit is 35 miles per hour with dozens of pull-offs along the way to capture the Kodak moment

-Deadwood, SD. The discovery of gold in the Black Hills in 1874 set off one of the last great gold rushes in the country. Miners moved into the northern Black Hills. That's where they came across a gulch full of dead trees and a creek full of gold...and Deadwood was born. Sites include Historic Adams House and museum, Mount Moriah cemetery (aka boot hill) and the Number 10 Salon where "Wild" Bill Hickok was shot.

The host hotel for this stop has a classic 1950's style gas station for pictures of you and your car.

Third day- 110 miles Deadwood, SD to Hill City, SD.

Scheduled stops include Pactola Reservoir, Custer State Park, Needles Highway and Mount Rushmore.

-Pactola Lake is the largest reservoir in the Black Hills and is created by the Pactola Dam. At the bottom of Pactola Lake is the submerged town of Pactola, an old mining camp.

-Custer State Park is South Dakota's largest and first state park, named after Lt. Colonel George Armstrong Custer. In 1927 U.S. President Calvin Coolidge made it his "summer White House"

- Needles Highway-**National scenic byway**. Visitors traveling the highway pass Sylvan Lake and a unique rock formation called the Needle's Eye, so named for the opening created by wind, rain, freezing and thawing

- Mount Rushmore national memorial is a sculpture carved into the granite face of Mount Rushmore by Gutzon Borglum. Mount Rushmore features the heads of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.

Fourth day- 80 miles Hill City, SD to Hot Springs, SD.

Scheduled stops include Crazy Horse memorial, Jewel Cave National Monument

- Crazy Horse memorial. In an effort to honor the rich heritage and traditions of Native Americans, Sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski and Lakota Chief Henry Standing Bear set out to carve a mountain just south of Mount Rushmore.

- Jewel Cave National Monument. In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt declared the cave a national monument. 170 miles have been mapped making it the third longest cave in the world.

-Hot Springs one of the warmest places in South Dakota. Some attractions in the area are Evans Plunge (built in 1890, with its naturally warm spring water) and Wind Cave National Park.

-Mammoth site and research center. This is an active paleontological dig site, which boasts the largest concentration of mammoth remains in the world.

Fifth day- 100 miles Hot Springs, SD to Sturgis, SD.

Scheduled stops include, Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary, Ellsworth Air Force Base and Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. The tour concludes with a drive through beautiful Vanocker Canyon.

- Wild Horse Sanctuary. Hundreds of wild horses roam in their natural habitat experience ancient petroglyphs and ceremonial sites plus early Pioneer & Native American history.
- Ellsworth Air Force Base home of the 28th Bomb Wing and the B-1 Lancer. Ellsworth AFB was established in 1941. It is named in honor of Brigadier General Richard E. Ellsworth.
- Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. The Minuteman Missile was an iconic weapon in the American nuclear arsenal a deterrent which maintained peace and prevented war.
- Vanocker Canyon road is 11 miles of winding canyon road with many pull-offs to capture the picturesque views of the Black Hills. The route has twists and curves all the way from start to finish.

Farewell dinner and car corral. This will be a great tour round up dinner with an opportunity to share stories and see pictures from the tour. Plus winners of the tour daily games and photo contest will be announced.