



Native American Tour Ideas in Rapid City & Black Hills

Located on the eastern edge of the Black Hills, where rolling prairies and rugged, pine-covered hills and canyons abound, Rapid City is the perfect "hub" for time spent touring the natural wonders and sites throughout the Black Hills or Paha Sapa and Badlands or Mako Sica .

Day One

Start your tour in Rapid City at [The Journey Museum & Learning Center](#) where you'll experience 2.5 billion years of history. The Museum houses a colorful, hands-on exhibit of Native American artifacts and artwork. It's a great introduction to South Dakota's Lakota culture. Continue on to [Sioux Pottery](#) and [Prairie Edge Trading Co. & Galleries](#) in Rapid City, where you will shop find handmade Native American pottery, crafts, beadwork, clothing and replicas of authentic wares. Next, venture on to [Crazy Horse Memorial](#) and be awed by the world's only mountain carving in progress in honor of the Lakota leader Crazy Horse. The Crazy Horse complex also contains the beautiful Indian Museum of North America, the Native American Educational & Cultural Center and the Indian University of North America®. Enjoy the evening Legends in Light Laser Light Show available seasonally. Return to your comfortable accommodations in Rapid City for the evening.



Day Two

Visit the [Badlands National Park](#). The Badlands were originally named by the Sioux Indians as *mako sica* or land that is bad because it was difficult to travel through. Here you will view the sharp spires and colorful rock formations created by years of erosion. After touring the Badlands, a popular stop is a [world-famous drug store](#) in Wall. This tiny store, built in 1931, has boomed to become block-sized and internationally known. While in Wall, also visit Lakota Ways where you can engage in an authentic Native American experience practicing activities including beadwork, quilling, archery and tipi-raising to name just a few. Lakota Ways will immerse you in the Sioux Culture Wounded Knee: The Museum to learn more about the last conflict between Native Americans and the US Army Cavalry. Return to your comfortable accommodations in Rapid City for the evening.



Day Three

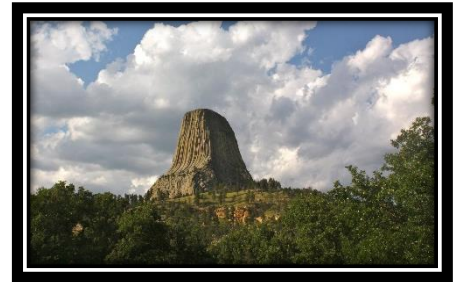
Your final destination is [Pine Ridge Indian Reservation](#), home of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, just east of the Black Hills, bordering the Badlands south side. Be sure to stop at [The Heritage Center and Red Cloud Indian School](#) in Pine Ridge where you will view an outstanding collection of Native American fine art including paintings, textiles, traditional art, historical items, pottery and sculpture, as well as a library and historical archives. Equally significant to your tour is a moment of silence and reflection at *The Wounded Knee Massacre Site*, located just northeast of Pine Ridge. A single stone marker stands in remembrance of more than 250 Lakota people killed in the Battle of Wounded Knee. Equally significant to your visit is a stop at the [Oglala Lakota College Historical Center](#), located near Kyle, where you will hear, see and feel the history of the Oglala Lakota people.

Return to your comfortable accommodations in Rapid City for the evening.

Other Native American Culture sites in the Black Hills Area:

[Bear Butte State Park](#) - The Black Hills of South Dakota are rich in Native American History and one way to appreciate this culture is to take an early morning hike up Bear Butte. Located approximately 25 miles north of Rapid City, Bear Butte State Park is a geological wonder and a place of worship for many Native American tribes. The hike to the top is rugged but the view is spectacular. Visitors are asked to be respectful of worshippers and their religious practices. 35 miles northwest of Rapid City – South Dakota Hwy 79.

[Devils Tower National Monument](#) - Indian legend surrounds the formation of Devils Tower, which is the core of an ancient volcano. A visual oddity and a climbing challenge, Devils Tower is an awesome rock tower rising 264 meters above the Wyoming Plains. 120 miles northwest of Rapid City - Wyoming Hwys. 14 and 24



Native American Culture across South Dakota:

There are many ways to experience [Native American culture](#) in South Dakota. Museums and art galleries across the state display precious artifacts as well as traditional and contemporary art. Additional information available in the [Tribal Lands of South Dakota brochure](#) or the [Native South Dakota Guide](#).

Places to visit include:

- South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre
- Akta Lakota Museum in Chamberlain
- Prehistoric Indian Village in Mitchell
- Tatanka: Story of the Bison in Deadwood

For more information:

Rapid City Convention & Visitors Bureau

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