

Four fall color drives in the Black Hills

1 Spearfish Canyon Scenic Byway – The 20-mile route (US Hwy. 14A) runs along sparkling Spearfish Creek from Spearfish to Cheyenne Crossing. Steep limestone cliffs flank either side, with oak, elm, birch, aspen and ponderosa pine covering the canyon's jagged peaks. There's lots of pull-offs for picture taking or short hikes, plus three waterfalls provide sylvan views of nature at its finest. Pack a picnic lunch for a stop at Roughlock Falls State Recreation Area near Savoy.

2 Vanocker Canyon/Nemo Road – Beginning at Sturgis Exit 32, off Interstate 90, Vanocker Canyon Road (Forest Service Road 26) winds southwest for 17 miles to the tiny historic community of Nemo. Large stands of birch and aspen provide a glowing backdrop along this peaceful and uncrowded paved byway. Nemo offers a general store/gas station and a restaurant/bar, or you can stop to take a short hike along sections of the Centennial Trail just off the gravel road behind this quaint community. Continue down Nemo Road in either direction (north towards Deadwood or south to Rapid City) and enjoy the scenic roadside views of Box Elder Creek.

3 Boulder Canyon – The high-walled valley road (US Hwy 14A) between Sturgis and Deadwood provides a short, yet sweet, 12-mile drive with niches of colorful autumn views. It's a relaxing interlude before the excitement of a night of Deadwood gaming and dining. Or you can catch Interstate 90 at Sturgis Exit 30 for a quick jaunt back to Rapid City.

4 Belle Fourche to Devils Tower – The 52 miles from Belle Fourche to Devils Tower along State Hwy. 34 are always stunning, whatever the season. But a fall drive is particularly wonderful. Orange, red, and golden-hued pockets of burr oaks and elm are pocketed in the creekbeds and valley swales along the route. It's a more open and rolling landscape than the Black Hills, and provides a different variety of fall beauty. And awaiting you at the end of the drive is the always awesome granite monolith of Devils Tower.



Black Hills & Badlands 2011 Autumn Expedition Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

1-5 Sturgis Mustang Rally, Sturgis
www.sturgismustangrally.com, 605-347-3662

Competition, poker run, show & shine, auction, parade, racing, Mustang rodeo and more. Competition includes burn-out, launch box, drag racing & auto-cross. Parade begins at 5 p.m. Saturday on Sturgis Main Street. Event registration at the Thunder Dome three miles east of Sturgis. Show & Shine registration 6 a.m. Saturday at Sturgis Community Center.

2-6 Labor Day Open House Weekend & Night Blast, Crazy Horse Memorial
www.crazyhorsememorial.org, 605-673-4681

Free admission to neighboring states with food pantry donation of three cans. Guest artist booths in museum. Spectacular blast lights up the mountain with incredible fireballs and specially designed pyrotechnical features on the evening of Sept. 6.

4 11th annual Dakota Five-0, City Park, Spearfish
www.dakotafiveo.com, 605-641-4963

A 50-mile mountain bicycle race-ride-tour. Cash prizes for each age class of riders plus bonuses to top three male and female finishers overall. Event includes pasta feed, post-race beer, musical entertainment, kids race, awards ceremony.

9-10 Polkapalooza: German Fall Fest, Hill City
605-574-2525 or 800-562-8503 (reservations)

Held at Palmer Gulch KOA Resort. Ethnic food, German beer and dancing in the big tent to the Larry Oleson Band and the Marv Zander Band. Admission: \$5 per day.

9-11 Holy Terror Days, Keystone
www.holyterrodays.com, 605-666-5436

Celebrating Keystone's mining and logging history with horse poker rides, a parade, BBQ feeds, historical re-enactments, 1890s costume ball, art in the park, pig roast, street dances, old-fashioned family carnival, old-time church services, auction, walking tour, kids' activities and more.

10-11 Once Upon a Festival, Rapid City
www.storybookisland.org, 605-342-6347

Vendors, games, prizes and entertainment for kids and families. Ride the dragon train and celebrate fall in Rapid City. Tickets: \$2.

11 Tenth Anniversary of Sept. 11, Belle Fourche
www.bellefourchechamber.org, 605-892-2676

A remembrance event at Center of the Nation Monument that also honors ordinary citizens, police, firefighters & military service people who died on 9-11 and since.

12-14 Chuckwagons of the West 2011 Jamboree, Circle B Chuckwagon, Rapid City
www.circle-b-ranch.com, 605-348-7358

Tickets are \$39 per night. Dinner (roast beef or BBQ chicken breast) plus cowboy music entertainment with the Circle B Cowboys, Flying W Wranglers, Bar J Wranglers, Riders of the Circle B. Dinner/show time is 6 p.m.

16-17 Deadwood Jam, Deadwood
www.deadwood.org, 1-800-344-8826 (tickets)

Bands include Blues Traveler, Grand Funk Railroad, Atlanta Rhythm Section; plus regional bands Hazel Miller, Chancey Williams and the Younger Brothers Band, Avian Sunrise, Houdek, Candread & Rizing Resistance and Brock Finn. Early bird tickets are \$50 for two nights of music.

16-18 14th annual Mickelson Trail Trek, Hills-wide
www.mickelsontrail.com, 605-584-3896

Bike the 109-mile Mickelson Trail on the annual three-day trek from Deadwood to Edgemont. Pre-registration required. Fee includes trail pass, shuttle service, long-sleeve jersey, four snacks and five meals.



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Mustangs line up in downtown Sturgis



Beautiful rides on the Mickelson Trail Trek



Blues fest at the Deadwood Jam



Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup



Find your Black Hills wine



Buffalo Roundup & Arts Festival



Native American Day at Crazy Horse Memorial



Buffalo Wallow Chili Cook-off



17 Festival in the Park/Shine & Show Car Show, Newcastle, Wyo.
www.newcastlewo.com, 307-746-2739
Food & craft vendors, games, 50s & 60s music, car show in Dow Park. Prizes awarded to Top Four People's Choice Cars.

17-18 Wine Express into the West, Hill City
www.1880train.com, 605-574-2222 or
1-800-FOR-1880 (reservations)
Enjoy a scenic ride, tasty meal and Prairie Berry wines, plus Old West entertainment. Two rides on Saturday, one on Sunday. Reservations required. Ticket includes food, wine, train ride, keepsake wine glass, plus Western entertainment.

23-24 Flavor of Lead, Lead
www.leadmethere.org, 605-584-1100
Celebrating Lead's ethnic heritage with community potluck, entertainment and more.

23-24 Badger Clark Cowboy Poetry & Music Gathering, Hot Springs
www.hotsprings-sd.com, 800-325-6991
Bunkhouse Tales open jam session at Woolly's Western Grill on Friday night. Poetry workshop, open session and award-winning entertainment by cowboy poets and musicians at Mueller Center on Saturday.

23-24 Second annual Americana Music Festival of the Black Hills, Rapid City
www.thedahl.org, 605-394-4101
Celebrate the incredible variety of music that makes up the American music history & experience. Three live stages, workshops, kids' art activities, vintage instrument displays.

23-25 7th annual Custer Stampede Buffalo Art Auction, Custer/Custer State Park
www.custerstampede.com, 605-673-2244
Art up for bid includes life-sized and table top buffalo sculptures as well as a variety of buffalo art. Events include Meet the Artists reception (5:30 p.m. Friday at the 1881 Courthouse Museum), Saturday parade, festival & auction (4 p.m. Saturday in Custer State Park).

24 Fall Festival, Edgemont
605-662-5758 or 605-890-1747
Horseback, ATV and car poker runs, horse-drawn wagon competition, quilt and craft shows, flea market, car, motorcycle & tractor show, dance and more.

24 Free National Park Day
www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm
No entrance fee to Badlands National Park, Jewel Cave National Monument, Wind Cave National Park and Devils Tower National Monument. Cave tours fees at Jewel Cave and Wind Cave still in effect.

24 3rd annual Great Downtown Pumpkin Festival, downtown Rapid City
www.downtownrapidcity.com, 605-716-7979
Pumpkin weigh-off contest, pumpkin patch, quilt show, pumpkin catapult, farmers market, bake sale, parade, dog events and more. Don't miss the Oktoberfest tent with oompah band and beer garden.

24-26 Buffalo Roundup Arts Festival, Custer State Park
www.custerstatepark.info, 605-255-4515
Start your day with a pancake breakfast, then browse for artwork or South Dakota made products offered by more than 150 vendors on the festival grounds across from Peter Norbeck Visitor Center. Activities include Western and Native American musical entertainment, cloggers, educational demonstrations, hoop dancing, buffalo chip flip and more.

25 22nd Annual Buffalo Wallow Chili Cook-off, Custer State Park
www.custersd.com, 605-673-2244
Thousands of chili tasters judge 30 chili cooking contestants. Tasting is from 2-4 p.m. or until chili is all gone. Awards presented at 4 p.m.

26 46th annual Custer State Park Annual Buffalo Roundup
www.custerstatepark.info, 605-255-4515
Join the excitement at one of South Dakota's premier events, as park staff gather the Park's 1,300 head of buffalo and drive them into the corrals. Crews brand, sort and vaccinate the herd in preparation for the fall sale.

30-10/1 Oktoberfest, Deadwood
www.deadwood.org, 605-578-1876
Live German music, food cookoff, dancing, Wiener Dog and beer barrel races. A great family day.

30-10/2 Black Hills Photo Shootout, Hills-wide
www.blackhillshotshootout.com
Unique field workshops, scenic photo walks, hands-on seminars and informal social events. "Photographer of the American West" David Stoecklin will headline this year's event with a keynote lecture on Friday. Photographers of all skill levels and interests are invited to participate.

OCTOBER

1 An Evening with Harry S. Truman, Mt. Rushmore National Memorial
www.mountrushmoresociety.com, 605-341-8883
Social, dinner and program beginning at 5 p.m. in the Carvers Café.

7-9 Black Hills Pow Wow, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City
www.blackhillspowwow.com, 605-341-0925
Experience the proud heritage and majestic pageantry of Native American dancers and drum groups as the Lakota, Nakota and Dakota nations gather for this annual celebration. Grand entrance, drum groups, dance competition from 10-4 each day.

10 Native American Day Celebration, Crazy Horse Memorial
www.crazyhorsememorial.org, 605-673-4681
Educational program, Native American singers, dancers, artists and storytellers. Activities for children, a mountain blast and free buffalo stew lunch.

15 Bierborse, Rapid City
www.mainstreetsquarerc.com, 605-716-7979
First annual Bierborse (beer stock exchange) includes food and beer pairings by Tally's Silver Spoon, Ale Riders' homebrew competition with samplings of over 60 beers, and dance with the Barry Boyce Polka Band. Tickets go on sale Sept. 21.

21-23 S.D. Rodeo Association Finals Rodeo, Rapid City
www.sdrodeo.com, 605-355-3861
Top state rodeo athletes compete for championship year-end titles at the Central States Fairgrounds.

28-29 Halloween Night Hike, Custer State Park
www.custerstatepark.info, 605-255-4464 (reservations required)
From Peter Norbeck Center, participants hike a paved path along a "creepy" route with scary characters. Hikes every 15 minutes from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

29 1881 Courthouse Museum Haunting & Carnival, Custer
www.1881courthousemuseum.com, 605-673-2443
A carnival and a haunted museum, plus merchants trick or treat in downtown Custer.

29 Scare on the Square, Rapid City
www.mainstreetsquarerc.com, 605-716-7979
Pumpkin carving, downtown trick or treat, zombie walk, brain eating contest, pumpkin lighting ceremony and an American Red Cross blood drive. Come with your costume. Makeup and artists provided for zombies.

29 Deadweird, Deadwood
www.deadwood.org, 1-605-578-1876
Annual costume contest, including costume parade, with thousands of dollars in cash and prizes.

Dates are subject to change.

For more details and additional events:
www.blackhillsbadlands.com/calendar

Black Hills, Badlands & Lakes Association



1851 Discovery Circle ■ Rapid City, SD 57701
Vacation information: 605-355-3700
or www.blackhillsbadlands.com

www.blackhillsbadlands.com/calendar

