

Black Hills Fall Colors Package

The Fall drives throughout the Black Hills are stunning. The days will dawn frosty and then turn into a palette of sharp blue skies and patches of glowing aspens and cottonwoods sprinkled among the pine forests.

Day 1

Traveling on I 90 travel to the town of Sturgis. Take exit 30 for **Boulder Canyon** where the high walled valley road (US Hwy 14A) between Sturgis and Deadwood provides a short, yet sweet, 12 mile drive with riches of colorful autumn views. As you travel into the town of **Deadwood** enjoy the rich autumn colors against the pine forest that wrap around this historic town. Take a walk down Deadwood's Main Street and enjoy the history of the early mining camp. Be sure to visit Saloon # 10 and look for the chair that Wild Bill Hickok was sitting on when he was killed by Jack McCall. Visit the Adams Museum and other historical settings.

Continue on highway 85 through the town of Lead and travel another 10 miles to Cheyenne Crossing. Take a right turn to highway 14A for **Spearfish Canyon Scenic Byway**. Spearfish Canyon is unique because the view is always close to the visitor and always upward. The narrow canyon walls rise sharply skyward from Spearfish Creek and the highway sculpted along the canyon bottom. Enjoy the vibrant colors on the steep limestone cliffs which flank either side, with oak, elm, birch, aspen and ponderosa pine covering the canyon's jagged peaks. Stop at the Latchstring Inn and take a walking path down to Spearfish Falls. Take a camera for some great shots.

Another picturesque area would be Roughlock Falls. Taking a left at the Spearfish Canyon Lodge will take you to Roughlock Falls. Touted as one of the most beautiful locations in the Black Hills, Roughlock Falls is fed by Little Spearfish Creek and flows down into Spearfish Canyon. The falls tumble over limestone cliffs, giving the area such a rustic an ancient atmosphere that cinematographers for "Dances with Wolves" decided to shoot its final scenes here.

Check into your lodging at Spearfish Canyon Lodge and set back and enjoy the hillsides which are awash with crimson, gold and scarlet leaves.

Day 2

Jump back on I 90 as your fall adventure continues the right direction...west to Wyoming! Travel to Belle Fourche on highway 85 for a stunning fall drive. Orange, red, and golden-hued pockets of burr oaks and elm are pockets in the creekbeds and valleys along the route. It's a more open and rolling landscape

than the Black Hills, and provides a different variety of fall beauty. Take highway 24 and travel to Aladdin, Wyoming and visit the Aladdin General Store. Travel another 26 miles to Hulett, Wyoming and awaiting you is the granite monolith of Devil's Tower. Devils Tower National Monument rises 1267 feet above the Belle Fourche River. Once hidden, erosion has revealed Devils Tower. This 1347 acre park is covered with pine forests, woodlands, and grasslands. Deer, prairie dogs, and other wildlife are seen daily.

Get back on I 90 and head east to the town of Sturgis. Take exit 32 for **Vanocker Canyon Road** which 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. Take a short hike along Centennial Trail just off the gravel road behind this quaint community. Continue down **Nemo Road** and enjoy the scenic roadside views of Box Elder Creek. Take a right turn on highway 385 and continue to the town of Hill City. Stay the night in Hill City.

Day 3

As you have noticed, you are surrounded by some of the most impressive scenery in the world. What better way to relax and soak in all the colorful fall foliage of this region than a ride on the **1880 Train**? Departing out of Hill City, this vintage steam train is famous for its stunning scenic route, old world charm, and the unforgettable encounter of a bellowing engine and whining whistle. This 20 mile trip follows a mining route laid out in the 1800's. Approximately 2 hours long, this tour takes you to Keystone and returns you to Hill City.

Continue your fall adventure as you enter Custer State Park. Custer State Park is famous for its scenic highways, boasting pigtail bridges, rock tunnels framing Mt. Rushmore, and towering rock spires. Bountiful wildlife, lakes, streams and historic stone lodges offer sites for all ages.

Your first stop will be **Sylvan Lake**. Take the walking path around the lake to enjoy the brilliant colors of fall.

Proceed to the **Needles Highway** which curves and winds through 14 miles of magnificent rock formations called "needles". Stop and pick up some sunflower seeds to feed to the chipmunks. There is a turn off right before the Needles Eye where the chipmunks that will come down to be fed. One of the most prominent features is the Needles Eye which reaches 30-40 feet in the air with a 3 foot wide slit. The Needles Eye is an excellent spot for climbing the rocky area and for taking pictures. Observe Harney Peak looming overhead and the waters of Sylvan Lake framed in fall splendor sparkling below. What a site!!

Continue on Hwy 16A which will turn into the **Iron Mountain Road**. Experience the pigtail curves, wildlife, hiking trailheads, and 3 stone carved tunnels that perfectly frame an impressive view of Mt Rushmore in the distance. This is by far a one of a kind visual approach to the famous monument. Experience the road that engineers once said couldn't be built; you'll be happy you did.

Take in the beautiful and majestic sight of **Mt Rushmore** where the four presidents are carved out of solid granite. Your pride will soar as you explore the extensive grounds, interactive learning centers, guided and self-guided tours, restaurants and gift shops.

You have driven our scenic Black Hills roads in the fall and experienced our vivid fall colors from every vantage point. I am sure you can't wait to see more of our backcountry in full color. See you soon!

To Wrap It Up :

Day 1 Boulder Canyon
 Deadwood
 Spearfish Canyon
 Spearfish Falls
 Roughlock Falls
 Check into Spearfish Canyon Lodge

Day 2 Belle Fourche
 Devil's Tower
 Vanocker Canyon
 Nemo Road
 Stay night in Hill City

Day 3 1880 Train
 Custer State Park
 Sylvan Lake
 Needles Highway
 Iron Mountain Road
 Mt Rushmore
 Stay night in Hill City

Driving Directions:

Highway 14A into Spearfish Canyon. Stop by Spearfish Falls and Roughlock Falls.

Travel north to Belle Fourche and take highway 34 to Aladdin to visit the historic general store. Continue west on highway 24 into Wyoming and to Devil's Tower Monument.

Take exit 32 for Vanocker Canyon and Nemo Road for some awesome fall colors.

Take highway 385 to Mt Rushmore and Custer State Park.