

## Welcome

Welcome to your **Black Hills National Forest** where 1.2 million acres of public land recreation opportunities await you!

We hope you enjoy the eleven reservoirs, 31 campgrounds, two scenic byways, 1,300 miles of stream, 13,426 acres of wilderness, hundreds of miles of non-motorized and motorized trails, and much more! The Forest is managed for many uses, so don't be surprised to see mining, logging, cattle grazing, and summer homes on your travels. Please take time to enjoy the beauty and charm of this national treasure.

## Scenic Byways

**Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway** in the southern Black Hills leads visitors along 66 miles of scenic highways that pass through the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve, the Black Hills National Forest, Custer State Park, and Mount Rushmore National Memorial. A visit to the Black Hills should include a trip through this byway's one lane tunnels that frame Mount Rushmore, and around the curling 'pig-tail' shaped bridges, along the Iron Mountain Road.

**Spearfish Canyon Scenic Byway** in the northern Black Hills takes visitors along US Highway 14A, through 18 miles of breath taking views of waterfalls, sheer cliff walls, springs, a roaring stream, and an opportunity to view wildlife.



## Trails

The Forest offers hundreds of miles of non-motorized and motorized trails. There are a variety of settings from forest to prairie, and easy to difficult opportunities to challenge your skills.

Black Elk Wilderness has special regulations to protect and preserve this unique area including a 25 person or 12 horse rider group size limit, no motorized or mechanized equipment allowed such as bicycles, strollers, drones, wagons, etc. Wilderness Permits are required to enter the wilderness, and are available at all trailhead self-service registration stations. Please read the regulations printed on the back of the permit you keep with you during your visit.

Norbeck and Black Elk Wilderness trails are more primitive. Users should be prepared for hazardous weather, dead standing trees, high elevation, difficult terrain, limited water sources

- which must be treated, and difficult rescue. Hikers and horse riders should practice Leave No Trace (LNT) Principles to be able to enjoy their visit while leaving the area pristine for the next visitors.

LNT information can be found at: [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)

## Guide Services

Special Use Permits are required to lead others in outdoor recreation activities (such as hunting, fishing, trail rides, etc.) on the Black Hills National Forest. A complete list of Permitted Outfitter and Guides for a variety of recreation activities and areas, is available at our Forest recreation website.

## More Activities



### Black Hills Moonwalk

Once a month during the summer, Forest visitors enjoy a natural history program and hike under a full moon. Visit our website for more information at: [www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/blackhills/recreation](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/blackhills/recreation)



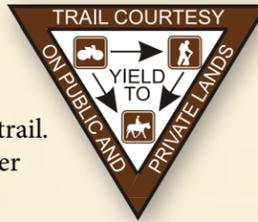
Sheridan Lake

## General Information

**Trail Ethics**  
Cutting switchbacks causes erosion. Please stay on the designated trail. Expect and respect other trail users.

**Extreme Weather**  
Clear sunny days can quickly turn into afternoon thunderstorms. Carry extra warm clothes and be prepared for snow or hail!

**Water**  
Streams in the forest may look safe to drink but usually they are not. Carry at least one quart of water per hiker.



**Available Maps**  
Detailed information for trails, streams, lakes, peaks, lookout towers, private, federal and state lands, and recreation sites is available on the BBNF Visitor Map and at [www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/blackhills/recreation](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/blackhills/recreation)

## Contacts

**Black Hills National Forest**  
Hell Canyon Ranger District  
Supervisor's Office  
1019 N. 5th Street, Custer, SD 57730  
605-673-9200 or Dial 711 for TRS  
[www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills](http://www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills)

1225 Washington Street,  
Newcastle, WY 82701  
307-746-2782

**Bearlodge Ranger District**  
101 S. 21st Street, PO Box 680,  
Sundance, WY 82729  
307-283-1361

**Mystic Ranger District**  
8221 S. Hwy. 16, Rapid City, SD 57702  
605-343-1567

**Northern Hills Ranger District**  
2014 N. Main Street, Spearfish, SD 57783  
605-642-4622

**Black Hills National Forest Visitor Center**  
located on Pactola Reservoir Dam,  
on US Highway 385, open from  
Memorial Day to Labor Day.  
[www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/blackhills/recreation](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/blackhills/recreation)



Thank you for being a responsible user of your National Forest!

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Black Hills National Forest Recreation Guide



## Camping

The Forest has 31 Campgrounds with 682 individual sites - including 3 Horse Campgrounds designed for campers with horses, and 2 Group Campgrounds with 6 large sites for large family or company camping & picnics. Most of the campgrounds are operated by a concessionaire, and have on-site hosts. Single family sites can hold up to 8 people. There is a fee to camp each night. Some campgrounds may have reduced rates in the fall, winter, and spring. Potable water is available at most campgrounds during the summer. Vault toilets, fire rings, and tables are available at each site.

Showers, electric, sewer, and water hookups are NOT available.

For more information visit our website: [www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/blackhills/recreation](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/blackhills/recreation)

## Accessibility

Many recreation sites on the Black Hills National Forest have fairly level terrain and are accessible to visitors who have disabilities. Accessibility is contingent on the characteristics of each site. If you have questions about a particular recreation site, please contact a Forest Service office.

## Reserve a Campsite

1-877-444-6777 • Dial 711 for TRS  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

A reservation fee is charged to make and cancel a reservation. A limited number of sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are recommended for holiday weekends.

## Horse Camping

The Black Hills National Forest requires the use of certified weed free feed. Contact the SD Department of Agriculture Hotline at 800-228-5254 or WY Department of Agriculture Hotline at 307-777-7321.

SD: [www.sdda.sd.gov/ag-services/weed-and-pest-control/weed-free-forage](http://www.sdda.sd.gov/ag-services/weed-and-pest-control/weed-free-forage)

WY: [www.wyoweed.org/weeds/weed-free-forage](http://www.wyoweed.org/weeds/weed-free-forage)

**Sundance Campground**, north of Sundance, WY, has corrals and potable water. It has accessible sites.

**Iron Creek Horse Camp**, east of Custer, SD, has 30' round corrals, fire rings, tables, no potable water, but stock water is available in troughs.

**Willow Creek Horse Camp**, southeast of Hill City, SD, has no corrals but portable corrals are permitted, has potable water, and stock water troughs.

## Day-use Area Fees

Some day-use sites charge a daily fee, per vehicle, from mid-May through mid-September. Annual Passes are also offered for frequent visitors. Passes can be purchased at most Black Hills National Forest offices, some campgrounds, and the Forest Visitor Center at Pactola Reservoir. Fees are used to maintain and operate the facilities.

## Fire Restrictions

Campfires or open fires in the South Dakota portion of the Black Hills are allowed only in developed campground or picnic area fire grates.

Campfires are allowed in the Wyoming portion of the Black Hills.

## Dispersed Camping

Dispersed camping is a great way to get away from the crowd, but there are rules: no open campfires in South Dakota, UL approved cooking devices allowed (such as propane stoves), 14-day camping stay limit, bury human waste, take all your trash with you when you leave, no camping within ½ mile of developed campgrounds or in areas marked with no dispersed camping signs. Camper trailer self-contained waste system - no waste dumping on the ground. Dispersed motorized camping, is only allowed within 300' of designated roads - see the Motor Vehicle Use Maps for approved locations.

Large groups and any improvements (such as group horse corrals, horse drawn wagon camps, portable toilet, etc.) require a special use permit.

## Wilderness Dispersed Camping

Visitors to the Black Elk Wilderness must fill out a Use Registration Form, available at any of the major trailhead portals into the wilderness.

Camping is allowed anywhere EXCEPT within ¼ mile of Trail #9 and Black Elk Peak. NO camping in the lookout tower on Black Elk Peak. To keep our water pure, do not camp or dispose of human waste within 100 feet of trails, streams or other water sources.

## Campground and Cabin Information

| Campground Name                                   | Daily Fee | Units | Drinking Water | Lake or Stream     | Spur Length | Open in Winter   | Hosts | Remarks   |
|---|-----------|-------|----------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|-------|---|
| Bear Gulch <b>Group</b> (*) (R)                   | Yes       | 1     | Yes            | Pactola Reservoir  | 45 ft       | No               | No    | Quiet side canyon to Pactola  |
| Bearlodge ▲                                       | Yes       | 8     | No             | None               | 25 ft       | Partial          | No    | Just off highway to Devils Tower  |
| Beaver Creek ▲                                    | Yes       | 8     | Yes            | Beaver Creek       | 45 ft       | Yes              | No    | Remote, quiet, and high elevation   |
| Bismarck Lake (*) (R) ▲                           | Yes       | 23    | Yes            | Bismarck Lake      | 55 ft       | Partial          | Yes   | Canoeing, fishing, electric motors less than 6 hp   |
| Boxelder Forks (*)                                | Yes       | 14    | Yes            | Boxelder Creek     | 45 ft       | Partial          | Yes   | Near Centennial Trail   |
| Black Fox   | Yes       | 9     | No             | Rapid Creek        | 45 ft       | Yes              | No    | Trout fishing, high elevation   |
| Castle Peak                                       | Yes       | 9     | No             | Castle Creek       | 45 ft       | Yes              | No    | Remote, historic mining sites nearby  |
| Comanche Park (*) (R)                             | Yes       | 34    | Yes            | None               | 55 ft       | Partial          | Yes   | Closest campground to Jewel Cave  |
| Cook Lake (*) (R) ▲                               | Yes       | 34    | Yes            | Cook Lake          | 45 ft       | Partial          | Yes   | Campground may not be open, call 307-283-1361   |
| Custer Trail (*)                                  | Yes       | 16    | Yes            | Deerfield Lake     | 50 ft       | No               | No    | North shore location, trailhead, high elevation   |
| Dalton Lake (*) ▲                                 | Yes       | 11    | Yes            | Dalton Lake        | 45 ft       | No               | Yes   | Centennial Trail, Little Elk Canyon   |
| Ditch Creek (*) ▲                                 | Yes       | 13    | Yes            | Ditch Creek        | 50 ft       | Yes              | No    | 5 mi south of Deerfield Lake, high elevation  |
| Dutchman (*) (R) ▲                                | Yes       | 45    | Yes            | Deerfield Lake     | 50 ft       | Partial          | Yes   | South shore, fishing, boating & trails, high elevation  |
| Grizzly Bear (*) (R) ▲                            | Yes       | 15    | Yes            | Grizzly Bear Creek | 28 ft       | No               | Yes   | Near Mt. Rushmore, reservations recommended, <b>no trailers/RVs</b> , single vehicles and tent camping only |
| Hanna (*) ▲                                       | Yes       | 13    | Yes            | Spearfish Creek    | 55 ft       | No               | Yes   | Near Spearfish Canyon Scenic Byway, high elevation  |
| Horsethief Lake (*) (R) ▲                         | Yes       | 36    | Yes            | Horsethief Lake    | 50 ft       | No               | Yes   | Near Mt. Rushmore, reservations recommended   |
| Iron Creek <b>HORSE</b> Camp (*) (R) ▲            | Yes       | 9     | No             | Iron Creek         | 50 ft       | Closes mid-Oct   | No    | Reservations recommended  |
| Oreville (*) (R) ▲                                | Yes       | 24    | Yes            | None               | 50 ft       | Closes mid-Oct   | Yes   | Near Mickelson Trail  |
| Pactola (*) (R) ▲                                 | Yes       | 80    | Yes            | Pactola Reservoir  | 87 ft       | Partial          | Yes   | Fishing, boating, trails, marina, store, open in winter   |
| Redbank Springs                                   | Yes       | 4     | No             | Spring only        | 40 ft       | Yes              | No    | Isolated and remote spot, high elevation  |
| Reuter (*) (R) ▲                                  | Yes       | 24    | Yes            | None               | 30 ft       | Partial          | Yes   | Near Warren Peak lookout tower  |
| Rod & Gun (*)                                     | Yes       | 7     | Yes            | Little Spearfish   | 50 ft       | Closed 12/1-5/15 | No    | Near <i>Dances With Wolves</i> filming site, high elevation   |
| Roubaix (*) (R) ▲                                 | Yes       | 56    | Yes            | Roubaix Lake       | 45 ft       | Partial          | Yes   | Fishing & swimming, high elevation  |
| Sheridan Lake North Cove <b>Group</b> (*) (R)     | Yes       | 5     | Yes            | Sheridan Lake      | 60 ft       | No               | No    | Group camping, reservations recommended   |
| Sheridan Lake South Side (*) (R) ▲                | Yes       | 129   | Yes            | Sheridan Lake      | 60 ft       | Partial          | Yes   | Flume Trail and Centennial Trail, open in winter  |
| Steamboat Rock                                    | Yes       | 5     | No             | Boxelder Creek     | N/A         | No               | No    | Tent camping only   |
| Strawberry  | Yes       | 5     | No             | Ponds              | N/A         | No               | No    | Tent camping only   |
| Sundance <b>HORSE</b> Camp (*) (R) ▲              | Yes       | 10    | Yes            | None               | 50 ft       | Partial          | No    | Horse facilities and trails near to I-90  |
| Timon (*)   | Yes       | 7     | Yes            | Little Spearfish   | 60 ft       | Closed 12/1-5/15 | No    | Fishing, hiking, and mountain bike trails, high elevation   |
| Whitetail (*) (R)                                 | Yes       | 17    | Yes            | Deerfield Lake     | 50 ft       | Yes              | Yes   | Lake Loop Trail, fishing, high elevation  |
| Willow Creek <b>HORSE</b> Camp <b>Grp</b> (*) (R) | Yes       | 8     | Yes            | Willow Creek       | 45 ft       | Yes              | Yes   | Reservations recommended  |
| Cabin Rental                                      | Daily Fee | Units | Drinking Water | Lake or Stream     | Spur Length | Open in Winter   | Hosts | Remarks   |
| Summit Ridge Lookout Cabin (R)                    | Yes       | 1     | No             | None               | N/A         | By reservation   | No    | 605-673-4853 for cabin rental info, high elevation  |

(R) Reservations are available by calling 1-877-444-6777 or on the web at [www.Recreation.gov](http://www.Recreation.gov).

(\*) Operated mid-May to mid-September by a private campground concessionaire under special use permit.

▲ A limited number of accessible sites are available at these campgrounds.

Varying levels of accessibility exist among campground sites.

At concessionaire operated campgrounds, a minimum pet fee of \$2 per pet will be charged during your stay.

At concessionaire operated campgrounds, an additional fee for multiple vehicles may apply.

• Stay limit for camping in the BHNH is 14 days (BHNH-046-98).

• All fees and open status are subject to change.

• A portion of all fees collected at campgrounds will be used for repairs and upkeep of Forest Service facilities.

• Generator quiet hours are 10 pm - 6 am.

• Roads within the campgrounds are not plowed in the winter.

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