



# THE FOLDED MAP STURGIS, SOUTH DAKOTA

## What makes it great

The world has millions of miles of roads to explore, but riders looking for exhilarating twists and turns, breathtaking vistas and fun pit stops can find it all in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Each year hundreds of thousands of bikers descend upon the area for the first week of August during the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, which allows them to experience world-class entertainment, unrivaled camaraderie and some of the best people watching out there.

## Top motorcycle events in the area

Buffalo Chip Moto Stampede Concert and Race Series, Legends Ride, Biker Belles, Wild Gypsy Tour, Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Hulett Ham 'N' Jam

## Rider-friendly establishments

**Bar:** Big Engine Bar—Free-access CrossRoads at the Buffalo Chip  
**Restaurant:** Cheyenne Crossing—south entrance of Spearfish Canyon  
**Attractions:** The Pumphouse and Mind Blown Studios—Deadwood

*To find all the rider-friendly stops along your route while in the Black Hills and throughout the rest of North America, be sure to download the free Sturgis Rider Friendly Establishments mobile app.*

## Quintessential local cuisine

Buffalo burgers and Indian tacos are must-tries

## Best places to stay

There are tons of places you could stay in the Black Hills, but if you want the authentic rally experience, there's only one place to get it—the Legendary Sturgis Buffalo Chip. The Chip is the original biker-dedicated destination that brought together music and motorcycling during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. Ever since its first party in 1982, riders from around the world have flocked to this mecca of motorcycles, music, freedom and friendship. Each year, the 600-acre venue fills with folks ready to kick back, relax and have the time of their lives at The Best Party Anywhere. Options range from authentic tipis to RVs to cabins and everything in between.

## Motorcycle-related attractions

Sturgis Motorcycle Museum & Hall of Fame, Sturgis Buffalo Chip Motorcycles As Art Exhibition curated by Michael Lichter

## Best riding roads

The Black Hills are home to so many beautiful roads and iconic bucket-list destinations that you could point your nose down practically any road out of Sturgis and end up somewhere breathtaking. While it'd be impossible to pack it all into one day of riding, a well-planned-out loop can take you through a big chunk of the highlights. The one outlined below takes you from Sturgis through Boulder Canyon, US-385 and Iron Mountain Road before heading back on US-16, Nemo Road and Vanocker Canyon.

To get to the mouth of Boulder Canyon, head west on Lazelle Street (US-14A) out of the city of Sturgis. The short, 12-mile Boulder Canyon ride takes you through a high-walled valley with sweeping S-curves and gorgeous open meadows before cresting the hill at the bottom of historic Deadwood's Main Street.

Connect with Sherman Street (US-85) and follow it through Deadwood. After passing through Pluma, you'll find the intersection with US-385. A turn south (left) takes you through a scenic landscape scattered with valleys, meadows and straightaways that'll give you a chance to get into some higher gears. After traveling across the Pactola Dam and past picturesque Sheridan Lake, you'll take US-16, then 16A, to get to Keystone.

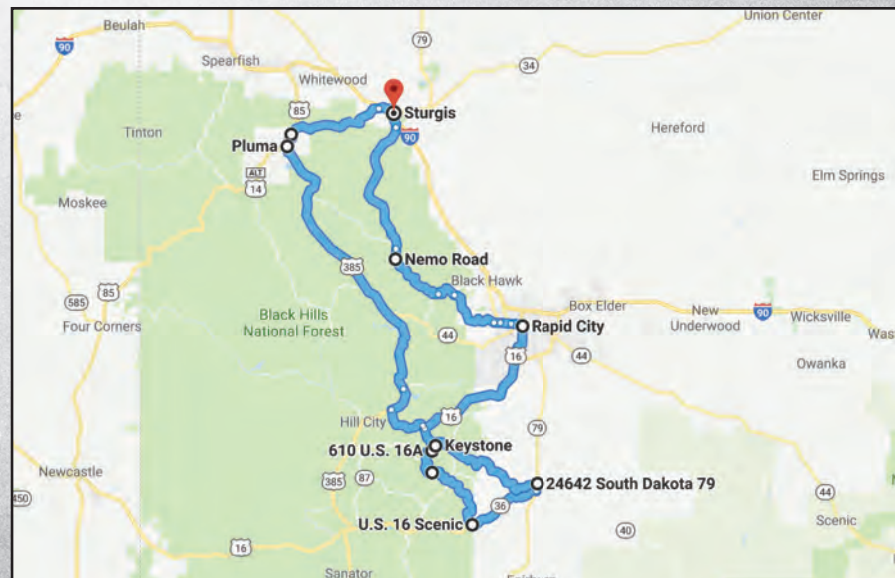
Shortly after you pass through town, the turn toward Iron Mountain Road comes up on your left. (A few more miles takes you to Mount Rushmore National Memorial.) This iconic road offers spectacular views of Mount Rushmore and includes three granite rock tunnels to pass through. You'll also travel over three corkscrew structures engineered to curl and pass over themselves known as the "Pigtail Bridges." The winding 17-mile stretch lands you at the entrance to Custer State Park.

From here a turn east (left) up SD-36 takes you on a short but sweet nine-mile stretch that ends in the aptly-named town of Hermosa ("beautiful" in Spanish). Here you'll spend less than a mile heading north on SD-79 before a turn left gets you onto SD-40 heading back into the hills toward Keystone. That's where you'll retrace part of US-16A before veering onto US-16 toward Rapid City.

US-16 becomes Mount Rushmore Road once you get into Rapid City. Follow it until you get to Omaha Street and take a left. The name of the road changes a few times, from Omaha to West Chicago, then South Canyon, until finally you're out of town heading west on Nemo Road.

Nemo Road is a challenging route following Boxelder Creek, which meanders back and forth across the road all the way to the town of Nemo. The road is full twists and curves, a few of which are sharp and unforgiving if you're going too fast. Between turns, this scenic ride offers amazing views with meadows on one side and canyon walls on the other.

Just past the town of Nemo, you'll meet up with Vanocker Canyon Road (Forest Service Road 26). This final 17-mile leg is arguably one of the Black Hills' most exhilarating, with twists and curves that become more pronounced as you travel through. After about five miles this breathtaking stretch gives way to an exciting downhill plunge that will shoot you out at the south end of Junction Avenue in Sturgis.



For alternate routes, suggested itineraries and skill ratings, be sure to pick up a free copy of the Black Hills Motorcycle Map available at practically every gas station in the area. For more information on visiting Sturgis and the Black Hills, check out the "How to Do Sturgis" article series in the Sturgis Rider News Blog here: [BuffaloChip.com/Sturgis](http://BuffaloChip.com/Sturgis)

Content provided by Mary Panerio

Photo by Chad Coppess/South Dakota Tourism

Unfold the map in YOUR pocket and tell us where to go next! Email us at [tpress@thunderpress.net](mailto:tpress@thunderpress.net).