

## HEARTCYCLE BICYCLE TOURING CLUB BLACK HILLS OF SOUTH DAKOTA 2024

- Dates:** September 7, 8-13, 2024
- Leaders:** Judy & Barry Siel
- SAGs:** Mayoma Pendergast & Kathleen Schindler
- Rating:** Intermediate to Advanced, 240 miles, ~20,000 ft.
- Riders:** 30
- Price:** \$1600 double occupancy, single supplement \$2400, deposit \$400, balance due June 6, 2024.
- Cancellation:** [Standard cancellation policy](#). Trip insurance is strongly recommended.



### OVERVIEW

HeartCycle returns to the beautiful and historic Black Hills of South Dakota. Every day we will cycle through Custer State Park in the Black Hills which encompasses 71,000 acres of spectacular terrain and an abundance of wildlife. Be prepared for climbing the many hills although the daily mileage is not long. You will want to stop and enjoy the sights of free range buffalo, feral donkeys, white tailed deer, bighorn sheep and wild turkeys walking along the open range or across the roads thru Custer State Park. The Black Hills are filled with scenic beauty, old west history and quiet roadways (although many roads do not have shoulders).

We will enjoy a 6 night stay at the Holiday Inn Express in Custer, SD for this fixed base tour with a great outdoor patio, daily morning breakfasts, and indoor hot tub to massage your legs after each day's route. The closest airport is located one hour away in Rapid City.

## **ITINERARY**

### **Arrival Saturday September 7**

Orientation meeting at 7 pm

### **Day 1: Sunday September 8, 41 miles, 3,400 ft.**

Loop ride on the Playhouse Road, lunch at the Custer State Park Visitor Center and a visit to the historic State Game Lodge, summer White House for Calvin Coolidge.



### **Day 2: Monday September 9, 49 miles, 4,000 ft.**

Loop ride to Wind Cave National Park. There will be time to take a guided cave tour (\$7-16). Lunch stop will be in scenic Custer State Park. Afternoon climb towards Mount Coolidge and then to Legion Lake before returning to our hotel in Custer.



**Day 3: Tuesday September 10, 58 miles, 6,000 ft.**

The “Queen Stage” ride to Mt. Rushmore, Custer State Park and the scenic Iron Mountain Road with its famous pig-tailed-bridges and one lane tunnels. Take time to explore Mt. Rushmore National Monument during your lunch stop. After lunch we have more climbing to Sylvan Lake before you descend back to Custer.

**Day 4: Wednesday September 11, Rest Day**

Return to Mt. Rushmore in your car for more exploration, visit Jewel Cave or Wind Cave, explore the George S. Mickelson Trail on your bike or relax in our small town of Custer.

**Day 5: Thursday September 12, 47 miles, 3,900 ft.**

Loop ride through Custer State Park along the Wildlife Loop Road. Biking through free range herd of 2,000 buffalo is always a possibility in Custer State Park. Lunch at the Peter Norbeck Visitor Center. Group dinner after the daily group meeting.





**Day 6: Friday September 13, 30 miles, 2,900 ft.**

For our final ride we have saved the best for last. Today we climb over 1,000 feet up to Sylvan Lake in ~8 miles and then cycle along the Needles Highway, which wanders through tall, thin rock formations. Each vista is more spectacular than the last as the road twists and turns around these unusual formations. So many pullouts and stops along the route for photographs or just to marvel at the scenery. This ride is not to be missed.

Late checkout at noon and then enjoy lunch at the hotel before your departure home.

Discounted group hotel rates available to those wishing to come early or stay a few days longer in the Black Hills. Contact Holiday Inn Express.

**For more information contact:**

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