

Mickelson Trail Trek

3rd Weekend of September Annually

The Beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota

South Dakota's George S. Mickelson Trail is more than just a recreation Trail: it is a trail of history. You have the opportunity to travel the same path as General George A. Custer, Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane and Potato Creek Johnny.

Burlington Northern built this rail line over 130 years ago to accommodate the miners who had rushed to the area to pan for gold. In 1983, the rail line was removed from service and this incredible trail was envisioned. After years of planning, hard work, and determination the trail became a reality.

In celebration of this reality, the third weekend in September finds hundreds of riders joining together on the Mickelson Trail Trek. This year's Trail Trek promises to be the best one yet with something for everyone.

This Friday, Saturday and Sunday 3-day ride covers almost the entire trail. Registration fee includes- annual trail pass, shuttle service, 6 snacks, 2 meals and 2 meal vouchers for dinner in Hill City or Custer and Deadwood.

Riders can enjoy the beauty of the heart of the Black Hills as they travel through the scenic valleys, old railroad tunnels and historic mining towns.

Schedule

Thursday

2-8 pm Early Bird Check-in at the Mt. Rushmore Brewing Company 140 Mt. Rushmore Rd. in Custer

- Drivers' only** take vehicles to Edgemont
- Bus leaves Edgemont to return to Custer.

Staggered times- Last Bus to Custer leaves at 7 pm

Friday

6:30 am Check-in at Custer Chamber of Commerce

- Drivers' only** take vehicles to Edgemont
- Bus leaves Edgemont to return to Custer. Last bus leaves 8:15am

8-9 am Start: Bicycle from Custer to Edgemont (44.5 miles)

- Riders and bikes return to Custer
- Breaks and Lunch included
- Chamber Bucks provided for evening meal

Saturday

8-9 am Start: Bicycle from Custer to Rochford (39.5 miles)

- Bicycles stored in a secured area in Rochford
- Shuttle busses return riders to Custer
- Breakfast and evening meal on your own
- Breaks and lunch included

Sunday

-Riders drive to Deadwood Trailhead

-Shuttle buses take riders to Rochford

7-9 am Start: Bicycle from Rochford to Deadwood (24 miles)

- Ride ends in Deadwood where participant's vehicles are parked.
- Breakfast on your own
- Breaks provided/Lunch -Deadwood Voucher

Be Sure to Remember your Helmet! They are MANDATORY!

Trail Trek Information

Registration:

- Registration before July 1 **with** merchandise- \$200
- Registration after July 1 **without** merchandise- \$200
- Registration closes on September 1.
Unless ride fills early.

Pre-Registration is Required!

REFUND POLICY

- No Refunds
 - Any questions call the Black Hills Trails Office at 605-584-3896

Other Information

- Minnekahta, Rochford and Deadwood meals for non-riders are \$25 per person and non-refundable.
- Participants must be 14 years of age or older
- Parental waivers must be signed and minor and parent/guardian must always ride together.

The registration fee for the 3-day ride entitles riders to full amenities during the Trail Trek, including an annual trail pass, shuttle service, merchandise, refreshments, 3 meals and 6 snacks. Registration packets and additional ride information will be distributed either Thursday night at Early Bird Check-In or Friday morning at the Custer Chamber of Commerce.

For more information contact the:
Black Hills Trails Office
11361 Nevada Gulch Rd.
Lead, SD 57754
Phone: 605-584-3896

Lodging and Travel

Lodging will be the riders' responsibility. The ride starts in Custer on Friday and Saturday and in Deadwood on Sunday, so plan your lodging accordingly. For information on area hotels and attractions, contact the following Chamber of Commerce offices:

- ❖ Spearfish 1-800-626-8013
- ❖ Lead 605-584-1100
- ❖ Deadwood 1-800-999-1876
- ❖ Custer 605-673-2244
- ❖ Hill City 605-574-2368
- ❖ Edgemont 605-662-5900

Another option is to contact Black Hills Vacations. They can book all your travel needs including hotel accommodations, camp site reservations, rental cars, airline reservations, attractions admissions, gaming coupons and more! For more information: 1-800-529-0105 or online at www.blackhillsvacations.com.

About the Trail

The Trail is a former railroad bed that has been resurface with crushed limestone. Due to the moisture, some parts of the trail maybe softer than others, this can make pedaling more difficult in spots. A mountain bike is by far the bicycle of choice. Class 1 & 2 **pedal assist** e-bikes are allowed on the trail. Keep in mind that there are no charging stations at Rochford and battery charging is up to the individuals.

Weather & Clothing

Elevations along the trail vary from a low 3,400 feet at Edgemont to a height of nearly 6,350 feet near Dumont, so temperatures will vary widely due to changes in the elevation. Temperatures will be cooler in the morning and evenings and warm during the day. It is possible to have mid-afternoon rain and/or hailstorms or even snow during any season.

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Layered clothing is strongly suggested in order to accommodate the weather. Major swings in temperatures can take place in a few minutes.

Make certain you carry all that you need to be comfortable and safe.

It is critical to drink fluids on the ride to avoid dehydration. Bring full water containers and fill them up at every opportunity. It is recommended to wear padded bicycle shorts and gloves for comfort. Riding tights are great for cool mornings and evenings.

Safety

- Obey all traffic signs
- Bicycles must yield to pedestrians and everyone yields to horses
- Stay to the right of the trail except when passing
- Announce "STOPPING" in a loud voice and check behind you as you pull to the side of the trail to stop
- Always be aware of your surroundings
- Stay on the Trail and be considerate of other users
- All Pets must be leashed
- Do Not disturb wildlife or farm animals
- Avoid disturbing natural resources
- Smoking is prohibited
- All Trail Users 12 and older must have a Trail Pass

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