

MICKELSON SUMMMER TREK

HELD ANNUALLY THE THIRD WEEK OF JUNE

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 the achievement of many forward-thinking individuals and the incredible popularity of the Mickelson Trail Trek, we introduced the Mickelson Summer Trek.

This Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 3-day ride covers almost the entire trail.

Registration fee includes:

- » Daily trail passes
- » Shuttle service
- » 6 snacks
- » 2 meals
- » 2 meal vouchers for 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.

ABOUT THE TRAIL

The George S. Mickelson Trail is a former railroad bed that has been resurface with crushed limestone. Due to moisture, some parts of the trail maybe softer than others, making pedaling more difficult in spots. A mountain bike is by far the bicycle of choice. Class 1 and 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.

HELMETS ARE MANDATORY!

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

2 - 8 P.M.

Early-bird check in at the Custer Chamber of Commerce

- » Drivers only take vehicles to Edgemont
- » Busses leave Edgemont to return to Custer, staggered times

7 P.M. Last bus to Custer leaves

FRIDAY

6:30 A.M.

Check in at Custer Chamber of Commerce

- » **DRIVER'S ONLY** take vehicles to Edgemont
- » Busses leave Edgemont to return to Custer.

8:15 A.M.

Last bus leaves Edgemont

8-9 A.M.

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 A.M.

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 A.M.

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

SUMMER TREK INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

- » Registration before March 1 WITH merchandise, \$200
- » Registration after March 1 WITHOUT merchandise, \$250
- » Registration closes on May 1, unless ride fills early
- » **Pre-registration is required**

REFUND POLICY

- » No refunds. Call the Black Hills Trails Office at 605.584.3896 with questions.

OTHER INFORMATION

- » Two meals available for non-riders at a non-refundable charge of \$25 per person. Meal locations: Minnekahta and Rochford.
- » Participants must be 14 years of age or older
- » Parental waivers must be signed and minor and parent/guardian must ride together.

The registration fee for the 3-day ride entitles riders to full amenities during the Summer 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 Monday night at early-bird check in or Tuesday morning at the Custer Chamber of Commerce.

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

INFORMATION

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 Tuesday and Wednesday and in Deadwood on Thursday, so plan your lodging accordingly. For information on area hotels and attractions, contact the following Chamber of Commerce offices:

- » **SPEARFISH 800.626.8013**
- » **LEAD 605.580.7393**
- » **DEADWOOD 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: 800.529.0105 or online at blackhillsvacations.com.

WEATHER AND 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.

Layered clothing is strongly suggested 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.