



Badlands Visitor Guide

The official newspaper of
Badlands National Park

2016 Centennial Issue

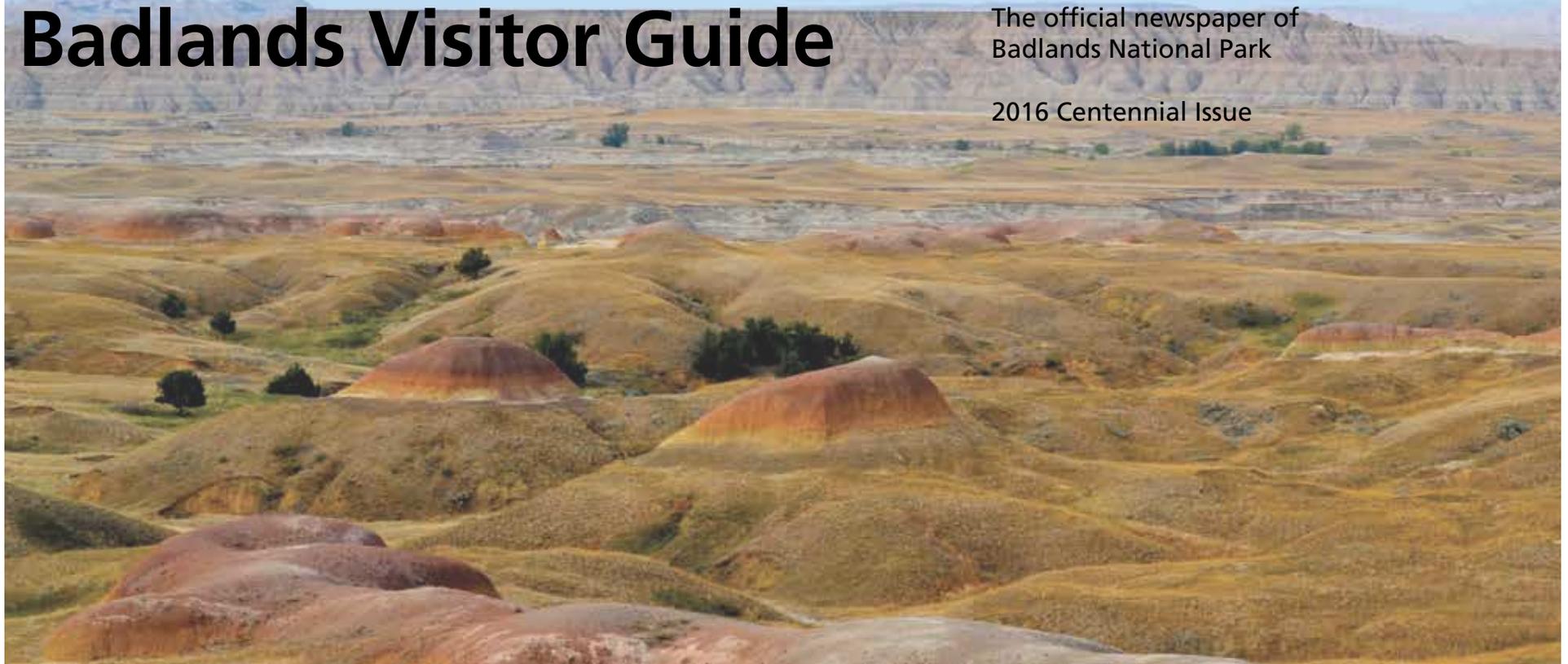


Photo by Dakota McCoy, park staff

A Centennial Welcome to Badlands

Welcome to Badlands National Park during this Centennial year of the National Park Service (NPS). On behalf of our NPS staff and the Oglala Sioux Tribe, our partner in managing the South Unit of the park, we're glad that you're here. Badlands is one of 410 areas in your spectacular National Park system. Together with park visitors, park partners, and surrounding communities, we are celebrating 100 years of NPS park preservation and services to visitors in some of the greatest places in the nation. Take this opportunity to consider the value and importance of our national parks to the people of America and the world. Working together, we can ensure another century and more of preservation of our parks.



NPS Photo

Located in the midst of the Northern Great Plains and sometimes called Mako Sica by the Lakota people, Badlands National Park has 244,000 acres of spectacular landscapes, native mixed grass prairie, a large variety of native wildlife, important deposits of protected fossils, and wonderful skylscapes.

Native people have roamed and hunted these lands for the last seven thousand years or more. Today, many Oglala Lakota people live near the park. The Oglala Sioux Tribal Government works closely with the NPS in cooperatively managing the expansive South Unit of the park. If you are at the White River Visitor Center in the South Unit, consider visiting other interesting and important places on Pine Ridge, such as Wounded Knee, the Oglala Lakota College Historical Center near Kyle, and the Heritage Center at the Red Cloud Indian School. An overlook along the highway at Red Shirt Table provides a stunning vista into the heart of the Stronghold area of Badlands and west to the Black Hills. Inquire locally about road conditions, access, and services as you plan your visit to the South Unit and Pine Ridge Reservation.

Visit the very nearby Minuteman Missile National Historic Site and the many other great parks and protected areas in the region. One could spend many days here and have a quintessential American experience.

I strongly encourage you to get out at many overlooks, take a hike, participate in a Ranger led program, attend an evening program in the park amphitheater, attend a night sky program, stay longer than you intended, and immerse yourself in this world class park. And then come back again to do all the things you didn't get to this time!

Michael D. Pflaum
Park Superintendent

Things to See and Do

Plan Your Visit

- Drive the Highway 240 Loop Road (60 minutes).
- Take a side trip down Sage Creek Rim Road to Robert's Prairie Dog Town to see wildlife and experience spectacular views of the park (30 minutes).
- Hike a trail (see page 6 for a map of the trails that include descriptions, distances, and amount of time to allow).
- Attend the Night Sky Program, program listing on page 12 (60 minutes).
- Attend a ranger program. See program listing on page 12 (20 - 60 minutes).
- Stop by the Ben Reifel Visitor Center to watch the award winning park video and tour the exhibits (30 - 60 minutes).
- Take in a sunrise or sunset. They can be viewed and/or photographed from any of the overlooks or campgrounds located in the park (20 - 30 minutes).
- Stop by the White River Visitor Center (hours of operation on page 2) which is staffed by members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe (45 minutes - 1 hour).
- Tour the South Unit of the park. Be sure to get permission from landowners before crossing private land. A list of contacts is available at the White River Visitor Center (45 minutes - all day).

Follow us on:



Index

Visitor Facilities & Local Services.....	2
Accessibility.....	2
Rules, Regulations, & Safety	3
Park Contact Information.....	3
Horse Use.....	4
Traveling Distances.....	4
Paleontology & Geology.....	5
Hiking & Weather.....	6
Park Map.....	7
Junior Rangers & Fees.....	8
Exploring the South Unit.....	8
Road Construction Information.....	8
Badlands Natural History Assoc.....	9
US Forest Service.....	10
Minuteman Missile NHS.....	11
Ranger Programs.....	12
Centennial Information & Programs.....	12

Remember These Numbers . . .

0

The number of dogs and other pets allowed on the hiking trails and in the wilderness area. Look for more rules and regulations on page 3.

7

Number of days your vehicle entrance pass permits you to explore the Badlands. Stay a little longer!

45

Maximum speed limit on park roads. Lower speed limits are posted in heavy traffic areas.

100

Minimum distance in yards you should keep from park wildlife. Any time an animal reacts to your presence, you are too close.

Quick Facts about Badlands National Park

- Established as a National Monument in 1939
- Redesignated Badlands National Park in 1978
- Acreage: 244,000
- Wilderness: 64,250 acres

- Visitation: approximately one million visitors each year from all over the world

Key Resources:

- Largest expanse of protected prairie ecosystem in the National Park system
- Considered one of the world's richest mammal fossil beds
- 50% of Badlands National Park is co-managed with the Oglala Lakota Nation, the eighth largest American Indian Reservation in the United States
- Badlands National Park and the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands are one of the most successful reintroduction sites for the black-footed ferret, one of the world's rarest mammals.

Key Management Issues:

- Visitor and employee safety
- Reduction of exotic plant species
- Protection of fossil resources
- Maintenance of park facilities
- Preservation of over 50,000 artifacts and specimens in museum collections
- Reintroduction of native wildlife (pictured below)



Black-footed Ferret

Photo by Randy Matchett, US Fish and Wildlife Service



Swift Fox

DianeHargreaves.com



Bighorn Sheep

Photo by Teresa Zimmerman



Bison

DianeHargreaves.com

Visitor Facilities

Ben Reifel Visitor Center

Located at park headquarters the Ben Reifel Visitor Center has several interactive exhibits, a 97 seat, air conditioned theater, that shows the park film, *Land of Stone and Light* throughout the day, and restroom facilities. Badlands Natural History Association sells postcards, books, posters, and other educational materials. Open year round.

Hours of Operation	
April 17 - May 28	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
May 29 - September 10	7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
September 11 - October 29	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
October 30 - April 2017	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Badlands National Park is in the Mountain Time Zone.

White River Visitor Center

Located on the Pine Ridge Reservation off Highway 27 and BIA 2, this visitor center has exhibits, restrooms, and picnic tables.

Contact (605) 455-2878 for more information. The White River Visitor Center is only open seasonally, for information during the off season please call park headquarters at 605-433-5361.

Hours of Operation	
June through August	9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Picnic Areas

Picnic tables are located at Bigfoot Pass and Conata Picnic Areas in addition to tables at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center and the White River Visitor Center. Bigfoot Pass and Conata Picnic Areas do not have water available. **Remember that open campfires are not permitted.**

Local Services

Gas Stations and Convenience Stores

- Cactus Flat
- Interior
- Kadoka
- Philip
- Pine Ridge
- Rapid City
- Wanblee
- Wall

Restaurants

- Kadoka
- Philip
- Pine Ridge
- Rapid City
- Wall

Motels and Campgrounds

- Cactus Flat
- Interior
- Kadoka
- Philip
- Pine Ridge
- Rapid City
- Wall

Hospitals and Clinics

- Kadoka
- Philip
- Rapid City
- Wall

Post Office

- Interior
- Kadoka
- Philip
- Pine Ridge
- Rapid City
- Wanblee
- Wall

Cedar Pass Campground

Located near the Ben Reifel Visitor Center, Cedar Pass Campground has 96 sites.

Summer camping fees are \$22 per night per campsite for 2 people (no hook-ups) and \$37 for campsites with electrical hook-ups (2 people). Winter camping fees are \$15 per night per campsite. Campsites and RV sites may be reserved in advance on line at www.CedarPassLodge.com and has a fourteen day limit. Cold running water, flush toilets, covered picnic tables, coin operated showers, and trash containers are available during the summer. Covered picnic tables, and trash containers are available during the winter. A dump station is available for a \$1.00 fee per use. Campground hosts are on duty during the summer to assist with registration and provide information. Look for them in the afternoon and early evenings at the campground entrance booth.

Open campfires are not permitted.

Group Camping

Four campsites are available in the Cedar Pass Campground for organized groups with a designated leader. The nightly fee is \$4.00 per person with a minimum fee of \$40.00. Advance reservations can be made by contacting Group Camping Reservations at: www.CedarPassLodge.com

or write to:

Cedar Pass Lodge
20681 Hwy 240
Interior, SD 57750
(605) 433-5460; fax (605) 433-5560

Accessibility

- The Ben Reifel Visitor Center and White River Visitor Center are both accessible to wheelchair users.
- The Fossil Exhibit Trail, Window Trail, and Door Trail are accessible to wheelchair users.
- The Cedar Pass Campground has two accessible campsites. All campground restrooms are accessible. One group campsite is accessible.
- The Cedar Pass Lodge dining room and gift shop meet accessibility standards.
- Ask at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center about the listening devices that can be used to aid in hearing the park film.
- A complete listing of accessible facilities is available at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center or online at: <http://www.nps.gov/bad/>.

Sage Creek Primitive Campground

Open year round, access to this campground may be limited in winter and during the spring rainy season due to road conditions. The Sage Creek Rim Road is remote and unpaved. It is not recommended for large recreational vehicles. The campground is currently free and offers pit toilets and picnic tables. There is a fourteen day limit. There is no water available. **Open campfires are not permitted.**

Cedar Pass Lodge

The only lodging and restaurant in Badlands National Park, Cedar Pass Lodge provides guests to the Park a distinctive collection of South Dakota, and regionally made gifts, Native American crafts, and jewelry, and offers newly built cabins for overnight accommodations in this unique destination.

The cabins, built to Gold level LEEDs environmental standards, feature custom handmade furniture from sustainably harvested beetle kill pine from the Black Hills. The furniture was hand crafted, including tabletops crafted from regionally reclaimed barn wood, bringing to life the artisanship of the small family owned business that made them. Each cabin is equipped with energy efficient A/C and heat, refrigerator, microwave, coffeemaker, flatscreen TV, on demand hot water heater for shower, hair dryer and bamboo fiber towels.

For additional information:

www.CedarPassLodge.com or write Cedar Pass Lodge, 20681 Hwy 240, Interior, SD 57750; (605) 433-5460; fax (605) 433-5560

Gift Shop Hours of Operation

April 12 - May 12	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
May 13 - May 26	8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
May 27 - September 4	7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
September 5 - September 30	8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
October 1 - October 15	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The dining room closes 30 minutes before the gift shop.



For more information about these local communities, contact the Chambers of Commerce or South Dakota Tourism.

Kadoka Chamber 1-800-467-9217
Philip Chamber (605) 859-2645
Pine Ridge Chamber (605) 455-2685
Rapid City Chamber 1-800-487-3223
Wall Chamber (605) 279-2665
South Dakota Tourism (605) 773-3301

kadokacity@wcnnet.com
ccphilip@gwgc.net
pracc@gwgc.net
<http://www.rapidcitycvb.com>
<http://www.wall-badlands.com>
<http://TravelSD.com>

Rules and Regulations

Your Safety

- Summer is hot and dry. Carry and drink one gallon of water per person per day.
- Thunderstorms can produce lightning, hail, high winds, and tornadoes. During lightning storms, avoid lone trees and high places. Return to your car, if possible.
- Be careful on cliff edges and on badlands formations, especially when surfaces are wet.
- Wear clothing and sunscreen to protect yourself from the sun.
- Wear sturdy boots or shoes to protect your feet from cactus spines.
- Beware of rattlesnakes. They can be found throughout the park and are venomous. Rattlesnakes avoid the sun by coiling in cracks and crevices or staying in the thick grasses. Wear closed toe leather shoes. Be careful where you place your hands and feet.
- Plan your trip carefully. Use the Badlands Visitor Guide to choose a trail within your abilities. Make informed decisions and check with a ranger at the visitor center.
- Be careful when exploring buttes. The rock surface is very unstable. Falls are the most common cause of injury in the park. Most people find that it is easier to climb up rather than down.
- Cell phones will not work in most of the park. Your safety depends on your own good judgement, adequate preparation, and constant attention.
- Winter weather can be very unpredictable. Sudden and dramatic weather changes are common. Check at the visitor center for weather updates.
- Protect yourself - dress in layers, watch for changing weather conditions, and let someone know about your travel plans.

Protect Your Park

- Leave fossils, flowers, rocks, and animals where you find them. Collecting in the park is illegal and punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment. Report all unusual sightings and finds to park staff at the Ben Reifel or White River Visitor Centers.
- Preserve our heritage. Do not enter, alter, or deface archeological sites. Do not collect artifacts.
- All vehicles and bicycles must travel on designated roads.
- It is recommended that you stay on designated trails in high use areas such as Fossil Exhibit and Cliff Shelf Nature Trails.
- Watch for wildlife crossing the roads. Observe the posted speed limits
- Help the park maintain its high air quality rating; turn off your engine when you are away from your vehicle. Letting your vehicle idle is punishable by a fine.



Photo: Dakota McCoy, park staff

Rules of the Road

- The speed limit is 45 miles per hour, unless posted otherwise.
- Seatbelts are required by state law for all passengers at all times.
- When viewing wildlife drive cautiously and use pull outs to allow others to pass safely.
- Keep vehicles on established roads. Do not park on the grass. The underside of your vehicle can start a prairie fire.
- Pedestrians have the right of way. Vehicles must stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. It's the law.
- Gravel roads may be closed due to heavy rain or snow. They can become slick and impassable. Check with a ranger at the visitor center

Backcountry Camping & Hiking

Before you venture into the backcountry or wilderness, there are some things you should know:

- Permits are not currently required for overnight stays in the Badlands backcountry. Before setting out on an overnight trip contact a staff member at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center or Pinnacles Entrance Station for more information. Backcountry registers are located at the Medicine/Castle Trail Loop, Saddle Pass Trailhead, Conata Picnic Area, Sage Creek Basin Overlook, and the Sage Creek Campground.
- Twisted or fractured ankles are the most common serious injury sustained in Badlands National Park. Make sure you are wearing sturdy boots with good ankle support. The park is home to many burrowing animals. Watch your footing.
- Campfires are not allowed under any circumstances. Use a backpacking stove.
- Pets are not permitted on trails, in backcountry, or Wilderness Areas.
- The location of your campsite must be at least 0.5 miles from a road or trail and must not be visible from a roadway.
- There is little to no water available in the backcountry. The small amounts of water found are not drinkable or filterable due to the high sediment content. Always carry at least one gallon of water per person per day.
- All refuse must be carried out. Use the cat hole method to dispose of human waste. Dig a small hole 6 to 8 inches deep and a minimum of 200 feet from any water source. Since animals will often dig up cat holes and scatter the toilet paper, it is preferred that you pack out all toilet paper. If you must bury toilet paper, use a minimal amount and bury with at least 6 inches of soil. Strain food particles from wastewater, pack out food scraps, and scatter remaining water more than 200 feet from any stream channel.
- Check the weather forecast. Severe thunderstorms are common during the summer, so are days above 100°F (38°C). September and early October are the best backpacking months.

Camping and Campfires

- Campfires are not permitted due to the extreme danger of prairie wildfire.
- Camp stoves or contained gas or charcoal grills can be used in the campgrounds or picnic areas.
- Wood gathering is not permitted.
- There are electrical hook-ups available in the Cedar Pass Campground



NPS Photo

Bicycling

Bicyclist Warning: The Badlands Loop Road is narrow with many curves. Watch out for large RVs with extended mirrors.

- Bicycles are prohibited on park trails.
- Bicyclists are permitted on all park paved and unpaved roads and must obey all traffic regulations.
- Always ride with the flow of the traffic.
- Several steep passes make riding the Loop Road challenging.
- See and be seen. Wear bright colors and a helmet. A map of suggested routes is available at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center.

Hunting

- Hunting is strictly prohibited in Badlands National Park.
- State laws pertaining to firearms are strictly enforced.

Pets

- Pets are allowed only on paved or gravel roads and in developed areas such as campgrounds.
- Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet at all times.
- They are not allowed on trails or in public buildings.
- Leaving an animal unattended and/or tied to a fixed object is prohibited, as well as a danger to your pet.
- Pet etiquette dictates always cleaning up animal waste and disposing of it in trash receptacles.
- Service animals are an exception to most pet restrictions and are allowed on trails and in public buildings. Service animals must be kept on a leash at all times and, due to potentially infectious wildlife diseases, are not allowed in areas with prairie dog colonies.
- Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

Emergency? Call 911

To report a crime in Badlands NP call: 605-433-5361 ext. 847
To report a crime in any National Park call: 888-653-0009

Road Conditions? Call 511

Contact Us

Mailing Address

Badlands National Park
25216 Ben Reifel Road
PO Box 6
Interior, SD 57750

Email

badl_information@nps.gov

Park Website

www.nps.gov/badl/

Park Headquarters

605-433-5361

Fax Number

605-433-5404

Follow us on:



To access Facebook: www.facebook.com/BadlandsNPS
To access Twitter: @Badlands_Ranger or @BadlandsEdu

Horse Use

The Badlands Wilderness Area is located in the Sage Creek drainage and consists of 64,000 acres of eroded spires and mixed grass prairie, offering prime horseback riding terrain in the park. Although most riders confine themselves to the Wilderness Area, horseback riding is allowed anywhere in the park except on marked trails, roads, highways, and developed areas. For day ride access, vehicles and horse trailers may be parked at overlooks and parking areas. Off road driving is strictly prohibited.



There are no designated riding trails in the park but topographic maps are available for purchase at the bookstore, located in the Ben Reifel Visitor Center.

A portion of the Sage Creek Campground is designated for horse use. A watering hole known as CCC Spring is located about 1/2 mile southwest of the campground. Hitching posts are provided. Riders must provide weed free hay or pellets for feed. Horses should not be allowed to run free or be picketed in the campground. No fires are allowed, except in contained grills. The campground stay is limited to 14 consecutive nights.

No commercial horse rental or day rides are available in Badlands National Park. Local businesses offer day rides outside the park and outfitters may offer overnight backcountry trips under a commercial use license. For more information, contact South Dakota Tourism or local chambers listed on page 2 of this paper.

- Only certified weed free hay or processed horse feed products may be brought into the park.
- Horses and pack animals are not allowed to run loose, be loose herded, or trailed.
- The tying of horses and pack animals to any living or dead feature that may damage the feature, vegetation, or soil is prohibited.
- Picketed horses and pack animals shall not be kept within 100 feet of trails, campsites, or water sources.
- Picket pins should be packed in. Picket pin sites must be moved frequently to prevent overgrazing or other damage to vegetation. The pins must be pulled out of the ground prior to leaving camp.
- Horse and pack animal manure must be completely removed from the campground and must be well scattered in any other grazing areas in the park.
- If a horse or pack animal is lost or dies within park boundaries, the loss must be reported as soon as possible to park staff.
- Dogs and other pets are not allowed in the Badlands Wilderness Area.



NPS Photo

How Far To...?

South Dakota Towns & Cities

Buffalo Gap	102 miles
Custer	120 miles
Deadwood	122 miles
Hermosa	122 miles
Hot Springs	148 miles
Interior	2 miles
Kadoka	26 miles
Philip	34 miles
Pine Ridge	83 miles
Rapid City	88 miles
Scenic	38 miles
Sioux Falls	280 miles
Spearfish	131 miles
Sturgis	110 miles
Wall	30 miles

Out of State Cities

Denver, CO	490 miles
Minneapolis, MN	552 miles
Omaha, NE	458 miles

National & State Parks

Minuteman Missile NHS	8 miles
Bear Butte State Park	120 miles
Custer State Park	125 miles
Devils Tower NM	197 miles
Grand Canyon	1,148 miles
Grand Teton NP	628 miles
Jewel Cave NM	148 miles
Mount Rushmore	99 miles
Rocky Mountain NP	475 miles
Theodore Roosevelt NP	343 miles
Wind Cave NP	132 miles
Yellowstone NP	574 miles

Attractions

Wounded Knee via Scenic	82 miles
Wounded Knee via Kyle	67 miles
Crazy Horse Monument	114 miles
Black Hills National Forest	75 miles

Badlands Wildlife

Please do not feed the wildlife. Human food makes animals dependent on people for food and can make them aggressive.



Photo by Mike Schroeder



Photo by Mike Schroeder



Photo by Julie Rice, Volunteer



NPS Photo



DianeHargreaves.com



Photo by Mike Schroeder



NPS Photo



Photo by Randy Matchett, US FWS



DianeHargreaves.com



NPS Photo

Want to share a great wildlife sighting? Tweet it using the hashtag #BadlandsWildlife



Badlands Geology

Deep canyons, towering spires, and flat-topped tables can all be found among Badlands buttes. Yet, despite their complex appearance, they are largely a result of two basic geologic processes: deposition and erosion.

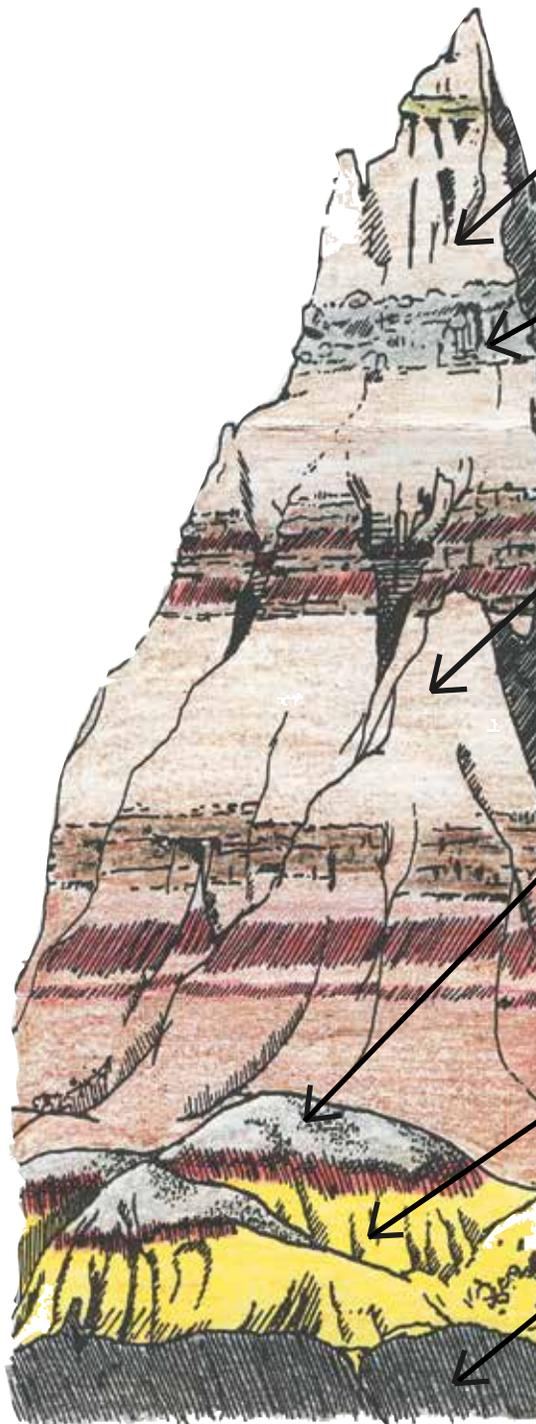
The serrated Badlands terrain did not begin eroding until about 500,000 years ago when water began to cut down through the rock layers, carving fantastic shapes into what had been a flat floodplain. The ancient fossil soils, buried for millions of years, were exposed once again. Many of the layers are gently warped and faulted due to mountain building activities that formed the Black Hills, 70 miles to the west.

Erosion is ongoing. Every time it rains, more sediment is washed from the buttes. One day, a peak may tower above the land; the next, a storm may weaken it just enough for it to crash to the ground. While the Badlands are permanent in human terms, they are short lived on a geologic time scale. Erosion rates suggests that they will erode away completely in another 500,000 years, giving them a life of one million years. Compare that to the age of the earth, which is approximately 4.6 billion years. Even the Rocky Mountains, considered young, started to rise only 70 million years ago. On average, Badlands buttes erode one-third inch each year. However, change can occur much slower or faster depending on things such as slope, aspect, parent material, and rainfall.

As the Badlands buttes erode, some of the sediment is washed onto the prairie below, building its level while the rest is carried by small streams to the White, Bad, and Cheyenne Rivers. These tributaries flow into the Missouri River, which drains into the Mississippi River. Eventually, some Badlands sediments will travel as far as the Gulf of Mexico.

The Loop Road hugs the Badlands wall, a long, narrow spine of formations that stretch 60 miles from Kadoka west towards the town of Scenic. Wind, rain, and freeze/thaw action have gradually worn away the badlands sediments, leaving the Badlands Wall behind. As erosion has continued, the wall has retreated from the three major drainages. The town of Wall, South Dakota takes its name from this feature that dominates the horizon.

A quick look at the buttes will show that the Badlands were deposited in layers. These layers formed soft, sedimentary rocks, composed of minute grains of sand, silt, and clay that have been cemented into solid form. Geologists study sedimentary rocks to determine what type of environment caused the material to accumulate. Layers similar in character are grouped into units called formations with the oldest layers at the bottom.



The lighter colored **Sharps Formation** was primarily deposited from 28 to 30 million years ago by wind and water as the climate continued to dry and cool. Volcanic eruptions to the west continued to supply ash during this time. Today, the Brule and Sharps form the more rugged peaks and canyons of the Badlands.

As the Oligocene Epoch continued, a thick layer of volcanic ash was deposited, forming the bottom layer of the Sharps Formation. This **Rockyford Ash** serves as a boundary between the Brule and Sharps.

During the Oligocene Epoch, between 30 to 34 million years ago, the tannish brown **Brule Formation** was deposited. As the climate began to dry and cool after the Eocene the forests gave way to open savannah. New mammals such as oreodonts (sheep-like, herd mammals) began to dominate. Bands of sandstone interspersed among the layers were deposited in channels and mark the course of ancient rivers that flowed from the Black Hills. Red layers found within the Brule Formation are fossil soils called *paleosols*.

The greyish **Chadron Formation** was deposited between 34 to 37 million years ago as a river flood plain that replaced the sea. Each time the rivers flooded, they deposited a new layer on the plain. Alligator fossils indicate that a lush, subtropical forest covered the land. However, mammal fossils dominate. The Chadron is known for large, rhinoceros-like mammals called titanotheres. This formation can be recognized because it erodes into low, minimally vegetated grey mounds.

The sea drained away with the uplift of the Black Hills and Rocky Mountains, exposing the black ocean mud to the air. Upper layers were weathered into a yellow soil, called **Yellow Mounds**. The mounds are an example of a fossil soil, or *paleosol*.

The oldest formation exposed in Badlands is the **Pierre Shale**. These black layers were deposited between 69 and 75 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period when a shallow, inland sea stretched across what is now the Great Plains. Sediment filtered through the seawater, forming a black mud on the sea floor that has since hardened into shale. Fossil clams, ammonites, and sea reptiles confirm the sea environment.

Paleontology

What is a fossil?

A fossil is a preserved sign of ancient life. Paleontologists study animal tracks and plants preserved over time, as well as bones that have been converted into fossils through natural chemical processes.

Additionally, other signs such as feces and pollen have also been fossilized and are studied to help get a broader picture of life in prehistoric North America. The area in and around Badlands National Park has had a long association with research on fossil vertebrates. Scientists have been using this area as an outdoor laboratory for over 150 years.

Saber-tooth Cat Discovery at Badlands National Park

During the summer of 2010, while participating in a junior ranger program, a seven year old girl named Kylie Ferguson noticed something very unusual eroding out of the side of a badlands butte. She thought it might be a fossil. Kylie did the right thing and reported her discovery to a park ranger. The final outcome was a beautifully preserved saber-tooth cat skull. Paleontologists have identified the skull as belonging to the genus *Hoplophoneus*, a mountain lion-sized



saber-tooth cat that lived in the Badlands over 30 million years ago. A CT scan revealed the lethal damage caused by several bites to the back of the skull, likely caused by another saber-tooth cat. The CT data were also used to create exact replicas of the skull, now on sale from the Badlands Natural History Association.

Annual surveys completed at the site have generated several new fossil discoveries including: fossil horses, turtles, lizards, plant remains, snails and a broad array of small mammals. Related studies have also determined that the site is from the middle Scenic Member of the Brule Formation and was deposited by a stream system about 32 million years ago. The Paleontology Lab is located in the Ben Reifel Visitor Center and is open to the public during the summer season.



NPS Photo

Want to learn more

Scan this code with your smart phone to watch a 44 sec video about visiting the Saber Site and Fossil Prep Lab. No phone? No access? Check it out later at <http://www.nps.gov/av/mwr/avElement/badl-Welcome-to-Paleo-Sites.mp4>

New Exhibits at the Pig Dig

Badlands National Park staff and partners recently developed wayside exhibits describing the history and scientific significance of the Pig Dig Quarry. The exhibits are on site near the Conata Picnic Area and feature a mural which depicts the area 33 million years ago. The exhibits were completed at the end of 2012. The Pig Dig is included in a series of scientific publications and a new book on the White River Badlands.

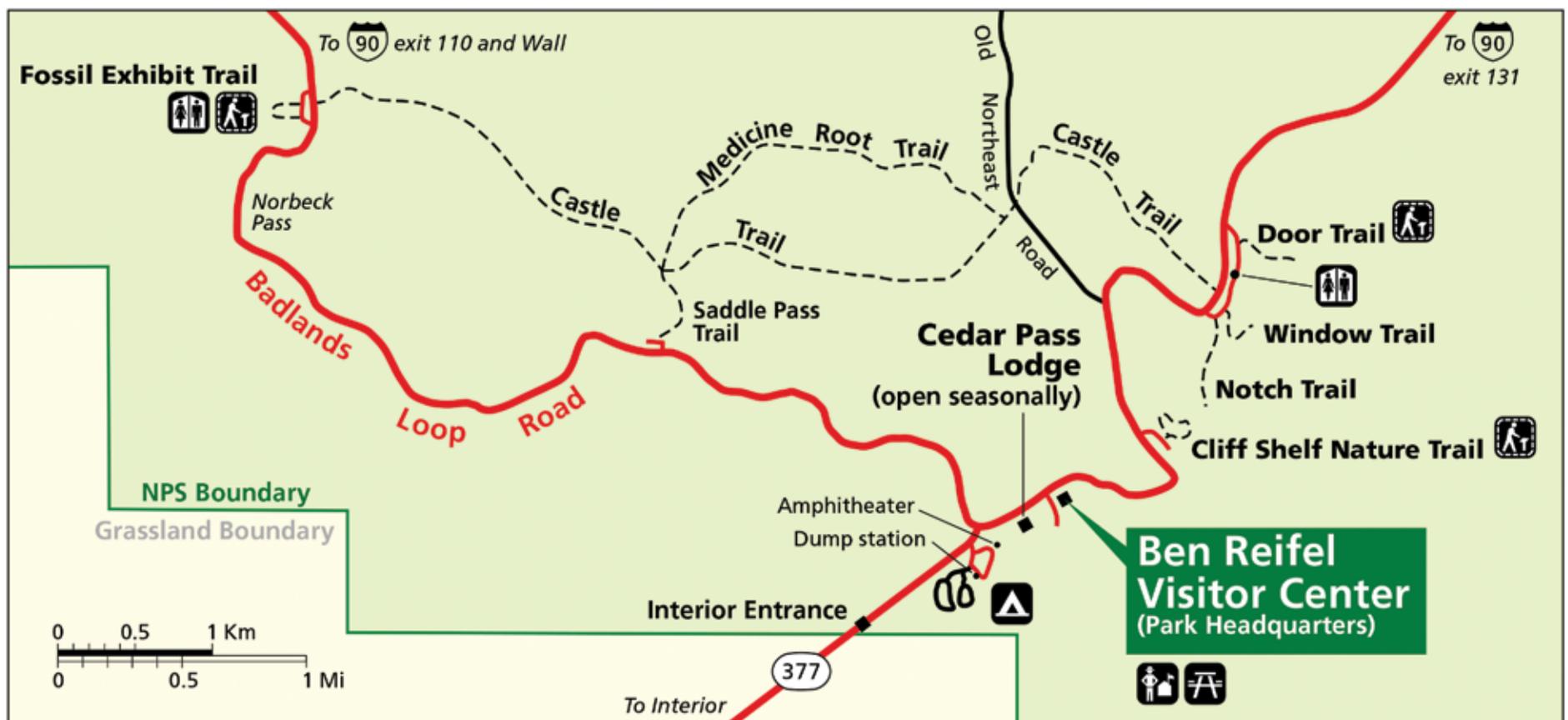
Be sure to check out our award-winning paleontological exhibits at the Fossil Exhibit Trail.

Protecting Fossil Resources

You can help protect paleontological resources here and anywhere you travel by following these tips:

- Leave fossils where you find them. It's tempting to pick them up and take them with you, but don't. Removing them from their context destroys much of the information critical to scientists. Context refers to where they are found geologically and in what position the fossils are found.
- Be an informed visitor. Be familiar with current issues in paleontology. Once you watch for fossils in the news, you'll find them discussed almost daily.
- If you find a fossil, do not disturb it. Note the location by filling out a Visitor Site Report and give it to a ranger. One of the paleontology staff will investigate your find. Some of our most significant fossil discoveries are made by visitors.

Hiking in the Park



Door Trail

.75 miles/1.2 km (round trip)

20 minutes

Easy. An accessible ¼ mile boardwalk leads through a break in the Badlands Wall known as “the Door” and to a view of the Badlands. From there, the maintained trail ends. Travel beyond this point is at your own risk. Watch for drop offs.

Window Trail

.25 miles/.40 km (round trip)

20 minutes

Easy. This short trail leads to a natural window in the Badlands Wall with a view of an intricately eroded canyon. Please stay on the trail.

Notch Trail

1.5 miles/2.4 km (round trip)

1 1/2 - 2 hours

Moderate to strenuous. After meandering through a canyon, this trail climbs a log ladder and follows a ledge to “the Notch” for a dramatic view of the White River Valley. Trail begins at the south end of the Door and Window parking area. Watch for drop offs. Not recommended for anyone with a fear of heights. Treacherous during or after heavy rains.

Castle Trail

10 miles/16 km (round trip)

5 hours

Moderate. The longest trail in the park begins at the Door and Window parking area and travels five miles one way to the Fossil Exhibit Trail. Relatively level, the path passes along some Badlands formations.

Cliff Shelf

.5 miles/.8 km (round trip)

1/2 hour

Moderate. This loop trail follows boardwalks and climbs stairs through a juniper forest perched along the Badlands Wall. A small pond occasionally exists in the area and draws wildlife, such as deer or bighorn sheep. Climbs approximately 200 feet in elevation. Please stay on the trail.

Saddle Pass

.25 miles/.40 km (round trip)

1/2 - 1 hour

Strenuous. This short trail climbs up the Badlands Wall to a view over the White River Valley. The trail ends where it connects with the Castle and Medicine Root Loop Trails.

Medicine Root Loop

4 miles/6.4 km (round trip)

2 hours

Moderate. This generally rolling spur trail connects with the Castle Trail near the Old Northeast Road or at the intersection of the Castle and Saddle Pass Trails. Trail users are provided the opportunity to explore the mixed grass prairie while enjoying views of the Badlands in the distance. Watch for cactus.

Fossil Exhibit Trail

.25 miles/.40 km (round trip)

20 minutes

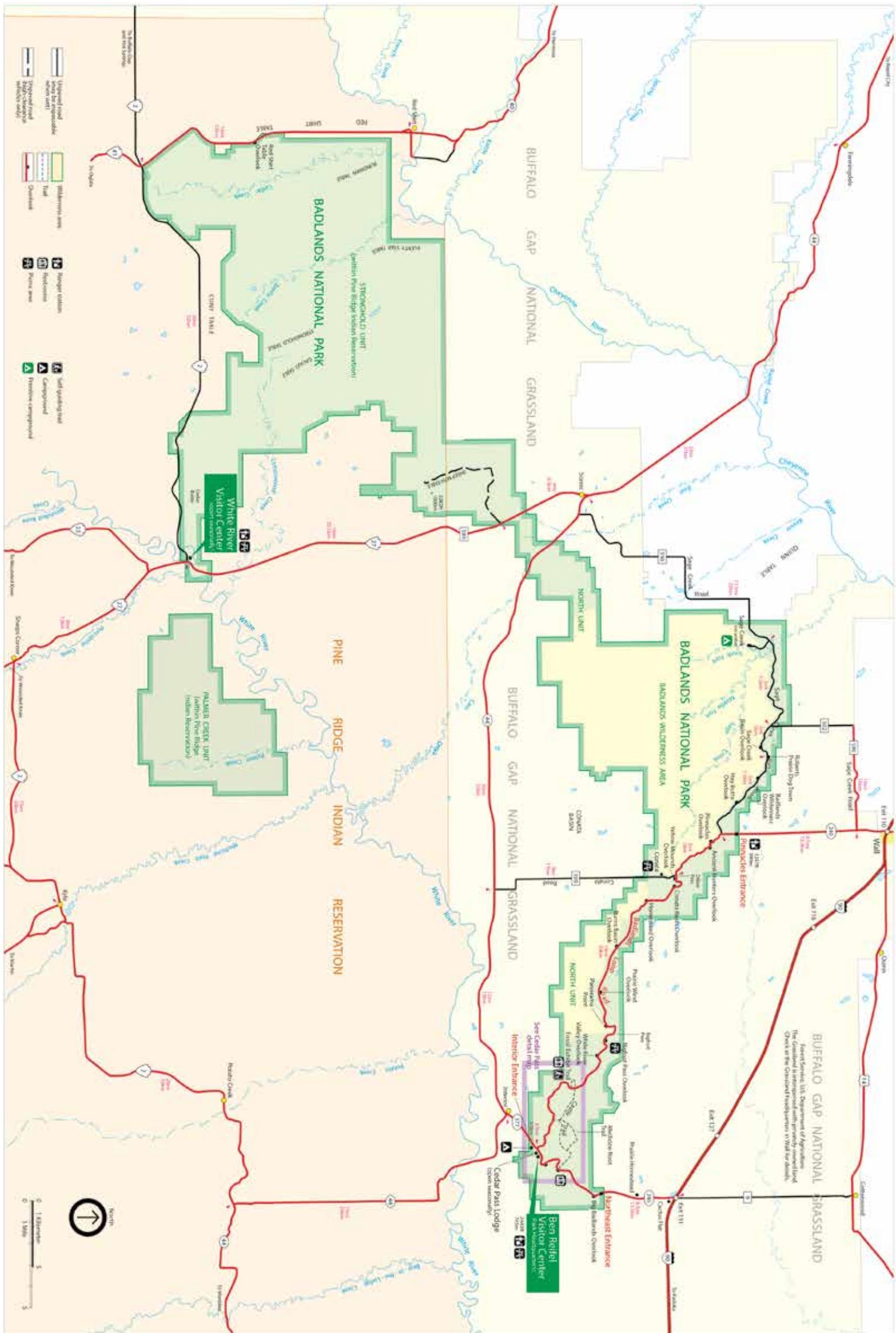
Easy. Fully accessible trail features fossil replicas and exhibits of now extinct creatures that once roamed the area.

Badlands Weather

Month	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Average High Temperatures	34°F	40°F	48°F	62°F	72°F	83°F	92°F	91°F	81°F	68°F	50°F	39°F
Average Low Temperatures	11°F	16°F	24°F	36°F	46°F	56°F	62°F	61°F	51°F	39°F	26°F	17°F
Average Precipitation (inches)	0.29	0.48	0.90	1.83	2.75	3.12	1.94	1.45	1.23	0.90	0.41	0.30

Weather warnings and forecasts for Badlands National Park and vicinity can be heard on NOAA Weather Radio 162.450 MHZ. Forecasts can also be obtained by calling 605-341-7531.

Park Map



Entrance Fees

Per Vehicle Entry Private Non-Commercial Vehicle	7 Days	\$15.00	
Motorcycle Flat fee	7 Days	\$10.00	
Per Person Entry Bicycle, Non-Commercial Bus Passenger	7 Days	\$7.00	
Badlands Park Pass Unlimited entry to Badlands NP	1 Year	\$30.00	
Interagency Annual Pass Valid for unlimited entry to designated federal fee areas	1 Year	\$80.00	
Interagency Senior Pass 62 & Over US Citizen Valid for entrance to designated federal fee areas & half price on camping	Lifetime	\$10.00	
Interagency Access Pass Permanently Disabled US Citizen Valid for entrance to designated federal fee areas & half price on camping	Lifetime	FREE	
Interagency Military Pass Active U.S. Military Valid for unlimited entry to designated federal fee areas	1 Year	FREE	
Every Kid in the Park Pass 4th Grade Pass Valid for unlimited entry to designated federal fee areas	1 Year (School year)	FREE	
Commercial Tour Based On Seating Capacity	Sedan \$25 * (1-6)	Van \$50 (7-15)	Mini-Bus \$60 (16-25)
			Motorcoach \$150 (26 & up)
			* plus \$7 per person for SEDAN ONLY

** You may be asked to show a valid ID with your pass upon entrance to designated federal fee areas.

Your Entrance Fees At Work

Badlands National Park is a designated Federal Recreation Fee Area. Fees collected at Badlands directly benefit this park and other units of the National Park Service. Fees paid at Badlands are unique in that under special agreement fees are split with the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

Some of the projects that have been funded by fees at Badlands include:

- Park-wide trail improvements
- Replace and update wayside exhibits
- Continued support of the Bighorn Sheep program
- Continued support of the Fossil Preparation Lab
- Replace and upgrade vault toilets
- Print park newspaper

Exploring the South Unit

The South Unit is a landscape of great historical and spiritual significance to the Oglala Sioux. In 1942, the War Department took 341,725 acres from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to establish a bombing range for training during World War II. In 1976, the Tribe granted an easement to manage some of the old bombing range lands as part of Badlands National Monument. This doubled the size of the Monument and led Congress to redesignate the area as Badlands National Park in 1978. The new Badlands National Park was subdivided into two units: the North Unit, consisting of park land north of Highway 44, and the South Unit, park land south of Highway 44.

The South Unit contains many sites sacred to the Oglala Lakota and other American Indian cultures. Please show respect by not touching or removing objects tied to trees and shrubs. All artifacts must be left in place. Remember to practice Leave No Trace principles at all times in the Stronghold District. The White River Visitor Center was opened in 1978 and has remained open during the summer months to provide orientation to the South Unit and Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Due to the quantity of unexploded ordnance that continues to litter the areas used for

bombing practice, a multi-agency task force is working toward clearing the South Unit of these devices. Please contact a ranger if you find unexploded ordnance. Cellular phones can detonate these devices.

The South Unit remains largely undeveloped and lacks access points, such as roads and trails. The South Unit is a protected natural area and is not managed as a four-wheel-drive recreation area. Travelers must remain on existing primitive road tracks. Do not travel away from these tracks. We encourage anyone interested in backcountry hiking or camping in the South Unit to notify the ranger at the White River Visitor Center to ensure your safety and that you are not trespassing on private lands. Explorers must often cross private land to access the public land. Always obtain permission from landowners for vehicular or foot access before setting out for Cuny Table, Stronghold Table, and Palmer Creek. A list of land owners is available at the White River Visitor Center. Be prepared with alternative destinations if land owners do not grant permission to cross their property. Hikers in the South Unit must be experienced map readers. Plan on a minimum of two days to hike in and out of the remote Palmer Creek area. One of the few designated roads is the Sheep

Become a Junior Ranger!



NPS Photo

Are you ready to climb out of that car and have some fun with a ranger? Children ages 2 and older can become a Badlands National Park Junior Ranger! Junior Rangers are kids like you - national park explorers, fun seekers, and concerned citizens. There are two ways to become a Junior Ranger and earn your official Badlands badge.

Join us for the 11:00 a.m. Junior Ranger Program (June - August). Meet at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center for 30 minutes of laughs and learning. The program is different every day, but here are a few things you might do:

- Go on a nature hike.
- Play guessing games to learn

characteristics of prairie plants and animals, then hunt around the prairie for tracks and signs.

- See Badlands fossils and discover what paleontologists do.

Complete a Junior Ranger Booklet (year round). You can pick up your free Junior Ranger Booklet at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center. Return the booklet to a ranger when you have completed the activities and you will be awarded your badge. You can also complete the booklet as you travel through the park. Mail it back to us for review and we will return it with your Junior Ranger badge enclosed.

Parents! Junior Ranger Programs are fun for the whole family. Please attend the 11:00 a.m. Junior Ranger Program with your children. Your family can collect Junior Ranger badges at over 300 national parks.

Look for online adventures at: www.nps.gov/webrangers.



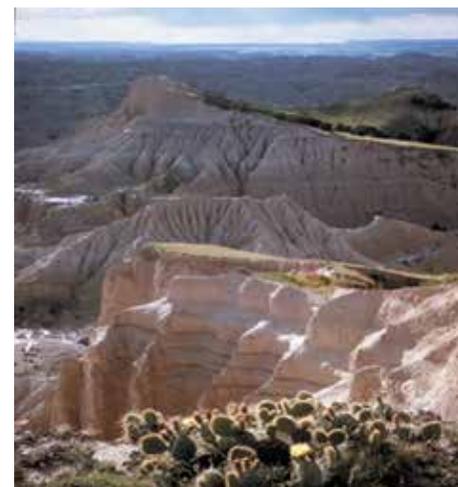
Visitors: Be Alert for Construction

During the summer of 2016, there will be work zones throughout the park for road construction and improvement, fencing projects, boardwalk and building repairs.

As we go to press, the schedule for these and other activities has not been set. Please check at the entrance stations or the Ben Reifel Visitor Center and White River Visitor Center for information on closures or delays. Use caution around heavy equipment. Please observe all road warnings. Do not enter areas posted as "closed." Our goal is a safe visit for all!

Badlands Junior Ranger Pledge

As a Junior Ranger, I promise to help take care of National Parks and all the plants and animals that live there. I will learn more about special places like the Badlands and help teach others about nature.



NPS Photo

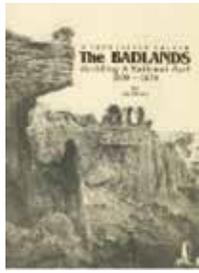
Mountain Table Road, 4 miles south of the town of Scenic on Pennington County Road 589. The stunning views from windswept Sheep Mountain Table are accessible under dry conditions, but the road is impassable when wet or snow covered (high clearance vehicles recommended). Please use caution along the unstable cliff edges of the table. Sheep Mountain Table is designated a day use area. Overnight camping is not allowed.



View from Sheep Mountain Table

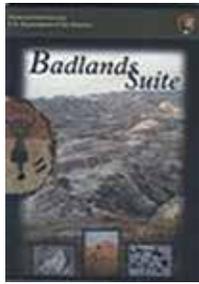
NPS Photo

Shop Badlands Natural History Association



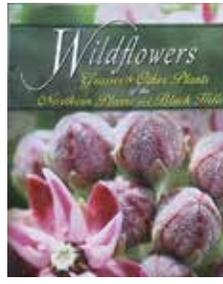
A Revelation Called the Badlands Building a National Park 1909 – 1939
\$5.95 **
 Author: Jay Shuler

The National Park Service and South Dakota State archives provided the photos and history of the struggle to protect the White River Badlands as a national park.



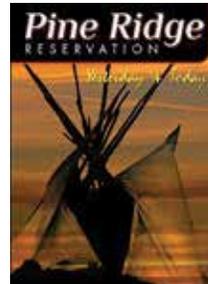
Badlands Suite
\$9.95 **
 DVD includes:
 Land of Stone and Light
 From Field to Lab
 Multiple Perspectives

This DVD takes you on a journey into the White River Badlands of South Dakota. In three different presentations, become acquainted with the people of this place.



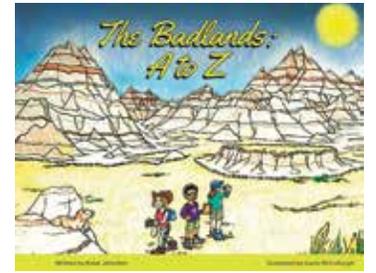
Wildflowers, Grasses, & Other Plants of the Northern Plains and Black Hills
\$11.95 **
 Author: Theodore Van Bruggen

Color photographs and descriptions of over 300 plants found in Badlands National Park and the surrounding areas.



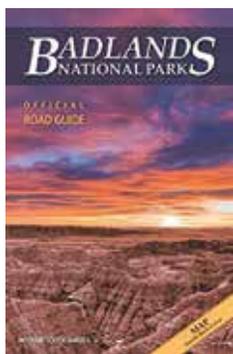
Pine Ridge Reservation: Yesterday and Today
\$3.00 **
 Author: Gregory Gagnon

This is one of the only contemporary booklets on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Goes together great with the Badlands Road Guide.



The Badlands: A to Z
\$18.95**
 Author: Katie Johnston

Explore the many aspects of Badlands National Park and the surrounding area in this fun adventure from A to Z. Learn facts and follow Digger the Prairie Dog as he travels through the park (hidden on each page for you to find).



Badlands National Park Road Guide Booklet
\$3.00 **
 Author: Badlands Natural History Association

Get your personal guide through the Badlands. Geology, history, frequently asked questions, and more! A MUST grab while visiting the Ben Reifel Visitor Center.

Check out the Badlands Natural History Association website: www.badlandsnha.org.

email: orders@badlandsnha.org

"Like" us on Facebook.

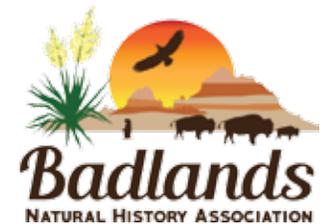
Follow us on Twitter @ BadlandsNHA



Badlands Eco-Bag
\$3.00**

This bag is made entirely from recycled materials.

**All prices are subject to change.



Your contributions support projects and programs such as these:



NPS Photo

Badlands Heritage Celebration



NPS Photo

Badlands Bison Round-Up



NPS Photo

CT scan of fossil found in the park.



NPS Photo

Night Sky Program



NPS Photo

Junior Ranger Program

Be A Part of Something **GOOD** in the Badlands!

Approximately one million people visit Badlands National Park every year. Your support helps Badlands Natural History Association inspire people to take action and protect Badlands National Park.

Badlands Natural History Association (BNHA), was established in 1959 to help Badlands National Park in furthering its scientific, educational, and interpretive activities. Proceeds from your purchases in the bookstore (in Ben Reifel Visitor Center) and online (www.badlandsnha.org), as well as your memberships, go directly back to Badlands National Park to support park activities.

BNHA is the official non-profit in Badlands National Park. To become a member of BNHA, please complete the membership form and return by mail.

Your membership dues are used directly to enhance the experience of visitors to the area. An investment for the future, your contribution is a perpetuation of the National Park idea. It is gratefully received, immediately acknowledged, and always appreciated.

This land is your land!

1 million visitors
 + Beautiful landscape

WHY WE NEED YOU!

Yearly membership donation includes:

- 15% off all BNHA purchases in store and online
- discounts in participating cooperating associations across the US
- special association mailings and announcements
- Badlands Natural History Association tote bag

Yes!!! I want to be a part of something **GOOD** in the Badlands!

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$150 \$500

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Mail to: BNHA, PO Box 47
 Interior, SD 57750



National Grasslands Visitor Center Buffalo Gap National Grassland



What can YOU do on Buffalo Gap National Grassland?

Where can you see WILDLIFE?

- Conata Basin is located approximately 8 miles west of Interior, SD, on SD Hwy 44, on Buffalo Gap National Grassland (BGNG) and south of Badlands National Park. This special basin consists of approximately 142,000 acres of mixed-grass prairie and has several designated Forest Service roads and trails. Hiking opportunities are available for those wanting to see firsthand the diversity in plants and wildlife. This area also serves as a prime bird watching area!
- Reintroduction of the nearly extinct black-footed ferret, along with bison, on Conata Basin makes this area one of the most complete ecosystems on the Great Plains, according to the Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2012.
- The US Forest Service and National Park Service biologists work closely with multiple federal, state and nonprofit agencies to save the black-footed ferret at this reintroduction site.

Where can you take your OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE?

- The Baja Travel Management area on Conata Basin is one of the special places set aside on BGNG for off-road vehicle riding.

Where can you go ROCK HOUNDING?

- Several unique rock hounding sites are on the two Ranger Districts of BGNG. First-hand advice on some of these interesting spots are available from Forest Service Rangers at the National Grasslands Visitor Center (NGVC) along with rock collecting regulations.

Where can you CAMP, HIKE, and RIDE BICYCLE OR HORSES?

- FREE activities to camp, hike, backpack and ride horses can be done almost ANYWHERE on BGNG.
- Motor vehicle use is restricted to designated Forest Service roads and trails. Motor Vehicle Use Maps and information are available at the NGVC.
- Two designated trails are located on BGNG. The Prairie Bike Trail (south of I-90 Exit 116) has been set aside for mountain bike riding and hiking. The Badlands Saddle Pass Horse Trail (south of I-90 Exit 131) is a horseback riding trail, doubling as a hiking trail.

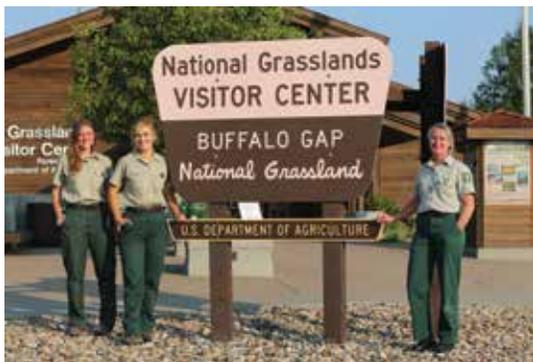
Come See Us!

To get to the National Grasslands Visitor Center (NGVC), take exit 110 off of I-90 to the town of Wall. Then turn left on South Boulevard and turn right on Main Street. Our building is the US Forest Service building on the right at 708 Main Street.

Hours of Operation

September – April 30: 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Monday – Friday (MT)

Memorial Day – Labor Day: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm daily (MT)



US Forest Service photo

Popular Activities at the NGVC

- View the 20 minute film "America's Grasslands."
- Pick up a copy of "America's National Grasslands" brochure, posters, checklists on grassland wildflowers, birds, plants and wildlife and area information.
- Come view the artifact exhibit and multiple grassland habitats in our interactive Exhibit Room!
- Select a keepsake from the bookstore in the ONLY Visitor Center in the Country for the 20 National Grasslands!
- GET A SPECIAL PASSPORT STAMP! We have a passport stamp specific to the NGVC. National Grasslands stickers are sold in our book store.
- BECOME A JUNIOR FOREST SERVICE RANGER! The entire family, and those young at heart, can participate in the Junior Ranger program free of charge! Pick up a booklet at the front desk and complete it while you tour our Exhibit Room.
- For children under the age of 5, Smokey Bear coloring books are available. Parents, please join your pre-school children in this area.

From Memorial Day to Labor Day Programs

- Participate in 15-minute patio talks at 10:00, 2:00 and on request in the Exhibit room or the outdoor Living Landscape. These Forest Service Ranger-led talks cover topics on plants, wildlife, ancient hunting, homesteading, paleontology or geology and rock hounding.
- Attend a variety of evening programs (3:00, 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.) at the NGVC by invited guest speakers to learn about research conducted on National Grasslands! The 30 - 45 minute talks are in the Theatre on topics such as swift fox, burrowing owls, blackfooted ferrets and much more!
- Or, join Forest Service Rangers for a 30 - 45 minute evening program on archaeology, the atlatl (an ancient hunting tool), homesteading, bats and many other exciting topics.

Special Off-site Evening Programs in Badlands National Park

- Get your picture taken with Smokey Bear! Every Wednesday at Cedar Pass Amphitheater Smokey Bear will be available for photographs before the 45-minute evening program.
- Stop at Cedar Pass Campground Amphitheater where Forest Service Park Rangers conduct evening interpretive programs. Check with NGVC or Badlands National Park as to presentation topics, dates and times.
- Ask questions of Forest Service Park Rangers as they rove the Sage Creek Campground. Rangers will answer questions before the 7:00 p.m. program on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Check with NGVC or Badlands National Park as to topics, dates and times.



US Forest Service photo

Service First

Different Agencies, Different Missions, Different Activities Allowed

Don't be surprised if you see an NPS ranger at the visitor center in Wall, or a Forest Service ranger at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center in Badlands. This is a unique opportunity for the National Park Service and the US Forest Service to provide better information for our visitors. Service First is an agreement between these agencies to acknowledge work already being accomplished together, to expand abilities to deliver a broader 'on-the-ground' program of work, and to staff the respective visitor centers with Forest Service and Park Service professionals.

The missions of the two agencies are quite different.

The mission of the US Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

The mission of the National Park Service is to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.



US Forest Service photo

Contact Information

Mailing Address

National Grasslands Visitor Center
708 Main Street / PO Box 425
Wall, SD 57790

Website

www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nebraska/specialplaces

Visitor Center Phone Number

605-279-2125

Fax Number

605-279-2725

Minuteman Missile

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Historic Site
South Dakota



NPS photo

The Front Line of the Cold War

Discover the Cold War events that shaped our lives and still remain through a visit to Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. Remember duck and-cover drills, fallout shelters, Nixon's trip to China, or the fall of the Berlin Wall? How many nuclear weapons remain stockpiled throughout the world? Visit the once secret facilities where Air Force personnel controlled and maintained ten nuclear missiles, part of a force of 150 missiles located in South Dakota.

The park preserves a Minuteman II missile in the Delta-09 silo and ten miles away the Delta-01 control center that once had direct control over ten nuclear missiles. At Delta-09 a self-guided tour by cell phone relates the hidden tale of the Cold War Front fought on the Great Plains where a Minuteman II missile remains in its silo for public viewing at exit 116. The Delta-01 ranger guided tour offers an opportunity to observe first-hand the Launch Control Facility from which the Emergency War Order would be executed in the event of Nuclear War. Tickets are required for this tour, and must be picked up at the visitor center.

How do I get to Minuteman Missile National Historic Site?

The park consists of three sites along Interstate 90, immediately north of Badlands National Park. The visitor center is located immediately north of I-90 at exit 131.

The Delta-09 Missile silo is located 1/4 mile south of I-90 at exit 116.

The Delta-01 Launch Control Center (ticket required) is located 1/4 mile north of I-90 at exit 127.

The visitor center is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except for winter when hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Gaze Armageddon in the Face

The Delta-09 missile silo is open daily in the summer from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. A glass sky light allows visitors to view a Minuteman II missile at the ready in its silo. A self-guided cell phone tour is available to guide your visit. To access the cell phone tour simply dial-in the number (605-301-3006), and the stops on the recording will give information about the silo structures and operations during the Cold War. Delta-09 is located on the south side of Interstate 90, exit 116. Turn south on to the county road and the silo is 1/2 mile on the right.



NPS photo

Begin your Visit at the Minuteman Missile Visitor Center

Begin your visit at the Visitor Center (exit 131) to obtain tour tickets for Delta-01 and view exhibits which provide the historical backdrop for the Cold War and nuclear weapons issues which are still relevant today. Young visitors can obtain a Junior Ranger booklet to earn a badge during their visit. The visitor center is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except for winter when hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



NPS photo

For more information, please call 605-433-5552 or visit the park website at www.nps.gov/mimi

Take a Top Secret Tour

Ranger-guided tours of the Delta-01 Launch Control Facility are conducted daily throughout the year. Tickets are issued on a first come, first served basis from the visitor center. Visitors will receive a ranger-guided tour of Launch Control Facility Delta-01 and have the opportunity to go into the underground Launch Control Center to learn how Minuteman nuclear missiles could have been launched during the Cold War. Tours are limited to six visitors per tour. Visitors who wish to participate in the underground part of the tour must be physically capable of climbing two 15 foot ladders and children must be at least 40" tall and be able to climb the ladder unassisted.



NPS photo

NPS Director's Corner

100 Years of the National Park Service

Excerpt from "Preservation Leadership Forum Blog"
Posted on: October 14th, 2015

In 2016, the nation celebrates two of our most important conservation and preservation laws: the Organic Act of the National Park Service of 1916 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Cumulatively they represent 150 years of protection of our greatest treasures, from the Grand Canyon to the Liberty Bell, from Jamestown to the Statue of Liberty. This essential work has instilled patriotic pride, driven local economic renewal, grounded our education system, inspired domestic and international tourism, and reminded us of our values as American citizens. While we have much to celebrate, this is an opportunity to act upon the second 150 years by ensuring we are telling the complete story of America and protecting places that are representative of all our citizens.

This opportunity reminds me of one of my favorite quotes, sometimes attributed to Abraham Lincoln, though I think most historians doubt this. Regardless of the source, the message is resonant:

"A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting, and when you are gone; attend to those things, which you think are important. You may adopt all policies you please, but how they are carried out depends on him. He will assume control of your cities, states and nations. All your books are going to be judged, praised or condemned by him. The fate of humanity

is in his hands. So it might be well to pay him some attention." Since the fate of humanity is in his and her hands, so is the fate of our most important historical and cultural sites and stories. So we better pay them some attention.

The National Park Service has set as its Centennial Goal "to connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates." We are activating this effort through the largest public awareness campaign since Mission 66, when we invited everyone to "See the USA" in your Chevrolet. This time we are inviting all Americans and global citizens to "Find Your Park" or "Encuentra Tu Parque" and then share their stories and encourage others in their family and community to do the same. For those of us who have walked the sacred ground of Gettysburg or hallways of Little Rock Central High School we know it can be life changing. With this effort we hope that people will accept the invitation and experience these places for themselves. These places and experiences belong to all of us.

We want to inspire the next generation of historians, archeologists, and curators, but more importantly, the next generation of good citizens, steeped in the American experience, and committed to the preservation of all stories.

So join me at FindYourPark.com or EncuentraTuParque.com to share your story, connect with the next generation and pass along our generation's passion for historic preservation.

Jonathan B. Jarvis is the director of the National Park Service.

Centennial Calendar of Events

April 16, 2016 Meet a Ranger Day
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Ben Reifel Visitor Center

July 1 - 2, 2016
Music from these Centennial Lands
Evening Performances at the
Cedar Pass Amphitheater

July 8 - 10, 2016 Astronomy Festival
Night Sky Viewing, Solar Viewing
in the Cedar Pass Area

July 14, 2016 Music in the Park
Jill Haley, Former Artist in Residence
9 p.m. Cedar Pass Amphitheater

July 7 & 21, Aug. 4 & 18, Sept 1 & 15
Centennial Wilderness Hike
5 hour hike in the Sage Creek Wilderness
Register by 4 p.m. the day before hike
Milton_Haar@nps.gov or call 605-433-5285

August 25, 2016 Founder's Day
Badlands Heritage Celebration
Come celebrate the NPS Birthday
in the Cedar Pass Area

For additional programs and information
check our website at:
<http://www.nps.gov/badl>

Ranger Programs



These programs run from Sunday, May 29 through Saturday, September 10, 2016

 = accessible

Badlands National Park is in the Mountain Time Zone. Programs are presented at several locations throughout the park. These locations are identified in the park newspaper and park brochure. You can also find them by watching for white signs announcing programs along the Loop Road.



Geology Walk

8:30 a.m. Daily

Explore the geologic story of the White River Badlands on this 45 minute walk. Meet at the Door Trailhead located at the far north end of the Door/Window parking area 2 miles south of the Northeast Entrance Station on the Badlands Loop Road. Wear a hat and closed-toe shoes. Terrain is varied.



Paleontology Lab

Open when staff are available

Come see a piece of history uncovered as the paleontology staff prepare fossils found in Badlands National Park. The lab is located in the Ben Reifel Visitor Center.



Fossil Talk

10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Daily

Explore what fossils can tell us about the story of ancient life in the Badlands and why they should be protected at this 15 - 20 minute talk. Meet at the Fossil Exhibit Trail, 5 miles northwest of the park headquarters/visitor center on the Badlands Loop Road.

Junior Ranger Program

11:00 a.m. Daily through August 16, 2016

Calling all visitors between 7 and 12 years of age! Meet at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center for a 30 minute adventure into an aspect of the Badlands. Wear closed-toe shoes and a hat. It may be a walk, a game, or another activity. Attendees will be awarded a Junior Ranger badge or patch. Parents are also welcome!

Fun in the Sun

Fri. - Mon. 3:00 p.m.

Participate in solar activities and view the sun through a solar telescope. Meet in front of the Ben Reifel Visitor Center. Wear sunscreen and a hat.



Evening Program

Daily May, June, & July 9:00 p.m.. August 8:30 p.m.

Join a park ranger for a 45 minute presentation at the Cedar Pass Campground Amphitheater. A weekly listing of program topics is available at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center, Cedar Pass Lodge and at the Cedar Pass Campground kiosk. Program will start when the sky is dark!



Night Sky Viewing

Fri. - Mon. (after the conclusion of the Evening Program) May, June, & July 9:00 p.m., August 8:30 p.m.

View the spectacular night sky through large telescopes or bring your own binoculars. The ranger will help you to locate and identify constellations, stars, and planets. Program will start after the Evening Program has concluded.

Stop by the Ben Reifel Visitor Center and ask about updated program listings, special programs, and events. These will also be posted on the bulletin boards throughout the park or you can scan the code to the right for an updated listing.

IMPORTANT -

In case of inclement weather, please check at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center for updated program information.