

*South Dakota*



GUIDE TO  
**ARCHAEOLOGY & PALEONTOLOGY**



## MUSEUM @ BLACK HILLS INSTITUTE

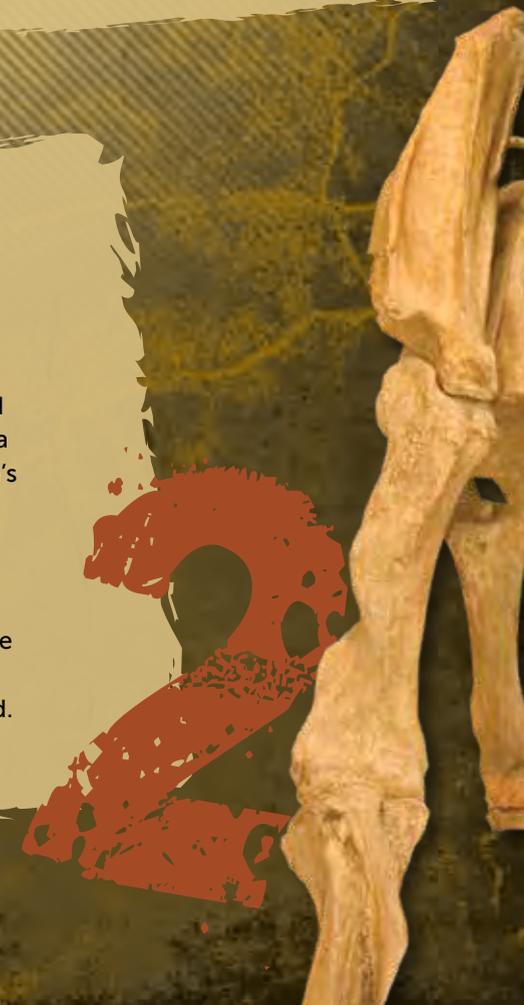
The Museum @ Black Hills Institute features the world-renowned Black Hills Institute collection. The main floor is a panorama of ancient skeletons, the star of which is "STAN," one of the most complete Tyrannosaurus rex specimens ever found. Display cases filled with fossil vertebrates (dinosaurs, mammals, reptiles, birds and fish), invertebrates (cephalopods, trilobites, crinoids, pelecypods and gastropods), and plants create the perfect backdrop. And for the history enthusiast, signboards with area (mineral, mining and fossil collecting) history, including historic maps and pictures, are also on display. Please enter the museum through the "Everything Prehistoric" gift shop. Admission: \$7.50 - adults, \$4 - Youth (6 to 15), \$6 - Veterans, Active Military and Seniors (60+), Free - Children 5 and under.

117 MAIN STREET, HILL CITY, SD 57745  
605-574-3919 | [WWW.BHIGR.COM/MUSEUM](http://WWW.BHIGR.COM/MUSEUM)

## THE JOURNEY MUSEUM & LEARNING CENTER

Take an incredible trek through time at The Journey Museum in Rapid City. Visitors begin their "Journey" 2.5 billion years ago in the abyss - a period of unrecorded time - and then continue to trace South Dakota's history with exhibits on rock formations, dinosaurs, Native American cultures, pioneers and modern history. The earliest records of people in the Black Hills date to 12,000 years ago; see the archaeological evidence in exhibits by the South Dakota Archaeological Research Center on display in the museum. Interactive exhibits provide a unique hands-on learning experience. Children of all ages can learn by exploring in the dig box and at the activity table. Admission is charged.

222 NEW YORK STREET, RAPID CITY, SD 57701  
605-394-6923 | [WWW.JOURNEYMUSEUM.ORG](http://WWW.JOURNEYMUSEUM.ORG)



## MUSEUM OF GEOLOGY

The Museum of Geology, located on the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology campus in Rapid City, is a leader in conserving the rich geologic heritage of South Dakota and the Black Hills by collecting, researching and housing its unique and often rare resources. Paleontologists at the Museum have utilized their extensive field experience to collect more than 500,000 specimens of fossils, rocks and minerals, providing a vivid impression of Dakota life in ancient times. Extensive exhibits focus on paleontology – including mounted skeletons of dinosaurs, mammals, White River Badlands fossils, marine reptiles and fish – and mineralogy – including the Hall of South Dakota Minerals, meteorites, replicas of historic gold nuggets, and a fluorescent mineral room. Paleo trips for families and individuals are available during the summer. The Kids' Zone offers hands-on experiences for young visitors. Admission is free.

501 E. SAINT JOSEPH STREET, RAPID CITY, SD 57701  
605-394-2467 | [HTTP://MUSEUM.SDSMT.EDU](http://MUSEUM.SDSMT.EDU)



## THE MAMMOTH SITE

The simple act of getting a drink of water as well as the lush grass around the sinkhole led to the deaths of hundreds of animals 26,000 years ago at what is now The Mammoth Site in Hot Springs. After they entered the spring-fed sinkhole to drink and bathe, the mammoths were unable to climb back up the slippery banks; they became trapped, ultimately starving to death. Since 1974, 61 Columbian and woolly mammoths have been unearthed, making this the first site where both species have been found together. Eighty-five species of ice-age animals have been discovered, including camel, llama, giant short-faced bear, wolf, coyote and prairie dog.

Visitors may tour the working dig and Ice Age exhibit in Hot Springs year-round. The Earthwatch Institute sponsors an excavation at The Mammoth Site each year during July. Road Scholars will also be excavating at The Mammoth Site in May and September.

The Mammoth Site offers the Junior Paleontologist Program four times a day from June 1-July 31 and once a day from August 1-15. This simulated dig allows participants to dig for replicas of actual bones found at the site. Merit badges in geology for Boy and Girl Scouts are offered. In addition, the Advanced Paleontologist Program will be offered once a day from June 1-July 31 and once a day from August 1-15, and the Atlatl Throwing Experience will be offered once a day from June 1-July 31. Advanced registration is recommended for all education programs.

1800 U.S. 18 BYPASS, HOT SPRINGS, SD 57747  
605-745-6017 | [WWW.MAMMOTHSITE.ORG](http://WWW.MAMMOTHSITE.ORG)

## BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK

For more than 150 years, the area in and around Badlands National Park has been an important center for paleontological research. Some of the most spectacular fossil deposits in North America were found in this area. The rocks and fossils preserve evidence of ancient ecosystems and give scientists clues about how early animal species lived.

View fossil specimens at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center at Cedar Pass and hike the Fossil Exhibit Trail, which features fossil replicas and exhibits of now extinct creatures that once roamed the area. Visitors are encouraged to attend daily ranger programs, which are offered May 25-August 23. Fossil Talks and Junior Ranger programs are especially popular for families with children. Learn about the saber-tooth cat skull discovered in the summer of 2010 by a seven-year-old girl who was participating in a Junior Ranger Program. On May 25, 2014, the interpretive fossil preparation lab opens in the Ben Reifel Visitor Center. Lab hours are 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM seven days a week until September 20, 2014. Park entrance fee is required.

I-90 EXIT 131 | 605-433-5361 | [WWW.NPS.GOV/BADL](http://WWW.NPS.GOV/BADL)

## DIG FOR DINOS ON THE STANDING ROCK INDIAN RESERVATION

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in northern South Dakota offers dinosaur digs for the public during the month of July. Join their paleontology staff and learn about dinosaurs that once roamed this area, leaving traces behind in the Hell Creek Formation. Learn how to search for and identify fossils and prepare them for transport during this exciting summer program. All ages are welcome. Admission is charged: \$100/day for adults, \$24/day for children under 12. Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

1341 92ND ST., P.O. BOX D, FORT YATES, ND 58538  
701-854-8648 | [WWW.STANDINGROCK.ORG](http://WWW.STANDINGROCK.ORG)  
[ASHAW@STANDINGROCK.ORG](mailto:ASHAW@STANDINGROCK.ORG)



## CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER

Take a step back in time at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. A new exhibit in the Observation Gallery, "South Dakota Environments: A Window to Past Times," features four epochs of environmental history about the land that eventually became South Dakota and animals found on the land. Learn the history behind the people who made South Dakota the diverse state it is today. The prehistoric and historic peoples of South Dakota are all around us, and they speak to us in different ways. Hear recordings of Native Americans speaking Dakota, Lakota and Nakota. They have left other messages in the earth in the remains and ruins of their homes and camps. Archaeologists learn these things from the study of what people have thrown out or left behind, such as arrowheads and scrapers, animal bones, seeds and charcoal, pottery, storage pits, rock shelters, and root cellars; many hands-on exhibits to explore that includes recent history. Admission is charged.

The Cultural Heritage Center also houses the State Archives, which is open to the public.

900 GOVERNORS DRIVE, PIERRE, SD 57501  
605-773-3458 | [WWW.HISTORY.SD.GOV](http://WWW.HISTORY.SD.GOV)

## MITCHELL PREHISTORIC INDIAN VILLAGE

A tour of the Thomsen Center Archeodome reveals life in a 1,000-year-old village. Excavations at the Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village site have uncovered evidence of everything from the food the villagers ate to the tools they used. At the Boehnen Memorial Museum, there is an extensive exhibit, including a model of what the village may have looked like, as well as a life-size reconstructed lodge. A team of students from the University of Exeter, England, will be on site from June 19-July 18 to continue excavating and mapping the site within the Archeodome, as well as cleaning artifacts. The dig takes place Monday through Saturday each week and the public is invited to observe and learn more about the excitement of archaeological discovery. There will be an archaeologist on staff from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Archaeology Awareness Days are July 5 & 6. Admission is charged.

3200 INDIAN VILLAGE ROAD, MITCHELL, SD 57301  
605-996-5473 | [WWW.MITCHELLINDIANVILLAGE.ORG](http://WWW.MITCHELLINDIANVILLAGE.ORG)



## CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF SOUTH DAKOTA DINO DIG

At the Dino Dig, visitors conduct their own excavations and unearth dinosaur bones that could be found on a South Dakota farm.

The Dino Dig inspires and stimulates children's interest in paleontology and archaeology. They'll share the awe of discovery as they view Mama, a life-sized animatronic T. rex that stands 25 feet tall and 60 feet long. Visitors may peek around a corner and coax baby Max T. rex out of his habitat, but they must be careful not to wake Mama!

Making comparisons using math skills, children will develop an appreciation for the size of a dinosaur versus other animals and buildings. Admission is charged.

521 4TH STREET, BROOKINGS, SD 57006  
605-292-6700 | [WWW.PRAIRIEPLAY.ORG](http://WWW.PRAIRIEPLAY.ORG)

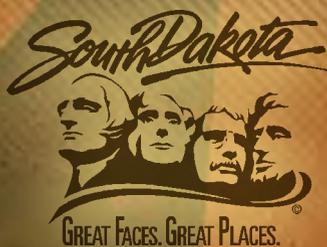


## KIRBY SCIENCE DISCOVERY CENTER AT THE WASHINGTON PAVILION

Explore the world of dinosaurs and learn about the dynamic environment in which they lived. Meet Stan, a full-sized replica of a Tyrannosaurus rex found in western South Dakota. Visitors may excavate dinosaur bone replicas at the dino dig table, touch a real dinosaur bone, and view a fossilized dinosaur egg. Trained staff lead daily demonstrations featuring dinosaur fossils, scat and tracks, and adult dinosaurs and their babies that once roamed South Dakota. Admission is charged and includes access to more than 100 hands-on science exhibits.

301 S. MAIN AVENUE, SIOUX FALLS, SD 57103  
605-367-6000 | [WWW.WASHINGTONPAVILION.ORG](http://WWW.WASHINGTONPAVILION.ORG)





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1-800-5-DAKOTA | TRAVELSD.COM

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