

South Dakota



GUIDE TO
ARCHAEOLOGY & PALEONTOLOGY

GIANT FOSSIL SEA REPTILES FROM THE LATE CRETACEOUS WESTERN INTERIOR SEA

Join this South Dakota expedition, August 2–13, to search for and help collect Cretaceous marine reptiles, particularly mosasaurs and plesiosaurs. Activities include both leisurely and strenuous tasks and participants should be adults (18 or older) in good physical condition. Children under the age of 18 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$600 for one week or \$1,200 for two weeks. This includes transportation at the site, field supplies, and a cast. Coordinated by and with the permission of Dr. James Martin and Mr. David Parris. Contact Museum of Geology, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, 501 E. Saint Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD 57701.

605-394-2467 | 800-544-8162, EXT. 2467

[HTTP://MUSEUM.SDSMT.EDU](http://MUSEUM.SDSMT.EDU)



THE JOURNEY MUSEUM

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 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 Journey Museum. Don't miss the incredible changing exhibition of paleontologic specimens on rotational loan from the Museum at Black Hills Institute in Hill City. Interactive exhibits allow for a unique first-hand learning experience. Children of all ages can learn by exploring in the dig box and at the activity table. Admission is charged.

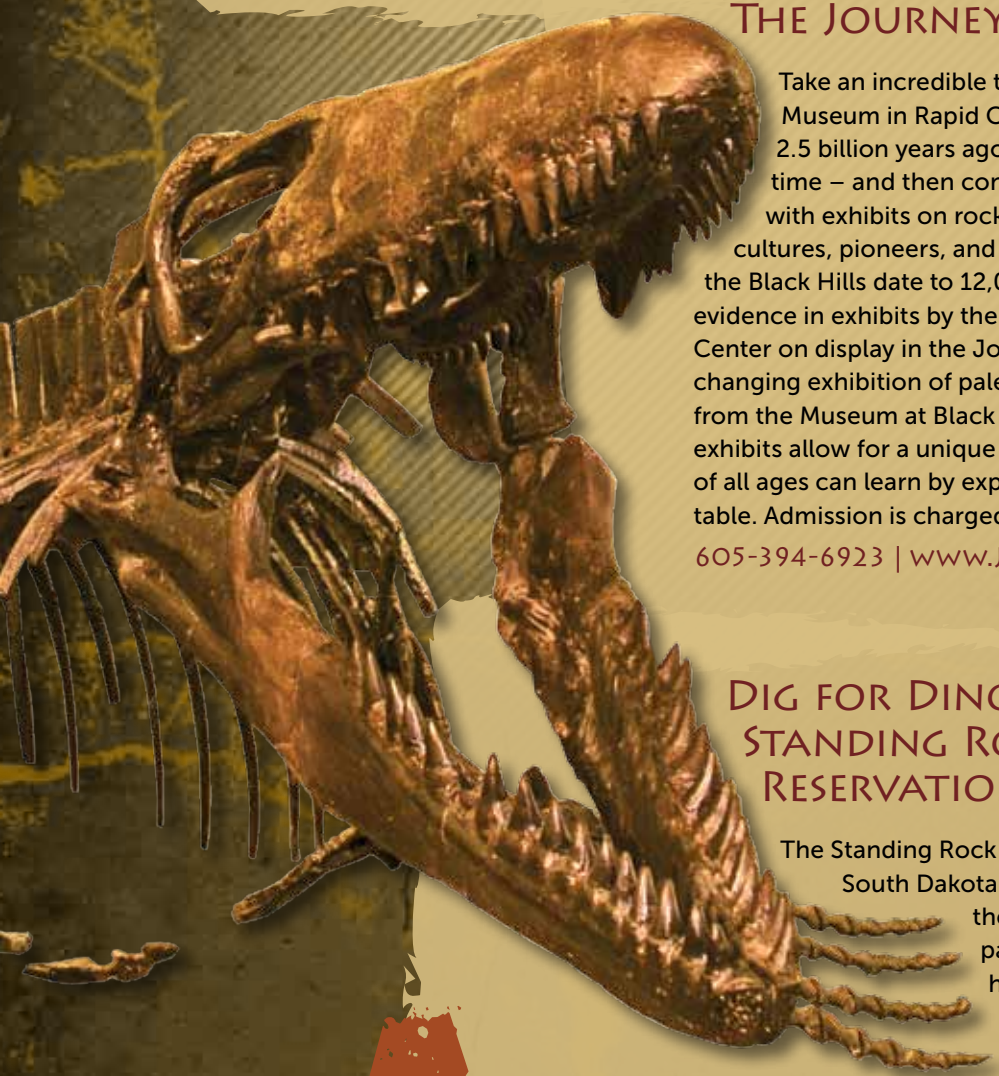
605-394-6923 | WWW.JOURNEYMUSEUM.ORG

DIG FOR DINOS ON THE STANDING ROCK INDIAN RESERVATION

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in northern South Dakota will offer dinosaur digs during the month of August. Join their paleontology staff and learn how dinosaurs once roamed this area and left 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.

701-854-8582 | WWW.STANDINGROCK.ORG



KIRBY SCIENCE DISCOVERY CENTER AT THE WASHINGTON PAVILION

Experience the wonder, fun, and inspiration science can provide with more than 80 interactive and “hands-on” science exhibits. Meet “Stan,” a full-size replica of a Tyrannosaurus rex, found in western South Dakota. Visitors may also touch a real dinosaur bone, view a fossilized dinosaur egg, and do their own excavating to discover dinosaur bone replicas in the “dino dig” table. The center, located in Sioux Falls, also offers a giant bone puzzle of the state fossil, the Triceratops, and a beautiful wall mural depicting prehistoric times. Admission is charged.

605-367-6000

WWW.WASHINGTONPAVILION.ORG



MUSEUM AT BLACK HILLS INSTITUTE

The Museum at Black Hills Institute in Hill City is home to the original 65-million-year-old “Stan,” one of the two most complete Tyrannosaurus rex fossils ever found. Paleontologists from the museum have participated in the excavation and restoration of eight T. rex skeletons since 1990. See “Stan” along with an extensive collection of invertebrate, mammal and fish fossils. The museum also boasts a massive assortment of minerals and agates and a vast meteorite collection. Admission is charged: \$7.50 for adults, \$4.00 for children 6-15, and children five and under are free. The Museum offers admission to senior citizens and military members for \$6.00. Please enter the museum through the “Everything Prehistoric” gift shop.

605-574-3919 | WWW.BHIGR.COM

FAMILY PALEONTOLOGY CAMP

Join this two-day camp, July 28 and 29, to learn how to make fossil replicas at the Museum of Geology in Rapid City. Camp includes activities at the museum and a field trip. Open to families with children ages six and older. Cost is \$150 per person for the two days. This includes supplies, handouts and transportation to the site. Contact the Museum of Geology, South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, 501 E. Saint Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD 57701.

605-394-2467 | 800-544-8162, EXT. 2467

[HTTP://MUSEUM.SDSMT.EDU](http://MUSEUM.SDSMT.EDU)



Site Locations
Map on Back Cover

MUSEUM OF GEOLOGY

With a collection of 350,000 vertebrae fossils and 6,000 minerals, the Museum of Geology in Rapid City has prehistoric stories to tell. Visitors may view fossils of ancient residents of South Dakota, such as saber-toothed cats, small camels, giant pigs, and a mother creodont. The museum is located on the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology campus in Rapid City.

605-394-2467 | [HTTP://MUSEUM.SDSMT.EDU](http://MUSEUM.SDSMT.EDU)

THE MAMMOTH SITE

The simple act of getting a drink of water 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 and became trapped, ultimately starving to death. Since 1974, 60 Columbian and woolly mammoths have been unearthed, making this the first site both species have been found together. Eighty-two species of ice-age animals have been discovered, including camel, llama, giant shortfaced 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. Elderhostel will also be excavating at the Mammoth Site, in May and September.

The Mammoth Site offers the Junior Paleontologist Program seven days a week, June 1 – August 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. Advance prepaid registration is required. Admission is charged.

605-745-6017 | WWW.MAMMOTHSITE.ORG





CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER

Take a step back in time at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. Learn the history behind the people who made South Dakota the diverse state it is today. Hear recordings of Native Americans speaking Dakota, Lakota and Nakota. Touch the different types of fur traded by trappers in the state's early days. A train car serves as a theater for a video about the railroad, and guests learn about the Missouri River while standing at the helm of a steamboat. Hand-milk a model cow and learn about life in the 1900s in "Changing Times." The Cultural Heritage Center also houses the state archives, which is open to the public. Admission is charged.

605-773-3458 | 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. The Boehnen Museum and Patton Gallery has 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 British students from the University of Exeter will be on site June 22 – July 19 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. Admission is charged.

605-996-5473 | WWW.MITCHELLINDIANVILLAGE.ORG

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF SOUTH DAKOTA DINO DIG

At the Dino Dig, visitors conduct their own excavation. You can unearth the bones of a dinosaur found on a South Dakota farm, match the bones with the diagrammed fossils and make rubbings from fossilized foot prints. The Dino Dig inspires and stimulates children's interest in paleontology and archaeology. They'll share in the awe of discovery as they view a life-sized T. rex and its baby. Using math skills of comparison, children will develop an appreciation of the size of a dinosaur versus other animals and buildings. Visitors also will learn new theories about the juvenile T. rex.

605-692-6700 | WWW.PRAIRIEPLAY.ORG

BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK

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. One of the most complete fossil accumulations in North America is found within the park. The rocks and fossils preserve evidence of ancient ecosystems and give scientists clues about how early mammal species lived.

View fossil specimens at the Ben Reifel Visitor Center at Cedar Pass. Hike the Fossil Exhibit Trail, which features fossil replicas and exhibits of now extinct creatures that once roamed the area. Attend a Fossil Talk, offered three times a day, to see Badlands fossils and discover what paleontologists do. Take part in the Junior Ranger program to learn more about the environment around you. 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. Park entrance fee charged.

605-433-5404 | WWW.NPS.GOV/BADL/



1-800-5-DAKOTA | WWW.TRAVELSD.COM