



Wind Cave National Park Trip Assistant

How Much Time?

Wind Cave is great, but you don't really want to budget a ton of time for it (unless you want to do a few cave tours). You're better off getting up to Custer State Park to do some hiking and Mount Rushmore, and the abun-

dance of other outdoor opportunities you have in western South Dakota.

And while the hiking is fine, you come here for what's below the earth, not what's above it (even though it's a fantastic wild-life viewing park too).

Maps

Wind Cave National Park Map: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

Region: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

Cave: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

[Google Map w/ Trails and Attractions](#)

All 63 National Parks Map: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

Northern National Park Service Units Map: [PDF](#) | [JPG](#)

Need to Know

- The standard tours do not require reservations in advance, but these days, you're best off considering it [reservations](#) required.
- Reservations are required for Wild Cave and Candlelight tours (by phone 605.745.4600, up to one month in advance).
- Backpacking is limited to the park's northwest corner.

Highlights

Wind Cave

Rankin Ridge Lookout Tower
NPS-5



Favorite Trails

Easy

Rankin Ridge

Cold Brook Canyon

Moderate

East Bison Flats

Lookout Point

Strenuous

Highland Creek

Activities

Cave Tours

Hiking

Biking

Horseback Riding

See this [Google Map](#) for pins to all favorite trails and attractions. Once again, it's not a very useful map. There just isn't a whole lot going on here. Now, just to the north, Custer Park has a lot to see and do (including an annual bison roundup).

Road Trip

Here's a [Google Map](#) to help plan road trips from the east (Badlands), north (Spearfish, SD), west (Bighorn National Forest—you could spend quite a bit of time here), and south (Scotts Bluff National Monument). It's a good start, but I'd highly recommend making your own.

There's much more to our country. Here's another [Google Map](#) with points of interest across all types of public land.

For campers, here's a [Google Map](#) with National Forest campgrounds. National Park campgrounds are difficult to reserve (there are about 200!). With nearly 5,000 national forest campgrounds, you can usually pull in and find a spot.

Highlights

Black Elk Peak (SD)

Needles Hwy (SD)

Mount Rushmore (SD)

Custer State Park (SD)

Bison Roundup (SD)

Bighorn National Forest

(WY, fantastic hiking/backpacking destination)

Devil's Tower NM (WY)

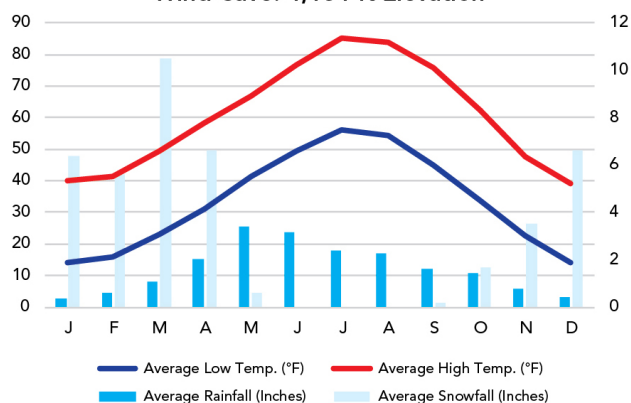
Jewel Cave NM (SD)

Toadstool Geo. Park (NE)

When To Go

Weather

Wind Cave: 4,154 ft Elevation



Visitation

Wind Cave Visitation

