

Rapid City . . . At a Glance

A bit of history . . .

The discovery of gold in the Black Hills in 1874 brought white men to the area, some to strike it rich, but more were left to ponder an uncertain future on the frontier. A campfire discussion by out-of-luck prospectors led to the founding of Rapid City, named after the creek by which they camped. Early residents harvested hay and sold it in the mountainous mining camps. Rapid City, far more economically diversified today, still is a supplier of goods and services, but now throughout a five-state region.

Talk about size!

With nearly 70,100 population, Rapid City is the second largest city in South Dakota. With its metro area included, the population is estimated at over 95,600.

Hills and dates!

The foothills of the Black Hills literally rise out of the city's central business district affecting much of its topography and street system. Rapid Creek, beginning in the mountains west of the city and emptying eventually into the Missouri, divides the city north and south. In 1972 a disastrous flood of the creek permanently changed Rapid City, clearing heavy commercial, industrial and residential development from along its bank, leading to the creation of a greenbelt and new parks through Rapid City.

And visions of bananas!

Rapid City's climate is semi-arid and seasonal with annual precipitation at just 16.7 inches. Its elevation of 3,240 feet produces cool evenings in the summer with daytime highs ranging from 65 to 90 degrees as a rule. Rapid City winters are usually mild because of the protection of the adjacent mountains.



HOW FAR?



Aberdeen	332
Badlands	56
Belle Fourche	60
Crazy Horse Memorial	38
Custer	42
Custer State Park	34
Deadwood	42
Devils Tower	110
Ellsworth Air Force Base	12
Hill City	31
Hot Springs	56
Keystone	22
Lead	45
Mount Rushmore	26
Pierre	171
Rapid City Regional Airport	10
Sioux Falls	349
Sturgis	28
Spearfish	48
Wall Drug	51



Rapid City has 3 sister cities, as designated by Sister Cities International: Apolda, Germany; Imaichi, Japan; and Yangshuo County, China.



Our Vision

By 2020, the Black Hills Region:

- Will have a quality education system that prepares our citizens to compete in the global market place.
- Will be a region that requires that growth maintain or improve the quality of life.
- Will be a model region of innovative long-term infrastructure developments for orderly planned growth while protecting our natural resources.
- Will encourage economic development by utilizing our human, natural, and technological resources without compromising our quality of life.
- Will have efficient government with consolidated services that encourages citizen involvement and positive community growth and development.
- Will encourage and educate citizens of all cultures to play an active role in the leadership, growth and development of the region.