

WHILE YOU'RE HERE...

LOCAL ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

1880 TRAIN OKTOBERFEST EXPRESS

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

Enjoy authentic seasonal beer and traditional German foods aboard the 1880 Train. Departs from Hill City.

CRAZY HORSE FALL VOLKSMARCH

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Experience the annual organized fall hike up the world's largest mountain carving-in-progress, Crazy Horse Memorial.

JEWEL CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT

Venture below the surface to explore one of the longest caves in the world.

WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK

Take a trip down the road and tour one of the world's most complex cave systems.

BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST

Explore miles of scenic trails, towering pines, and natural treasures in the heart of the Black Hills.

BLACK ELK PEAK

Hike to the tallest point between the Rocky Mountains and the Alps.

CUSTER

Find foodie favorites and small-town fun in the center of classic Black Hills adventures.

COME BACK NEXT YEAR!

SEPTEMBER 23-25
2027

FALL AUCTION NOVEMBER 7, 2026



GENERAL INFORMATION

605.394.2693 // www.CusterStatePark.com

CAMPING

800.710.2267 // www.CampSD.com

LODGING

888.875.0001 // www.CusterResorts.com

2026

BUFFALO ROUNDBUP

— CUSTER STATE PARK —

SOUTH DAKOTA, USA

SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2026



Photos Courtesy of South Dakota Tourism

Printed on Recycled Paper.

Printed by Simpson Printing: 7,500 at a cost of 15 cents per copy.



Enjoy three days of endless entertainment along with 150+ arts and crafts vendors near the State Game Lodge on Highway 16A.

Visit with artisans and crafters, hear cowboy poets spin tall tales, catch the energy of live performances and do some dancing of your own to the area's best western style musicians at our open meadow festival. A few local breweries will be around to help top off the fun!

EXPERIENCE THE 2026 ARTS FESTIVAL

THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 24

10 am - 6 pm

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 25

10 am - 6 pm

Music until 7 p.m.

hot air balloons start at 7 at arts festival grounds

Friday is Buffalo Roundup Day!

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 26

9 am - 4 pm

FILL UP AT THE PANCAKE FEED!

Saturday, 8-10 am
Arts Festival Grounds
Kids 12 & under: (\$)
Adults: (\$)

All proceeds go to Feeding South Dakota



TO CUSTER, LEGION LAKE, SYLVAN LAKE & SOUTH VIEWING AREA

PETER NORBECK OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

16A

TO VISITOR CENTER, WILDLIFE LOOP, & NORTH VIEWING AREA

16A

BIG TOP TENT*

MAIN ARTS FESTIVAL GROUNDS



P VENDOR PARKING ONLY

HANDICAPPED RESTROOMS

STATE GAME LODGE

P PUBLIC PARKING
ACCESSIBLE PARKING

* LIVE MUSIC | LOST & FOUND | AND RAFFLE LOCATED AT THE BIG TOP TENT

ARTS FESTIVAL VENDORS

LIVE MUSIC

FOOD

CRAFT BEER

P PARKING

PORTA-POTTIES

INFORMATION

MEDICAL

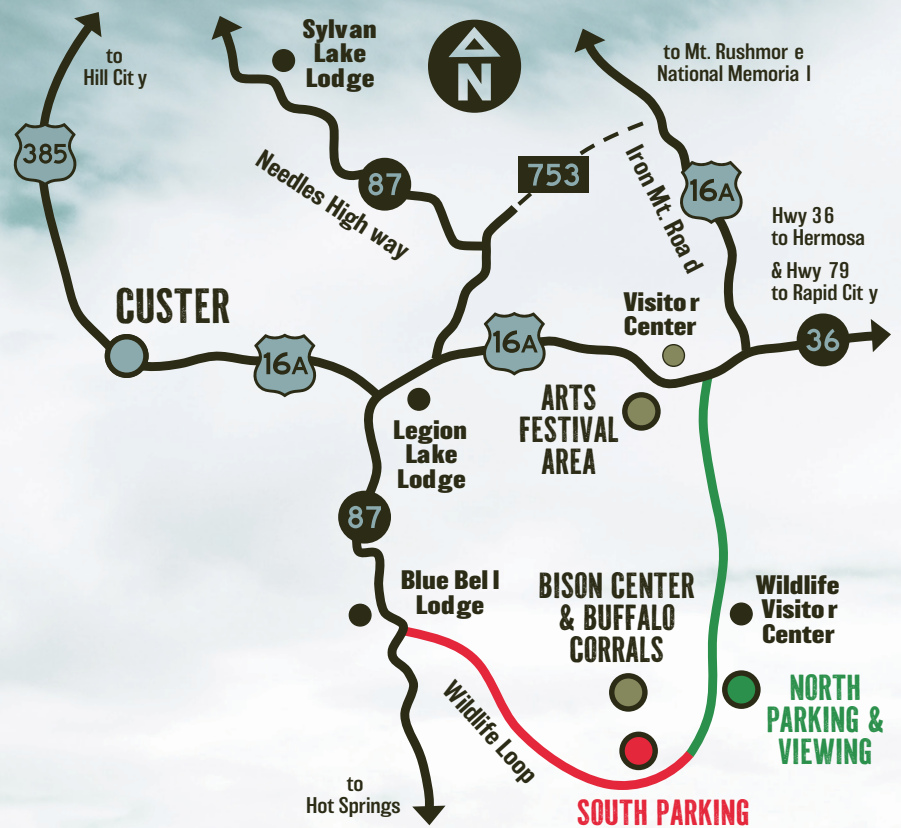
LAW ENFORCEMENT

SHUTTLE PICKUP/DROPOFF

THE RUMBLE STARTS UNDERFOOT AS THE FIRST OF THE 1,400 BUFFALO CREST THE HILL.

Before long, the mighty animals are stampeding alongside park personnel, cowboys and cowgirls, all attempting to herd the animals toward the Buffalo Corrals. Watch in awe from one of two designated viewing areas as the thundering beasts pass within a few hundred feet of you.

THAT'S THE BUFFALO ROUNDUP.



Custer State Park has conducted the Roundup and auction for over 60 years. Buyers from all over the United States and the world have purchased these bison and started their own herds. The bison, which once faced extinction, now number about 500,000 and are found across North America.

Once the herd is safely in the corrals the buffalo are sorted, branded, tested and certain animals are selected for the fall auction. The Roundup and auction are conducted to keep the bison and the park's grasslands healthy. With the park's grasslands only able to support about 1,000 bison through the winter, about 400 surplus buffalo are sold at the annual auction. Revenues from the fall auction help support the day-to-day operations of the South Dakota State Park System.

VIEWING AREAS

While reservations are not required, you will need to determine which viewing area you will be going to prior to Friday morning. North Parking & Viewing: follow the Green Route on the map. South Parking & Viewing: follow the Red Route on the map. Port-a-pottys available.

WHAT TO BRING

Folding chairs, cameras, binoculars, layered clothing, rain gear, water, snacks and sunscreen. Parking lots open at 6:15am and close at 9:00am. Reservations are not required. Handicap parking provided in all areas. Handicap emblem must be shown to access Handicap parking.

BUFFALO ROUNDUP

The Buffalo Roundup will begin at 9:30am. Guests must stay in the viewing areas until the herd is safely in the corrals (usually around noon).

DRONE POLICY

For the safety of the public, staff and the bison, use of drones is prohibited during the Roundup.

BUFFALO HANDLING

Testing, branding and sorting will begin 30 minutes after the Roundup is complete and will go until all animals have been run through the corral system.

CONCESSIONS

A pancake breakfast (\$) will be available in both viewing areas starting at 6:15am. A buffalo BBQ lunch (\$) will be served at the corrals after the buffalo are safely in the corrals until 1:00pm. Cash only.

BUSES/MOTORCOACHES

Bus and motorcoach tour group parking will be in the South Viewing Area Parking Lot. They must access the area using the North Viewing Area route (highlighted in green).

SHUTTLE SERVICE

After the Roundup, free shuttle service is provided from the viewing areas into the corrals and back. You may also walk down.

ALTERNATIVE VIEWING OPTIONS

Watch the Buffalo Roundup from almost anywhere online through the South Dakota Public Broadcasting website video live feed. Join us at the Visitor Center Panoramic Theater where we will be showcasing the live feed while the crowds gather by the corrals.

RIDERS

Each year Custer State Park uses a core group of riders consisting of Game, Fish and Parks staff, as well as volunteers with years of experience riding in the Roundup.

The park also has a long tradition of partnering with private citizens to help with the annual Buffalo Roundup. Each year "draw riders" are selected to be a part of moving the herd over five miles to the corral system. Draw riders fill out an application stating their riding experience and then numbers are drawn out of a bucket to see who is selected to ride in the event.

ENTERING AND DEPARTING

All traffic entering the parking areas is one-way. There is no two-way traffic on the day of the Roundup. All vehicles must depart the same way they entered.

CAMPER/RVS

We encourage you not to bring your camper. There is no drop location on-site for campers. If you do bring it, follow the Green Route and you will be parked in the North Overflow Lot and be shuttled to the Roundup site.

PETS

The park encourages visitors to leave their pets at home or in their vehicles during the event. Please be aware that there is little to no shade in either parking areas, as well as the Arts Festival parking area and grounds.

Park Entrance License not required on Buffalo Roundup Day.

GENERAL INFO:

605-394-2693

www.CusterStatePark.com



NOTE: BUFFALO ARE DANGEROUS AND UNPREDICTABLE. DO NOT APPROACH THEM.