Post Meeting Excursion (optional)

Friday, April 23

For those of you flying out on Saturday, we have arranged for an optional post-meeting excursion through Affordable Adventures, a local tour company, to see some of the nearby sites. This activity has an additional cost and may be subject to cancellation if the minimum attendance is not met. You must make your arrangements directly with the tour company: call 888-888-8249 or email affordableadventuresbh@yahoo.com.

- Departure time: 12 noon (return by 6 pm)
- Pickup location: Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn
- Minimum to go on tour: six or more
- Price per person: $95.00 inclusive
- Payments accepted by: Visa, M/C, Discover, Cash, Travelers or Personal Checks

Reservation Deadline: Friday, April 16

A professional guide will narrate your journey to Custer, the oldest town in the Black Hills, where gold was first discovered by General George Custer’s exploration party in 1874. Lunch will be served at the Sage Creek Grille, a gourmet bistro in an historic building, popular for its soups, salads, sandwiches, and desserts.

After lunch we’ll take a short trip to Sylvan Lake, the oldest lake in the Black Hills, with huge granite boulders protruding from the glimmering water. One mile from the Lake is the Needles Highway, with the huge “needle’s eye” eroded out of the granite. After that we ride through the longest, narrowest tunnel in Custer State Park, where you will be struck by a breathtaking view of the expansive valley below. Your imagination will go wild with the unique shapes of the outcroppings as we stop at the Cathedral Spires, one of the most awe-inspiring formations in the Black Hills. Then we’ll have a leisurely ride down into Custer State Park over to Grace Coolidge Peak, overlooking the hills and the Badlands to the east, with a short stop at Bluebell Lodge, an old log hunting lodge. Afterwards we’ll enter the Wildlife Loop, which is part of the 71,000 acre Custer State Park. Animals we often see are buffalo (bison), descendants of the early herds that roamed the Dakota prairies, deer, antelope, wild turkeys, prairie dogs, and begging burros. At the end of the loop road is the State Game Lodge and Coolidge Inn, the 1927 Summer White House for President Calvin Coolidge. After a brief stop, we will return to Rapid City.