

DISCOVER SIOUX FALLS

Why Sioux Falls?

Nestled along the banks of the Big Sioux River, Sioux Falls offers group travelers an exceptional blend of breathtaking natural beauty, fascinating history, vibrant arts and culture, outstanding dining, and genuine Midwestern hospitality. As South Dakota's largest city, Sioux Falls combines the amenities of a thriving metropolitan community with the warmth and friendliness of a welcoming hometown.

Conveniently located at the crossroads of Interstates 29 and 90, Sioux Falls is an ideal overnight or multi-night destination for motorcoach tours traveling throughout the Midwest. Whether your guests enjoy history, architecture, gardens, military heritage, Native American culture, public art, or simply discovering new destinations, Sioux Falls offers memorable experiences that appeal to a wide variety of travelers.

Customize Your Sioux Falls Experience

Every group is unique, and Experience Sioux Falls is pleased to offer a variety of attractions and experiences to curate the perfect itinerary. These experiences allow tour operators to customize their Sioux Falls visit while maintaining the overall flow of the itinerary.

Group Tour Attractions

[Butterfly House & Aquarium](#)

The Butterfly House & Aquarium is home to South Dakota's only public saltwater aquarium and a year-round tropical butterfly conservatory. Visitors can stroll among hundreds of free-flying butterflies while exploring colorful marine exhibits featuring tropical fish, sharks, jellyfish, coral reefs, and interactive aquatic displays.

Approximate Duration: 60-90 minutes

[Cathedral of Saint Joseph](#)

Often considered one of the Upper Midwest's architectural masterpieces, the Cathedral of Saint Joseph welcomes visitors with soaring twin spires, breathtaking stained-glass windows, magnificent murals, and

exquisite marble craftsmanship. A guided tour reveals the history and significance of this beautiful landmark.

Approximate Duration: 30 minutes – 1 hour

Center for Western Studies

Located on the campus of Augustana University, the Center for Western Studies preserves and shares the rich history, cultures, and heritage of the Northern Plains. Through engaging exhibits, archives, artwork, and historical collections, visitors gain a deeper appreciation for the people and events that shaped South Dakota and the American West. Rotating exhibits ensure that every visit offers something new to discover.

Approximate Duration: 45-60 minutes

Falls Park

No visit to Sioux Falls is complete without experiencing the city's namesake. The Big Sioux River tumbles over ancient pink Sioux Quartzite, creating one of South Dakota's most iconic landscapes. Make sure to stop at the Falls Park Visitor Information Center and get a bird's eye view from the five-story viewing tower.

Approximate Duration: 1-2 hours

Good Earth State Park at Blood Run

Discover one of North America's most significant Indigenous cultural sites. Begin with the award-winning orientation film before exploring exhibits that tell the remarkable story of the Native peoples who lived and traded in this region between A.D. 1300 and 1700.

Approximate Duration: 1-2 hours

Great Plains Zoo

Discover one of South Dakota's premier wildlife attractions at the Sioux Falls Zoo. Home to animals from seven continents, the zoo offers engaging exhibits featuring lions, rhinos, giraffes, red wolves, snow monkeys, and many other remarkable species while emphasizing wildlife conservation, education, and discovery. The Zoo is currently undergoing a massive renovation, which will bring the Butterfly House & Aquarium to this campus, creating year-round opportunities for guests to explore wildlife, marine life & tropical ecosystems in one exciting destination.

Approximate Duration: 1-2 hours

Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum & East Sioux Falls Historic Site

Find a haven of nature only minutes east of downtown Sioux Falls. Dotted with wetlands, woodlands, ponds, gardens and native prairie grasses and plants, the Arboretum welcomes visitors to walk the winding trails amidst native wildlife. The educational center invites a glimpse into our history and an opportunity to learn about our environmental future.

Approximate Duration: 1-2 hours

McCrossan Boys Ranch

Experience the inspiring story of McCrossan Boys Ranch, where nearly seventy years of compassion, education, and hard work have helped thousands of young men build brighter futures. Guests can enjoy a hearty chuckwagon lunch, tour the Robert L. Nielsen Visitor Center, and meet the Ranch's famous Gentle Giant horses, creating one of the most memorable experiences of the day.

Approximate Duration: 1-2 hours

Old Courthouse Museum & Museum Scavenger Hunt

Step inside one of Sioux Falls' most treasured historic buildings and explore beautifully restored courtrooms, impressive stained-glass windows, and engaging exhibits that tell the story of Minnehaha County. As a bonus, groups can also participate in an interactive Museum Scavenger Hunt, a favorite activity that encourages visitors to discover hidden details and fascinating stories throughout the museum.

Approximate Duration: 1 hour

Pettigrew Home & Museum

Step inside the beautifully preserved home of Senator Richard F. Pettigrew, one of South Dakota's most influential early leaders. Built in 1889, this elegant Queen Anne-style residence showcases original furnishings, artwork, personal collections, and fascinating exhibits that tell the story of Sioux Falls during its earliest years. The Pettigrew Home & Museum pairs exceptionally well with a visit to the Old Courthouse Museum, highlighting the city's history and its pioneering citizens.

Approximate Duration: 45-60 minutes

SculptureWalk & Arc of Dreams

Experience one of the nation's largest year-round public sculpture exhibits as you stroll through historic Downtown Sioux Falls. SculptureWalk features dozens of sculptures created by artists from around the world, transforming downtown into an open-air art gallery that changes annually. The walk culminates at the spectacular Arc of Dreams, a striking stainless-steel sculpture spanning the Big Sioux River that symbolizes the dreams and aspirations of the region.

Groups may enjoy a self-guided walk using printed materials or arrange for a guided tour to learn about the artists, sculptures, and the vision behind this nationally recognized public art program.

Approximate Duration: 1-2 hours

Sioux Falls State Theatre

Step inside one of downtown Sioux Falls' most treasured architectural landmarks. Beautifully restored to its original 1926 grandeur, the Sioux Falls State Theatre offers visitors a glimpse into the city's rich cultural history while showcasing the elegance of a classic movie palace. Learn about the theatre's remarkable restoration and its continuing role as a centerpiece of downtown entertainment.

Approximate Duration: 1 hour

Stockyards Ag Experience

Located within Falls Park, the Stockyards Ag Experience offers an engaging look at the agricultural heritage that helped build Sioux Falls and the surrounding region. Housed in a beautifully restored historic barn, this interactive museum chronicles the story of the former Sioux Falls Stockyards, once among the largest livestock markets in the nation. Guided tours can be arranged for motorcoach groups and provide additional insight into this unique chapter of Sioux Falls history.

Approximate Duration: 30–45 minutes

USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center

Go behind the scenes at one of the world's leading Earth observation facilities and operational home of Landsat 8 and 9. This fascinating guided tour explores how satellite imagery is used to monitor our changing planet, respond to natural disasters, support agriculture, and preserve one of the world's largest collections of satellite imagery.

Approximate Duration: 1½ hours

**Tour duration includes 30-45 minutes arrival screening*

Battleship South Dakota Memorial

Honor the legacy of one of the most decorated battleships of World War II at the Battleship South Dakota Memorial. This beautifully maintained outdoor memorial features original artifacts from the legendary USS South Dakota, interpretive displays, and personal stories that commemorate the men who served aboard the USS South Dakota. Guided tours provide fascinating insight into the ship's distinguished service and are especially meaningful for veterans, military history enthusiasts, and patriotic travelers.

Approximate Duration: 45-60 minutes

Washington Pavilion

The Washington Pavilion is the region's home for the arts, entertainment, and science. Located in a beautifully renovated historic pink-quartzite building in downtown Sioux Falls, the former high school is home to the 6 rotating galleries of the Visual Arts Center, the Kirby Science Discovery Center with more than 100 interactive, hands-on exhibits, and the Husby Performing Arts Center. The Mary W. Sommervold Hall offers a wide variety of touring Broadway productions, concerts, dance performances, and other exceptional entertainment experiences

Approximate Duration: 1-2 hours

Evening Entertainment Options

Extend your Sioux Falls experience with one of several memorable evening activities. Depending on the season and your group's interests, options may include:

- Live performances at the [Washington Pavilion](#)
- Summer concert series at [Levitt at the Falls](#)
- Live music at local venues
- Seasonal festivals and community events
- Brewery or winery experiences
- Private group entertainment or themed receptions

Signature Sioux Falls Experiences

Enhance your itinerary with experiences found only in Sioux Falls.

Step-On Guided Tour

Board your motor coach for a professionally guided sightseeing tour of Sioux Falls. A knowledgeable local guide introduces your group to the city's history, neighborhoods, architecture, and unique character while providing an excellent overview of the attractions that make Sioux Falls a favorite group tour destination.

Approximate Duration: 60-90 minutes

Dance & Movement with Lisa Myhre

Add energy and laughter to your evening with an interactive dance and movement experience led by local instructor Lisa Myhre. Held in a historic stone church dating to the 1880s, Lisa's program is designed for all abilities and has become a favorite among motorcoach groups.

Approximate Duration: 70-90 minutes

An Evening with Hattie Phillips

Travel back in time with local actress Debbi Jones as she portrays Hattie Phillips, one of Sioux Falls' early civic leaders and influential matriarchs. Presented in authentic period costume and completely in character, this engaging one-woman performance shares the fascinating stories, people, and events that helped shape Sioux Falls into the vibrant community it is today.

Approximate Duration: 45 minutes

8th & Railroad Center – Explore Like a Local

Browse locally owned boutiques, artisan galleries, specialty shops, and unique retailers, or relax with a craft beer at Remedy Brewing Company or Monk's Ale House, or a glass of wine at R Wine Bar & Kitchen. It's the perfect opportunity to experience Sioux Falls like a local before returning to the hotel.