

# SOUTH DAKOTA

SQUARE MILES OF LAND	75,885
MILES OF HIGHWAY	83,472
STATE PARKS	12
NATIONAL PARKS/MONUMENTS/MEMORIALS	6
STATE UNIVERSITIES	6
PRIVATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES	14
VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL SCHOOLS	4

**SOURCES:** U.S. Bureau of the Census; SD Board of Regents; SD Game, Fish, and Parks; *Highway Mileage*, S.D. Department of Transportation; SD Airport Directory; Sioux Falls Airport, Rapid City Regional Airport, and SD State Climatologist.

## CLIMATE

South Dakota is a four-season state, with the weather as diverse as the terrain. Throughout the summer and early fall months, the state enjoys a warm, dry climate, with cool summer evenings. The winter climate is ideal for snow activities, with ample snowfall and cool temperatures. The following averages are based on a 30-year average from 1971-2000.

Average January temperature: 9.8° Fahrenheit in the northeast to 21.5° Fahrenheit in the southwest.

Average July temperature: 66.8° Fahrenheit in the Black Hills to 73.8° Fahrenheit in the south-central part of the state.

Average annual precipitation is 20.53 inches.

## HIGHWAYS

Two interstate highways serve South Dakota: I90 runs east-west, and I29 runs north-south. The speed limit on interstate highways is 75 miles per hour, with most other highways at 65 miles per hour.

## TWO TIME ZONES

South Dakota observes both Central Standard and Mountain Standard Time, with the dividing line being the Missouri River. Daylight Savings Time is observed from the first Sunday in April through the last Sunday in October.

## AIRLINES

South Dakota has good air service, with major airports at Rapid City and Sioux Falls. Denver, Salt Lake City, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Chicago, and St. Louis are primary gateway cities. Sioux Falls is served by United, Northwest, TWA, Mesaba, Atlantic Coast, and various cargo carriers. Rapid City has service from United Express, Northwest, Skywest/Delta Connection, and several cargo carriers. Commercial flights depart the cities of Aberdeen, Brookings, Huron, Pierre, and Watertown. Regular taxi and limousine services are available at airports in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, and Pierre.