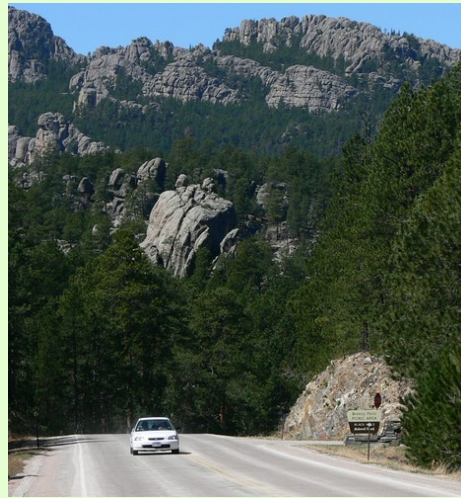


# Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway

This byway will lead you on a delightful adventure as it winds its way around spiraling "pig-tail" shaped bridges, through six rock tunnels, among towering granite pinnacles and over pristine, pine-clad mountains. Highlights include Mt. Rushmore, Harney Peak, Sylvan Lake, the Needle's Eye and Cathedral Spires rock formations.

Length: 68 miles / 108.8 km

Time Allow four hours to drive to the byway or one day to Allow: experience the entire byway.



## Local Information

### Black Hills National Forest

605-673-9200

### Custer State Park

605-255-4515

## Visitor Services



### Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities

For most wilderness explorers there are numerous hiking trails in the Black Hills National Forest and in Custer State Park, both of which are bordered by the byway. For cyclists, the Mickelson Trail is a good choice for touring the area. It is a "rails to trails" path that runs parallel to the byway next to Highway 16/385. Centennial Trail is also an option for hikers and bikers. The trail crosses the byway in 3 places and offers beautiful views of the Peter Norbeck Wilderness.



### Camping

Find reservation information for the following campgrounds on these pages from ReserveUSA.com: \* [Bismarck Lake Campground](<http://www.reserveusa.com/jsp/commonpage.jsp?goto=/nrrs/sd/bism/newindex.html>) \* [Horsethief Lake Campground](<http://www.reserveusa.com/jsp/commonpage.jsp?goto=/nrrs/sd/wicr/newindex.html>) \* [Iron Creek Horse Camp](<http://www.reserveusa.com/jsp/commonpage.jsp?goto=/nrrs/sd/iron/newindex.html>) \* [Orville Campground](<http://www.reserveusa.com/jsp/commonpage.jsp?goto=/nrrs/sd/orev/newindex.html>) \* [Willow Creek Horse

Camp](<http://www.reserveusa.com/jsp/commonpage.jsp?goto=/nrns/sd/wicr/newindex.html>)

### **Food**



The Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway features restaurants with Buffalo on the menu. Byway restaurants include unique cuisine with classic cooking styles. Favorites include Buffalo Burgers, pheasant, and walleye pike. Find food establishments in Custer, Hill City, and Rapids City, along with small lodges in Custer State Park.

### **Gasoline**



Gasoline is available in Custer, Hill City, and Rapids City.

### **Information**



There are visitor information centers, ranger stations, and other facilities found along this byway.

### **Lodging**



Lodging is available in Custer, Hill City, and nearby Rapids City.

### **Phone**



Public phones are available along this byway.

### **Restrooms**



Public Restrooms are available in Custer, Hill City, and nearby Rapids City. Vault or flushing toilets are also available at most campgrounds along the byway.

### **Retail**



Retail services available in Custer, Hill City, and nearby Rapids City.

## **Special Considerations**

Portions of the byway have steep grades, sharp curves, and tunnels with height and width restrictions. Also, Custer State Park and Mt. Rushmore are fee sites. Finally, watch out for wildlife and other byway visitors.

## **Restrictions**

- Custer State Park and Mt. Rushmore both charge fees, and portions of US 16A south of Mt. Rushmore and SD 87 east of Sylvan Lake are closed during the winter.
- Speed limits along the Byway range from 20-45 mph because portions of the Byway have steep grades, sharp curves, and tunnels with height and width restrictions.

## Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway

- Busses, RVs, and trailers may find it difficult or impossible to negotiate the hairpin turns and tunnels of the byway. Contact Custer State Park for more information.

### Seasons

Best Time to Drive

Spring through Autumn

High Season

May through September

### Map and Directions



## Legend:

 Point of Interest	 Campground	 Featured Byway	 Water	 State Border
 Park	 Picnic/Rest Area	 America's Byways	 Wildlife Refuge	 Urban Area
 Mountain	 Interstate	 Other Byway	 Wilderness Area	 Tribal Nation
 City	 U.S. Highway	 Other Road	 Other Federal Lands	 Military Base
 Capital	 State Highway	 Trail	 Other State Lands	

## Driving Directions


- From Custer, follow US Highway 16A east past Highway 89.
- At SD Highway 87, turn left or continue straight on 16A. Highway 87 continues past a junction with US 385 to intersect with Highway 16A.
- Follow Highway 16A to the right, past Mt. Rushmore.
- Follow Highway 16A back to Custer, or take Highway 36 to Hermosa.
- If you follow Highway 16A past Highway 87, stay on Highway 16A as it turns to the left and splits with Highway 36.
- To continue around the loop, take SD Highway 87 at the junction just before Keystone, and follow Highway 87 back to Highway 16A.

## Getting to the Byway





### Nearby cities

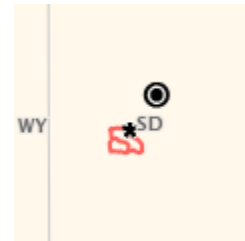
**Rapid City, SD** (22 miles / 35.41 km, 35 minutes)

**Start:**  Intersection of St Joseph St and Mt Rushmore Rd, Rapid City, SD  
N 44.081° W 103.231° [?]

- Take US-16 southwest to Rushmore Rd. interchange.

**Directions:**  Continue south on US-16 to SD-244 in Mt Rushmore National Monument where the byway begins.

**Junction with byway:**  Intersection of US-16 & SD-244  
N 43.886° W 103.437° [?]



## Road Trip: Peter Norbeck Must See Tour

**Departure:** Custer, South Dakota

**Destination:** Mount Rushmore, South Dakota

**Time to allow:** 1 day

This tour begins east of the town of Custer and travels north then east until it reaches Mount Rushmore. Travel this itinerary to see the spectacular scenery of the black hills.

### Day 1

- **Start: Custer**

Encompassing the southeastern section of the byway, this 73,000 acre state park is part of a scenic drive as well as a land of outdoor recreation. Places like Harney's Peak and the Needles Eye make hiking in Custer State Park Memorable and very photogenic.



Although you probably won't find gold in French Creek like Custer did, you will find a few great fish if you bring your fishing pole. And with a herd of 1,500 bison wandering through the park, the wildlife mascot of Custer State Park is, of course, the buffalo.

Favorite outdoor activities include hiking 7,242-foot Harney Peak, mountain biking, horseback riding, rock climbing, fishing, chuckwagon suppers, and jeep rides to see the bison.

- **Stop 1: Needles Highway**

**From previous stop:** same location

**Directions:** Go north on Highway 89.

Driving through rock tunnels and winding past rock spires, the Needles Highway was labeled impossible when it was constructed in 1919. That didn't deter Governor Norbeck, who supplied more than 150,000 pounds of dynamite and the determination needed to construct the roadway.

The Needles Highway curves and winds through 14 miles of magnificent rock formations called 'needles.' One of the most prominent rock formations on the Highway is the Needles Eye, reaching 30 to 40 feet in the air with a 3 foot wide slit.

- **Stop 2: Norbeck Wildlife Preserve**



**From previous stop:** same location  
**Directions:** Travel north on Highway 89.

Congress established this 35,000-acre Wildlife Preserve in 1920 as a breeding place for game birds and other animals. Many indigenous species of wildlife can be found here, including deer, elk, and mountain goat.

- **End: Mount Rushmore**



**From previous stop:** same location  
**Directions:** After passing the wildlife preserve, you will want to travel east on US Highway 16-A until you reach Mount Rushmore.

Mount Rushmore: America's shrine to democracy. The faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln, four of the great presidents of the United States of America, look out on visitors who flock to them from all over the world. As sculptor Gutzon Borglum began this project of carving monumental faces out of a granite cliff, he told reporters:

"I did not and don't intend that (the Memorial) shall be just a damn big thing, a three-day tourist wonder. A nation's memorial should, like Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt, have a serenity, a nobility, and power that reflects the gods they have become."

### Totals for Day 1

**Total Distance Traveled:** 0 miles / 0.0 km

**Total Travel Time:** 0 minutes

**Total Stopping Time:** 0 minutes