

## **Unlock the Mystery of Sioux Falls, South Dakota The best kept secret for your next “mystery group tour.”**

The largest city in the state, Sioux Falls is conveniently located at the junction of two major interstate highways (I-90 and I-29) in Eastern South Dakota. It radiates an urban vibe with its many attractions, hundreds of restaurants and over 5000 hotel rooms. As you contemplate your next “mystery tour,” Sioux Falls is the unexpected perfect destination. We’ve created **three unique mystery tour experiences** sure to be a pleasant surprise for your group tour passengers. They will leave wondering, “Why haven’t we visited Sioux Falls before?” Plus, the Sioux Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau is here to make your life easier. With our top-notch group tour service team, we will assist you in securing a hotel, selecting the perfect restaurants, and design a well-planned customized itinerary to make you smile.

Go ahead ... unlock the “Mystery” of Sioux Falls.

### **Sioux Falls Three-Day Mystery Tour Itinerary**

Sioux Falls is home to "The Falls" of the Big Sioux River, a waterway system that has been flowing in its present course for over 10,000 years. The Falls have been a focus of life in the region throughout history when Native American people once inhabited the area. The Falls and the entire Falls Park are now a beautiful 123-acre focal point and serve as the backdrop for the city’s beautifully restored and vibrant downtown bursting with recreation, shopping and dining options.

#### **Arrive in Sioux Falls – late afternoon.**

After a long day on the road, check into one of 60+ hotels in Sioux Falls. The CVB stands ready to assist in securing the perfect hotel for your group.

**Dinner** at one of the many “group-friendly” restaurants.

#### **Day 1**

The items on today’s itinerary will give you a firm foundation of the history that birthed the city of Sioux Falls and how it impacted the early days of the state’s largest and most progressive city.

##### **(60-minutes)**

To begin your “Mystery Tour” journey, a step-on guide will meet you at your hotel and offer your group a 60-minute motor coach tour of Sioux Falls highlighting the history and rich culture of the region.

## **Mid-morning**

### **[Old Courthouse Museum](#)**

This restored, 1890's Richardsonian Romanesque building, constructed of native pink quartzite, is a National Historic Landmark that features an 1893 clock tower, a restored circuit courtroom and law library along with 16 wall murals painted from 1915 to 1917. Opened as a museum in 1974, the building houses permanent and changing exhibits focusing on the natural and cultural histories of the Siouxland region. The museum hosts lectures, workshops, astronomy programs, walking tours, and traditional music concerts year-round. No admission fee.

Now that you are equipped with the history of the region, a visit to our namesake [Falls Park](#) is next on the agenda. Take time to walk the paths and take in the natural beauty of Falls Park that anchors our historic Phillips Avenue. Read the placards that further explain the history of the Queen Bee Mill and the formation of the Falls. Take a ride to the top of the viewing tower to get a bird's eye view of the city and then **enjoy lunch** at the [Falls Overlook Café](#), the former home of the Hydroelectric Power Plant.

Before you leave the Falls Park area, a must stop is the new [Stockyards Ag Experience](#) located a few steps north of the visitor center. The Stockyards Ag Experience tells the story of agriculture's impact in this region and takes the visitor on a journey through the history of the former Sioux Falls Stockyards from its opening in 1917 to its closure in 2009. In addition, vibrant historical images and high-tech interactive displays give a glimpse inside the world of food production and explains the process of farm to table. The Stockyards Ag Experience is a true tribute to the region's agricultural industry.

Admission: Adults - \$5.00

A midafternoon must is a tour of the [Cathedral of Saint Joseph](#) that stands tall above the Sioux Falls skyline. This Romanesque and French Renaissance structure was built from 1915-1918. Over the years, the historic landmark has become a cornerstone of the Cathedral Historic District and through a multi-million-dollar, a three-year renovation in 2011, the Cathedral was transformed back to its original grandeur and charm. The renovation included restoring much of the original paintings, moldings and structure. Guided tours available in the afternoon.

Admission: free

## **Late Afternoon**

A tour of the [Pettigrew Home & Museum](#) in the historic Cathedral District of Sioux Falls. Richard F. Pettigrew, South Dakota's first full-term U.S. senator, purchased this 1889 Queen Anne home in 1911. A seasoned traveler, Pettigrew collected artifacts from all over the world, and many of these items are now on display. Tour the restored home and attached museum with galleries that detail the area's natural and cultural histories. Admission: Free

## **Dinner – Downtown Sioux Falls**

### **Free evening to explore Downtown Sioux Falls and [SculptureWalk](#)**

SculptureWalk is an exciting annual exhibit of 56 outdoor sculptures displayed year-round in Downtown Sioux Falls and ranges from abstract to whimsical. The collection is valued at over \$1 million and includes works from artists across the globe.

\*\* Also in 2019 – The Arc of Dreams, a massive stainless steel permanent sculpture seven stories high and nearly the length of a football field will be installed over the Big Sioux River in the downtown area. Complimentary SculptureWalk - brochures/maps available for distribution.

**Evening Treats** at either [Parlour Ice Cream House](#) (Washington Square in Downtown Sioux Falls, SD) or [Stensland Family Farms Ice Cream & Country Store](#)

## **Day 2**

Itinerary items today include attractions and facilities that provide both an understanding and education of healthcare, science, agriculture, and the impact of a caring and nurturing environment for teens. All tour stops are located just north of Sioux Falls and within minutes of each other.

### **Morning**

#### **[Sanford Research Center](#)**

Sanford Research is a non-profit research organization that is a part of Sanford Health, the largest rural, not-for-profit health care system in the nation. Sanford Research has sought to establish a core of scientists who are studying disease at a fundamental level including Cancer Biology and Immunotherapies, Pediatrics and Rare Diseases, Diabetes, Cellular Therapies and Stem Cell Biology, Enabling Technology, Environmental Influences on Health and Disease, Genetics and Genomics, and Population Health. Tour the Sanford House, adjacent to the Research Center, which is a large exhibit honoring the life and legacy of philanthropist Denny Sanford.

### **Mid-morning**

#### **[McCrossan Boys Ranch Tour and Lunch](#)**

For more than 61 years, McCrossan Boys Ranch has changed the lives of many young boys. The Ranch is a private non-profit organization just minutes north of the city, dedicated to providing a place for boys ages nine to 20 grow into contributing members of society. Through values, education and skills taught at the Ranch, the individuals gain the skills to live a balanced life outside the Ranch. A specialized educational services and ranch activities are offered so each individual can heal and grow intellectually. A multimillion-dollar visitor center will be completed in April 2019. McCrossan Boys Ranch invites groups to a mid-morning tour of the facility, followed by lunch at the Ranch. (Reservations required)

## **Afternoon**

### **[USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science \(EROS\) Data Center](#)**

U.S. Geological Survey Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Center is a remotely sensed data management, systems development, and research field center for the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Area. Visitors will be fascinated by the geographical mapping of the world through the use of satellites and are able to view hundreds of the earth's images. EROS opened in the early 1970's and currently houses one of the largest computer complexes in the entire Department of the Interior. Guided group tours are free to the public M-F: 10a.m. and 2p.m. (50 minutes).

### **[Strawbale Winery](#)**

Imagine a winery made of strawbales. The remarkable insulating properties of strawbales means the winemakers are able to reduce the energy needs of the winery and recreate the controlled environment of cellars and caves that have always played an important part in the maturation of great wine. This innovative building material marries with the commitment to environmental sustainability and production of fine wine. Take a tour, experience a unique country setting all while enjoying a delightful wine tasting experience. Group Tour winetasting experience: \$6 per person.

## **Dinner and Evening Entertainment Options**

### **[Olde Towne Theatre Co.](#)**

The Olde Towne Dinner Theatre is committed to celebrating the art and the joy of community theatre. It is the longest continually running theatre in the Sioux Falls area with an annual attendance of over 8,500. Its quaint and intimate setting is perfect for a group tour. The actors, cast and crew, wait staff and bartenders are all volunteers and love interacting with the audience. With more than 70 performances a year, the theatre provides a delightful evening activity for bus groups. \$40 per person for dinner and show

## **Day 3**

Today your journey will take you outside of the city to the fertile rolling hills of the countryside.

## **Morning**

### **[Stensland Family Farms](#)**

Start your day with a trip to the farm. Stensland Family Farms is a family-owned farm located just moments south of Sioux Falls. It is a 200-cow dairy with a recently built on-farm creamery. The milk produced on the dairy is used for freshly bottled milk, ice cream, aged cheese and cheese curds. Tours include robotic milking system walk-thru, creamery viewing and bottle calf encounter. Tours are approximately 90-minutes. \$12 per person (includes a dish of homemade ice cream, milk and cheese samples)

## **Late morning**

### **[Good Earth State Park](#)**

Located just a few miles southeast of Sioux Falls near the South Dakota-Iowa border sits several acres of pristine land rich in cultural history and preserved to keep its natural beauty. Good Earth State Park is one of South Dakota's newest state parks. The new 11,000 square-foot visitor center opened in 2017 and features a variety of exhibits and educational programming focused on the cultural and historical significance of the site.

The land, which sits along the Big Sioux River, was once inhabited by Native American civilization from 1300-1700 AD. The area was a popular site for settlement because of the river, the abundant wildlife, and fertile plains. It is believed that the occupants of the land were primarily Oneota Indigenous Peoples, including Omaha, Ioway, Oto and Yankton Sioux Tribes. No other Oneota site of this size and integrity is known to exist in the United States. Several different vantage points along the trails allow for spectacular vistas.

Group tour admission: \$3 per person

## **Lunch**

## **Afternoon**

### **[Butterfly House & Aquarium](#)**

Step into a whole new world, where tropical flowers surround you in a balmy 80-degree environment. Hundreds of colorful butterflies gracefully flit by to welcome you to their home. Enjoy seeing over 800 butterflies from Central and South America, Asia, Australia and Africa and a beautiful 3,600 square-foot indoor tropical garden. View the Emergence Window where chrysalises hang, and you may see a butterfly emerge. The Marine Cove at the Butterfly House & Aquarium displays hundreds of different species of fishes and corals in over 10,000 gallons of aquariums. Admission: Adults: \$10, Seniors (60+): \$9

### **[The U.S.S. South Dakota Battleship Memorial](#)**

The U.S.S. South Dakota Battleship was one of the most decorated ships in WWII. The Memorial in central Sioux Falls features the outline of the U.S.S. South Dakota and a museum dedicated to its life in WWII. The lead ship of her class, *South Dakota* was the third ship of the U.S. Navy to be named in honor of the 40th state. During WWII, the battleship first served a tour in the Pacific theater, where it fought in two battles in 1942 that earned the ship and its crew a Navy Unit Commendation. In May 1943, South Dakota joined British Home Fleet patrols in the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans before sailing again to the Pacific in August 1943. There, South Dakota participated in combat operations preparatory to the invasion of Japan until returning to the United States in October 1945. Admission: free, suggested donation of \$25 - \$75 per motor coach.

## **Dinner**

### **Evening Entertainment Options**

#### **[Orpheum Theatre](#)**

The Orpheum Theater is listed on the national register of historic places and is located in the heart of Sioux Falls on Phillips Ave. It serves as the home stage for the community theater and Sioux Falls Jazz & Blues Society. Musicals and plays are staged throughout the year with group tour pricing available for each show.

Or

#### **[Washington Pavilion](#)**

The Washington Pavilion is the region's premier cultural, educational and entertainment center located in Downtown Sioux Falls. The Visual Arts Center is home to six galleries and features changing exhibits including the new Infinite Variety gallery committed to showcasing South Dakota artists. The Husby Performing Arts Center is home to the 1,800-seat Mary W. Sommervold Great Hall, which offers a wide variety of touring Broadway productions, symphonic/musical concerts, national/international dance tours and more.

## **Day 4**

### **Breakfast**

Depart Sioux Falls with treasured memories of your Mystery Tour of Sioux Falls.