

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 Two-Day Mystery Tour Itinerary

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 -

Morning

Begin your day with a visit to our namesake, "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. Make time to get a bird’s eye view from the five-story viewing tower inside the visitor center.

**** (Insider tip –** The Falls are photographed beautifully in the morning or early evening when the light reflects off both the water and the pink quartzite.) A complimentary 20-minute step-on guide can be arranged to give you a brief overview of the city.

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 explain the process of farm to table. The Stockyards Ag Experience is a true tribute to the region’s agricultural industry.

Admission: Adults - \$5.00

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.

Lunch

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 corner stone 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

Morning

[Stensland Family Farms](#)

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

[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).

Mid-afternoon options:

[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.

[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 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

Return to the hotel

Dinner and evening entertainment options:

[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.

[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.

[Olde Towne Theatre Co.](#)

The Olde Towne Dinner Theatre is committed to celebrating the art and the joy of community theatre. 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. The theatre provides a delightful evening activity for bus groups. \$40 per person for dinner and show

Day 3

Breakfast

Depart Sioux Falls with treasured memories of your mystery tour experience!