

# WIND CAVE

## Discover the Biodiversity of the Prairie

Did you know the name Wind Cave comes from the wind that naturally blows out (and in) of the small natural entrance to the cave? The direction the wind blows depends on the barometric pressure! It is also known for its delicate calcite formations called "boxwork" - it hosts 95% of the world's discovered boxwork.

You'll need to arrive prior to opening in order to secure tickets. Make sure you call ahead and ask when the daily ticket quota is being met. We arrived an hour after opening and waited in line for 1.5 hours and weren't able to secure a tour until four hours later!



## OUR FAVORITE THINGS TO SEE AND DO

### Fairgrounds Tour

The tours are 1.5 hours; 2/3 miles; 450 stairs. You'll explore upper and middle levels of Wind Cave. The boxwork is abundant in middle level; popcorn and frostwork is seen in upper level.

### Black Hills

Back above ground, the Black Hills make an idyllic setting for bison, prairie dogs, and a variety of other wildlife. There are various hiking trails but we opted to explore Hot Springs, SD!

### Hot Springs, SD

Keith Memorial Cascade Falls in the Black Hills National Forest, a perfect swimming hole with small falls and plenty of jumping opportunities - highly recommend if in the area and warm summer temperatures is a must!

### Moccasin Springs Natural Mineral Spa

Book a spa treatment or spend time in one of the 4 outdoor, natural mineral spring pools

## WHERE TO STAY

We opted for a home base in Rapid City (1 hour north of the park) to explore the nearby Badlands National Park and Mount Rushmore National Monument.

## HOW MANY DAYS WILL YOU NEED

I recommend a minimum of 1 day in order to explore the Wind Cave National Park.

