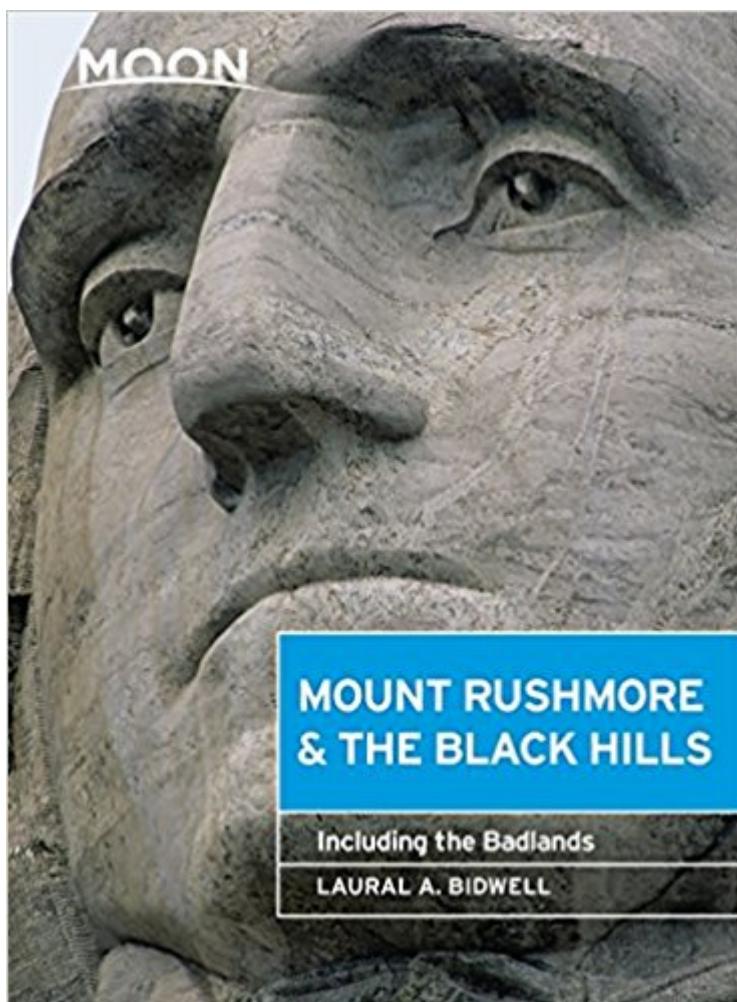


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# Moon Mount Rushmore & The Black Hills: Including The Badlands (Moon Handbooks)



## Synopsis

South Dakota resident Laural A. Bidwell offers her firsthand experience and advice on Mount Rushmore and the Black Hills; including the Southern Hills, the Badlands, and Keystone. Bidwell provides unique travel strategies such as Best Hiking Trails, Viewing Wildlife, and Fossil Collecting in the Parks, Grasslands, & National Forest. With expert tips on the best dining, shopping, accommodations, and camping, Moon Mount Rushmore & the Black Hills gives travelers the tools they need to create a more personal and memorable experience.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Laural A. Bidwell grew up in Connecticut but left the rolling hills of the East years ago for the wide-open spaces of the American West. She first lived in Colorado Springs, then moved on to Denver before finally finding her home in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Like many, Laural discovered South Dakota more by accident than on purpose: on a rambling road trip, drifting north and east across the plains, she glanced at her map and realized she was within an hour of South Dakota, a state she'd never before visited. She decided to head for the border town of Ardmore to get gas and stay the night. Ardmore had (and still has) a population of four. There was no gas station. There was no place to stay. The dot on the map was larger than the town. Low on gas, she forged on to the next town on the map; Hot Springs; where she got gas, found a place to stay, and discovered the Black Hills. It was love at first sight: from the prairie grasslands and rolling hills of the south to the otherworldly badlands of the east to the craggy peaks and granite

spires of the north, the Black Hills offer an amazing diversity of outdoor opportunities and scenic beauty. Now living in Hot Springs and playing in the beautiful Black Hills, Laural still enjoys road trips, as well as writing and spending time with her husband, Jim; her golden retrievers, Willow and Maverick; and her cat, Spike.

I have many Moon guides as an enthusiastic traveler and travel writer myself who writes for European audiences. The writer brings this to life with a great deal of first-hand research, the real magic is in her dedication to the owners of small town lodging and restaurant establishments, where she often incorporates their personalities and background into the narrative, making it all the more compelling to stop and visit. The Hot Springs, Keystone, Hill City and Custer sections are especially well done and detailed and point out shops, galleries and family establishments that are otherwise almost always overlooked. Her writing is excellent and lively, extremely unpretentious and let's the reader decide for themselves with excellent facts and tidbits. The best Moon Guide I have ever come across, the author truly understands this beautiful place and has spent countless hours and hours researching and improving to try and provide us with a wonderful treasure map to the wonderful sites to offer in The area.

My wife and I recently went on a somewhat lengthy road trip through the Dakotas and Minnesota. It was difficult to find a book that didn't either just gloss over or have a small section devoted to the Black Hills...and most of that was for Mt. Rushmore and/or the Badlands. This book met just about all the needs that we had during our trip. The book not only covers the main spots like Rushmore and the Badlands, but it covers the entire area in a very easy to understand manner. In terms of just simple information about the region, to my knowledge there isn't a better book. But beyond that, Bidwell's writing shows that she's explored this area in and out and is not just an author but a local expert as well. I used the book in all facets of planning our adventure, from getting a basic overview of the history of the area down to mapping how we were going to tackle the Norbeck Scenic Byway. We used the book on the trip to make sure we weren't missing anything that would be of interest that we might regret not seeing. We used it on the fly to determine which restaurants we might eat at, especially in some of the smaller towns like Custer and Hill City. I would argue the book's biggest strength isn't so much regarding Mt. Rushmore and the Badlands (it does a fine job with those places however), but it's with the information and recommendations it provides for the rest of the area. It's nice to know a bit about the towns you're in to make you appreciate them more. In the end, we came away very satisfied with our choices...many of which were based on Bidwell's commentary

and recommendations in the book. Without a doubt, if you are planning a trip to southwestern South Dakota (which I also strongly recommend if you can), this book is a must-have, before, during, and after.

I ordered this book to prepare for a recent trip to the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore (July 2017). This book was invaluable in preparing for the trip - interesting, easy to read, well organized, and highlighted the must-sees so that I could finalize my planning at the last minute. It also came in handy multiple times when navigating around the area during our vacation - once or twice I had spotty internet service and could not access information or maps on my phone. I was able to look at the book and navigate using that info until we arrived at our destination or I was able to get service on my phone. I highly recommend purchasing this book. It really was worth every penny I paid!

Well-written and author spent many hours researching. I'm glad etiquette for Pow Wows was addressed, and extremely happy that tourists are being encouraged to go[and be respectful]. As an aside, I recommend the Hilton Garden Inn and the Cambria as top choices to Rapid City hotels.

I really enjoyed reading this guide. It gave me detailed information on the Black Hills and Badlands areas, including things I hadn't considered, such as the narrow roads and tunnels (we travel in an RV) and the temperature difference between the Badlands and the higher altitude Black Hills. It pointed out attractions I didn't know about (the two main dinosaur attractions really sound interesting) and helped me narrow down what I wanted to do and see in the four days I'll have in the area.

I found this book easy to read, easy to find what I wanted to find, and really helpful on my recent trip to the Black Hills. Without it I likely wouldn't have discovered some of the things we really enjoyed doing. I like that it wasn't cluttered up with lots of restaurant and hotel listings.

Awesome. Great detail that is easy to use. Helped us hit a bunch of stuff in less than 2 days.

I got this for an upcoming vacation and it's great. Written by a local who has been there and knows all the tricks, this was a great addition to my travel packet.

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