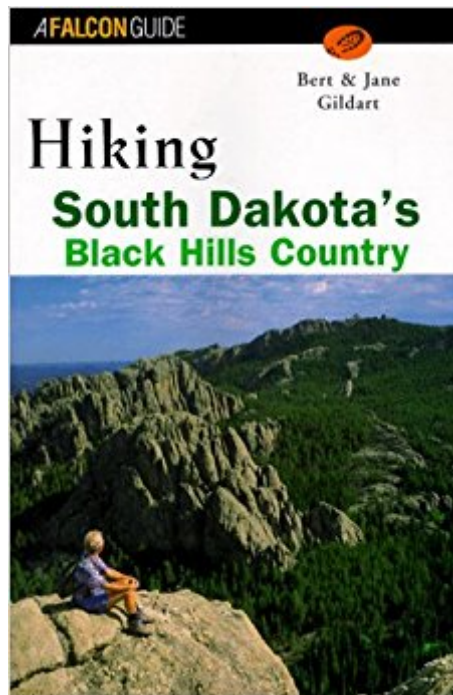




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Hiking South Dakota's Black Hills Country (Regional Hiking Series)



Synopsis

Native Americans call this country Paha Sapa, meaning "hills that are black." Hikers call the Black Hills "paradise." An area of 6,000 square miles with more than 500 miles of trails, the Black Hills have affected travelers through the ages-including Native American leaders Crazy Horse and Black Elk, Gen. George Armstrong Custer and sculptor Gutzon Borglum. Black Hills country is a land of pine forested hills surrounded by prairie, and oasis full of wildlife and striking rock formations, an area of religious and historic significance, and an area of magnificent hiking diversity. Hiking South Dakota's Black Hills Country covers nearly all the trails in the area from Devils Tower National Monument and Mount Rushmore National Memorial to Custer State Park and Wind Cave and Badlands National Parks. Detailed descriptions and maps will get you to the trailheads and help you plan your trip. This guide also includes tips on safety and hiking with children, elevation charts, photographs, no-trace camping information, and an equipment checklist. Whether you are a veteran or novice hiker, Hiking South Dakota's Black Hills Country will lead the way to outdoor adventure.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Covering nearly all the trails in the area from Devils Tower National Monument and Mount Rushmore National Memorial to Custer State Park and Wind Cave, and Badlands National Park, this book offers detailed descriptions and maps that will get you to the trailheads and help you plan your trip. This guide also includes tips on safety and hiking with children, elevation charts, photographs, no-trace camping information, and an equipment checklist. Whether you're a veteran

or novice hiker Hiking South Dakota's Black Hills Country will lead the way to your outdoor adventure in the Black Hills country.

Bert and Jane Gildart share an enthusiasm for adventure, hiking, photography, and natural history. Bert is a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and has been writing about the outdoors for the past twenty years. He has served as a backcountry ranger in Glacier National Park and has written more than 300 magazine articles and nine books. Bert and Jane's others book for Falcon include Hiking Shenandoah National Park, Best Easy Day Hikes Shenandoah National Park, and AFalconGuide to Death Valley National Park: A Guide for Exploring the Great Outdoors. --This text refers to the Unbound edition.

I go on an annual hiking trip with a group of buddies. We almost always rely on Falcon Guides for hike planning, and this year being my year to plan the logistics, I purchased the guide for the Black Hills and Badlands for our five hikes. We found that the distances for virtually all the hikes we did were very far off (miles off, including our longest hike, the Lost Cabin/Harney Peak loop, which was listed in the guide as 8.6 miles but by the count of two different GPS readings was 12.4), and one of the hikes was rated easy when it included several fairly significant climbs. Most disappointing, however, was the fact that one description, that for the Bear Mountain loop, was wholly inadequate/inaccurate, including simply incorrectly describing the trailhead at the boy scout camp, which after 90 minutes of all 6 of us spreading out and searching we simply never found. Very disappointing.

Beware!! just used this book for two hikes in the Badlands and Black Hills--both were as listed in terms of terrain, views, etcetera, but the mileage listed was way off. The Badlands loop trail we followed was clocked at 6.6 miles at the trailhead and at 4 in the book. My hiking partner and I noticed the discrepancy and were prepared, carrying enough water and planning for enough time. If someone went by the book they would be entering a hike several miles longer than expected; particularly dangerous given the heat and exposure of the area and the fact that the hike is rated easy. The Harney Peak loop via the Lost Cabin trail is even more grossly inaccurate re: total mileage. My hiking partner and I are very fit and we set out for what we planned as a nice training hike before a week backpacking in Colorado. Several miles into the wilderness and away from our car we noticed that mileage wasn't adding up to that detailed in the book. We decided to push on, assuming it couldn't be wrong by more than 2 or 3 miles (dangerous enough). By the time we were

on our way down from the peak, it had become evident that the mileage was way off and we began to find mileage discrepancies even within the detailed description (the descent is shown as 3.6 mile on the brief breakdown and then there are more than 5+ miles detailed within the written description). We had our headlamps and essentials to get us through a night in the wilderness if necessary but ended up pretty much running down the descent to beat the nightfall (we did, by about 10 minutes). We both ended up nursing our feet through our weeklong backpacking trip. . .I will use this book again for it's pointers to nice trails and descriptions of the qualities of the hikes in terms of views, terrains, traffic, etcetera. I will count on calculating my own mileage via maps and other sources.

Handy book for planning.

Overall good book but BEWARE that some information in the book (now 8+ years old) is dated. In particular, hike #39 on page 124. It is not doable based upon the book's outdated info about the trailhead and trails (specifically, one can't find the trailhead from the parking area as the trails have changed since the book was published). Otherwise I have done three other hikes from this book (#10, 25 and 50) and I enjoyed them all.

Many ideas for good hikes, we did many in May. Good details for picking hikes best for us. If in the area, you must amble up Harney Peak

very easy to understand and follow. accurate description of the trails. very handy book to have.

Not much info on the area we wanted to hike in.

I've been hiking and camping for over 40 years. I always research the area before any trip. I had hoped this book would help in planning. It was very weak on trail description. I got more information from just looking through the internet.

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