

2023 End-to-End Hike of the South Dakota Centennial Trail

Subject to change - last updated March 19, 2022

Page 1

Subject to change				
	Thursday, May 11			<p>12 pm pick-up at the Rapid City Regional Airport in Rapid City, South Dakota. Group travel to Wind Cave National Park and our campsite for the evening. Approximately 61-miles/2 hours. Set-up camp, review 10 Essentials, day packs, discuss route for Friday and plan for the end-to-end hike.</p> <p>Meal provided D. Lunch on own, with stop en route to park.</p>
		Day Mile	Cum Mile	Trail Notes - LEG 1 - 56.7-miles
1	Friday, May 12	6.2	6.2	<p>Travel to southern terminus. Approximately 10 minute drive.</p> <p>Hike is in gentle rolling hills with riparian features, open grasslands and trail amid old fire burn. Prairie dog towns and roaming buffalo will be observed for most of the day.</p> <p>Meals provided B/L/D.</p>
2	Saturday, May 13	10.2	16.4	<p>Little more up and down today, first one is 400-feet gain just as the hike begins. Following, the trail ambles and meanders through open fields and wooded landscape and is constantly changing. Buffalo will be observed for most of the day.</p> <p>Meals provided B/L/D.</p>
3	Sunday, May 14	11.5	27.9	<p>Today begins with rocky walls and views obscured behind cattail flower and flowing creek waters. As the trail changes throughout the day, it meanders and crawls with greenery – even tosses in a rocky climb that is not recommended for horses, as a bonus. Second half of the day follows jeep road from recent thinning and cutting infected ponderosa pine forest.</p> <p>Meals provided B/L/D.</p>
4	Monday, May 15	9.2	37.1	<p>Numerous options for the day (rest, play tourist). This is the only wilderness segment of the trail - Black Wilderness Area. We have no guide permit or permissions to hike this segment of trail.</p> <p>Meals provided B/L/D - as long as in the field.</p>
5	Tuesday, May 16	9.8	46.9	<p>First segment of the day is fast hiking along old dirt road with long meadow corridors of green. Trail opens to fields along rolling landscape before reaching switchbacks and descending.</p> <p>Meals provided B/L/D</p>
6	Wednesday, May 17	9.8	56.7	<p>First explore the slowly changing grade of flume trail before transitioning to the wide open landscape of Bald Hills and descending to Victoria Creek.</p> <p>From the trailhead, group travel to lodging in Hill City. Approximately 20 minute drive.</p> <p>Meals provided B/L - dinner on own. Town stop - two nights.</p>

2023 End-to-End Hike of the South Dakota Centennial Trail

Subject to change - last updated March 19, 2022

Page 2

<i>Subject to change</i>				
		Day Mile	Cum Mile	Trail Notes - LEG 2 - 69.8-miles
7	Thursday, May 18			Town stop in Hill City with options to visit local tourist interests. Town stop days are a way to rest, regroup with laundry, a shower and town food. Breakfast provided by lodging. L/D on own.
8	Friday, May 19	10.6	67.3	Short segment of assertive up and down like our last full day of hiking before meandering, crossing an earthen dam and accessing old jeep roads as a connector to the next segment of changing trail. Hiking today is relatively fast. Breakfast provided by lodging. Meals provided L/D.
9	Saturday, May 20	11.4	78.7	Moderate segment distance today filled with plenty of ups and downs. Though you might be weary of two track, the landscape is beautiful and the middle is filled with open fields. There has been lots of conversation – is this segment of the trail overmarked? Meals provided B/L/D.
10	Sunday, May 21	7.1	85.8	A shift in the schedule to shorten several long days in a row allows for a short day of hiking. Don't miss the Nemo Mercantile if you want some extra snacks. Don't underestimate the route that was recently rerouted - it now climbs high then descends. Meals provided B/L/D.
11	Monday, May 22	12.8	98.6	Beautiful segment of secluded and lonely trail that meanders above cliffs before descending into gulches and drainages. Trail feels like it travels back and forth on itself with its sinuous route. Meals provided B/L/D.
12	Tuesday, May 23	11.5	110.1	Ridgetops and rolling little bumps that eventually lead to the flatness of open hills. The early part of the day feels more closed in though tree mitigation has happened in the past few years. Meals provided B/L/D.
13	Wednesday, May 24	10.2	120.3	A laughable, why did the trail do that moment. Open grasslands, historical markers, bunkers and an old firing range note the history of this place. Soon, more grasslands. Plan to be exposed most of the day. Meals provided B/L/D.
14	Thursday, May 25	6.2	126.5	Final day – up and back hike with 900-feet of elevation gain. Trail is almost entirely exposed with history that stretch 4,000-years. This is a solemn location and should be treated with the respect it deserved. Travel to lodging in Rapid City. Approximately 52-miles/1 hour. Meal provided B. L/D on own (we like dinner to be a group debrief).
	Friday, May 26			12 pm drop off at the Rapid City Airport in Rapid City, South Dakota. Approximately 13-miles/20 minutes. Breakfast provided by lodging.