All-Day Field Trip: Mammoth Site and Wind Cave National Park Underground Tour

An additional registration fee is required for this field trip.

The trip is limited to the first 50 registrants.

The trip is open to all professionals, honoraries, guests, and spouses.

Schedule:
- 7:00 – 7:45 AM Breakfast: Pine Crest Ballroom C
- 7:45 – 8:00 AM Bus loading at main entrance to hotel
- 8:00 AM Bus departure
- 5:30 PM Return: The Lodge at Deadwood

This trip begins with a scenic, 2-hour drive: eastward from Deadwood to Sturgis through Boulder Canyon, providing great views of some of the sedimentary stratigraphy of the Black Hills; then south along the eastern edge of the Black Hills on Interstate Highway 90 and Highway 79; then west on Highways 18 & 385 North to Hot Springs. In Hot Springs, we will spend about 1½ hours at the Mammoth Site, the world’s largest mammoth research facility. There, we will tour an active paleontological dig site, view Ice Age fossils exhibited in place, and have time to view exhibits in the museum.

Next is a 25 minute drive north on Highway 385 to Wind Cave National Park. Established in 1903, this park is one of the oldest national parks and contains one of the world’s longest caves. Upon arrival at the Park, we will eat a box lunch at a picnic area near the visitor’s center.

Wind Cave was named for barometric winds at its entrance. We will be taken on a special tour similar to a tour named the Fairgrounds Cave Tour. To give you a flavor of what our tour will be like, the following describes some of the Fairgrounds tour: 1½ hour exploration of both the upper and middle levels of Wind Cave; Abundant boxwork along the trail in the middle level of the cave; In the upper level, the trail winds through larger rooms where popcorn and frostwork can be seen. This is Wind Cave’s most strenuous walking tour. The tour enters and exits the cave by elevator and there are 450 stairs along the ½-mile route with one flight of 89 steps going up.

In the cave, there are no restrooms and the air temperature is a steady 53° F.

Our day will conclude with a 2-hour drive north on Highway 385 through the heart of the Black Hills arriving in Deadwood around 5:30 PM. Dinner this evening will be on your own.

What to wear: Casual dress; comfortable walking shoes; jacket. Do not wear sandals or shoes with leather or hard composition soles.

What’s provided: Bottled water; box lunch (sandwich, chips, cookie, apple, soda)

June averages for Hot Springs:
- High temperature: 81° F
- Low temperature: 51° F
- Precipitation: 2.89 inches