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POWERED BY STEAM.



Black Hills Central Railroad

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF **25** WARDER FAMILY OWNERSHIP

1880 TRAIN FAQs

What is the 1880 Train?

It is a two-hour, narrated 20-mile round trip between Hill City and Keystone.

Passengers view vistas of Harney Peak, mining encampments and participate in good old-fashioned fun. Trains follow the original route of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad

laid down in the late 1880s to service the mines and mills between Hill City and Keystone. The Black Hills Central Railroad is the oldest continuously operating tour railroad in the nation and operates three steam and two diesel engines throughout the season. One of our steam engines is close to 100 years old!



How long does the ride take?

It is an hour ride each way, with a 15-minute turnaround time. The 11:15 am and 5 pm Keystone round trip takes about 45 minutes longer because there is a lunch and dinner break in Hill City.

Who owns the 1880 Train?

The train is owned by the Black Hills Central Railroad formed by a small group of stockholders who were interested in preserving steam railroading.

What kind of oil does the train use?

The steam engines burn recycled motor oil.

Why does the train go so slowly?

We have some of the steepest grades in the U.S. The track has several sharp curves. It's hard work for the engine to get up the hills, and we go slowly down the hills and curves to reduce the chance of accidents.

Why is it called the 1880 Train?

Bill Heckman, the man who originally started the 1880 Train, wanted a railroad like a train from the 1880s, and the name stuck.

Did the train run to Deadwood at one time?

Yes, special runs along the High Line to Deadwood were made before the rail line was removed to make Rails to Trails.

Where does the sand come from?

A couple times each trip, the fireman throws sand into the firebox. This sand is drawn through the flues to clean them and is exhausted from the stack. Some of this sand may fall on passengers, but it is easily brushed off.

How much oil and water is used?

It takes about 200 gallons of oil and 1,000 gallons of water for one round trip with engine #104. Engine #7 takes almost twice as much fuel, and Engine #110 takes 200 gallons of oil and 2,000 gallons of water.

Can children meet the engineer?

Yes, while the engine is taking on water.

Why is the engine shop called a Round House?

When steam engines were in use by the

railroads, the engine house was set up like a wheel with a turntable at the hub and stalled for the engines radiating from it. With this arrangement, an engine could be brought on to the table, then turned to position it to enter the appropriate stall.

Can someone in a wheelchair ride the train?

Yes, we can accommodate up to three wheelchairs per run.

What does 'narrow gauge' mean?

A standard gauge track has rails that are 4' 8 1/2" apart. On most narrow gauge track, the rails are 3' apart – although there are other narrow gauges as well.

What will people see on a train ride?

The central Black Hills is abundant with forests, meadows and wooded canyons. Much of the train route follows Battle Creek, home to gold prospectors before and during the turn of the century. The train passes throughout National Forest Service land on its way from station to station, and passengers can also see the remnants of old mines and mining operations. Some of these mining claims have been turned into residential land, and some houses are visible from the train. County Road 323, along with a few private drives, crosses the train tracks several times, giving passengers the opportunity to enjoy the sound of a steam whistle.



What kind of wildlife is around?

Many different kinds of woodland animals call the Black Hills home. Most often, passengers will see white tail deer, mule deer, wild turkey, wood chucks, mallard ducks and cottontail rabbits.



Is the train ride narrated?

Yes, the train ride is narrated by a host, and a speaker system allows each car to hear their narration, which includes information about the train, the Black Hills and also points of interest along the route. A guide book is for sale at either depot as well as onboard the train. This guide book tells the history of the 1880 Train, includes technical information about the equipment and has a section in which you can follow along with the train ride.

Is food served on the train?

Drinks, popcorn and candy bars are available onboard. The High-Liner Snack Shoppe in Hill City sells food such as hot sandwiches, burgers, hot dogs, soft pretzels, nachos and ice cream.

Are there restrooms on the train?

No. They are only available at the stations.

Are pets allowed on the train?

We only allow certified service animals onboard the train.

Can a stroller, car seat or cooler be brought onboard the train?

We can store collapsible strollers onboard, or they can be stored in either gift shop. Car seats may be brought onboard the train. If it is a sold-out train ride, passengers will need to hold the car seat or pay for

the child riding in the car seat. Normally, children under the age of three ride for free, but when the train is sold out, they need to ride on an adult's lap or purchase a child's ticket. Small coolers may be brought onboard the train and kept under the seat.

Are there assigned seats?

Regular-priced train rides do not have assigned seats. Certain special event train rides do have assigned seats.

Do passengers need to ride on the immediate return or can they come back later?

Passengers may spend time in the town. However, tickets are time specific, and visitors must check their tickets for details or talk to a ticket agent about their plans.

Can passengers walk around during the ride?

No, for our passengers' safety, we ask that all riders remain in their seats during the train ride. At the opposite station, passengers will have the opportunity to switch to a different seat if they wish.

BLACK HILLS FAQs

- Mount Rushmore National Memorial is located on Hwy 244, 12 miles from the Hill City station traveling through Keystone or 15 miles traveling toward Custer on Hwy 385 to Hwy 244. It is three miles from the Keystone station.
- Crazy Horse is 10 miles from the Hill City station on Hwy 16. It is 17 miles from the Keystone station, traveling Hwy 244 to Hwy 385.
- Other top attractions in the area are Bear Country and Reptile Gardens located on Hwy 16.
- Custer State Park is 16 miles away from Hill City and includes Harney Peak, the Needles, Iron Mountain Road, hiking, climbing and wildlife viewing.
- Badlands National Park is approximately 110 miles away on I-90.
- Jewel Cave National Monument is 28 miles away from Hill City, taking Hwy 385 to Hwy 16 through Custer.
- Wind Cave National Park is 35 miles away from Hill City on Hwy 385 toward Hot Springs.
- Shopping abounds in Keystone and Hill City.

IS THERE A SHUTTLE FOR THAT?

Shuttle service only available for passengers riding the one-way departure from Keystone on the following dates:

June 26-29

July 6, 10-13, 17-20, 24-27

Shuttle is \$6 per child or adult. Call 605-574-2222 or email office@1880train.com to reserve a seat on the shuttle.