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Black Hills RV Driving Guide From Hwy 385

US-385 is the central north-south road linking Deadwood, Pactola Reservoir, Hill City and the southern Black Hills, and it runs past Custer Crossing Family Campground at 22036 Hwy 385, about 15 miles (25 minutes) south of Deadwood. Tunnel sizes below come from official state and federal pages. Book a site at Campspot.

How far is everything from Hwy 385?

US-385 is the central north-south road through the Black Hills, linking Deadwood, Pactola Reservoir, Hill City and the southern Hills. These drive times start at 22036 Hwy 385, Custer Crossing Family Campground, in the middle of that route.

Approximate drive times from Custer Crossing Family Campground, 22036 Hwy 385 (public map data; traffic, weather, road work and Rally week change these)

Destination	Miles	Drive time
Pactola Reservoir (visitor center)	13 mi	20 min
Deadwood	15 mi	25 min
Lead	15 mi	25 min
Mickelson Trail, Dumont Trailhead	11 mi	35 min (gravel roads)
Hill City	27 mi	40 min
Rapid City (downtown)	28 mi	45 min
Sturgis (downtown)	29 mi	40 min
Spearfish	31 mi	45 min
Keystone	31 mi	45 min
Custer State Park (nearest entrance, Hwy 16A)	32 mi	55 min
Mount Rushmore	33 mi	55 min
Needles Highway, Needles Eye Tunnel	37 mi	1 hr
Crazy Horse Memorial	38 mi	1 hr 5 min
Rapid City Regional Airport (RAP)	39 mi	1 hr 5 min
Wind Cave National Park visitor center	61 mi	1 hr 35 min

Which roads have tight tunnels?

The Needles Highway (SD-87), the Sylvan Lake stretch of SD-87/89 and Iron Mountain Road (US-16A) have narrow one-lane rock tunnels. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks publishes the sizes on its Custer State Park scenic drives page and in the 2026 Tatanka park guide, which notes that its tunnel measurements are the most current. The SDDOT motor carrier handbook lists different, larger figures and says commercial traffic should not use these sections of SD-87 and US-16A as through routes.

Black Hills tunnel sizes as published by South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP, Custer State Park) and the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT). The two agencies publish different figures; plan around the smaller GFP numbers.

Tunnel	Road	GFP (Tatanka 2026 and scenic drives page)	SDDOT motor carrier handbook
Needles Eye Tunnel	Needles Highway (SD-87)	8 ft 0 in wide x 9 ft 9 in high	8 ft 4 in wide x 11 ft 3 in high
Iron Creek Tunnel	Needles Highway (SD-87)	8 ft 9 in wide x 10 ft 10 in high	9 ft 0 in wide x 11 ft 4 in high
Hood Tunnel	Sylvan Lake Road (SD-87/89), north of Sylvan Lake	8 ft 9 in wide x 9 ft 8 in high	10 ft 6 in wide x 9 ft 10 in high
Doane Robinson Tunnel	Iron Mountain Road (US-16A)	12 ft 0 in wide x 11 ft 4 in high	13 ft 2 in wide x 12 ft 2 in high
C.C. Gideon Tunnel	Iron Mountain Road (US-16A)	11 ft 6 in wide x 10 ft 9 in high	13 ft 0 in wide x 11 ft 0 in high
Scovel Johnson Tunnel	Iron Mountain Road (US-16A)	10 ft 9 in wide x 11 ft 0 in high	13 ft 2 in wide x 12 ft 4 in high

- **Needles Highway winter closure:** the road closes to vehicles with the first snow of the season and does not reopen until April 1, or later depending on conditions (GFP).
- **Iron Mountain Road in winter:** it closes periodically during winter depending on conditions (GFP); the National Park Service says it may close in hazardous weather and to check SD511.org (NPS).
- **2026 construction:** GFP's 2026 park guide notes US Highway 16A within Custer State Park is under construction; check SD511.org for current information (Tatanka 2026).

What routes suit big rigs?

Stick to the main highways in a large RV and use a tow vehicle or car for the scenic byways.

- **To Mount Rushmore:** from I-90, exit at Rapid City and follow US-16 to Keystone, then SD-244 to the memorial; from the south, follow US-385 north to SD-244 (National Park Service).
- **Scenic byways:** the U.S. Forest Service says buses, RVs and trailers may find it difficult or impossible to negotiate the hairpin turns and tunnels of the Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway,

which includes the Needles Highway and Iron Mountain Road (USFS byway brochure). Unhook and drive them in a car or truck.

- **Through routes:** SDDOT says commercial traffic should not use the tunnel sections of SD-87 and US-16A as through routes (SDDOT).
- **US-385:** the campground sits right on US-385, so you reach Deadwood (15 miles), Pactola Reservoir (13 miles) and Hill City (27 miles) without any of the tunnel roads.

For site details, see big rig RV camping and our full-hookup RV park near Deadwood. Email custercrossings@gmail.com with your rig length before you book.

How can I share or print this guide?

Free to share with a link to this page (CC BY 4.0). Credit: Custer Crossing Family Campground, www.custercrossingcampground.com/black-hills-rv-drive-guide. Download the PDF or print this page. Road conditions change; always check SD511.org and the linked official pages before you drive.

Sources checked October 2026: South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks; South Dakota Department of Transportation; National Park Service (Mount Rushmore); U.S. Forest Service (Black Hills National Forest).

GOOD TO KNOW

Frequently asked questions

▼ **Can an RV fit through the Needles Eye Tunnel?**

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks lists the Needles Eye Tunnel at 8 ft 0 in wide by 9 ft 9 in high. Compare that with your RV's width and height, including mirrors and roof gear; the U.S. Forest Service says buses, RVs and trailers may find the byway's tunnels and hairpin turns difficult or impossible.

▶ **When is the Needles Highway closed?**

▶ **What is the RV-friendly route to Mount Rushmore?**

▶ **How far is Mount Rushmore from Hwy 385 at Custer Crossing Family Campground?**

▶ **Can I share this guide?**

More answers on our campground FAQ.

Custer Crossing Family Campground

22036 Hwy 385, Deadwood, SD 57732

Open April 15 to November 1 · **Book online**

Phone: **(605) 578-6378**

Email: **custercrossings@gmail.com**

FAQ · **Rates & Availability**