

INTRO STURGIS

Sturgis, aka the 'Black Hills Motorcycle Rally': the world's most famous biker party. Once a year all the reincarnated warriors, kings and cowboys gather for a peaceful party on ancient American Indian land of the Sioux warrior tribe. Sturgis is a quarter million gleaming motorcycles of every model and year in one place at one time in an atmosphere of great fun and revelry. And our tour is the perfect way to enjoy the party and ride some fantastic roads through the Old West and the Rockies. We want to show you a little bit of America, to offer an experience beyond compare. Spectacular mountains, open grasslands, historic monuments, pioneer trails - we'll take you through the unmistakable cattle country of the Old West, the amazingly beautiful Rocky Mountains, Mt Rushmore National Monument and many more sights and sounds to remember. And what better way to enjoy this than with a group of like-minded motorcycle lovers - a holiday you'll never forget!

DAY 1: Arrival Denver

Welcome to the Mile High City! Upon arrival you will check in at the trendy Curtis Hotel in downtown Denver. Get ready for the welcome dinner with your fellow party people and your tour guides where the tour concept is discussed in detail. First analysis is made of who rides what at home, who has been here before and who hasn't and you'll get a good idea of how this group is going to interact. That's if you're on the guided tour, if you're doing this the self guided way you will unfortunately only have yourself or whoever was lucky enough to get invited by you and join you on this amazing ride.

DAY 2: Denver to Cheyenne**175 miles / 280 km**

After breakfast we go to collect our motorcycles, and then head north-west out of Denver to get a taste of excellent motorcycle riding possibilities in the Rocky Mountains. Past the famous Flat Irons of Boulder and into the mountains, lovely sweeping roads rising to over 2000 m for the next 75 or so miles until our lunch stop. This is no ordinary lunch stop, it is the 5* hotel that inspired Stephen King to write 'The Shining', starring Jack Nicholson. We then change direction and head north-east, down and out of the mountains to our destination, Cheyenne. The mountain vistas make way to open grassland this afternoon - the land west of Cheyenne was the setting for the original 'Virginian' stories. With a fair wind there should be time to see the golden domed State Capitol, and the Frontier Days Old West Museum, a must for those of you interested in the days of the Old West with its collection of horse-drawn vehicles, Indian costumes, rodeo mementoes and even a rustic saloon.

DAY 3: Cheyenne to Rapid City**240 miles / 385 km**

Sturgis here we come! Today's ride will lead us to Black Hills National Park on back roads. We'll stop at Fort Laramie, founded in 1854 and the oldest and most important garrisoned outpost in Wyoming. Now a national historic site, 22 original structures remain. Nearby is Register Cliff, a day's hike down the trail, where pioneers 'signed in' on the sandstone walls of the cliff; and the Oregon Trail Ruts, where the pioneer wagons have carved deep ruts for several hundred yards in the soft sandstone above the North Platte River. We then continue north towards Thunder Basin National Grassland, following the old stagecoach route, and then head into South Dakota and pick up the interstate for our ride into Rapid City in the early evening.

DAY 4: Sturgis Rally / Day Ride**mileage / km varies**

Let the fun begin! For the next 4 days we have time to get into the sights, sounds and feel of the world's biggest motorcycle event in all its glory. You can come on organized ride-outs with our knowledgeable crew to Deadwood, Spearfish Canyon, Mt Rushmore and through the Black Hills. And we'll also take you to some of the events happening like Thunder Road or the drag racing. Or you can do exactly as you please and find your own way around. The choice is yours!

DAY 5: Sturgis Rally / Day Ride**mileage / km varies**

Activities at leisure. Join us for a morning ride or make your way into Sturgis and give it all you got. There are some really great food places set up that cater out of this world BBQ and other goodies.

DAY 6: Sturgis Rally / Day Ride**mileage / km varies**

Don't forget to visit the infamous Full Throttle Saloon or see one of the great love concerts at the Buffalo Chip.

DAY 7: Sturgis Rally / Day Ride**mileage / km varies**

Today is your last chance to take in whatever you didn't manage to do for the past 3 days. Tomorrow we will leave this crazy place and are off to some more sights.

DAY 8: Rapid City to Casper**300 miles / 480 km**

Across the buffalo plains ... we leave Sturgis behind and ride the pioneer trails of General Custer and his men in 1874. We'll detour to the Devil's Tower, important in the legends of native Americans and a landmark for the pioneers, rising 1280 ft above the valley floor, and the first ever national monument in the USA. And if it looks familiar, it was used as the site where the spaceships landed in 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind'. We then head southwest past the largest coal mining region in the USA and across the plains to Casper. If we're lucky we can follow Custer's footsteps (not too closely!) and find a little gold here,

watch out for some Sioux warriors! Casper, our stop for the night, was a major settlement in the 19th century. This is the crossroads of the Oregon Trail, the Mormon Trail and the Pony Express. Casper's wealth is founded on uranium, bentonite (used as drilling mud in oil and gas wells, but also as a health drink!) and oil and the city has a mineralogical museum with some fascinating fossils, and the famous Nicolaysen Art Museum. We'll also hopefully have time to visit Deluxe Harley-Davidson, Wyoming's largest dealership.

DAY 9: Casper to Steamboat Springs**285 miles / 460 km**

Into the Rockies ... as we head south to Rawlins the Rocky Mountains Massif looms ever larger. Rawlins is a once infamous cattle town; 120 years ago the locals lynched and skinned the region's most notorious outlaw, 'Big Nose' George Parrot. So don't get caught speeding! Views and scenery don't seem to end today, and our final hour or so along the Snowy Range Scenic Byway with curve after curve gets us to our destination, the winter ski resort of Steamboat Springs in the heart of the mountains.

DAY 10: Steamboat Springs to Denver**215 miles / 348 km**

Rocky Mountain High! Our final leg of this tour presents us with fantastic motorcycle roads through the mountains. The Colorado River Headwaters Scenic Byway takes us to the unspoilt town of Kremmling, where the Moose cafe will give you a real slice of hometown Colorado. We can then either head south along a great, empty road to Interstate 70 at the 'new town' of Silverthorne, which is quite a strange sight after the great emptiness of the Rockies. Or we continue up the Colorado River valley to Hot Sulphur Springs, with its 22 thermal pools and quaint local museum, and then head south to Idaho Springs. If you thought Interstates are boring, the mountain section of the I-70 will dispel that idea. If weather allows, we can take a ride to Mt Evans, at 14,126 ft the highest paved road in America. The road starts at Idaho Springs and climbs to the park entrance at Echo Lake at over 10,000 ft. If the weather isn't clear (and it often isn't), there's time for a drink at the lodge, where you will see hummingbirds feeding. If the road is open, be prepared for some spectacular riding on very twisting roads to the top. The air is very thin here, so remember to breathe deep. The ride down into Denver via Squaw Pass offers great views of the vast flatness of eastern Colorado before we return to 'civilization' and the city traffic. And should the weather not be perfect, we can visit the Buffalo Bill Museum in Golden, or head straight into Denver with more time to sightsee. Whatever the route, today's ride is a fitting end to a great holiday. And after returning our motorcycles, tonight we'll have a farewell dinner and the rest of the evening is yours to enjoy.

DAY 11: Denver Departure**0 miles / 0 km**

You've done it! What started as a simple idea several months or maybe even years ago has now come full circle. You went to Sturgis! The group of riders that you've spent those 10 days with will stay with you a lifetime and you might even find yourself planning another great getaway with some of the same people. After all, there are plenty of motorcycle tours available, and you've just scratched the surface with the Rocky Mountain High Motorcycle Tour. Now would be a great time to begin planning next year's adventure, perhaps to the Wild Wild West, Rocky Mountain High Day Tripper or the Pacific Coast. There's also plenty of time to think of that later too, so bask in your moment of glory for now. You've done more than most people with Harley's do, and you've lived the dream of millions by getting out and tearing it up for a few wild days at the Rally. Congratulations! You've just had a great Sturgis Harley experience! Bon Voyage, Auf Wiedersehen, Adios, Arrivederci and See Ya!