



The Perfect



Weekend

YANKTON

SOUTH DAKOTA

Getaway

Located an hour north of Sioux City, Yankton, South Dakota once served as the first capital of the Dakota Territory from 1861 to 1883. Officially founded in 1869, this river town has over 155 years of history for you to explore. Known as the "Mother City of the Dakotas", Yankton has always been one of my favorite towns in all of Siouxland. This itinerary is packed with dining, sightseeing, activities, and more. There is a lot to see and do here, so enjoy your weekend! Let's dive in...

Day 1

4:00 pm:

Beer flight tasting and yard games at Ben's Brew Station (719 Walnut Street, Yankton, SD)

With a nearly 28,000 square foot building, Ben's Brew Station has 28 beers on tap, along with pinball and arcade games if you're here during the winter months, and a spacious patio to enjoy the Summer nights. Dog friendly and a great place to for the family, this is the perfect place to settle in to your Yankton vacation. (<https://www.bensbrewing.shop/>)

6:30 pm:

Check-in to your hotel room at Lewis & Clark Resort (43496 Shore Dr, Yankton, SD)

Along the Missouri River, the Lewis and Clark Resort offers visitors cabins and rooms with full amenities, along with 3,000 square foot cottages and even campsites for those who want to travel with their RV. With an outdoor pool, sand volleyball court, a playground for the kids and firepits to enjoy the starry nights this will become your home away from home in no time. Be sure to rent bicycles to explore the scenic six miles of bike trails. (<https://www.lewisandclarkresort.com/>)

7:30 pm:

Dinner at Charlie's Pizza House (804 Summit St, Yankton, SD)

Voted the best pizza in South Dakota by the Food Network Magazine, Charlie's is also the oldest pizza house in all of South Dakota. Along with their famous pizza, they also serve wings, garlic bread and salads. Opening their doors in 1959, Charlie's has been serving the public for 65 years now, and one of their best selling pizzas is the "Festus" which has sauerkraut on it, or maybe try their "Betty White" with spinach, artichoke and alfredo. (<https://charliespizzahouse.com/>)

Day 2

7:30 am:

Breakfast at Muddy Mo's Coffee House (233 Broadway Ave, Yankton, SD)

Located in Yankton's Meridian District, this welcoming establishment serves breakfast and lunch out of a historic 140-year-old building. From pastries, to homemade quiche and fresh regional coffee, this is the perfect place to start your busy day in the right direction. (<https://www.facebook.com/muddymocoffeehouse/>)

9:00 am:

Drive across the Gavins Point Dam (55245 NE-121, Crofton, NE)

Connecting South Dakota to Nebraska the dam is the southern most of four dams on the Missouri River. Completed in 1957, its primary function is to generate hydroelectric power. Tours of the power plant are available by calling the Lewis & Clark Visitor Center at 402-667-2546. In addition, the visitor center is open seasonally, however you can still enjoy the dam's scenic views year-round. (<https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/Dam-and-Lake-Projects/Missouri-River-Dams/Gavins-Point/>)

11:00 am:

Continue enjoying the Mighty Mo at Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery (101 - 149 Hatchery Loop, Yankton, SD))

As one of 70 National Federal Hatcheries in the United States, Gavins Point Fish Hatchery works to save endangered and primitive species, such as Pallid Sturgeon and American Paddlefish. Also offering guests a peak at marine life, there is a 10,000 gallon aquarium housing reptiles and amphibians, along with pike, bass and other fish. There are also outdoor raceways where you can feed the fish, just remember to bring quarters for a handful of pellets! Open seasonally, be sure to check their hours of operation. (<https://www.fws.gov/fish-hatchery/gavins-point>).

12:30 pm:

Lunch at Willa B's Bistro & Emporium (114 Douglas Ave #2, Yankton, SD)

Opening their doors originally downtown in 2015, they eventually outgrew that location and moved in 2017 allowing for an open kitchen concept, outdoor patio seating and even adding events such as a monthly dinner club. With a mouthwatering menu created by Chef Rikka, daughter of owner Laurie Wright, you will not only love your lunch, but also the vintage interior design. And remember to shop their emporium for locally made souvenirs. (<https://www.willabs.net/>)

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**Below are three different itinerary options for the afternoon.
Depending on the weather, and what time of year you decide to visit, you
may be able to do one or more of these activities.**

2:30 pm:

Take a tour of the Cramer-Kenyon Heritage Home (509 Pine St, Yankton, SD)

As the tallest Queen Anne Home in the Dakotas, the Cramer-Kenyon home was named after its previous owners Nelson and Alice Cramer, then Herbert and Esther Kenyon. Built in 1886, it was sold to Heritage Homes, Inc. in 1972 and has been lovingly maintained and open to the public since. The majority of South Dakota's constitution was written here, and so much of the century-old wallpaper can still be seen. Tours last about an hour and a half, and the home is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day only, but you can request a tour during the off season by calling 605-665-7470. (<https://www.cramerkenyon.com/>)

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2:30 pm:

Enjoy a round of mini golf at Karttrax Family Fun Park (4908 West 8th St, Yankton, SD)

Three miles west of Yankton, Karttrax Family Fun Park is situated on five acres, and boasts a beautifully landscaped 18-hole outdoor mini golf course. Operating since 1986, this family-owned facility plans to expand this year, adding go-karts and bumper cars to their growing business. (<https://www.facebook.com/karttraxyankton/>)

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2:30 pm:

Learn more about Yankton's history at the Mead Museum (82 Mickelson Dr, Yankton, SD)

If you find yourself in Yankton during the winter months and the above two options do not suite your vacation itinerary, then make your way to one of the most grandiose buildings you'll see on your trip. Built in 1909 for the women's receiving facility of the Dakota Hospital for the Insane, it was eventually abandoned in 1991 and sat empty for twenty years. Then, in 2012 it was purchased for \$1 by the Yankton County Historical Society under the agreement that they would foot the \$5 million restoration bill. Today, the Mead Museum has come a long way, and now is open to the public, so that everyone can enjoy this stunning masterpiece. (<https://www.meadbuilding.org/>)

4:30 pm:

Head back to hotel room to refresh and relax, or give yourself time to do one or more of the above activities

6:30 pm:

Dinner at El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant (2502 Fox Run Pkwy, Yankton, SD)

After a day full of adventure you'll want to sit down and relax with a well-deserved authentic Mexican meal. Known for their mouth-watering dishes such as Molcajete, Pollo Jalisco and Shrimp al Mojo, take your time to savor every bite. You'll also be serenaded by Mariachi music, and maybe even enjoy a cold Mexican beer or one of their house Margaritas. (<http://www.eltapatio-sd.com/>)

8:30 pm:

Work off some of that food at The Boat House (301 E 3rd St, Yankton, SD)

No, you do not need a boat to visit The Boat House. In fact, this is the place to go for a couple rounds of skee-ball, test your aim at axe throwing, or bring out your competitive side with the golf simulator. Located in the downtown Meridian District, you'll have a blast with the entire family. Make sure to book a game of golf or an axe-throwing session ahead of time via their website. (<https://boathouserecreation.com/>) ***Note: For customer safety, Axe Throwing is for ages 10 and up.

Day 3

Suggested Breakfast options before or after you check out of your hotel...

- Lewis & Clark Marina (the on-site restaurant located on the resort)
- Muddy Mo's Coffee House
- Fryn' Pan Family Restaurant

10:00 am:

Take a stroll across the Meridian Bridge (271 W Riverside Drive, Yankton, SD)

Built in 1924 as a toll bridge, it was eventually converted to a pedestrian bridge in 2011. A popular outdoor activity during the winter and summer, this picturesque and iconic bridge offers views of the Missouri River. Walking across this half-mile bridge will take about half an hour. However, allow yourself time to explore the upper and lower levels, this bridge is truly majestic. (<https://www.nps.gov/mnrr/learn/historyculture/meridianbridge.htm>)

12:00 pm:

Work up an appetite at PLAYX (103 W 3rd St, Yankton, SD)

Located inside the historic 1870 three-story Gurney Hotel, this indoor amusement and recreation center has everything from escape rooms, to nerf wars and even obstacle courses. Don't have time for everything? You can purchase attractions separately, or plan to go on Wednesday nights for \$5 indoor mini-golf. (<https://www.facebook.com/Playxyankton>)

1:30 pm:

Grab a late lunch before hitting the road at Tastee Treet Drive-Inn (413 W 4th St, Yankton, SD)

Serving locals since 1950, Tastee Treet is known for their old-school diner treats, from delicious malts and shakes, to legendary loose-meat sandwiches. This iconic old-time drive-in is still in operation 74 years later, and is a true South Dakota treasure. (<https://www.facebook.com/tasteetreetyankton/>)

If you have time, check out:

- Riverside Park and Yankton Riverwalk (200 Levee St, Yankton, SD)
- Yankton Area Arts Association (508 Douglas Ave, Yankton, SD)
- Shop the downtown Meridian District for souvenirs (<https://www.meridian-district.com/shop>)
- Walk the downtown Meridian District alleyways, admiring the murals (<https://kxrb.com/going-to-yankton-south-dakota-check-out-these-murals/>)
- Attend a show at the Dakota Theater (328 Walnut St, Yankton, SD) check showtimes: <https://dakotatheatre.org/>
- Dakota Territorial Capitol Replica (Douglas Ave & Levee Street) Call for tour: 605-668-5231
- Treat yourself to ice cream at Dairy Dock (4804 W 8th St, Yankton, SD) Open seasonally
- Enjoy live music at 6th Meridian Hop Farm (4200 Alphonse Rd, Yankton, SD) Check their website for event schedule: <https://www.6thmeridian.com/see>

Honorable Mention!

Spend an afternoon at Lake Yankton Beach! Or if you brought your kayak, enjoy a day on the water. Open seasonally. (43349 SD-52, Yankton, SD) Visit their website for more info: <https://gfp.sd.gov/parks/detail/lewis-and-clark-recreation-area/>

Or if you are planning a trip around a certain event, here are some ideas to help you on your journey:

- Farmers Market at the Meridian (Every Saturday morning May-Oct)
- Yankton RibFest (June 8th, 2024)
- 3rd on 3rd Block Party (July 3rd, 2024)
- Music at the Meridian (free summer concerts every Thursday night in July and August)
- Downtown Crazy Days (two-day event in July: TBD)
- Rock 'N' Rumble Motorcycle Rally (July 27th, 2024)
- Riverboat Days & Summer Arts Festival (August 16th-18th, 2024)
- Harvest Halloween Festival (October 2024)
- Holiday Festival of Lights (December 5th, 2024)

Thank You

This concludes your visit to Yankton. Take your time throughout your visit, and don't feel like you have to do everything. Please, don't hesitate to reach out with any suggestions or questions you may have! I hope you enjoy your time in Yankton, and make sure to tag me in your adventures @TheSiouxlandBlog!