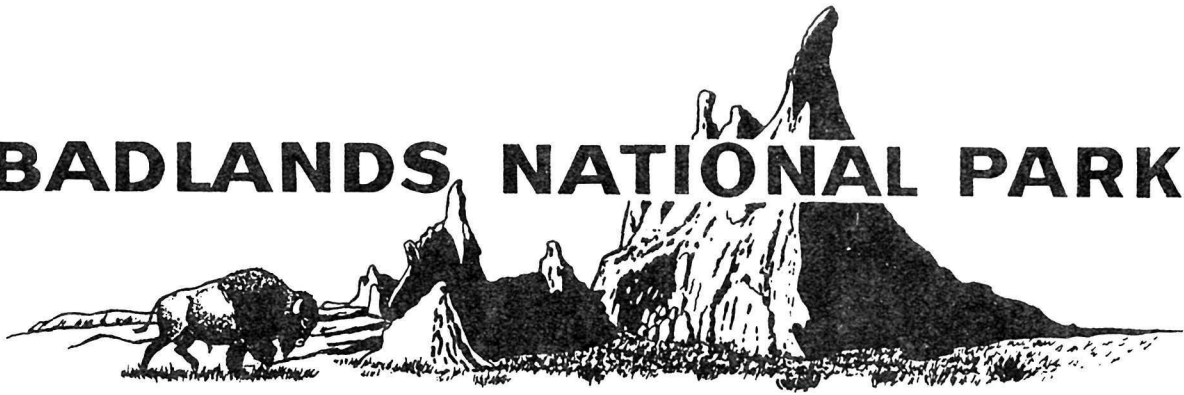


# BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK



## HIKING TRAILS

Strangely carved rock forms, prairie animals, fossil bones, artifacts of ancient peoples - all of the things that provoke wonder in Badlands National Park are best seen on foot. The entire park is open to hikers, but all of the trails start from parking areas along Highway 240 within a few miles of the Cedar Pass Visitor Center. Rangers can recommend the best places to go for short walks or long hikes. If you are interested in an overnight hike, ask for backpacking information.

The Fossil Exhibit Trail, a 1/4 mile loop, meanders among fossils displayed under clear domes. Located five miles northwest of the Cedar Pass Visitor Center, the trail is an easy walk and is wheelchair accessible. Pick up a trail guide at the Visitor Center or trail head.

The Cliff Shelf Nature Trail, an easy 1/2 mile loop, winds through a wooded prairie oasis surrounded by parched badlands. The trail is shaded in places by juniper trees. A trail guide points out natural history. Located 1/2 mile northeast of the Visitor Center.

The Door Trail, 2/3 mile round trip, shows you Badlands at their "baddest." It starts at the northern end of the large Doors and Windows parking area two miles northeast of the Visitor Center, and penetrates into wildly eroded badlands through a "door" in the Badlands Wall. The first 100 yards is paved and wheelchair accessible, but the path soon becomes more rugged, so wear good walking shoes. Striped posts mark the way and correspond to the geologic story in the trail guide.

The Window Trail, 1/4 mile round trip, takes you to a natural window in the Badlands Wall with a view of an intricately eroded canyon. It begins at the center of the Doors and Windows parking area, and is wheelchair accessible.

The Notch Trail, 1-1/2 mile round trip, takes you down a canyon, up a ladder and along a ledge to a grand vista of the White River Valley and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. This trip is for the adventurous and those unafraid of heights. The trail begins at the south end of the Doors and Windows parking area. Hiking boots are recommended.

The Castle Trail stretches for over 5 miles between the Fossil Exhibit Trail and the Doors and Windows parking area. It is mostly level, paralleling precipitous badlands. The Medicine Root Trail makes a loop with the Castle Trail from any connecting trail head. Take water.

The Saddle Pass Trail, a very short but steep hike, connects the middle of the Castle Trail and the Medicine Root Loop to Highway 240, two miles west of the Cedar Pass Visitor Center.

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## Hiking trails

