

Brief History of Sturgis, South Dakota

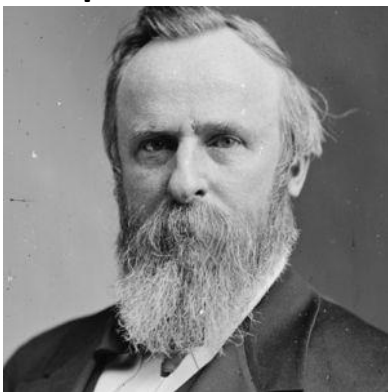
Sturgis was founded in 1878. It was originally named “Scooptown” because many of the residents “scooped up” their pay from nearby Fort Meade. Its name was later changed to Sturgis in honor of the Civil War Union General Samuel D. Sturgis. Sturgis is famous for being one of the biggest annual motorcycle events in the world.



Location and Driving Directions from major U.S. airport(s)

Sturgis is located directly on I-90. It is about 28 miles west of Rapid City, SD and about 17 miles east of Spearfish SD. From Rapid City Regional Airport, you would simply take Highway 44 until you get to the interstate and go west toward Gillette, WY. You would take exit 34, 32, or 30 to get to Sturgis. From Spearfish you would take airport rd west until it connected with the interstate. From there you would go across the interstate and then get on the interstate going east towards Rapid City. You would again take exits 30, 32, or 34.

Who was President when this town was founded? And, what was the political environment in America at the time?



Rutherford B. Hayes was President of the United States when Sturgis was founded.

America was still in a recovery/reconstruction period from the Civil War, the president at the time, Rutherford B. Hayes, was in charge of attempting to reconcile the divisions left over from the Civil War. He was an attorney from Ohio and when the war began, he decided to sign up as an Officer for the U.S. army.

There were 38 states at the time Sturgis was founded.

Oldest business/largest business today

The Bank Saloon is the located in the oldest building in Sturgis. The top three industries in Sturgis are health care, transportation, and tourism. The full throttle saloon is probably the

biggest, or most valuable business in Sturgis. It is the biggest biker bar in the world. It spans over 30 acres and has parking for thousands of bikes. It also has hundreds of cabins for rent, several large stages, zip lines, restaurants, stores, and many other fun/attractive things.

City Government

Sturgis is governed by the City Manager form which consists of a mayor and 2 or 4 commissioners. The terms of office are determined by ordinance, but may not exceed 5 years.

Historical Attractions in the area. Festivals and Events

The Sturgis Motorcycle Museum and Hall of Fame is located on Main Street in Sturgis and is a very popular tourist attraction.

Every year, the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally there are hundreds of thousands of people there. This year, for the 75th annual rally, they are expecting over 1 million bikers! For more information on the rally visit: <http://www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com/>

Where can we stay if we visit Sturgis?

Holiday Inn Express and Suites Sturgis. This hotel is very nice and very affordable. It is not right in the town of Sturgis, if you didn't want to be right in the middle, so you aren't having to deal with the traffic and if you want to take a nap in the daytime, you can sleep comfortably. It has all the accommodations of a normal hotel, like T.V., WiFi, indoor pool, and a nice patio outdoors.

Why would I want to visit Sturgis?

In my opinion, this is a great town to visit because it has a lot of historic value. My grandparents lived in this town for many years and my dad grew up in this town. Other people might tell you that this town would be great to visit because of the rally, but I don't ride motorcycles, so I cannot say that myself. Also, I'm not very old so most of the rally would not be suitable for me. This town is also very cool because as you're driving through it, you pass old buildings and for me, I see all the places my dad has told me about and where he has been and all the memories they have made there.

Sturgis, SD-U.S. History Section 2. KTC