

MOUNT RUSHMORE

Rapid City, South Dakota

Wandering the Black Hills of the Dakotas, you may never find a young boy named Rocky Raccoon, but you can find four U.S. presidents. After Congressional approval in 1927, carving began on the stone likeness of Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt, finally completed 14 years and \$989,992.32 later.

The size of Mount Rushmore is deceiving until you're actually standing there. For example, Washington's face is 60 feet long; Jefferson's mouth is 18 feet wide, and the eyes of the four men are all 11 feet tall.

Of course, the land where Mount Rushmore stands was in fact given to the Lakota by treaty long before anyone thought of carving presidential figures on the sacred land. Not surprisingly, the monument is not on the Top 10 List with many Native Americans. A significant effort to make an even larger carving, one of Crazy Horse, is under construction 17 miles away at the Indian Museum of North America.

The National Park Service offers information NPS.gov/moru/. Visitor information is also available at 605.574.2523. Airport: Rapid City Regional (RAP).

