

2024
BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK
SOUTH DAKOTA



“I’VE BEEN ABOUT THE WORLD A LOT AND PRETTY MUCH OVER OUR OWN COUNTRY; BUT I WAS TOTALLY UNPREPARED FOR THAT
REVOLUTION CALLED THE DAKOTA BADLANDS.”
-FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

The morning I took my ten year old son to see the Badlands for the first time, it was in the low 70’s... a lot more pleasant than the usual 100 plus degrees that frequent this location. Conrad asked me, “Why do they call it the Badlands?” I could only respond, “It has been called this for centuries by Native Americans.” As we began our hike down to the floor of these formations, we both agreed we couldn’t find anything “bad” about the scenery we were witnessing. Places like the Badlands prove that beauty exists in all forms. This was evident from my son’s reaction as we explored several formations created over millions of years of erosion from rain and wind. He jumped from rock to rock smiling and amazed by this surreal landscape located in the middle of the high plains of South Dakota. This was our first National Park stop on a seven month adventure.

The Badlands set the stage for an experience we both will remember for the rest of our lives.