

USA 29. MAY – 11. JUNE

We signed up for a trip to the [USA](#) with [Amerikabussen](#) (America bus), which is a division of [Solgruppen](#). The tour was called "[Indians USA with Tore Strømøy](#)." We traveled with [Icelandair](#) from Oslo at 14.45 via Reykjavik to Denver in Colorado. Arrival Denver at 18.35 local time (8-hour time difference).



We had to change planes in Reykjavik. Here we are sitting in the departure lounge, waiting for our flight to go.



We sit and look straight across to the bar.



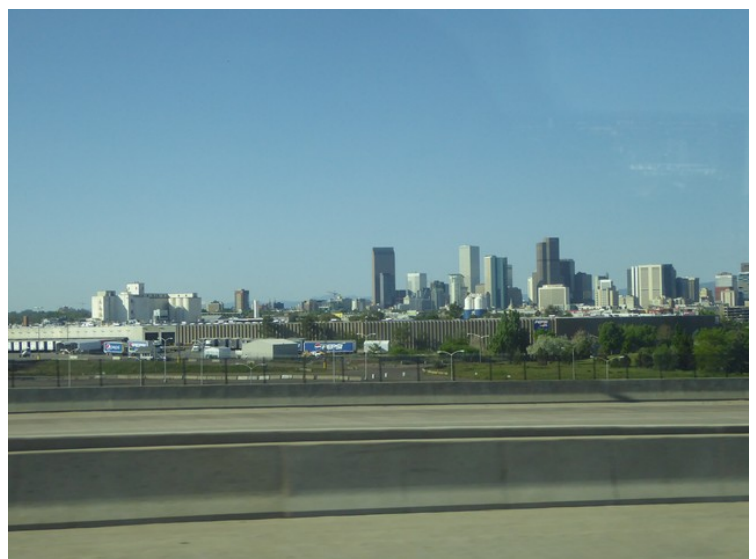
In Denver, we stayed at this hotel. It is called [Baymont Inn & Suites](#).



The view from our room.



The next morning we are waiting for the bus to continue to the next destination.



We had to take a detour to the bus company to replace the microphone in the bus. Here we see Denver downtown.

Colorado



Hovedstad: Denver
Største by: Denver
Areal: 269 601,11 km², nr 8
Befolkning: 5 029 196
Tetthet: 18,65 innb./km²
Kallenavn: The Centennial State
Tidssone: UTC -7/-6
Innlemmet: 1876, nr 38
Kjent for: Rocky Mountains og den vakre naturen
Forkortelse: CO



Colorado er mest kjent som en fjellstat, og den vestre halvdel av staten domineres av fjellkjeden Rocky Mountains. Østre del av staten er dominert av høysletter. Colorado er den eneste delstaten i USA hvor alt areal ligger over 1000 moh. Befolkningen er for det meste konsentrert om de store byene Denver og Colorado Springs midt i staten, på østsiden av fjellene.



 *Solgruppen* ★ amerikabussen

Kilde: Wikipedia

We were given posters on the bus for each state we got to. The first day we started running through the state of [Colorado](#).



On our way further north we look west towards a part of the Rocky Mountains. Denver has mountains in the west and the great prairies to the east.



After a while, the bus got a puncture in one twin rear wheel. We were put off at a truck-stop while there was put new tires on the bus.



It was probably a popular place to stop, for there was a lot of people coming and going.



When the bus was ready again, we continued to a place called [Lusk](#). We had lunch here.



Having looked through the menu and is ready to order.



It was a popular spot because there were a lot of people there, and especially when we came in it was almost packed.



Decoration.



The cafe is called [Outpost Cafe](#).



Then we are ready to continue.



All day we drove through vast grazing areas for cattle. They looked something like this. We saw animals that grazed in some places.

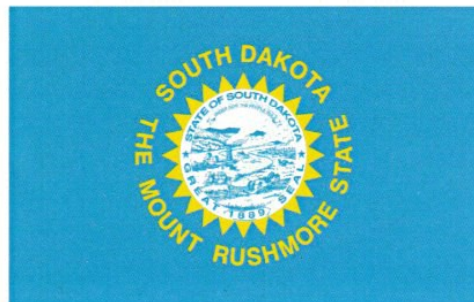


We were going to stay some days in [Rapid City](#), but before arriving there, we drove through [Buffalo Gap National Grassland](#). There are a number of such sites in the US that are specifically protected.

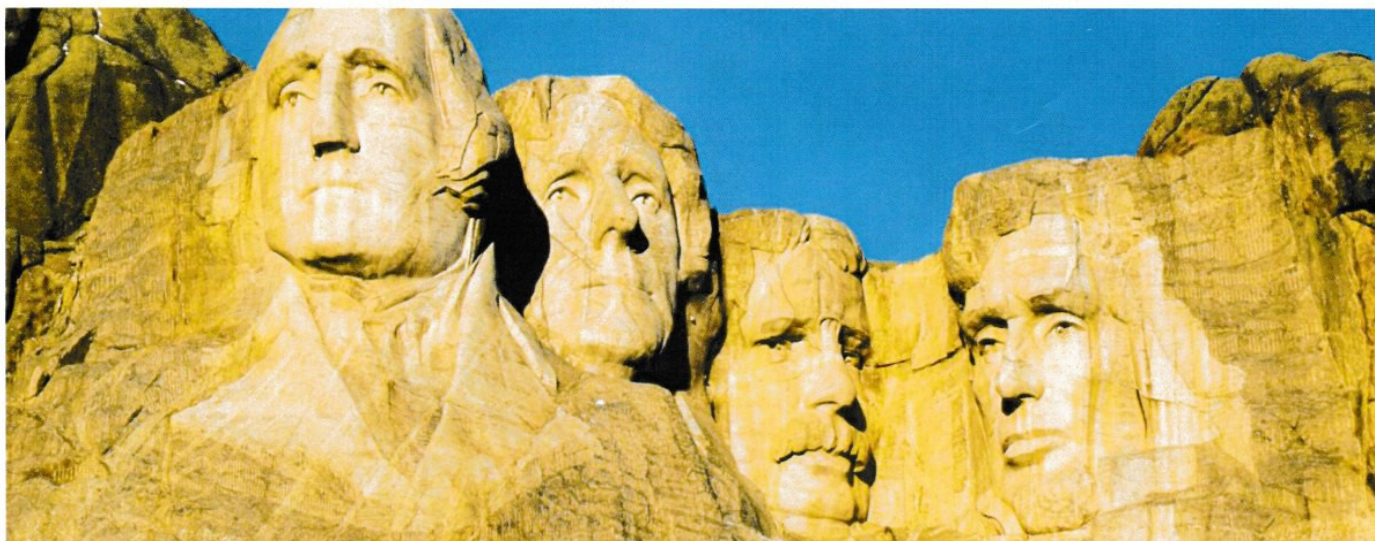
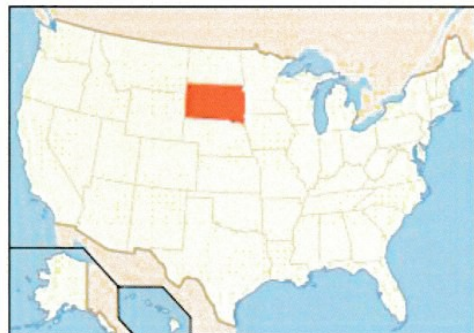


The view from our room in the hotel that we were staying in. It is called [Holiday Inn Rushmore Plaza](#).

South Dakota



Hovedstad: Pierre
Største by: Sioux Falls
Areal: 199 730, 79 km², nr 17
Befolkning: 814 180
Tetthet: 4,08 innb./km²
Kallenavn: Mount Rushmore State
Tidssone: UTC -7/-5
Innlemmet: 1889, nr 40
Kjent for: Mount Rushmore
Forkortelse: SD



Store turistattraksjoner er skulpturene i Mount Rushmore i Black Hills, naturparkene Badlands, Wind Cave og Custer og den gamle gullgraverlandsbyen Deadwood. Missouri er delstatens største og lengste elv. Blant andre større elver i Sør-Dakota finner man Cheyenne, James, Big Sioux og White River.



 *Solgruppen* ★ amerikabussen

Kilde: Wikipedia

We are now in the state of [South Dakota](#).



A couple of pictures of the hotel.



In the evening there were three Indians who were to show us traditional dance. Here they are ready. Video from the dance: [Video 1](#) [Video 2](#) [Video 3](#) [Video 4](#)



The old man of 80 years was also participating, but he was not in shape to dance so much that day.



Afterwards it was possible to take pictures with the dancers.





This [Buffalo Child](#). He was with us all the days of our trip. He has appeared in many movies, including "Dances with Wolves" with Kevin Kostner.



Buffalo Child and Tore Strømøy looking at pictures from the dancing. Tore Strømøy was also with us during the whole trip. He was the host.



The next day, day 3, on 31st of May should we should visit [Black Hills](#), which is a small mountain range just west of Rapid City. There is lush vegetation here with a lot of pine trees and abundant wildlife. On the heights we spotted this deer.



We went past [Bear Country](#), which is a wildlife park, where it is possible to drive through to see the animals.



The sign at the entrance.



This shop is right next door.



Here is the [shop](#).



A sign showing to [Sitting Bull Crystal Caverns](#), which is a cave complex that was discovered in 1929, and exhibited to the public for many years. The cave was [closed](#) for the public in 2015.



Some of the main entrance to the area.



Here we have arrived at the [Crazy Horse Memorial](#). This is the visitor center with a museum.



This statue stands outside the entrance.



Inside the museum.



Various pictures from the museum.



This is the monument as it is today.





Anne Berit in the tipi.



Here we see the restaurant where we had lunch.



The area outside the restaurant.



A statue showing how the Crazy Horse Monument will look like once it is finished.



It will then be the world's largest statue.



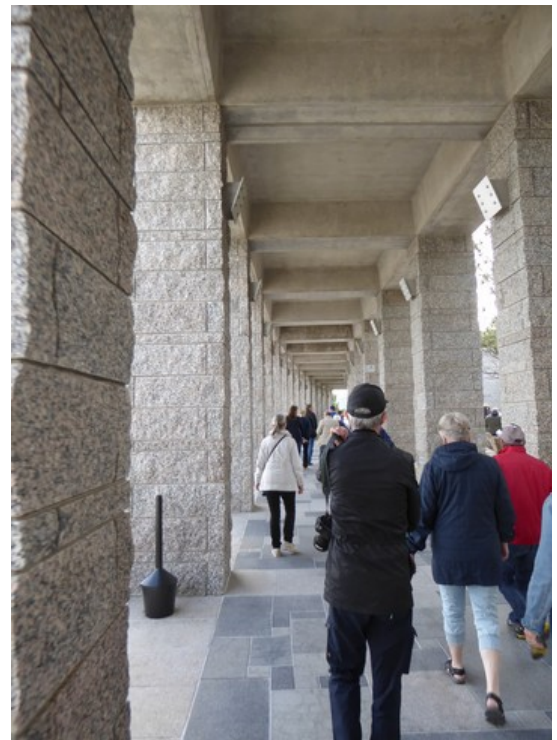
Fighting horses.



This is a picture of [Korczak Ziolkowski](#), who planned the sculpture of Crazy Horse, and began the work.



This is similar to the dress that [Pocahontas](#) used.



Here we have driven further and are heading towards the entrance at [Mount Rushmore](#).



Ved inngangen ser vi presidentene oppe i fjellet.



Lenger oppe er det en flaggborg med flagg fra alle statene.



The four presidents, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln, were carved out of the mountain under the leadership of [Gutzon Borglum](#). It was finished in 1941.



I try to blend in with the presidents.



Together with Stephen Yellowhawk who was with us that day.



Flags.



Here is a cafe, where we bought a beer while we waited for the rest of the group.



In the other end of the building there is a museum and a souvenir shop.



Walking back to the bus.



On the way back to Rapid City, we made a stop in [Keystone](#). This is a statue of [Henry Ward Beecher](#). He made a great effort by buying free children of slaves.



Abraham Lincoln is sitting here alone.



Here he is accompanied by Tore Strømøy.



There is a museum and souvenir shop here.



A few picture from Keystone.

