



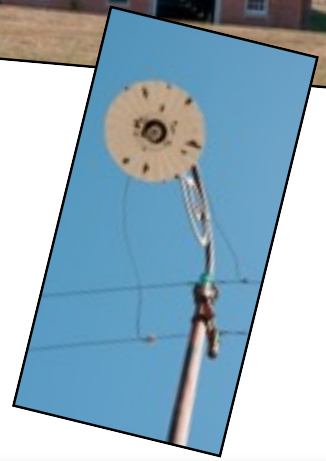
TATANKA

... time with the Lakota indians ...

What a difference a 45min drive could make, we are now in the plains of America, in the middle of this beautiful country. No matter where we look: we see wheat fields or fields with cows. A few minutes ago we had 10000 feet mountains with no trees, and now we are driving through a flat land which we just know from our drives through Denmark. The highest things around are bridges, silos or garbage dumps. If you know the United States you might have guessed it already, we are in Nebraska, a state we have not been in on one of our previous trips. That means it is time to put the next sticker on the map. This is our travel log of where we have been so far.



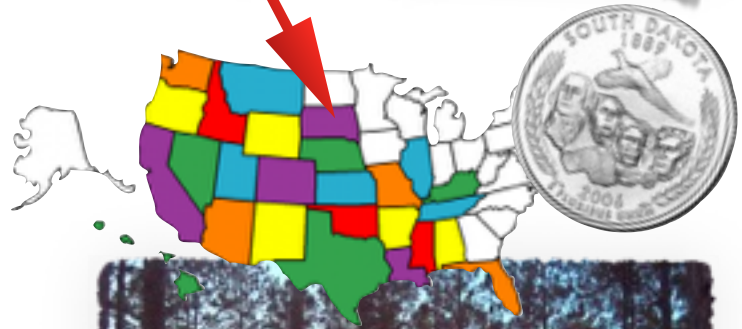
This state has a many interesting things, and since you guys knew we love to stay on state parks, it should not be a surprise that we ended up staying at Ft. Robinson State Park. In many ways worth the visit. American Indian Chief Crazy Horse died here (I bet we will find out more about him in South Dakota). Also the first two Buffalo soldier regiments were stationed here, for years the Ft. was used for training shepherds, it was the biggest place to train military horses, and it was home to German POW's in WW2. The Ft. is in good shape and is now home to museums, 3 campgrounds, and about 250 horse stalls, which tourists can rent. And the old Officer Quarters can be rented for overnight stays. A place with living history! Great - we loved it!



Fort Robinson, Nebraska



The next stage got us to another from us unexplored state, South Dakota. Which will be our home for at least the next 14 days. For years we heard good things about it from our friends, my wife always wanted to see the Presidents heads in the mountains. But so far this destination was never on our trip agenda. Relatively central did we find quarter in the city of Custer which is close to the jewel of South Dakota the Black Hills. Within a few miles there are 3 national parks we could choose to spend the time here.





I am not joking when I say that Custer State Park means Buffalo or how the Lakota Native says Tatanka. One of the biggest free roaming herd in the world is located here. Sometimes they are just standing in the middle of the street. We just missed the big gathering by a few days. Just like Abraham Lincoln said you cannot always trust what the internet says. On the bright side the tourist were gone and so we could enjoy the scenery better.



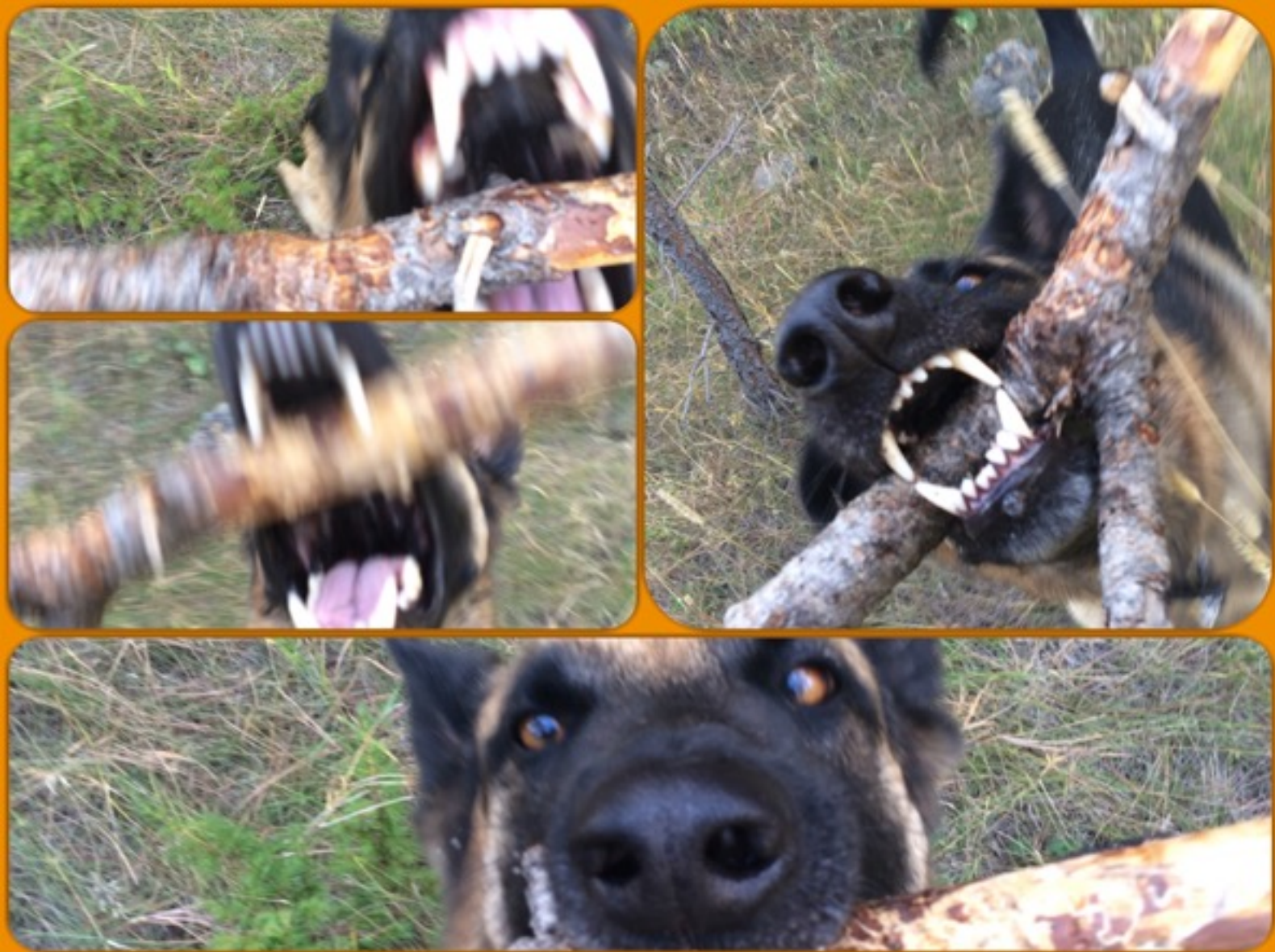
Unlike the zoo can we enjoy the different animals (Bison, gofers, Donkeys, Eagles, etc) without the fences or glass. Noah is fascinated by that. Thanks to Elke and Beate's training is Noah listening to every command, which is refreshing after having two previous dogs and 2 sons which not always did that.





The squirrels are Noahs best friends at the moment. They are teasing him by throwing nuts at him from high above and after that they laugh at him. It is entertainment in itself to see how he is trying without success to follow them up the tree.





a small stick - and our dear friend Noah showed his weapon



During the gold rush about 150 years ago did the settlers seek shelter behind these stockades from the American Indians, Bandits and wild life. Some of them are in great shape through restoration.



My friends who are bike fanatics, would love this part of our trip when I am talking about **Needles Highway** or **Iron Mountain Road**. Those two streets in Custer's state park are a series of curves some of them 360 degrees which guide you through the beautiful nature. One way tunnels, bizarre rock formations to the left and right of the street, many lakes. Even without a bike an amazing route to take.



We are lucky that it is not main season and we can cruise down the streets almost alone. During the Sturgis Bike Rally I bet this is not the case.



Of course do we have days on which it rains. Many of you are asking what are we doing in close confinement? It is not boring, reading a good book, sort pictures, create newsletters, watching football. Plus we don't mind getting wet a bit and Noah is making sure we get our daily walks. And skypping with family, cooking and baking, cutting hair does not give us time to get bored.



WHAT IS THAT?

Riddle me this:

After our last riddle was a great success here is another one.

Close to water (Lakes, rivers, streams) can you find PVC pipes which are on a pole about 5 feet of the ground. The pipe is open on top closed on the bottom.

What is the pipe for?

Once again winner gets a postcard



Mount Rushmore Nightshow

LOST AND FOUND OTHER THINGS TO BE MENTIONED



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That's it for today. Have a nice week!

Beate, Rudy and Noah

