

Traveller Info

THE TRIP

Early season pheasant hunting on a preserve in South Dakota. Sporting clays and dove hunting are also offered.

TRANSPORTATION

Fly from Toronto to Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport. From there, catch a connecting flight to Aberdeen, South Dakota. Drive from Aberdeen to Seneca, which is about 80 miles southwest by road. Pick up from the lodge can be arranged.

ACCOMMODATION

The R and R Pheasant Hunting Lodge is a 5,400 sq.-ft. 4-star facility. Lodging is included in the package. Several options are available, starting at \$1,200 U.S. for a two-day three-night group package. See Web site, next page, for further details.

beds and ensuite washrooms. The newer lodge also has a Great Room, complete with pool table, bar, and big-screen television with a full satellite package; wireless Internet service is available, too. This central room is perfect for socializing and relaxing

continues to March 31, is much longer than the regular pheasant season, which runs approximately from October to early January.

Also note that South Dakota law only allows hunters to take roosters. If you shoot a hen, expect to pay a \$100 fine. That's why guides yell out "Hen!" or "Rooster!" with every flush. The bottom line is, South Dakotans are serious about their pheasants. Hey, it's their state bird, and hunters from around the world visit the state to pursue them.

Four Stars

If our lodgings were any indication, South Dakotans are serious about comfort, too. The R and R is a Cabela's Certified Wingshooting Destination and is designated as a 4-Star Lodge, and for good reason. The two lodge buildings, which total more than 5,400 square feet of space, can accommodate 32 hunters in style. Both buildings

after the hunt, and it's where our group spent most of our indoor time. There's also a pro shop, in case you forgot any hunt-related items.

Lastly, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the fine dining. Food was excellent and plentiful, and included local favourites like dove and pheasant. No wonder I couldn't drop a few pounds, even after all that walking.

The Big Picture

As I reminisce, many wonderful memories come to mind: images of athletic dogs crashing through cover, recollections of lithe whitetails bounding out of the tall standing corn, and, of

Stopping for a break at the most photographed truck in South Dakota.



The lodge's common room is ideal for unwinding after a day afield.

are adorned with beautiful taxidermy (pheasants, bison, deer, and mountain lion, to name a few) and quality furnishings. These give the place a pleasant western feel. Most of the mounted animals were taken on the property, and knowing this adds to your appreciation of the countryside. So, too, do the photos and pheasant-hunting memorabilia placed tastefully throughout the buildings.

The private rooms are clean and comfortable and have queen-sized

course, the sights and sounds of big rooster pheasants rising up and cackling defiantly before the guns.

There's more to the R and R than this, though. If you're a big-sky fan like me, if the thought of endless vistas and a game-rich country makes your heart skip a beat, if you find peace and beauty in wide-open spaces, this is a place you should see. ●

CONTACT INFO

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks
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