



Brookings Bucket List

Those labeled “G8” are one of the Great 8 attractions in Brookings.

Eat

- Have you ever wondered what downtown Brookings looks like from above? Go to [Cubby's Sports Bar](#) and try the rooftop seating! Enjoy the busy atmosphere of Brookings' most hopping sports bar.
- Gordon Ramsey visited and loved it. Featured in Oprah Magazine. Enough said. Come to [The Pheasant Restaurant](#) for jazz Mondays, bison burgers, pheasant lettuce-wraps, and sample the artisanal olive oil and balsamic vinegars.
- G8 – You cannot claim “local” status until you’ve eaten at [Nick's Hamburger Shop](#) in Historic Downtown Brookings. Pro tip: Order a malt along with your burger.
- G8 – Did you know that the [SDSU Dairy Bar](#) invented the Cookies ‘N’ Cream flavor? Check out all the various ice cream flavors while you are there!
- [Check out the full list of Brookings restaurants](#)

Drink

- Grab a cup of joe at one of Brookings unique locally-owned coffeehouses: [Choco Latte](#), [Cottonwood Coffee and Bistro](#), and [Kool Beans Coffee](#).
- [Check out the full coffeehouse list](#)
- Enjoy a craft beer at two breweries: [Eponymous Brewing Company](#) and [Wooden Legs Brewing Co.](#)
- Swirl, sniff and sip wine at [Schade Vineyards](#) just a few miles west of Brookings.
- [Full list of bars & clubs](#)

Arts & Culture

- G8 – Connect with your inner child at the [Children's Museum of South Dakota](#). When you are done playing, enjoy delicious fresh pastas, salads, and treats at Café Coteau!
- G8 - [South Dakota Art Museum](#) features the world's largest collection of Harvey Dunn paintings, other unique exhibits, and a gift shop filled with locally-made products and artwork. Free admission.
- G8 – The farmer in your life, and everyone else, will appreciate the [South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum](#) and its exhibits and gift shop. Free admission.
- G8 – The recently remodeled historic Carnegie library building is home to the [Brookings Arts Council](#). Stop in to see the latest exhibit or participate in various workshops. Discover [The Artful Dozen](#) sculptures throughout the community. Free admission.
- Find the six life-size mural paintings that are part of the [Urban Canvas](#) downtown Brookings (part of The Artful Dozen).
- Watch a world-class music or theatre performance in the expanded [Performing Arts Center](#) on the SDSU campus.
- Enjoy a concert or rodeo at [Swiftel Center](#)!

Outdoors

- G8 - [McCrary Gardens Education & Visitors Center](#) is the premier botanical garden of South Dakota, stroll the grounds and take in the frequent special events and attractions.

- [Dakota Nature Park](#) used to be a landfill, but now it is one of the most beautiful areas in Brookings. Kayak, paddle board or fish (catch and release) in one of the ponds. Walk or bike the beautiful trails, or simply take in the tranquil beauty of nature. In the winter, snowshoe or cross-country ski!
- Beat the summer heat! [Hillcrest Aquatic Center](#) has four different pools, tree-topping water slides, fountains and piping that drizzles and sprays pool-goers.
- The same crews who design BMX trails for the Olympics created [SouthBrook Pump Park](#). Bike on three different tracks, suited for all ages and abilities.
- Catch some air or do a backside at the [Skateboard Park](#).
- Fido's favorite place! The [Bark Park](#) dog park has three fenced in areas for small dogs, large dogs, and an agility course.
- Try your hand at disc golf! [Larson Park Disc Golf](#) has an 18-hole course...pro tip: be aware of the disc-eating slough behind hole 12.
- [Check out a map with all of the parks!](#)

Sports

- G8 - [Brookings County Outdoor Adventure Center](#) allows for indoor shooting sports enthusiasts to practice their sports year-round.
- Cheer for the Jackrabbits at an SDSU football game in the new [Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium](#).
- Watch a Blizzard hockey game and enjoy ice skating at the [Larson Ice Center](#).
- [Check out all of the sporting activities](#)

Landmarks

- Brookings and SDSU's most well-known landmark is the [Campanile](#). To climb the 180 steps to the top, you'll want to check out a key at the Alumni Association office or the University Police Department.
- On the western edge of Brookings you will find the [Veteran's Memorial](#).
- Stroll Main Ave in historic [Downtown Brookings](#) to find unique shops, restaurants and bars.

Events

Summer

- [Farmer's Market](#) every Saturday 9 am – 12 pm May through October
- [Brookings Car Show](#)
- [Brookings Kite Festival](#)
- [Brookings Summer Arts Festival](#)
- [Downtown at Sundown](#) every Thursday 5 – 9 pm mid-July through August

Fall

- [Hobo Day](#)
- **Trick or Treat on Main**

Winter

- **Festival of Lights Parade**
- **Frost Fest**

Spring

- [Brookings Marathon](#)

[Check out the community calendar for all events!](#)