Mount Rushmore

**Mount Rushmore National Memorial** is centered on a [colossal sculpture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colossal_sculpture) carved into the granite face of **Mount Rushmore** ([Lakota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lakota_language): *Tȟuŋkášila Šákpe*, or **Six Grandfathers**[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-2)) in the [Black Hills](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Hills) near [Keystone, South Dakota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keystone,_South_Dakota). Sculptor [Gutzon Borglum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gutzon_Borglum" \o "Gutzon Borglum) created the sculpture's design and oversaw the project's execution from 1927 to 1941 with the help of his son, [Lincoln Borglum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln_Borglum).[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-delBianco-3)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-delBiancoSDMag-4) The sculpture features the 60-foot (18 m) heads of Presidents [George Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington) (1732–1799), [Thomas Jefferson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Jefferson) (1743–1826), [Theodore Roosevelt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Roosevelt) (1858–1919) and [Abraham Lincoln](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln) (1809–1865), as recommended by Borglum.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-5) The four presidents were chosen to represent the nation's birth, growth, development and preservation, respectively.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-6) The memorial park covers 1,278 acres (2.00 sq mi; 5.17 km2)[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore" \l "cite_note-7) and the actual mountain has an elevation of 5,725 feet (1,745 m) above sea level.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-peakbagger-8)

The sculptor and tribal representatives settled on Mount Rushmore, which also has the advantage of facing southeast for maximum sun exposure. [Doane Robinson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doane_Robinson" \o "Doane Robinson) wanted it to feature American West heroes, such as [Lewis and Clark](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_and_Clark_Expedition), their expedition guide [Sacagawea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacagawea), [Oglala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oglala) Lakota chief [Red Cloud](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Cloud),[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-9) [Buffalo Bill Cody](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buffalo_Bill),[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-10) and Oglala Lakota chief [Crazy Horse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crazy_Horse).[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-11) Borglum believed that the sculpture should have broader appeal and chose the four presidents.

[Peter Norbeck](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Norbeck), [U.S. senator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate) from South Dakota, sponsored the project and secured federal funding.[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-12) Construction began in 1927; the presidents' faces were completed between 1934 and 1939. After Gutzon Borglum died in March 1941, his son Lincoln took over as leader of the construction project. Each president was originally to be depicted from head to waist, but lack of funding forced construction to end on October 31, 1941.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-13)

Sometimes referred to as the "**Shrine of Democracy**",[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore" \l "cite_note-14)[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-15)[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-16) Mount Rushmore attracts more than two million visitors annually.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-tourismstat-1)

History[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Rushmore&action=edit&section=1" \o "Edit section: History)]

*See also:*[*Construction of Mount Rushmore*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Construction_of_Mount_Rushmore)

Mount Rushmore was conceived with the intention of creating a site to lure tourists, representing "not only the wild grandeur of its local geography but also the triumph of western civilization over that geography through its anthropomorphic representation."[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-autogenerated2-17) Though for the latest occupants of the land at the time, the Lakota Sioux, as well as other tribes, the monument in their view "came to epitomize the loss of their sacred lands and the injustices they've suffered under the U.S. government."[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-PBSr-s-18) Under the [Treaty of 1868](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Fort_Laramie_(1868)), the U.S. government promised the territory, including the entirety of the Black Hills, to the Sioux "so long as the buffalo may range thereon in such numbers as to justify the chase."[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-19) After the discovery of gold on the land, American settlers migrated to the area in the 1870s. The federal government then forced the Sioux to relinquish the Black Hills portion of their reservation.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-PBSr-s-18)

The four presidential faces were said to be carved into the granite with the intention of symbolizing "an accomplishment born, planned, and created in the minds and by the hands of Americans for Americans”.

**Facts:**

**Naming**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Rushmore&action=edit&section=2" \o "Edit section: Naming)]

Mount Rushmore was known to the [Lakota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lakota_people) [Sioux](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sioux) as "The Six Grandfathers" (Tȟuŋkášila Šákpe) or "Cougar Mountain" (Igmútȟaŋka Pahá);[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-20)[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-21) but American settlers knew it variously as Cougar Mountain, Sugarloaf Mountain, Slaughterhouse Mountain and Keystone Cliffs. As Six Grandfathers, the mountain was on the route that Lakota leader [Black Elk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Elk) took in a spiritual journey that culminated at [Black Elk Peak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Elk_Peak). Following a series of [military campaigns](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Wars) from 1876 to 1878, the United States asserted control over the area, a claim that is still disputed on the basis of the 1868 [Treaty of Fort Laramie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Fort_Laramie_(1868)).[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-22)

Beginning with a prospecting expedition in 1885 with David Swanzey (husband of [Carrie Ingalls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carrie_Ingalls)), and Bill Challis, wealthy investor [Charles E. Rushmore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_E._Rushmore) began visiting the area regularly on prospecting and hunting trips. He repeatedly joked with colleagues about naming the mountain after himself.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-KAHS-23)[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-24) The United States Board of Geographic Names officially recognized the name "Mount Rushmore" in June 1930.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-25)

**Concept, design and funding**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Rushmore&action=edit&section=3" \o "Edit section: Concept, design and funding)]

Historian [Doane Robinson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doane_Robinson" \o "Doane Robinson) conceived the idea for Mount Rushmore in 1923 to promote tourism in South Dakota. In 1924, Robinson persuaded sculptor [Gutzon Borglum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gutzon_Borglum" \o "Gutzon Borglum) to travel to the Black Hills region to ensure the carving could be accomplished. The original plan was to make the carvings in [granite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granite) pillars known as the [Needles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Needles_(Black_Hills)). However, Borglum realized that the eroded Needles were too thin to support sculpting. He chose Mount Rushmore, a grander location, partly because it faced southeast and enjoyed maximum exposure to the sun.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-autogenerated1-26)

Borglum said upon seeing Mount Rushmore, "America will march along that skyline."[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-autogenerated1-26)

Borglum had been involved in sculpting the [Stone Mountain Memorial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stone_Mountain) to [Confederate leaders](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confederate_States_of_America) in [Georgia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgia_(U.S._state)), but was in disagreement with the officials there.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-Carving-27)

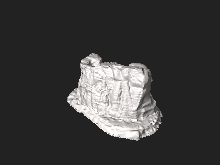
After long negotiations involving a [congressional delegation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Congress) and President [Calvin Coolidge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calvin_Coolidge), the project received congressional approval on March 3, 1925.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-autogenerated1-26) The carving started in 1927 and ended in 1941 with no fatalities.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-NPSfacts-28)[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-29)

**Construction**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Rushmore&action=edit&section=4" \o "Edit section: Construction)]

Between October 4, 1927, and October 31, 1941, Gutzon Borglum and 400 workers[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-31) sculpted the colossal 60-foot-high (18 m) carvings of [United States Presidents](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States) [George Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington), [Thomas Jefferson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Jefferson), [Theodore Roosevelt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Roosevelt), and [Abraham Lincoln](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln) to represent the first 150 years of American history. These presidents were selected by Borglum because of their role in preserving the Republic and expanding its territory.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-autogenerated1-26)[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-autogenerated2-17) The carving of Mount Rushmore involved the use of [dynamite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dynamite), followed by the process of "honeycombing", a process where workers drill holes close together, allowing small pieces to be removed by hand.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-32) In total, about 450,000 short tons (410,000 t) of rock were blasted off the mountainside.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-33) The image of Thomas Jefferson was originally intended to appear in the area at Washington's right, but after the work there was begun, the rock was found to be unsuitable, so the work on the Jefferson figure was dynamited, and a new figure was sculpted to Washington's left.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-autogenerated1-26)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mount_Rushmore_Workers.jpg)

Plaque at Mount Rushmore National Monument with names of monument workers.

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mount_Rushmore.stl)

3D model, click to interact.

The chief carver of the mountain was [Luigi Del Bianco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luigi_Del_Bianco), an artisan and stonemason in [Port Chester, New York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Chester,_New_York). Del Bianco emigrated to the U.S. from [Friuli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friuli) in Italy and was chosen to work on this project because of his understanding of sculptural language and ability to imbue emotion in the carved portraits.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-delBianco-3)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-delBiancoSDMag-4)

In 1933, the [National Park Service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Park_Service) took Mount Rushmore under its jurisdiction. Julian Spotts helped with the project by improving its infrastructure. For example, he had the tram upgraded so it could reach the top of Mount Rushmore for the ease of workers. By July 4, 1934, Washington's face had been completed and was dedicated. The face of Thomas Jefferson was dedicated in 1936, and the face of Abraham Lincoln was dedicated on September 17, 1937. In 1937, a bill was introduced in Congress to add the head of civil-rights leader [Susan B. Anthony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan_B._Anthony), but a [rider](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rider_(legislation)) was passed on an appropriations bill requiring federal funds be used to finish only those heads that had already been started at that time.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-timeline-34) In 1939, the face of Theodore Roosevelt was dedicated.[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-35)

The Sculptor's Studio – a display of unique plaster models and tools related to the sculpting – was built in 1939 under the direction of Borglum. Borglum died from an [embolism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Embolism) in March 1941. His son, [Lincoln Borglum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln_Borglum), continued the project. Originally, it was planned that the figures would be carved from head to waist,[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore" \l "cite_note-36) but insufficient funding forced the carving to end. Borglum had also planned a massive panel in the shape of the [Louisiana Purchase](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana_Purchase) commemorating in eight-foot-tall gilded letters the [Declaration of Independence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Declaration_of_Independence), [U.S. Constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Constitution), Louisiana Purchase, and seven other territorial acquisitions from the [Alaska purchase](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alaska_purchase) to the [Panama Canal Zone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panama_Canal_Zone).[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-autogenerated2-17) In total, the entire project cost US$989,992.32 (equivalent to $18.2 million in 2021).[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-SDTourism-37)

Nick Clifford, the last remaining carver, died in November 2019 at age 98.[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-38)

**Proposals of adding additional faces**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Rushmore&action=edit&section=6" \o "Edit section: Proposals of adding additional faces)]

In 1937, when the sculpture was not yet complete, a bill in Congress supporting the addition of women's rights activist [Susan B. Anthony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan_B._Anthony) failed. When the sculpture was completed in 1941, the sculptors stated that the remaining rock was not suitable for additional carvings. This stance was shared by RESPEC, an engineering firm charged with monitoring the stability of the rock in 1989. However, proposals of additional sculptures have been made regardless. These include [John F. Kennedy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_F._Kennedy) after his assassination in 1963, and [Ronald Reagan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ronald_Reagan) in 1985 and 1999 – the latter proposal receiving a debate in Congress at the time.[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-45) [Barack Obama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack_Obama) was asked about his own potential addition in 2008 and he joked that his ears were too large.[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-46)

According to a survey of political science experts conducted by [*The New York Times*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_York_Times) in 2018, [Franklin D. Roosevelt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franklin_D._Roosevelt) is the most popular choice for addition to Mount Rushmore, regardless of party affiliation. In total, 66% of respondents would choose Roosevelt, followed by [Barack Obama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack_Obama) at 7% and [Ronald Reagan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ronald_Reagan) at 5%. Among [Democrats](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)), Roosevelt was chosen by 75%, followed by Barack Obama at 11%. Among [Republicans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)), Roosevelt was chosen by 43%, followed by Reagan at 19%. Among Independents, Roosevelt was chosen by 57%, followed by both Reagan and [Dwight D. Eisenhower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dwight_D._Eisenhower) at 11%.[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-47)

Geography[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Rushmore&action=edit&section=11" \o "Edit section: Geography)]

**Geology**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Rushmore&action=edit&section=12" \o "Edit section: Geology)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mt._Rushmore_Early_Morning.jpg)

Mount Rushmore, showing the full size of the mountain and the [scree](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scree) of rocks from the sculpting and construction.

Mount Rushmore is largely composed of [granite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granite). The memorial is carved on the northwest margin of the [Black Elk Peak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Elk_Peak) granite [batholith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Batholith) in the Black Hills of South Dakota, so the geologic formations of the heart of the Black Hills region are also evident at Mount Rushmore. The batholith [magma](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magma) intruded into the pre-existing [mica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mica) [schist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schist) rocks during the [Proterozoic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proterozoic), 1.6 billion years ago.[[67]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-autogenerated3-67) Coarse grained [pegmatite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pegmatite) [dikes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dike_(geology)) are associated with the [granite](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granite) intrusion of Black Elk Peak and are visibly lighter in color, thus explaining the light-colored streaks on the foreheads of the presidents.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

The Black Hills granites were exposed to [erosion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erosion) during the [Neoproterozoic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neoproterozoic), but were later buried by [sandstone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandstone) and other sediments during the [Cambrian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambrian). Remaining buried throughout the [Paleozoic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paleozoic), they were re-exposed again during the [Laramide orogeny](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laramide_orogeny" \o "Laramide orogeny) around 70 million years ago.[[67]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-autogenerated3-67) The Black Hills area was uplifted as an elongated geologic dome.[[68]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-68) Subsequent erosion stripped the granite of the overlying sediments and the softer adjacent schist. Some schist does remain and can be seen as the darker material just below the sculpture of Washington.[*[citation needed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*]

The tallest mountain in the region is [Black Elk Peak](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Elk_Peak) (7,242 ft or 2,207 m). Borglum selected Mount Rushmore as the site for several reasons. The rock of the mountain is composed of smooth, fine-grained granite. The durable granite erodes only 1 inch (25 mm) every 10,000 years, thus was more than sturdy enough to support the sculpture and its long-term exposure.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-autogenerated1-26) The mountain's height of 5,725 feet (1,745 m) above sea level[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore" \l "cite_note-peakbagger-8) made it suitable, and because it faces the southeast, the workers also had the advantage of sunlight for most of the day.

It is not possible to add another president to the memorial, because the rock that surrounds the existing faces is not suitable for additional carving,[[69]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore" \l "cite_note-69) and because if additional sculpting work were done, that might create instabilities in the existing carvings.[[70]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-70)

**Soils**[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mount_Rushmore&action=edit&section=13)]

The Mount Rushmore area is underlain by well drained [alfisol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfisol" \o "Alfisol) soils of very gravelly loam (Mocmount) to silt loam (Buska) texture, brown to dark grayish brown.[[71]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-71)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Mount Rushmore National Memorial** | |
| [Mount Rushmore detail view (100MP).jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mount_Rushmore_detail_view_(100MP).jpg)  Mount Rushmore with the sculpted heads of [George Washington](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington), [Thomas Jefferson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Jefferson), [Theodore Roosevelt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Roosevelt) and [Abraham Lincoln](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln) (left to right), by [Gutzon Borglum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gutzon_Borglum" \o "Gutzon Borglum) | |
| [Map showing the location of Mount Rushmore National Memorial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:USA_South_Dakota_relief_location_map.svg)  Map showing the location of Mount Rushmore National Memorial  Show map of South DakotaShow map of the United StatesShow all | |
| **Location** | [Pennington County, South Dakota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pennington_County,_South_Dakota) |
| **Nearest city** | [Keystone, South Dakota](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keystone,_South_Dakota) |
| **Coordinates** | https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[43°52′44″N 103°27′35″W](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Mount_Rushmore&params=43_52_44_N_103_27_35_W_type:landmark_region:US-SD_dim:2km)[Coordinates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[43°52′44″N 103°27′35″W](https://geohack.toolforge.org/geohack.php?pagename=Mount_Rushmore&params=43_52_44_N_103_27_35_W_type:landmark_region:US-SD_dim:2km) |
| **Area** | 1,278 acres (5.17 km2) |
| **Authorized** | March 3, 1925 |
| **Visitors** | 2,074,986 (in 2020)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-tourismstat-1) |
| **Governing body** | [National Park Service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Park_Service) |
| **Website** | [www.nps.gov/moru](http://www.nps.gov/moru) |
|  | |
| **Mount Rushmore National Memorial** | |
| [U.S. National Register of Historic Places](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places) | |
| [U.S. Historic district](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historic_districts_in_the_United_States) | |
| **Built** | 1927 |
| **Architect** | Gutzon and Lincoln Borglum |
| **NRHP reference No.** | [66000718](https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/66000718) |
| **Added to NRHP** | October 15, 1966 |

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Six_Grandfathers.jpg)

Mount Rushmore (Six Grandfathers) before construction, circa 1905

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:RushmoreWithLeftJefferson.jpg)

Construction underway, with Jefferson to the left of Washington before unstable rock necessitated a change in the design.

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Gutzon_Borglum's_model_of_Mt._Rushmore_memorial.jpg)

A model at the site depicting Mount Rushmore's intended final design after Jefferson was relocated and "before funding ran out"[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Rushmore#cite_note-30)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mount_Rushmore2.jpg)

Construction of George Washington's likeness

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mount_Rushmore_Closeup_2017.jpg)

Closeup view of final sculptures