

Geronimo Stilton

RUN FOR THE HILLS, GERONIMO!



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A RELAXING VACATION . . .

Everything was **READY**. Everything was perfectly **ORGANIZED**. I had planned it all down to the last whisker. Everything was in place for a very, veeeeery *relaxing* vacation. In fact, it was my first **real** vacation since . . . why, I don't even remember when!

Anyone who knows me knows I'm an **extremely** busy mouse. They also know I





love my job, even if I get **stressed** at times.

Oh, what do I do? Sorry, I almost forgot to tell you. My name is Stilton, *Geronimo Stilton*. I run a newspaper called **The Rodent's Gazette**. It's the most famous paper on Mouse Island.

Okay, so what was I squeaking about?

Oh, yes, of course. I was going to tell you about that supposedly **relaxing** trip.

It **started** like this: I had decided to take a vacation. Nothing too exciting, you know. I just wanted to get away and put my paws up. So I headed for my trusted travel agency, **The Wander® Rat**, to get some tips from Ms. Samantha Sweetpaws. She'd understand just what I had in mind.

Ms. Sweetpaws began leafing through some **pamphlets**, talking nonstop.

"Mr. Stilton, would **trekking** in the





Himalayas suit you? How about a tour of the Namibian **desert**? You know, with the lions?”

I had to bring her back to reality before she packed me off to the Roastedrat Volcano! “Actually, all I want to do on this vacation is **relax**,” I explained.

“Squeak no more, Mr. Stilton!” she cried. “I know you well! What you want is an incredibly boring vacation!”

I blushed. “No, no, I’m not saying it has to be boring. I just want it to be **relaxing**.”

“**Relaxing**, huh?” she chuckled. “Don’t worry. I’ve got it all taken care of.” She reached for the top of her bookcase. After a moment’s rummaging, she removed a very large, dusty **BOX**. The label read “**Relaxing Vacations for Boring Mice**.”

“But I’m not **BORING**!” I protested.

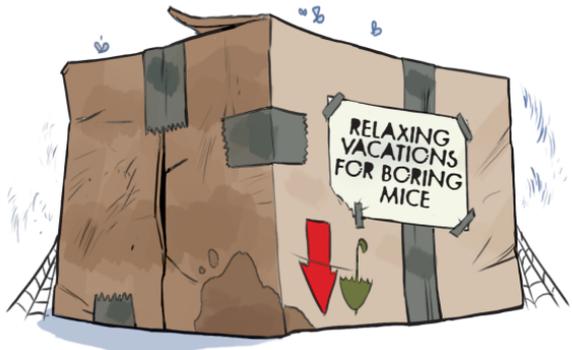


“Oh, please don’t **lie** to me, Mr. Stilton,” Ms. Sweetpaws replied. “I’ve known you for years. Besides, you shouldn’t be ashamed of being boring.” She tugged **playfully** at my whiskers. *Yee-ouch!*

Ms. Sweetpaws fumbled through the large, dusty **BOX**. Several minutes later, she triumphantly pulled out a tourist guide: *The Lazy Rat’s Guide to the Black Hills*.

There were **PHOTOS** of luscious green forests, enchanted-looking lakes, and clear blue skies. Then a photo of the **Golden Dreams Hotel** caught my eye. The caption read “All-inclusive for a **super-relaxing** vacation.”

“**Super-relaxing?**” I whispered. “Perfect! Ms.





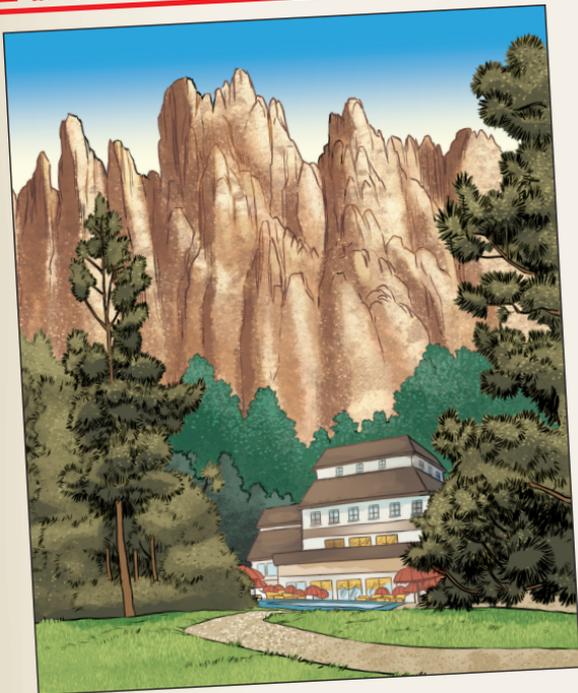
Sweetpaws, please book me fifteen days at the Golden Dreams Hotel and a round-trip ticket to South Dakota!”

Ms. Sweetpaws winked at me from behind her **GLASSES**. “Uh-huh. What was I just telling you?” she yelled. “You **ARE** a **BORING** mouse! But because you’re such a good customer, I’ll book you a first-class ticket, compliments of the agency!”

Ms. Sweetpaws spent a few minutes typing into her computer. “Okay, you’re all set!” She gave me a free *tourist guide* and then gave my **tail** an affectionate (yet tear-inducing) yank. “Look at all the interesting things you can see in the **BLACK HILLS!**”

“Oh, thank you, Ms. Sweetpaws, but I don’t want to do anything,” I said, taking the pamphlet. “I just want to *curl* up in

■ WHERE TO STAY



The Golden Dreams Hotel

For a super-relaxing vacation!

.....

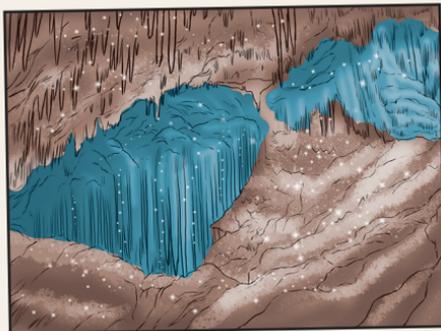
Nestled in the heart of the Black Hills, the Golden Dreams Hotel provides all the comforts you need for complete relaxation and rest. We have large bedrooms, a heated swimming pool, and a gorgeous terrace with lounge chairs overlooking the park. It's everything you need for a super-relaxing vacation.

WHAT TO VISIT IN THE BLACK HILLS



Mount Rushmore

Mount Rushmore is one of the most famous monuments in the United States. It is carved with the faces of former presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. More than 2.5 million people visit Mount Rushmore each year.



Jewel Cave

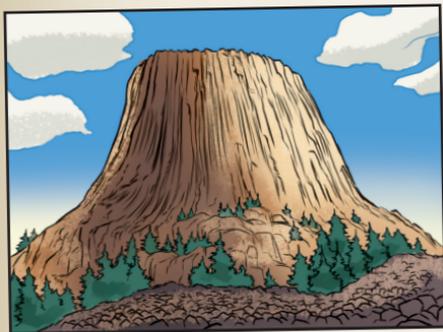
Jewel Cave is currently the second-longest cave in the world, with over 152 miles mapped so far. The cave is composed of sparkling calcite crystals and other unusual formations. Exploring it is challenging but rewarding.

WHAT TO VISIT IN THE BLACK HILLS



Bison

South Dakota is home to herds of bison, also known as American buffalo. The bison was hunted to near extinction by settlers in the nineteenth century. Since then, it has been declared an endangered species. Now thousands live on federal lands.



Devils Tower

Devils Tower is an igneous intrusion composed of many-sided rock columns. It rises majestically for 867 feet and is 5,112 feet above sea level. Its ancient Lakota name, Mato Tipila, means "Bear's Lodge."



Harney Peak

Harney Peak is the highest mountain in South Dakota (7,242 feet). An old fire tower is perched at its summit.



one of those **cushy** lounge chairs with a good **BOOK** and **relax**.”

I took my plane ticket. I was starting to feel **relaxed** already. I left the agency singing.

“Da, da, da, da, da dum . . .

this trip will relax me tremendously.

Da, da, da, dum!

Flying first-class will be just heavenly!”

