



# NORTH Dakota

Be Legendary.™

Welcome to the land where Theodore Roosevelt was inspired to be legendary. The former President came looking for bison herds and found strength. He saw the trails and imagined going great places. The inspiration is still here for you in North Dakota.

Extraordinary people, legends of the past, shaped our history. Sakakawea, Lewis and Clark, Sitting Bull, Custer, Theodore Roosevelt and others were visionaries, looking for new land to discover and new opportunities. Now it's your time.

Adventure seekers enjoy the horizons and outdoor experiences they find in the north and south units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Climb on your bicycle, straddle your motorcycle, step into your vehicle, RV or motorhome and get ready for up-close views of the North Dakota Badlands. What awaits is a scenic tour of wide-open spaces, eye-catching and colorful landscape, wildlife viewing, hiking and an abundance of stars for your evening entertainment.

Today, North Dakota boasts more than its legendary history. Its lakes and rivers are perfect for fishing, boating, kayaking, swimming and splashing around. Its trails – like the Maah Daah Hey Trail, North Country National Scenic Trail and Scenic Byways and Backways – provide hundreds of miles of hiking, biking, birding and pure enjoyment opportunities. Wildlife is abundant, sunsets grand and the night sky is, well, unbelievable.



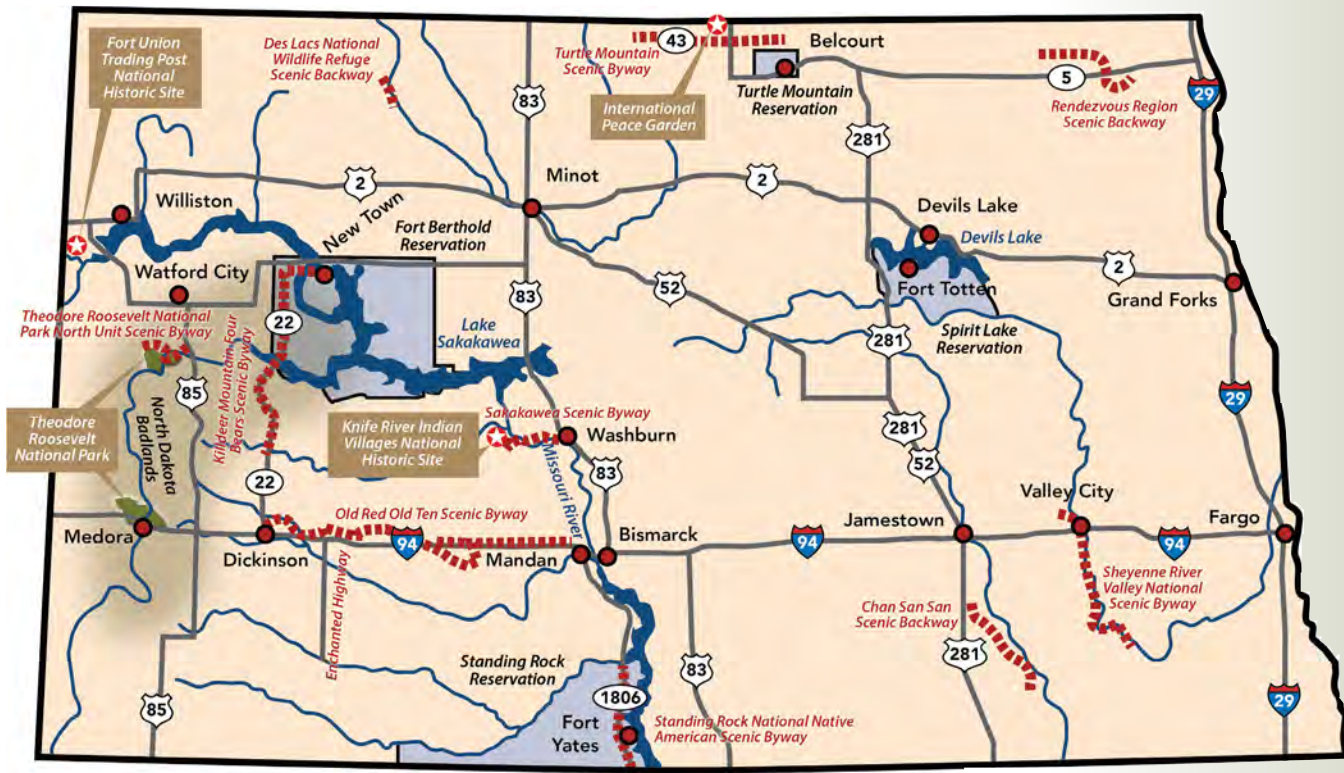
NORTH DAKOTA

## NORTH DAKOTA TOURISM

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The Red River Valley in the east is the “breadbasket of the country” due to its agricultural significance. The state’s lowest point in elevation is 750 feet near Pembina in the far northeast, while the highest point – 3,506-foot White Butte – is in the southwest corner. In between, the “coteau” region of rolling hills and wetlands in central North Dakota gives way to the rugged Badlands in the west. Woodlands, lakes and the International Peace Garden are found in the Turtle Mountains, an area shared with Manitoba, Canada, in north-central North Dakota.

The Missouri River, Lake Sakakawea, Lake Oahe and Devils Lake, along with many smaller tributaries, are used for water recreation, campgrounds, resorts and cruises offered aboard Bismarck’s Lewis and Clark Riverboat or New Town’s Island Girl yacht.



## TRANSPORTATION

North Dakota shares its northern border with the Canadian provinces Manitoba and Saskatchewan. It is also bordered by Minnesota, Montana and South Dakota.

Interstate 94 and U.S. Highway 2 and State Highway 200 are the major east-west routes across the state. Interstate 29 through the Red River Valley, U.S. highways 85 and 83 and State Highway 3 are major north-south routes.

Airlines provide direct service to cities like Minneapolis-St. Paul, Denver, Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth, Orlando, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix and more.



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## HISTORY AND CULTURE

Immigrants from Norway, Sweden, Germany, Ukraine and Iceland have influenced the history and culture of North Dakota. Visit local historic sites, museums and events that tell the stories of the life on the Great Plains.

Ethnic festivals and celebrations often include brightly colored traditional garments with embroidering and details of generations woven into the fabric. Marvel at the regalia at Bismarck's United Tribes International Powwow and White Shield's Little Shell Powwow. Powwows are held on all five reservations inside our border. Minot's Norsk Høstfest (Scandinavian) and the North Dakota Ukrainian Festival also feature exuberant regalia with multi-colored needlework and hair adornments. Each festival highlights its values and wraps it nicely with ethnic food, music and dancing.

Rodeos are always kicking up some fun with roping, riding and racing. Mandan Rodeo Days is 140 years old and going strong. The 96-year-old Killdeer Mountain Roundup Rodeo in another Fourth of July rodeo held in the heart of cowboy country.



## MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

- Theodore Roosevelt National Park – North and South Units
- International Peace Garden
- Devils Lake
- Lake Sakakawea
- Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan State Historic Site
- World's Largest Buffalo and National Buffalo Museum
- Medora Musical and Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum
- Enchanted Highway
- Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site
- Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, On-A-Slant Mandan Indian Village
- Painted Canyon Overlook

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# TOP ATTRACTIONS

**Theodore Roosevelt National Park's** three units offer endless buttes, inspiring scenery and canyons carved by the Little Missouri River. The South Unit near Medora features a 30-mile scenic drive with buffalo herds, wild horses and prairie dog towns. The North Unit, south of Watford City, offers a 14-mile scenic drive through deep canyons and forests to Oxbow Overlook. The more remote Elkhorn Ranch Unit between the larger units is where Theodore Roosevelt enjoyed his time as a rancher. [www.nps.gov/thro/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/thro/index.htm)

**Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site** was occupied by three Hidatsa villages for more than 11,000 years and home to Sakakawea (or Sacagawea) when the Corps of Discovery ventured through that area. Today, park rangers share the stories of the culture and history of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara villages and the interaction with Euro-American visitors. Walk among 210 earthlodge depressions, view yourself in past life in a reconstructed earthlodge and take time to explore the modern museum and visitor center. [www.nps.gov/knri/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/knri/index.htm)

**North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum.** Enter through the Northern Lights Atrium to exhibits and collections that trace North Dakota's history; new and present exhibits provide current relevance to North Dakota, while a T. rex and Triceratops are ready to do battle and tell their stories of long ago. Trace your steps through the innovation, adaptation and inspiration galleries and create your story along the way. Located on the North Dakota Capitol Grounds. <https://statemuseum.nd.gov>

**Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park.** Where the story begins with Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and his wife, Libbie, occupying the Custer House. Visitors are taken back in time to 1875. Cavalry Square includes barracks, a commissary, granary and stables with blockhouses above a bluff to keep a vigil over the Missouri River Valley. Along the Missouri River, On-A-Slant Indian Village depicts life in the earthlodge village on this site long before explorers and soldiers arrived. [www.parkrec.nd.gov/fort-abraham-lincoln-state-park](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/fort-abraham-lincoln-state-park)

**Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan** join in telling the story of the Corps of Discovery and its expedition. This interpretive center exhibits include more than 100 items representing those Lewis and Clark used on the expedition, including one of only six working air rifles in the world. Karl Bodmer's exquisite paintings captured Prince Maximilian's journey and connection with Native Americans. Nearby Fort Mandan, alongside the Missouri River, was authentically reconstructed to specs laid out by the explorers in 1804. Fully-furnished quarters display life and times of the Corps of Discovery. [www.fortmandan.com](http://www.fortmandan.com)

**Medora Musical and Pitchfork Steak Fondue.** First feast your eyes on the surroundings of the beautiful Badlands. Pitchfork steaks "cowboy" style are done to your liking, along with heartier fixin's. You will be serenaded while feasting by a Medora Musical cast member. Then settle into a seat at the adjacent Burning Hills Amphitheatre for a rousing, hand-clapping, foot-stopping Medora musical tribute to Theodore Roosevelt, performed under the stars. [www.medora.com](http://www.medora.com)



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**International Peace Garden** is a symbol of peace between the United States and Canada. The 2,300-acre garden with more than 150,000 flowers straddles the international border and includes many floral displays. Other attractions include a Peace Chapel, Praying Hands, 911 Memorial, Formal Garden, Floral Clock, restaurant, gift shop and interpretive center. [www.peacegarden.com](http://www.peacegarden.com)

**Fargo Air Museum** creates an aviation atmosphere with its rotation of historic flyable airplanes, including the P-51 Mustang, TBM Avenger and a Wright Flyer replica. This active air museum houses the Midwest's largest aviation library and promotes preservation and restoration. Special events, seminars and day-camps are held during the year. [www.fargoairmuseum.org](http://www.fargoairmuseum.org)

**Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site** shares its story of the Cold War years in North Dakota with the Oscar-Zero Missile Alert Facility and the November-33 Launch Facility. It is the last remnants of the 321st Missile Wing. A guided tour at Oscar-Zero includes the topside facilities and the underground facilities where you will see the front lines of the Launch Control Center. [www.history.nd.gov/historicsites/minutemanmissile/index.html](http://www.history.nd.gov/historicsites/minutemanmissile/index.html)



## MAJOR ANNUAL EVENTS

- Fargo Blues Festival, Fargo
- North Dakota State Fair, Minot
- United Tribes International Powwow, Bismarck
- Devils Run Car Show, Devils Lake
- Buggies-N-Blues, Mandan
- Roughrider Days Fair and Expo, Dickinson
- Potato Bowl USA, Grand Forks
- Norsk Høstfest, Minot
- Red River Valley Fair, West Fargo
- Mandan Rodeo Days, Mandan

## CLIMATE

North Dakota has four distinct seasons and embraces each for their unique offerings. Summer's average temperatures range from the mid-80s to upper 90s Fahrenheit (30-35° C) while winter's average high temperature is 24° Fahrenheit (-4° C) but can go much lower. Spring and fall are pleasant, with warm days and cool nights.



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## SCENIC DRIVES

**North Dakota Scenic Byways and Backways** weave through an inspiring collection of landscapes and charming and eclectic small towns. They include long routes like the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway and the Killdeer Mountain Four Bears Scenic Byway to smaller routes like the 14-mile Theodore Roosevelt National Park North Unit Scenic Byway. Regardless of the length, North Dakota's byways are great ways to see off-the-beaten-path sights in the state. [www.ndtourism.com/best-places/north-dakota-scenic-byways-and-backways-and-more](http://www.ndtourism.com/best-places/north-dakota-scenic-byways-and-backways-and-more)



## BEER AND WINE TRAIL

All around the country, small-scale wine producers and microbreweries are becoming more numerous, and North Dakota is no exception. Discover your favorite brewery, cidery or distillery or winery [www.ndtourism.com/articles/tip-glass-our-breweries-distilleries-and-cideries](http://www.ndtourism.com/articles/tip-glass-our-breweries-distilleries-and-cideries).

Each trail location has its own personality and flavor. Many wineries and breweries incorporate North Dakota agricultural products like wheat, barley, honey and fruit, along with other unique local ingredients (dandelion or rhubarb wine, anyone?) into their beverages.



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## TRIBAL TOURISM

Native tribes of North Dakota are an essential part of the state's history, and we welcome you to explore reservations and experience Native American culture. Through tribal tourism, learn about each tribe's history, language and traditions by visiting attractions like reconstructed earthlodge villages or attending a powwow to celebrate the culture through song and dance. [www.ndtourism.com/content/discover-native-american-culture](http://www.ndtourism.com/content/discover-native-american-culture)



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## FUN FACTS

- North Dakota produces enough soybeans to make 483 billion crayons each year.
- North Dakota is the No. 1 producer of honey in the nation.
- 39.4 million acres – nearly 90% of North Dakota's land area – is in farms and ranches. Great place for Agritourism.
- The geographical center of North America is marked in Rugby.
- Explorers William Clark and Meriwether Lewis and the Corps of Discovery spent more time in what is now North Dakota than any other place on their journey.
- North Dakota is home to more wildlife refuges than any other state. Wildlife viewing and birding opportunities are abundant.
- Lake Sakakawea has more shoreline than the entire coastline of California.
- The Enchanted Highway is a collection of the world's largest scrap metal sculptures constructed at intervals along a 32-mile stretch of two-lane highway in the southwestern part of the U.S. state of North Dakota.



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