North Dakota®
LEGENDARY

Legends are created when extraordinary people of the past leave a remarkable impression that shapes history. Some of history's most iconic legends left their marks in North Dakota: Sakakawea, Lewis and Clark, Sitting Bull, Theodore Roosevelt and others. Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery were some of the earliest visitors to the state, in 1804 and 1806. The travelers met North Dakota's first tour guide – Sakakawea – at Knife River Indian Villages. They constructed and wintered at nearby Fort Mandan. Hunkpapa Lakota holy man and chief Sitting Bull secured his place in history at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876. His burial site is at Fort Yates on the National Native American Scenic Byway. Less than a decade after the last great battle of the Indian Wars, Theodore Roosevelt took up ranching in the Badlands near Medora and used that experience as a springboard to the United States presidency. His contributions to conservation led to the formation of the National Park Service and the national park named in his honor near Medora.

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

Go West
SUMMIT

NORTH DAKOTA

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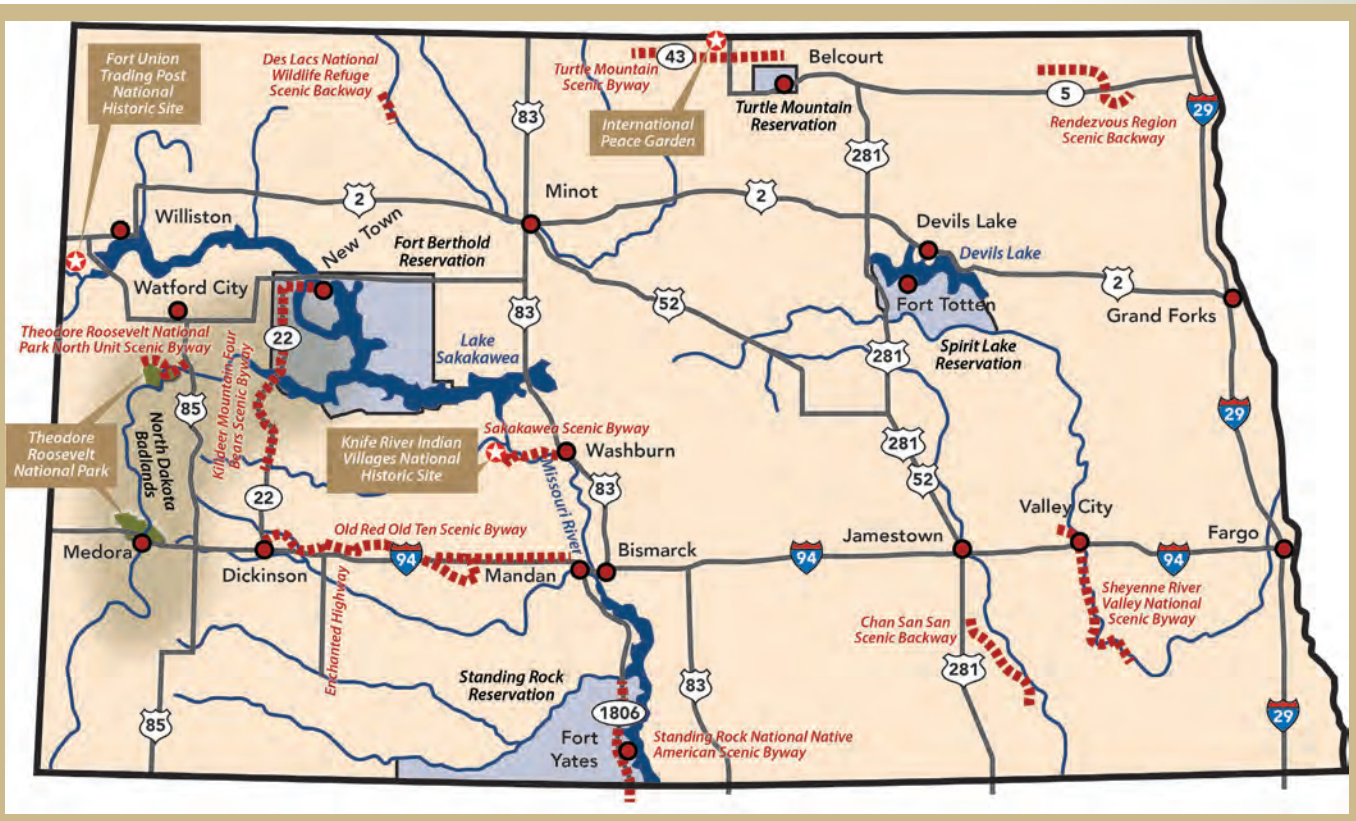
The Red River Valley in the east is the “breadbasket of the country.” The state’s lowest point is here near Pembina in the far northeast. It gives way to the “coteau” region of rolling hills and wetlands in central North Dakota and finally the rugged Badlands in the west. Woodlands, lakes and the International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

The Missouri River and lakes Sakakawea and Oahe separate southwest North Dakota from the rest of the state. Buttes, grasslands and high plains dominate this area. Lake Sakakawea is 180 miles long with more shoreline than the Pacific Coast of California.

North Dakota is true to its western heritage, which is on display at rodeos, powwows and on five Native American reservations within its borders.



TRANSPORTATION

North Dakota shares its northern border with the Canadian provinces Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Its bordering states include 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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NORTH DAKOTA

MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

Theodore Roosevelt National Park
Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan
World's Largest Buffalo and National Buffalo Museum
Medora Musical and Pitchfork Steak Fondue
North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum
United Tribes International Powwow
Norsk Høstfest
Lake Sakakawea
Devils Lake
Enchanted Highway
International Peace Garden
Knife River Indian Villages
Fort Abraham Lincoln

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.

Summer activities like boating, canoeing, fishing, and camping are abundant on lakes and rivers. Land lovers can hike, bike, tirke, and backpack all across North Dakota. Fall brings on the warm days and cool nights with highlights such as farmers markets, pumpkin patches, corn mazes, and autumn festivals and celebrations. Summer-time average temperatures range from mid-80° Fahrenheit (30° C), while winter's average temperature can be as low as 24° Fahrenheit (-4° C).

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TOP ATTRACTIONS

Theodore Roosevelt National Park's three units offer endless buttes, inspiring scenery and canyons carved out by the Little Missouri River. The South Unit near Medora features a 36-mile scenic loop 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

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. Residents of the villages helped Lewis and Clark's men survive the winter of 1804. Today, there are remains of 210 earthlodge depressions, a reconstructed earthlodge, ranger-guided tours, a modern museum and visitor center. www.nps.gov/knri/index.htm

North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum tells the fascinating story of North Dakota's history and people through amazing exhibits. The collection of Plains Indian artifacts, history and culture and hands-on experiences are everywhere in this museum on the North Dakota Capitol Grounds. https://statemuseum.nd.gov/

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park takes visitors back in time to 1875. Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer and his wife, Libbie, occupied the Custer House at the west end of Cavalry Square. Barracks, a commissary and other building surround the square. Blockhouses above keep a vigil over the Missouri River Valley. Below the bluffs, 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/parks/falsp/falsp.html

Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan are museums dedicated to telling the story of the Corps of Discovery. The interpretive center has artifacts with sound and interactive displays. 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. Nearby Fort Mandan, alongside the Missouri River, was authentically reconstructed to specs laid out by the explorers in 1804. www.fortmandan.com/

Medora Musical and Pitchfork Steak Fondue serve up daily summer feasts for the belly and the ears on the Badland bluffs at Medora. Begin the night with a steak cooked "cowboy" style on a pitchfork. Eat a hearty meal and settle into a seat at the adjacent Burning Hills Amphitheatre for a rousing musical tribute to Theodore Roosevelt, performed under the stars. www.medora.com

International Peace Garden is a symbol of peace between the United States and Canada. The 2,300-acre garden straddles the international border and includes many floral displays. More than 150,000 flowers are planted each spring in ever-changing displays. Other attractions include a Peace Chapel, Bell Tower, 911 Memorial, Formal Garden, Floral Clock and interpretive center. www.peacegarden.com

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SCENIC DRIVES

North Dakota Scenic Byways and Backways weave through an inspiring collection of landscapes and charming 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

North Dakota Scenic ByRider Program is geared to the one-down, five-up community – motorcyclists. Those riding five of the state's 25 designated Scenic ByRider routes in a year will earn a patch and yearly rocker for their riding vests. www.ndtourism.com/articles/north-dakota-scenic-byrider-program

Ready for our "can't miss" rides?
Click here: www.ndtourism.com/sites/default/master/files/pdf/TouringonTwoWheels.pdf

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 favorites on the North Dakota Beer and Wine Trail.

Each trail location has its own personality and flavor. Many wineries and breweries incorporate North Dakota agricultural products like wheat, honey and fruit, along with other unique local ingredients (dandelion wine, anyone?) into their beverages.
www.ndtourism.com/articles/north-dakota-beer-and-wine-trail

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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. Though individual tribes have distinct and different origins, histories and languages, Plains Indians are united by core beliefs and values that emanate from respect for the earth and an understanding of humankind's relationship with nature.

Learn more about each tribal culture here:
www.ndtourism.com/content/discover-native-american-culture

Ready to immerse yourself in a new culture? Check out a sample itinerary here:
www.ndtourism.com/sites/default/master/files/pdf/AmericanIndians.pdf

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FUN FACTS

- North Dakota is the leading producer of sunflowers in the United States.
- 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, North Dakota.
- 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.
- The International Peace Garden is a beautiful symbol of peace and friendship straddling the U.S. and Canadian border of North Dakota and Manitoba.
- 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 Pacific 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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