



## Chan SanSan Scenic Backway Scenic Beauty on the James

32 Miles

3 Days/2 Nights Optional Days 4+5

Gateway City: Jamestown

North Dakota

**National Travel Center**  
433 North Charlotte Street  
Lancaster, PA  
717-617-2051  
[www.nationaltravelcenter.org](http://www.nationaltravelcenter.org)

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They called it Chan SanSan - the Native Americans living on the banks of the beautiful James River. The earliest people who may have lived here 2,000 years ago were mound-building Mayans from South America scattered throughout what is now the United States. Later residents belonged to the Great Sioux Nation whose territory once stretched from Minnesota to Wyoming. It is believed those who lived in the James River Valley were Isanti Sioux, called the Yanktonaise (the French name of the Isanti Dakotas). They were the 13<sup>th</sup> and last tribe to join the Dakota nation of allied tribes, the "people at the other end of the circle of teepees" who settled below Jamestown.



Archeologists have verified a Plains Woodland village existed in the area, along with burial mounds, and pottery fragments. Oral traditions recounted the valley where Jamestown now stands was "heap water," where they traveled in canoes from what's now Capitol Hill to the State Hospital bluffs, when the valley was filled like a lake. Driven out of the area, they moved to the mouth of the Cannon Ball River in 1863.

When the Chan SanSan Byway begins south of Jamestown, the road descends into the James River Valley where a panorama of the river snaking through the gorgeous valley carved more than 12,000 years ago by glacial meltwater, punctuated by tall grass prairie and wildflowers, splays out at your feet. From rare pony truss bridges on the James near Adrian, to the early architecture of settlements along the SOO Line, you'll



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discover the story of each of the charming towns along the way. Native American sites, bright barn quilts, antique farm equipment, and quiet places to picnic, along with 12 interpretive panels that reveal the story of the region unfold as you explore the scenic beauty. The natural areas surrounding Lake LaMoure, the LaMoure Dam, Twin Lake, Limesand-Seefeldt Dam and Heinrich-Martin Dam are peaceful natural settings. Most of the route is on gravel roads, but don't let that deter you. The breathtaking scenery is well worth the drive.



### Touring the Byway

We recommend starting your journey in Jamestown, spending two days exploring "Buffalo City," which welcomes you with a towering 26' buffalo named "Dakota Thunder." The National Buffalo Museum is dedicated to telling the story of the importance of buffalo in early American life on the prairie. They also have a live herd out back. Right down the street, Frontier Village brings the world of the pioneers to life and Fort Seward illustrates the lives of men who came here to build the railroad. Other intriguing locations to visit in Jamestown include the Louis L'Amour Walking Tour, the Hansen Arts Park and Arts Center, the Stutsman County Memorial Museum housed in the beautiful Lutz Mansion, the Stutsman County Courthouse and St. James Basilica. Reserve a table at Sabir's Buffalo Grill for a taste of bison. If you're up for local fare, order a bowl of Knoephla Soup, a rich creamy potato soup with chewy littler dumplings which is the unofficial comfort food of the prairie.

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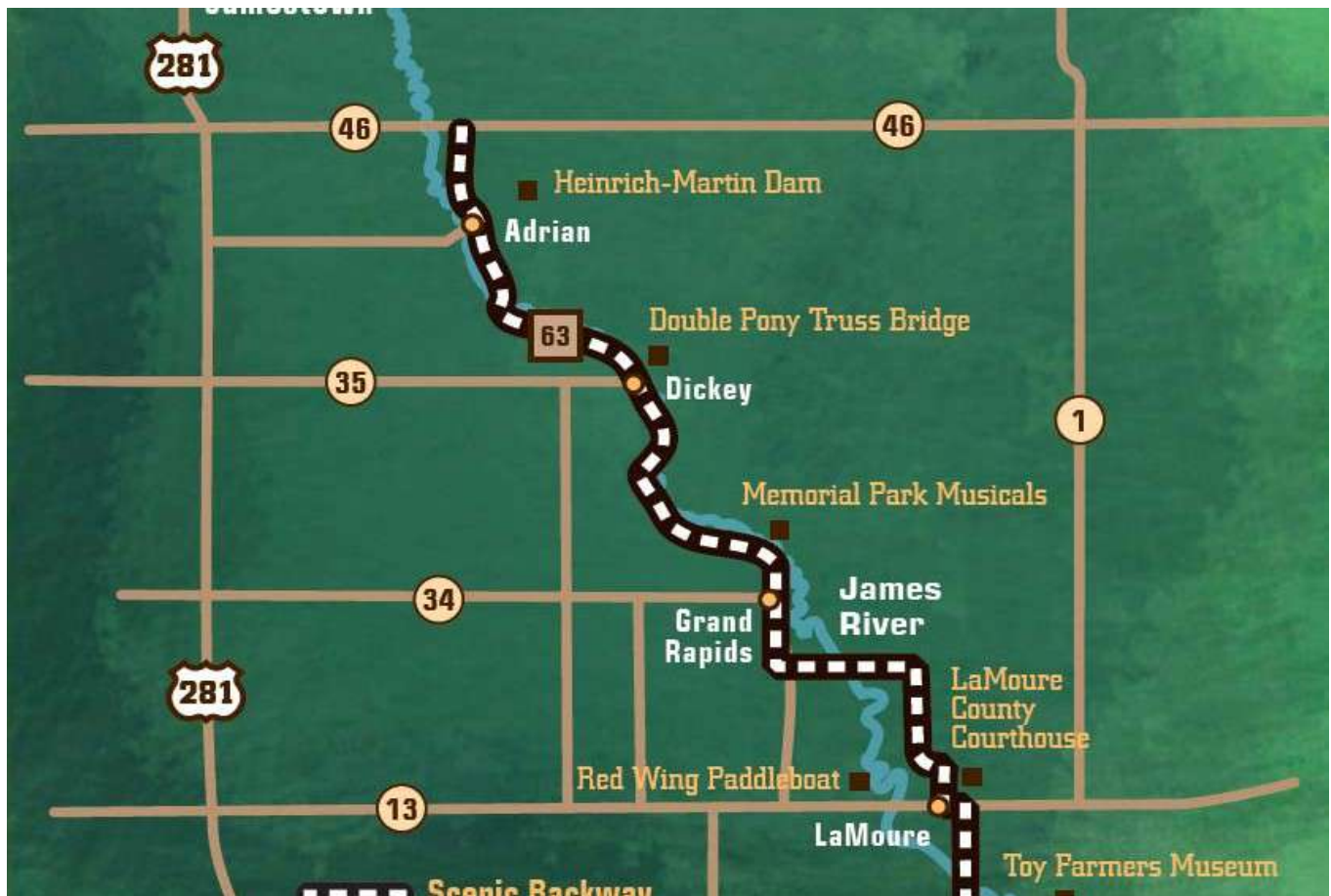
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After a second luxury night at Lakeview Meadow, it's time to get on the Byway, starting at Adrian, a small town of less than 100 people. Native American burial mounds start between Adrian and Dickey. The rare 1900s pony truss bridge crosses the James River at Second Street in Dickey has been restored.

Later, the drive passes the 1968 Heinrich-Martin Dam holding back a 19-acre lake, a perfect spot for a picnic. Just before Grand Rapids, the LaMoure County Memorial Park is home to the LaMoure County Museum and a one-room schoolhouse. If you want to get out on the river, rent a paddleboat in LaMoure. You'll also want to visit the Beaux Arts-style Courthouse and Toy Farmers Museum. When you've finished exploring, head to Fargo for the evening. From there, we wish you a safe and pleasant journey home or on another North Dakota Scenic Byway.



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### DAY ONE



### Jamestown

When the first Europeans arrived in 1871, they joined the Yanktonai branch of the Great Sioux Nation, who arrived about 1800, building cabins on the west side of the James River, Second Street. Other settlers moving in from Fort Totten further grew the town, making Jamestown the logical choice for the Stutsman county seat since it was the only town within 100 miles. When the Territorial Capital was being moved from Yankton, now in South Dakota, townspeople moved many of the town's buildings to Capitol Hill, to no avail. Today, this farming community is the "Pride of the Prairie." Whether touring Frontier Village, exploring the boyhood sites of Western author Louis L'Amour, viewing a live herd of buffalo, or visiting one of several historical sites, Jamestown is the ideal beginning of your Chan SanSan Scenic Backway journey.



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### National Buffalo Museum

The presence of buffalo on the Northern Plains was primarily responsible for the survival of the Native Americans and early settlers. They were used for food, hides for tipis, and clothing for defense against the frigid winters. Dedicated to preserving the heritage of the American buffalo, the North Dakota Buffalo Foundation built the museum to host art, artifacts, Native American items, a 10,000-year-old bison skull, a complete skeleton of *bison antiquus* (ancestor to the modern bison), the full body mount of White Cloud,



Jamestown's beloved albino (white) bison, and the Buffalo Hall of Fame. Plentiful interpretive panels tell the full story. After learning about them, see buffalo up close and personal in the herd that grazes behind the building. 500 17th Street SE, Jamestown, ND 58401, 800-801-1511 Memorial Day-Labor Day, Daily, 8AM-8PM AM Labor Day-Memorial Day Weekdays 10AM-5PM. Sat 10AM-5PM, \$8 Adults



### Frontier Village

The village surrounding the National Buffalo Museum brings the frontier prairie in North Dakota to life. Historic buildings here include writer Louis L'Amour's cabin, an 1880 Northern Pacific Railroad Depot, a frontier school, church, and bank. All were relocated here and filled with antiques and artifacts. The Dakota Thunder Monument, a 26-foot-tall, 60-ton concrete buffalo stature stands guard. Also here, the J.A. Kirkpatrick Gallery showcases

paintings and artwork depicting the wild west and plains, and a shop with North Dakota treasures and handmade goods from local artisans. 404 17th Street SE, Jamestown, ND 58401, 800-222-4766

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### Fort Seward

Fort Seward overlooking the James River only operated for five years, housing soldiers who oversaw the building of the Northern Pacific Railroad. The interpretive center displays artifacts that were excavated on the site and kiosks that take you on an audio-visual tour of the property. The really adventurous can camp out in a military tent. 605 10th Avenue NW, Jamestown, ND 58401, 701-251-1875, Memorial Day-Labor Day 10AM-6PM

### Louis L'Amour Walking Tour

Louis L'Amour's 89 novels and other literary works defined the western genre at the turn of the century. He spent his boyhood years in Jamestown, where you can explore a six-stop walking tour of sites prominent in L'Amour's life: Alfred Dickey Public Library, Louis L'Amour Home and Livery Site, Franklin School, 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse, Gladstone Inn Site (the original hotel burned down in 1968) and First United Methodist Church. The 1.5 mile route through downtown is designed to be completed in 30 minutes or more, depending on the time spent observing the locations. 103 3rd Avenue. SE, Jamestown, ND, 701-251-9145

The sign is titled "Site of Louis L'Amour Boyhood Home" and provides historical information and directions. It features three photographs: a large house, a barn, and a veterinary hospital. Text on the sign includes: "Louis Dearborn LaMoore (L'Amour) was born in the house which once stood on this site, March 22, 1908. He lived here with his family until he was 15." "His father, Louis Charles or L.C., ran his veterinary business in the barn located here. It is where Louis and his brothers learned to box, learned about animals, and watched trains (such as the circus train) unload from the haymow." "Learn more by calling the Talking Trail number below." "For even more information, visit the Alfred Dickey Public Library (105 3rd AVE SE) to visit the Louis L'Amour Exhibit, located on the upper floor." The sign also includes a map of downtown Jamestown, a "When Louis Was Home" audio kiosk, and a "CALL TO HEAR" phone number: (701) 713-9128, ext. 2528.

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## Destination Distinctive Accommodations

**Lakeview Meadow**, 8280 31st Street SE, Jamestown, ND 58401, 701-252-5100

Accommodations in Lakeview Meadow are the ultimate in four-season luxury, complete with unique décor, decorative and flooring and stylish furniture. Overlooking the Jamestown Reservoir, all six luxury cabins have central air, a cozy fireplace and everything else you need to have a perfect relaxing stay,



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### Destination Distinctive Dining

**Sabir's Buffalo Grill**, 103 1st Avenue South, Jamestown, ND 58401, 701-952-9529

Enjoy fine dining with a full menu of appetizers, a full range of fish and seafood, loaded flatbread pizzas, pasta and rotisserie, surf and sea combinations, dinner salads, steaks including a bison fillet, and scrumptious deserts.

**Babb's Coffee House**, 100 First Avenue South, Jamestown, ND 58401, 701-251-2227

Grab a great coffee and sweet treat.

**The Depot Café**, 300 2nd Avenue NE, Jamestown, ND 58401, 701-252-1003

### Destination Distinctive Retail

**Sapphire Gallery**, 109 1st Street West, Jamestown, ND 58401, 701-302-0234

**Dakota Store**, 601 1st Avenue SE, Jamestown, ND 58401, 701-269-2689

**Simply Home**, 2619 8th Avenue SW, Jamestown, ND 58401, 701-952-2400

**Dakota Belt & Moccasin Company**, 1009 17th Street SW, Jamestown, ND 58401  
701-252-3810

**KJ & W's**, 711 2nd Avenue SE, Jamestown, ND 58401, 701-269-2559

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### DAY TWO

#### Hansen Arts Park and The Arts Center

View the latest art exhibits and stroll through Art Park, a beautiful garden and green space that is home to the Boulder Pavillon, Prairie Grass Ballet sculptures, and artist created mosaic benches. Live theatre performances on selected days. 115 2nd Street SW, Jamestown, ND 58401, 701-251-2496, M-Friday, 9AM-5PM, Sat 10AM-2:00PM



#### Stutsman County Memorial Museum

The beautifully crafted Lutz Mansion, a collegiate gothic style great house, encompasses four floors filled with artifacts including pioneer, railroad, military, household, agricultural, medical and archaeological items, all surrounded by the craftsmanship and artistry of the early 1900s. The museum also has a library and a replica of the historic gazebo, once the focal point of old Jamestown.

321 3rd Avenue SE, Jamestown, ND 58401, 701-252-6741, Memorial Day-Labor Day, M-F 10AM-5PM. S-S 1PM-5PM. Front Porch Chats, showcasing Jamestown's pioneer history, Sun 2PM, June-August

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### Stutsman County Courthouse

Hailing from the era when Jamestown sought to be the capital of North Dakota, even though the effort was unsuccessful, the location of the Stutsman County Courthouse is still considered the birthplace of statehood where delegates discussed the division of the Dakota Territory. The interior boasts the most complete collection of pressed tin in the Midwest. 504 3rd Avenue SE, Jamestown, ND 58401, 701-328-2666. Memorial Day-Labor Day, W Sun 10AM-5PM.



### St. James Basilica

This stunning American Gothic-style church constructed in 1910, is one of only 60 minor basilicas in the U.S. The interior features beautiful stained-glass windows and a blue glazed ceiling. 622 First Avenue South, Jamestown ND 58401, 701-252-0119  
Daily 7:00AM-9PM



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### DAY THREE

**Adrian** As you head out on the Chan SanSan Scenic Byway, Adrian, the first town is so small it has no school, bar or post office. **Dickey** also a tiny town, was founded in 1885.

#### Grand Rapids

Even though Grand Rapids was the only major town in the area when LaMoure County was created, residents were very unhappy when neighboring LaMoure was named the county seat. After the vote, the council ordered all county records be moved to LaMoure within 10 days. When raiders approached around midnight to retrieve the records, they found the courthouse brightly lit, locked, and bristling with gun carrying defenders. Ultimately, the door was broken down, and all records were loaded to move. In the meantime, another injunction moved everything back to Grand Rapids. Ultimately, the records were brought to LaMoure where they remain.

#### LaMoure County Memorial Park and Museum

This large park accommodations a variety of activities including live performances by the LaMoure County Summer Musical Theatre, the LaMoure County Museum, a Cook Shack, and a one-room schoolhouse. The 1883 museum building was originally used as the LaMoure County Courthouse.



It was moved to the Park at the request of a prominent citizen to hold the antiques he donated to the county. Even though the address of the property is listed as LaMoure, it is actually north of Grand Rapids. Between Memorial Park and Memorial Golf Course in Grand Rapids, ND 9797 66th Street SE, Lamoure, ND 58458, 701-883-5856

#### Destination Distinctive Dining

**Horseshoe Saloon**, 213 9th Street North, Grand Rapids, ND 58458, 701- 883-4216  
Grab a bite to eat before moving on to LaMoure.

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### **LaMoure**

Believed to be the only location in the world named LaMoure, the town was named for a Dakota Territory legislator and later state official, with strong pioneer roots. The original Northern Pacific Railroad passenger station is still standing.

### **Lamoure County Courthouse**

The stately 1909 Beaux Arts style Courthouse features a front façade with four dramatic Corinthian columns, a metal-covered dome with bull's eye windows topped with a ball finial, supported by an octagonal tower with columns and arched windows. The original leaded glass, woodwork, and hardware still surround the front entrance. 202 4th Avenue NE, LaMoure, ND 58458, 701-883-5301, M-F 8:30AM-Noon, 1PM-4:30PM

### **Minuteman Missile & Red Wing Paddleboat**

Interpretive panels at this location introduce you to the Minuteman Missile, similar to those housed in silos on the Northern Great Plains. The Red Wing Paddleboat, built in 1914 was used to transport passengers and goods on the river.

300 3rd Avenue SW, LaMoure, ND 58458, 701-883-5796



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### Destination Distinctive Accommodations

**Hotel Donaldson**, 101 Broadway, Fargo, ND 58102, 701-478-1000.

After serving as a fraternal lodge for more than 100 years, the 17-room Hotel Donaldson features unique art-inspired rooms filled with luxurious furnishings and luxury beds. Meals feature artisan cuisine paired with great sprints, served by a friendly, experienced staff.

### Destination Distinctive Dining

**Mezzaluna**, 309 Roberts Street North, Fargo, ND 58102, 701-364-9479

Listed on the North Dakota Culinary Trail, Mezzaluna features elevated fare made from locally sourced ingredients, complimented with craft cocktails.

**The Old Broadway Grill**, 22 Broadway North, Fargo, MD 58102

Right down the street from Hotel Donaldson, the Old Broadway Grill serves hearty American cuisine in an elegant historic setting enhanced with carved dark-wood and high ceilings.

**The Hodo**, 101 Broadway, Fargo, ND 58102, 701-478-1000

Located right in the Hotel Donaldson, the Hodo, listed in the North Dakota Culinary Trail offers a full menu, and the Hodo Lounge right next door.



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### OPTIONAL DAY FOUR



The first settlers staked claims here when the Northern Pacific Railroad crossed the Red River. The rough and ready town, named after a railroad director and the Wells Fargo founder, had its share of bordellos and saloons, until the town began to grow with settlers looking for fertile farmland. The original tents and shanties had been replaced by wood-framed buildings in 1892, then housing nearly 8,000 citizens. The next year, disaster struck with a fire on Front Street, fanned by strong winds. By the time it was extinguished, more than 31 blocks were reduced to ashes. The city resolved to reconstruct itself, and in less than a year built 246 new buildings.

#### **A Look Around Downtown Historic Walking Tour and Mural Tour**

Begin your exploration of Fargo by taking the Downtown Historic Walking Tour past 20 structures that either survived the downtown fire or were constructed afterward. The Mural Tour, with colorful full building sized murals, is intertwined on some of the same streets.

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### Plains Art Museum

The historic walking tour of downtown Fargo includes the world class Plains Art Museum, 56,000 square feet of permanent and changing exhibits, spread out over four floors. Explore On Location in Rural America, Indian Country, the North Dakota Mural, and A Tall Grass Community. In addition to Traditional, Modern and Contemporary Native American art, collection offerings include Traditional African, Modern and Post Modern, Contemporary, Photography and Prints, Regional and Educational works.

704 First Avenue North, Fargo, ND, 58102, 701-551-6100, M-W, plus Th, 11AM-5PM, Sat 10AM-5PM, Free

### Art Galleries

There are several galleries to explore in Fargo and Moorhead including Gallery 4, 115 Roberts Street North, Dakota Fine Art, 11 Eighth Street South, #204. Spirit Room, 111 Broadway North, Rourke Art and Museum, 521 Main Avenue, Moorhead, Eece Gallery, 210 Broadway North, Underbrush Gallery, 1450 25<sup>th</sup> Street South, and Memorial Union Gallery at North Dakota State University, 1401 Administrative Avenue.

### Bonanzaville

Named after the large and lucrative bonanza farms once located in the Red River Valley, Bonanzaville did not just bring in a selection of historic buildings, they brought in an entire historic town, complete with all buildings and functions one would have expected in a pioneer North Dakota town. A main museum building holds a portion of the 400,000 items in the permanent collection, with others distributed among the many other buildings. Explore the Arthur Town Hall, Bjerklie Drug Store, the Brass



Rail Saloon, Cass-Clay Creamery, Cass County District Courthouse, a school, depot, cabin, newspaper office, the land office, the telephone building and more. Here, you can really understand pioneer life on the prairie. 1351 Main Avenue West, West Fargo, ND 58078, 701-282-2882, May 1-Aug 31, M-F 10AM-7PM, Sat 10AM-5PM, Sun Noon-5PM, Sept 1-30, M-Sat, 10AM-5PM, Sun Noon-5PM, Adults \$12

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### OPTIONAL DAY FIVE

#### Hjemkomst Center

Right across the river from Fargo, the Hjemkomst Center displays two of the most unique pieces found at any museum. The residents in the region are descendants from the Vikings who ruled the Northern European seas from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. One local resident with a vision to build a Viking ship studying Norwegian heritage, discovered the story of the *Gokstad* unearthed from a burial mound in Norway. He decided to build an authentic replica of the majestic ship, using lumber from East Grand Forks. To overcome the challenge of finding a place big enough to construct the ship, he leased a potato warehouse for \$10 a year, where the build became a visitor attraction. After a decade, and the front entrance of the warehouse torn off, the ship emerged in the daylight and readied for sailing to Norway. After a successful voyage and a year in Norway, the ship road back to the United States on a freighter. The family donated the magnificent ship to the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead, where you can see it today. Not only does the Center have the Viking ship, it also hosts an authentic Stave church, typical of those built in Scandinavia during the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, where the vertical staves used to build massive wooden buildings evolved into a true art form. The full-scale replica of the Hopperstad Church in Vik, Norway is 72 feet high, with 18, 27-foot staves. The main structure is made from Minnesota pine, the portal carving of redwood, and 24,000 Michigan cedar shingles adorn the roof. 202 First Avenue North, Moorhead, MN 56560, 218-299-5515, Sun-F Noon-5PM, Sat 9AM-5PM. Adults \$10





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### Comstock House

The stylish Victorian home built by Solomon Comstock has stood as a symbol of his accomplishments for more than a century. Born in Maine, he earned a law degree from Michigan before moving to Nebraska, Texas before setting in Moorhead. Comstock served as a state representative, a state senator and one term in the US House and founded the First National Bank of Moorhead, the Moorhead Foundry, Car and Agricultural Works, and worked with the railroad. He also helped to build the school that became Concordia College and donated land for the Moorhead



Normal School which became Moorhead State University. His wife Sarah graduated from Smith College and Columbia with a Masters. Solomon spent 51 years in the house and Sarah, 59. One of their daughters, Jessie May returned to care for her aging parents after a long teaching career and ultimately lived in the Comstock House until 1951. Another family member, George Madison lived in the house until 1965 when it was turned over to the Historical Society. The house itself, a blend of Queen Anne elements and Eastlake design, is adorned with spindle work porches, patterned chimneys and colorfully painted siding and trim. The property includes an icehouse, tool room, food storage room, and a barn. The property is especially important since the interior remainder almost unaltered, with the exception of bathrooms. The oak doors and windows, the carved oak stairway, the mantelpieces and lovely parquet bordered floor in the dining room are still in place. Enjoy a tour of the home and all of its history. 506 8<sup>th</sup> Street South, Moorhead, MN 56560, 218-291-4211, May 23-Sept 6, Sat-Sun 10AM-4PM, or call for an appointment. Adults \$7.

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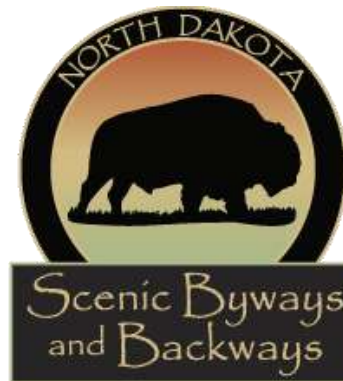
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**National Travel Center**

