

NORTH  
**Dakota**  
Be Legendary.™



## Rendezvous Region Scenic Backway Coming Together from the Past

22 Miles

5 Days/4Nights

Gateway City: Grand Forks

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 call it the Rendezvous Region for a really good reason. This is where people and cultures came together. Sitting at the intersection of North Dakota (then the Dakota Territory), Minnesota and Canada, Native American tribes, including the Ojibwa, Dakota, Assiniboine and Cree, moved in from Minnesota to hunt buffalo and take advantage of natural food sources in the region. They were followed by Scottish and English explorers, and French fur trappers coming in from Canada, who all intermarried with Native Americans creating a culture called the Metis, meaning "mixed blood" or "mixed race." They were later joined by Scandinavians moving in from the Minnesota and Wisconsin, Polish immigrants, and a large group of Icelanders from Wisconsin.



As the transportation routes opened up to other parts of the continent, the region became a hotbed for international politics, serving as a gateway between Canada and the United States starting in the early 1800s. Icelandic settlers landed on the shores of Lake Renwick and others from Canada's New Iceland near Lake Winnipeg populated the "Icelandic Townships" of Akra, Beaulieu, Gardar, and Thingwalla named after towns in their home country.

Today, the traditions of the many cultures are experienced along the Rendezvous Region Scenic Byway that traverses the northeast corner of North Dakota from Cavalier to Vang. It meanders along the Pembina River, the state's only white-water river that carved the dramatic Pembina Gorge millenniums ago. Meandering along old rural highways picturesque settings, captivating countryside, vibrant colors of forests with

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picture perfect spots, and meadows carry you to a river where prehistoric fossils can be found. Slow down and enjoy the sleepy little communities along the way.

### Touring the Byway

We recommend starting your journey in Grand Forks which reveals the story of the region at the North Dakota Museum of Art, the Grand Forks Historical Society and Heritage Village, St. Michael's Church is surrounded by the Downtown Historic District which includes nearly 70 structures dating from the 1880s-1960s. The 1913 Beaux Arts Grand Forks County Courthouse is a richly decorated white limestone structure topped with a massive cast iron dome.

Leaving Grand Forks, you'll be passing through a number of small towns on your way to the start of the Byway. St. Stanislaus Historic District in Minto was built by Polish immigrants. The Walsh County Historical Museum introduces you to the heritage of the region. The Heritage Village and Jugville Museum in Grafton adds to the story. Historic structures in town include the Victorian Elmwood House which sits on a 20-acre plot on the Park River, and the 1901 Grafton State School surrounded by six more contributing buildings.



In Drayton, you can learn about the unique ox carts developed by the Metis that plied the prairie trails in the early 1800s. Pembina, the first settlement in the Dakota Territories hosts the Pembina State Museum.

After spending the night in Cavalier, you'll have a full day in Cavalier, where you can

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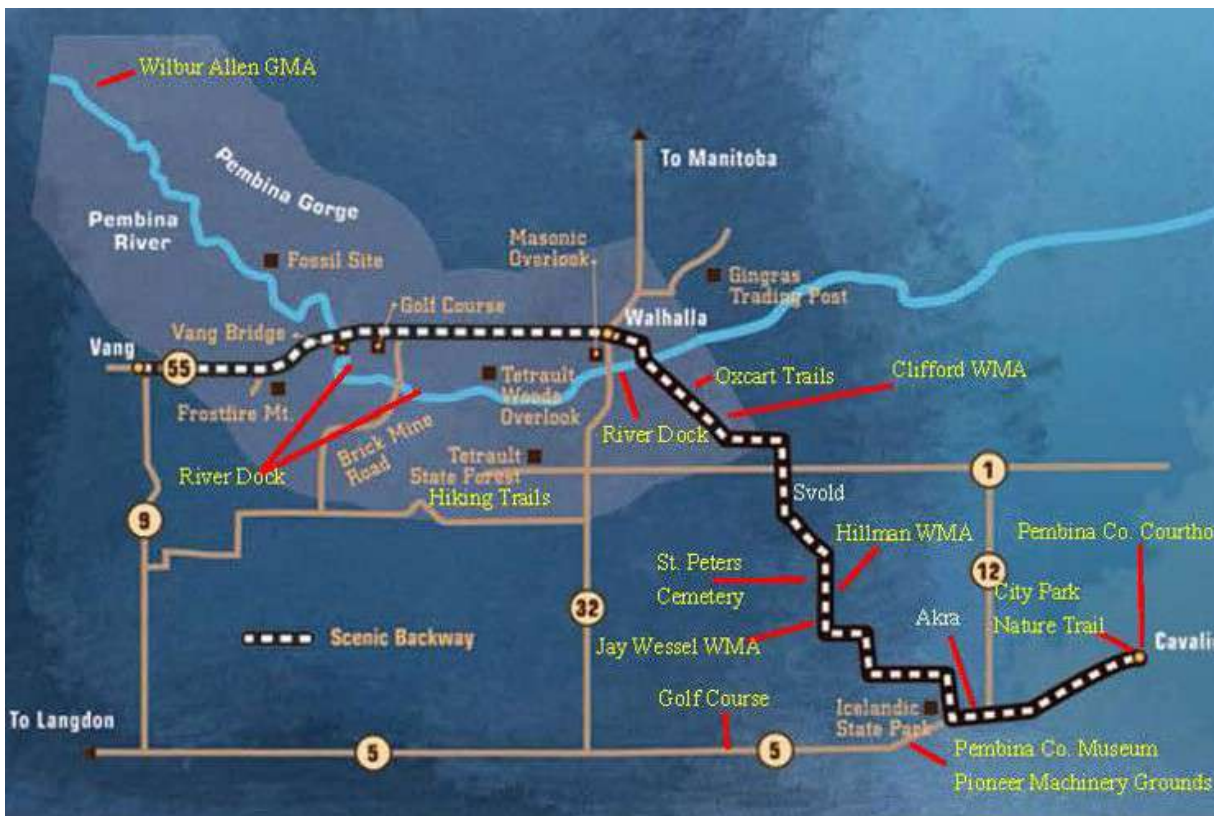
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Gateway City: Grand Forks

North Dakota

explore the heritage of the Icelandic settlers in the region. The Svold Community Hall was established in 1880 to serve the local Icelandic population. The small township of Akra is home to the Vidalin Icelandic Lutheran Church and Cemetery. Mountain hosts the Vikur Lutheran Church, the oldest Icelandic church in the state. Icelandic State Park established specifically to preserve the Icelandic heritage includes the Pioneer Heritage Center and Gunlogson Homestead is a must.

The town of Walhalla delivers dramatic views of the Pembina River and Pembina Gorge from the Masonic Scenic Overlook. The Tetrault Woods State Forest provides the opportunity for some peaceful natural respite. The Gingras Trading Post State Historic Site encompasses some of the oldest extant buildings in North Dakota. A floating dock crosses North Dakota's only "white water river." After that, you'll be continuing to Vang, where the Byway officially ends and on to Langdon for the night. From there, we wish you a safe and pleasant journey home or on another North Dakota Scenic Byway.



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## Coming Together from the Past

22 Miles

5 Days/4 Nights

Gateway City: Grand Forks

North Dakota

### DAY ONE



#### **Grand Forks**

Similar to so many other cities in North Dakota, the river location of Grand Forks was first occupied by Native Americans. French fur trappers and traders followed, congregating at "les Grandes Fourches" where they set up a trading post. Owing nine acres in what is now downtown, Alexander Grigg is known as "Father of Grand Forks." Within a few years, Grand Forks had all of the amenities of a city. The US Government chose a site west of town for a new jet interceptor air base in 1954, causing growth to burgeon. A little over 20 years ago, dikes along the Red River broke, flooding the entire city, but the city came back. Today, Grand Forks is a bustling lively community surrounded by tranquil, scenic farmland. On the famous Greenway known for some of the best birding in the nation, expect to see prairie chickens, gray partridges, and short-eared owls coexisting with snowy owls, snow buntings and common redpolls.

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### North Dakota Museum of Art

For a change of pace, tour the North Dakota Museum of Art, nationally recognized for dynamic exhibitions regarding human rights, international artists, and landmark works of Northern Plains art that are housed in three galleries. The apartment of the late New York City artist Barton Benes' featuring his collection of African art and unique objects from around the world, is on permanent display. The Museum also hosts the University of North Dakota



Collection Gallery. Check out the gift shop and if it's time, have lunch at Sky's Café, located in the museum. University of North Dakota, 261 Centennial Drive, Grand Forks, ND 58202 701-777-4195 M-F 9AM-5PM, Sat-Sun 1PM-5PM, Free

### St. Michael's Church

This beautiful Romanesque church, founded in 1872 to serve the Metis, is now considered the mother church in the area. Above the rounded arches and barrel vaults, the tall bell towers are topped with bronze plated saucer cupolas, similar to those found in the Alpine region of Europe. 524 North 5th Street, Grand Forks, ND 58203, 701-772-2624

### Grand Forks County Historical Museum

The Historical Society is housed on the former property of Thomas Campbell, who built a log cabin he later incorporated it into a classic Gothic Revival home. The Myra Museum designed to complement the Campbells' House, features a wide range of Grand Forks' heritage from the Ice Age through settlement period. Grand Forks oldest building, the original log Post Office, the city's oldest building and the Lustron House, a unique steel-fabricated home emblematic of the years immediately after World War II were moved to the location. May 15-Sept 15, 1PM-5PM Daily.

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## Coming Together from the Past

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### Heritage Village

Grand Forks has its own heritage village to preserve the heritage of the Northern Red River Valley. Pioneer buildings house hands-on learning programs and exhibits feature a steamboat, Bison sculpture, Women in WWII display, Victory Garden and other insightful topics. 219 20th Street NE, East Grand Forks, MN 56721, 218-791-5313



### Grand Forks Art

Pick up a cup of joe from one of the local coffee shops and get out into the sunshine on an art walk to explore the unique public art in downtown Grand Forks: two colorful BIG Heads, Third and DeMers Avenue and Fourth and Kittson Ave), Wally the Worm at Fourth Street and First Avenue, and "Grand Escape," at DeMers Avenue and Fourth Street. There are also several pocket parks with metal sculptures, decorated dumpsters, murals and more. In addition, there is a multitude of galleries: The Guild, 311 DeMers Avenue, Third Street Gallery, 310 Kittson Ave, Browning Arts, 23 Fourth Street South, showcasing 50 area artists working in ceramics, painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, computer art, sculpture, jewelry and fiber arts, World's Smallest Gallery, 324 Kittson Avenue, You Are Here, 25 South Fourth Street, River Walk Artists Gallery, 211 DeMers Avenue, Muddy Waters Clay Center, 2014 13<sup>th</sup>



Avenue North, Jacobson Studio, 1726 South Washington Street, Wild Things Gallery, 2800 South Columbia Road, River Front Gallery, 17 North Third Street, Forks Frame Up, 1901 DeMers Avenue, Badman Designs, 18 South Third Street, and Empire Art Center Gallery, 415 DeMers Avenue, at the Empire Theater. The Colonel Eugene E. Myers Art Gallery is on the campus of North Dakota State University, 3350 Campus Road.

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## Destination Accommodations

**Staybridge Suites**, 1175 South 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Grand Forks, ND 58201 701-772-9000  
Stay in a suite with a full kitchen, wi-fi, complimentary breakfast, and fitness center,

## Destination Distinctive Dining

**The Toasted Frog**, 124 North 3rd Street, Grand Forks, ND 58203, 701-772-3764  
American fare with global influences & martinis amid brick walls, high ceilings & abstract art.

**Rhombus Guys**. 312 Kittson Avenue, Grand Forks, ND 58201, 701-787-7317  
The local gourmet pizza place with scrumptious Detroit style, no meat and other unique pizzas including chicken alfredo, T-Rex, Busey, Winstein, and Big Dogz. Also gourmet sandwiches.



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## Coming Together from the Past

22 Miles

5 Days/4 Nights

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North Dakota

### DAY TWO

#### **Minto**

Founded in 1880, Minto is named for the Canadian hometown of the first settlers. Soon after, the bank and newspaper were established, and about 15 general stores opened to serve about 500 people. The Pillsbury company of Minneapolis was the first to erect a large grain elevator. By 1884, Minto had a good school and two churches. Today, small town values still guide the preservation of this quaint town.

#### **St. Stanislaus Church Historic District**

The centerpiece church in the 11-acre St. Stanislaus Church Historic District, one of the most important Polish structures in the area. Splendid Gothic Revival architecture is flooded with light through 19 stained glass windows, highlighting the statuary, canopied pulpit, and twin carved confessionals. The historic district including the rectory, St. Anthony Academy, and cemetery was the social home for Polish immigrants in the area. 1900 61st Street NE, Minto, ND 58261, 701-248-3375, 9AM-4:30PM Daily



#### **Walsh County Historical Museum**

The Walsh County Historical Museum encompasses three floors of a historic prairie school, featuring artifacts dating from 1850-1890 collected from homesteaders in the area. Exhibits include Main Street, a Jail House, trading post, vintage clothing, Native American items, and military memorabilia. 323 3rd Street, Minto, ND 58261, 701-248-8237, Memorial Day-Last Sunday in September, Sundays & Holidays Noon-5PM, For Tour Shannon Brazil, 701-215-3420. Adults \$5.00

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22 Miles

5 Days/4 Nights

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North Dakota

### Drayton

Leaving Drayton, Ontario in 1878, the settlers of Drayton North Dakota set out for Manitoba to find a new home. They traveled to Grand Forks while their baggage was shipped west to the end of the line. After traveling on foot to the Pembina, they never made it back to Canada, instead named their new home after their hometown.

### Oxcart Trails Historical Society

Drawing its name from the famous ox carts that plied the prairie in the 1800s, the Blessing Museum features a log house, sod and log outhouse, grinding wheel and ox cart replica. 201 Almeron Avenue, Drayton, ND 58225, 701-520-1231,



### Pembina

Pembina has stood at the crossroads of activity between the local Ojibwa, Dakota, Assiniboine, and Cree tribes and the fur trappers who came down from Canada for centuries.

### Pembina State Museum

The seven story Observation Tower at the Pembina State Museum delivers a stunning 360-degree view of the Red River Valley, where on a clear day, you can see for nearly 10 miles. The permanent exhibit gallery features 100 million years of the region's history, starting with fossils found at glacial Lake Agassiz. An authentic Red River oxcart is on display, along with objects from the fur trade, military forts, and history at the US/Canadian border. Changing exhibits highlight specific topics from North Dakota's history and a gallery displays the art of Einar Olstad, inspired by ranch life in the Dakota badlands. The museum store carries items handcrafted by North Dakota artists, ranging from note cards and fur trade items to wheat weaving and Native American crafts. 805 ND-59, Pembina, ND 58271, 701-825-6840, M-Sat: 9AM-5PM. Sun 1PM-5PM Museum Free, Observation tower Adults \$2.00

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22 Miles

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North Dakota



### Destination Distinctive Accommodations

**Cedar Inn**, 501 Division Avenue, Cavalier, ND 58220 701-265-8341

The recently renovated the Cedar Inn never looked better. Just a short drive from Icelandic Park and other attractions in the area, it's the perfect place to stay when exploring Cavalier.

### Destination Distinctive Dining

**Thompson's Café**, 210 Main Street West, Cavalier, ND 58220, 701-265-4848

Thompson's serves breakfast all day along with a large variety of food choices including pizza, Mexican food, wraps, subs, broasted chicken, burgers, steaks, and appetizers and different specials each day of the week,

**Blue Fox Coffeehouse**, 110 Main Street West, Cavalier, ND 58220, 701-265-4303

Featuring specialty coffees, sandwiches, homemade soups, homemade bakery items and desserts. Daily specials each week.

### Destination Distinctive Retail

**Main Street Floral & Fudge**, 112 Main Street West, Cavalier, ND 58220, 701-265-4142

**Lighthouse Candle Shoppe**, 13637 95th Street NE, Cavalier, ND 58220, 701-521-0519

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## Coming Together from the Past

22 Miles

5 Days/4 Nights

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North Dakota

### DAY THREE

#### **Cavalier**

Arriving in the area in 1851, Charles Turner Cavalier, the first permanent European settler in North Dakota became the first Customs Collector at the International Port of Entry between the United States and Canada. He also served as the first postmaster in the town named after him. Fifty years later, Cavalier became the county seat.

#### **Pembina County Courthouse**

After a contested election, Pembina County decided to move the county seat to Cavalier from Pembina in 1911. By 1912, a courthouse was being constructed that featured a rotunda skylight, murals and stenciling, and a vaulted stained-glass skylight that springs from interior pilasters on the second floor. The sheriff's residence and jail stand next to the courthouse. 310 Dakota Street West, Cavalier, ND 58220 M- F, 8AM-5PM. Memorial Day-Labor Day 8AM-4:30PM

#### **Pembina County Historical Society Museum**

The Pembina County Historical Society Museum, one of the largest in the region, features 11 buildings including historic St. Anthony's Church, an 1882 homestead, 1930s barn, blacksmith shop, granary, engine building, restored Great Northern depot, three buildings of restored farm equipment and the main museum building with exhibits and a research library.

13572 North Dakota 5, Cavalier ND 58220  
701-265-4941



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## Coming Together from the Past

22 Miles

5 Days/4 Nights

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North Dakota

### **Icelandic State Park**

Icelandic immigrants played a huge part in the settlement of northeastern North Dakota. Hailing from New Iceland at Lake Winnipeg in Canada and villages in Wisconsin, the new settlers lived in the "Icelandic Townships" of Akra, named after Akranes, near Reykjavík; Beaulieu, Gardar, named for Gardar Svavarsson, the first Scandinavian to visit Iceland; Thingwalla, and Hallsson named for early settler, Johann Hallson. Icelandic State Park, specifically established to preserve this pioneer heritage includes the Akra Community Hall and the 1897 Hallson Church, with beautiful stained-glass windows, a church bell, pastor's chair and altar. The Pioneer Heritage Center displays items from pioneer days in restored historic buildings from the turn of the century. The 200 acre Gunlogson Nature Preserve and sanctuary features a three-mile trail along the Tongue River with birds ranging from Watermeal and Bishop's Cap to a dozen rare species of Pileated Woodpecker and Western Wood-Pewee. 13571 Highway 5, Cavalier, ND 58220, 701-265-4561



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22 Miles

5 Days/4 Nights

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North Dakota



## Destination Distinctive Accommodations

**221 Melsted Place Bed & Breakfast and Tea Room**, 8735 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
Mountain, North Dakota 58262, 701-993-8257,

Enjoy accommodations in a traditional Icelandic community, experiencing the timeless elegance of 221Melsted Place 1910 Bed and Breakfast, surrounded by peaceful fertile farm lands in the Red River Valley. The adventurous can request to include a vintage Jeep tour to explore the farmlands, and wooded back country trails.

## Destination Distinctive Dining

**Mountain Chalet Café**, 286 2nd Avenue, Mountain, ND 58262, 701-993-8247

A family-owned café with daily specials and good home cooking.

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22 Miles

5 Days/4 Nights

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North Dakota

### DAY FOUR

#### Walhalla

The American Fur Company sent Norman W. Kittson to Pembina in 1842 to serve as head trader in the Red River Valley. He soon established three new posts at the present-day Walhalla and organized Red River ox carts into a caravan to haul furs and hides to St. Paul. Within seven years, all this commercial activity attracted 1,000 settlers. The town prospered further after the Riel Rebellion eliminated the Métis' quest for an independent homeland. The opening of a land office in 1870, coupled with a steep decline in the buffalo trade brought hundreds of Scandinavian immigrants to the area who outnumbered the Métis and changed the town's name to Walhalla.

#### Kittson Trading Post

By 1899, the store and warehouse established early on by Kittson was serving as stables for the Bellevue Hotel in Walhalla. To preserve it, the building was dismantled and rebuilt on the edge of the Pembina Escarpment overlooking the town. A depression near the southeast edge is claimed to be a cellar from the Hair Hills fur trade post and archeological excavations discovered Native American Indian pottery dating from 800-1700 and Euro-American artifacts dating from the early 1700-1850.

Located off Hwy 32 and Central Ave, Walhalla, ND 58282, 701-228-5422

#### Gingras Trading Post State Historic Site

The 170-year-old buildings at the Gingras Trading Post State Historic Site, the oldest standing structures in North Dakota, preserves the 1840s home and trading post of Antoine Blanc Gingras. 12882 105th Street NE, Walhalla, ND 58282



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### **Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area**

The Pembina Gorge encompasses the largest uninterrupted block of woodlands in North Dakota, and the longest segment of unaltered river valley in the state. Digs at the prehistoric fossil site has recovered marine creatures of the past, when a road project accidentally exposed the fossilized remains of a large prehistoric reptile. Interpretive signs explain the creature and the geology of the region. Birdwatchers will observe more than 75 species of breeding birds and wildlife such as mountain lions, bears, elk, and bobcats. 11950 Co Highway 55, Walhalla, ND 58282, 701-549-2444



### **Destination Distinctive Dining**

**Waters Family Restaurant and Bakery**, 1108 Central Avenue, Walhalla, ND 58282, 701-549-2443

Get a bite of lunch at this family-owned restaurant with home cooking and fresh baked goods.

### **Destination Distinctive Retail**

**Blu Soul Design**, 301 11th Street, Walhalla, ND 58282, 701-549-2857

Specializing in reclaiming and revitalizing pieces of the past.



# Rendezvous Region Scenic Backway

## Coming Together from the Past

22 Miles

5 Days/4 Nights

Gateway City: Grand Forks

North Dakota



### Destination Distinctive Accommodations

**Bed & Breakfast at Tiffany's**, 601 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Langdon, ND, 701-402-2221

Relax completely at the end of your journey in the Rendezvous Region, by pampering yourself in one of the luxurious rooms, or the grandeur of a suite.

### Destination Distinctive Dining

Enjoy an elegant dinner at the Bed and Breakfast.

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## Coming Together from the Past

22 Miles

5 Days/4 Nights

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North Dakota

### DAY FIVE

#### Langdon

The Western Gateway to the Rendezvous Region was founded in 1886. Today, it is best known for a tornado that killed five people and injured 29 in 1909. Local resident Mrs. Sullivan ran for safety as the tornado hit her cellar door and ripped all but the doorknob out of her hands. She survived the ordeal holding only the doorknob. Katie Diamond was lifted above treetops and telephone poles, and then dropped in a yard, virtually unscathed. Ultimately, the tornado destroyed barns, two grain elevators, the Great Northern water tank and several feet of railroad track. The city has recovered in most recent years.

#### Cavalier County Museum

Cavalier County took over a fieldstone church as its museum headquarters, holding historic artifacts in addition to a native rock Catholic church, a log cabin, one-room schoolhouse, caboose and historic Main Street. 9743 Dresden Road, Langdon, ND, 701-256-3342

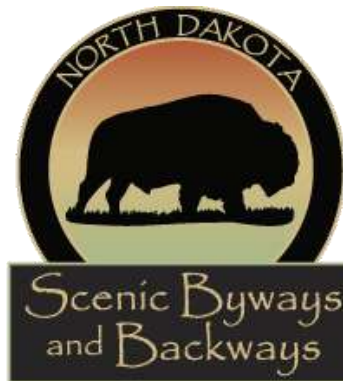


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**National Travel Center**

