

Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway

Authentic North Dakota



4 Days/3 Nights - Optional Day 5 & 6
Gateway City: Bismarck, North Dakota



It began as a Native American footpath, widened by the wagon tracks of pioneers heading west, and prairie farmers bringing crops to market. Today, the beautiful 63-mile route winding along the Sheyenne River in the southeastern corner of North Dakota, is the Sheyenne River National Scenic Byway. Passing through rolling hills, charming towns, notable historic sites and quaint farms, the route reveals the story of the hardy people who settled and tamed the land. There's a sense of timelessness in this valley, revealed in a story intertwined with Native Americans, homesteading, sodbuster pioneers, the railroad, and agriculture, once the frontier and now on farms that feed the nation and the world. Over 40 award-winning interpretive panels and 10 kiosks revealing the heritage, span the Byway from end to end

The first farmers who worked land where herds of bison, elk, antelope, and deer roamed, tried to farm like their European ancestors. The land had other ideas. New methods specifically suited to the northern Great Plains produced great bounty from the rich glacial soil. Today, if you use honey or canola oil, it probably

came from North Dakota. Amazingly the state produces more than half of all the spring wheat grown in the United States for flour. Ranchers are re-discovering the bison's supreme ability to withstand any weather, as farms once again grow to the size they were during bonanza days.

When you meet the hardy descendants of the Native Americans, Scottish tenant farmers who immigrated from Canada, Norwegians, Dutch (or Hollanders as they were called), Swedes, Finnish, Danes and more, you'll experience genuine Midwestern hospitality. If you hear a bit of a brogue, that's the Scandinavian coming through. Summers are the best time to enjoy the Byway, generally temperate with a gentle breeze, allowing you to take time to savor this beautiful land. Take your time to stop at each of the interpretive panels to learn the full story and savor the slower pace of life in towns that have not changed much in over a century. Over the next hill, there's another story to be told.



Touring the Byway

We recommend starting your journey in Bismarck, to learn more about the state at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum which traces North Dakota's history for 600 million years. The Former Governor's Mansion and Camp Hancock State Historic Site add to that story. Be sure to take the trolley to Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park to meet General Custer, who lived there before he

departed for Little Bighorn. The next morning, the turn of the century village at Buckstop Junction brought together 41 buildings to showcase turn-of-the-century North Dakota. From there, you'll be headed for Valley City, the center piece of the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway.

You can begin getting the flavor of the Sheyenne River Valley at the Rosebud Visitor Center. Be sure to take the Valley City Historic Bridges Tour (there are an amazing seven historic bridges right in town). After getting a glimpse of Native American history at Medicine Wheel Park, settle in at the President's House. The next morning, head to the Barnes County Museum, housed in a 20,000 sq. ft. historic department store. Grab a bite of breakfast or a coffee at The Vault Coffee Shop and Bakery before getting on the Byway. Along the way stop at the King School, the last operating one room school in the area, now an artisan shop. Further on, the Wadeson Cabin State Historic Site hosts an 1876 hand-hewn oak log cabin. The village of Kathryn, which appears to have dropped out of a Western movie hosts the 1900 Waldheim Church, a charming white clapboard with a pretty steeple that dates back 1886, reminiscent of the Norwegian homeland of the people who here.

Next up, the Standing Rock State Historic Site and the Slattum Cabin, built by a Norwegian immigrant who established a 1,000 acre "bonanza" farm become one of the largest landowners in Ransom County. Stay at the Bjone House, an 1879 pioneer homestead in Fort Ransom State Park, with a deck overlooking the water. From there, you'll be headed to the village of Fort Ransom, presided over by a natural hill that forms a near-perfect pyramid, with a towering Viking statue on top.

The next day after exploring Fort Ransom State Park, visit the T. J. Walker Historic District and Museum, and Fort Ransom State Historic Site with the remains of a fort established to protect overland travel from Minnesota to Montana in the late 1860s. After exploring the other historic attractions, head to Lisbon, home to the Lisbon Opera House and Scenic Movie Theater, the oldest continuously running theater in the United States, both at the southern end of the Byway.

At the end of the day, head to Fargo for the evening and to explore more intriguing North Dakota heritage. From there, we wish you a safe and pleasant journey home or an adventure on another North Dakota Byway.



DAY ONE



Bismarck

The Bismarck-Mandan area has welcomed visitors since Lewis and Clark paddled up the Missouri River in 1804. Along the way, they encountered the Mandan Nation at Chief Looking's Village, On-a-Slant Village and Double Ditch Village. Originally named Edwinton, the settlement was located here when the Northern Pacific Railroad reached the eastern banks of the Missouri River. Camp Greely provided security to expand the settlement that was soon named for German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck. Bismarck grew quickly from its beginnings as an outlaw town into the state capital of North Dakota, and today a hub of culture, history and shopping.

North Dakota State Capitol/North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum

Nearly 325 acres was deeded by the Northern Pacific Railroad to North Dakota in 1883, to erect a state capitol, which was consumed by fire in 1930. The state sold 160 acres of the grounds to help pay for a second building. Today, the tall, 1934, art deco North Dakota State Capitol is set on landscaped grounds that also hosts the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum, featuring four museum galleries tracing the state's rich history from its earliest geologic formation 600 million years ago. In 2008, the museum, called a "Smithsonian on the plains," became home to a rare mummified Edmontosaurus with fossilized skin.

612 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58505, 701-328-2666

M-F 9AM-4PM, Sat-Sun 11AM -4PM.



Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site

Housing North Dakota Governors between 1893 and 1960, this beautiful 1884 Victorian was originally built for a prominent businessman named Asa Fisher. The state purchased the home for \$5,000 in 1893. It has witnessed many interesting residents including Governor Frank Briggs' butler Tom who thought the governor who died in the house still haunted the property and refused to sleep there alone. After the last governor moved out of the house in 1960, the property housed the North Dakota Psychiatric Clinic, and administrative offices of the State Health Department. Extensive research and restoration has been completed on the home to restore it to the 1893 appearance, including samples of wallpaper exposed to illustrate changes in style from the Victorian era to today.

320 East Avenue B, Bismarck, ND 58501, 701-328-2666



Camp Hancock State Historic Site

Named for George Winfield Hancock, commander of the Department of Dakota, Camp Hancock was established in 1872 to provide protection for work crews building the Northern Pacific Railroad. The post later served as a quartermaster depot and signal office. The original log headquarters building, now an interpretive museum, is still standing, but has been modified several times, including concealing the logs under clapboard siding. Restoration of the officer's quarters brought them back to the 1870s. A Northern Pacific locomotive was added to the site along with St. George's Episcopal Church in 1965.

101 East Main Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501 701-328-2666 Grounds with interpretation open 24/7. Museum and church currently by appointment only.

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park and Custer House

All aboard! Take the 9-mile scenic railroad to Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park on a restored 1890s open-air streetcar that ran along Fourth Street in Bismarck in the 1920s. Take a self-guided tour of Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park and a docent led tour of General George (of Custer's Last Stand fame) and Libbie Custer's home at the park; a period reproduction built on the site of the original house. Custer and his wife lived here from 1873 until 1876 and spent time on the hill behind the house enjoying each other's company. About 500 troops were also stationed here. Seven other fort buildings include the barracks, the fort's makeshift theater, a stable building, and several blockhouses. The Commissary Bookstore houses a large collection books about Custer and the history of Fort Abraham Lincoln.

4480 Fort Lincoln Rd, Mandan ND 58554, 701-667-6340 Board the trolley @ 1989 3rd Street SE, Mandan, ND 58554 \$9 Round Trip, Spring weekends only, Daily from June 14th.



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Raddison Bismarck, 605 East Broadway Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501 701-255-6000

The closest hotel to the North Dakota State Capitol, the Radisson Hotel Bismarck is ideally placed so you can walk to restaurants and landmarks right in town.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Peacock Alley, 422 East Main Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501, 701-221-BEEF,

The oldest restaurant in North Dakota has been serving guests since 1933. Their unique fine dining menu and perfect dining atmosphere has stood the test of time.

Terra Nomad, 514 East Main Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58701, 701-751-2070

A holistic experience for guests delivering ambience complemented with great food and unique coffees.

Butterhorn, 210 East Main Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501, 701-751-0802

Enjoy Midwestern cuisine, with French and Italian influences.

Pirogue Grill, 121 North Fourth Street, Bismarck, ND 58501, 701-223-3770

Savor seasonal American cuisine made from local bison, other meats, and produce.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Bismarck Art & Galleries Association, 422 East Front Avenue, Bismarck, ND, 58504

701-223-5986

Art Alley, Dakota West Arts Council, 1810 Schafer Street Suite 2, Bismarck, ND 58501

701-222.6640

Lacey's Custom Jewelry, 913 West Interstate Avenue, Suite B, Bismarck, ND 58503

701-214-9649

DAY TWO

Buckstop Junction Historic Town

Before leaving the Bismarck area, Buckstop Junction is a must see. In order to assemble the best reflection of the late 1800s and early 1900s in North Dakota, the Missouri Valley Historic Society relocated a collection of more than 40 buildings to the 20-acre site, all of which date between 1875-1935. You can tour the 1885 Sterling Railroad Depot, the 1914 Lewis Hotel, the 1916 Bethel Lutheran Church, the 1910 Andrew Miler Farm, the 1907 Foley home and dozens of other buildings from the period.

3805 East Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501, 701-250-8575

Valley City

Originally named Worthington, Valley City began in 1874 when the Northern Pacific Railroad was extended west from Fargo. The name was changed to honor the beautiful Sheyenne River. Known today as the “City of Bridges,” this scenic community was most recently named the most beautiful town in North Dakota by Expedia.



Rosebud Visitor Center

At the gateway to the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway, you can discover the area's railroad history and farming heritage in insightful exhibits that include a one-of-a-kind 1881 Superintendent's Coach, a restored railcar with original furniture once owned by the Northern Pacific Railroad. The North Dakota Agricultural Hall of Fame hails back to the days when the first settlers came into the area. Learn how pioneers secured land, built small towns on the prairie, and made farming the booming industry it is today.

250 Main Street West, Valley City, ND 58072, 701-845-1891 M-F 8AM-5PM.
Travel season weekends. Free

Valley City Bridges Tour

Valley City developed a tour to showcase its beautiful historic bridges, that begins at the Rosebud Visitor Center. The most famous is the 3860-foot Hi-Line Bridge which soars 162 feet overhead, as it traverses the riverbed. It was the longest and highest single-track rail bridge in the country at the time of construction in 1908.
250 Main Street West, Valley City ND 58072, 701-845-1891



Medicine Wheel Park

Located on the campus of Valley City State University, Medicine Wheel Park's 30 acres encompasses a unique mix of nature, science, and history including two solar calendar replicas, 12 Native American Burial Mounds, scenic overlooks, woodland nature trails, an astronomy observation site, solar system model, and a perennial flower garden.

Valley City State University, 101 College Street SW, Valley City, North Dakota 58072, 701-845-7452





Destination Distinctive Accommodations:

President's House, 101 College Street SE, Valley City, ND 58072, 701-845-7122

Stay in this beautifully preserved 1901 Victorian home that has served as the home of VCSU Presidents on the campus of Valley City Stat University.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Sabir's Dining and Lounge, 338 Winter Show Road SW, Valley City, ND 58072,
701-845-0274

Savor a full menu of dinner choices and complete wine list.

Bridges Bar & Grill, 264 Winter Show Road SW, Valley City, ND 58072, 701-845-9899

10 tap beers and full selection of bottled beers, wine and spirits is complemented with 100% certified Angus beef burgers.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Blush Boutique, 219 Central Avenue, Valley City, ND 58072, 701-845-6855

Kyly Creations Artisan Jewelry, 223 Central Avenue North, Valley City, ND 58072,
701-840-7519

Prairie Frame Shop, 330 Central Avenue North, # 1, Valley City, ND 58072, 701-845-4704

Pottery Parlour, 3608 117th Avenue SE, Valley City, ND 58072, 701-845-3874

Catwalk Boutique, 341 Central Avenue North #4, Valley City, ND 58072, 701-845-507

DAY THREE

Barnes County Museum

The Barnes County Museum encompasses an 18,000-square-foot building that tells the story of the Valley City region through permanent, changing and traveling exhibits. The Daughters of the American Revolution, the Pioneer Club, the GAR and WRC are all active in sponsoring a monthly lecture series in conjunction with Valley City State University.

315 Central Avenue North, Valley City ND 58072, 701-845-0966, M-S
10AM-4PM

Country Junction at King School

The historic one room King School still fitted out with blackboards and desks is now a small artisan shop.

3902 117th Avenue SE, Valley City, ND 58072

Kathryn

Now a near ghost town, Main Street in Kathryn looks much like it did when it was built over 120 years ago by the Northern Pacific Railroad. The impressive grain elevator “skyscraper of the plains,” is surrounded by an old harness shop, a bank, old hotel and a jail.



Wadeson Cabin State Historic Site

The centerpiece hand-hewn oak log cabin that stands on its original fieldstone foundation was built in 1876 by Carl Jenson and his nephew Jon Bjerke on the east bank of the Sheyenne River. Since then, the Wadeson Cabin has served as a community hall, country store, pioneer home, and, finally, as an icehouse.

51st Street SE, Kathryn, ND 58049, 701-328-2666



Standing Rock State Historic Site

Standing Rock features a series of four interconnected burial mounds perched on a high hill overlooking the Sheyenne River. Three of the mounds built between 100 BC-600AD are circular shaped low cones and the fourth is linear. The largest mound has a large boulder on the top, for which the site is named.

54th Street SE, Nome, ND 58062, 701-328-2666



Destination Distinctive Accommodations:

Fort Ransom State Park, 5981 Walt Hjelle Parkway, Fort Ransom, ND 58033,

Stay in the three bedroom 1879 restored Bjone House that's been carefully updated with modern amenities. You can also rent cabins, yurts and tipis in the park.

Destination Distinctive Dining

Lunch Box Eatery, 101 E Main St, Fort Ransom, ND 58033, 701-973-2240

You may want to pick up dinner to take back to you accommodations for the evening.

DAY FOUR

Fort Ransom State Park

Nestled in the picturesque and heavily wooded Sheyenne River Valley, Fort Ransom State Park illustrates the lives of the area's 19th-century homesteading sodbusters and the Mound Builders who lived here 5000 to 8000 years ago. The 950-acre site encompasses the Bjone House homestead and the Andrew Sunne Farm. The annual Sodbuster Days celebration with demonstrations and exhibits of early homesteading life is held here. A short segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail winds through the park, along with about 20 miles of additional trails.

5981 Walt Hjelle Parkway Fort Ransom, ND 58033, 701-973-4331



Fort Ransom

The town of Fort Ransom was founded eight years after its namesake military post had been dismantled.

Ransom County Historical Museum at the T.J. Walker Historic District

Pioneer miller and merchant Tyler James Walker left behind a complex of structures that includes a house, large barn, and ice storage building, the timber-frame Walker Mill, the only remaining water-driven mill in North Dakota and a former store that is now the Ransom County Historical Museum, filled with collections of local and regional history. The two-story gabled wood frame Queen Anne Walker house features a two-story semi-hexagonal bay window with wood pendants. The gabled two-story bank barn, built into the hillside of quarry faced fieldstone, has an upper level built of heavy wood beams, mortise-and-tenon joints and fixed with wooden pegs. Nearby, two related buildings include the 1890 Standing Rock Lutheran Church and the 1915 Fort Ransom rural school. 101 Mill Road, Fort Ransom, ND 58033, 701-924-8303
May-Sept, Daily 1PM-5PM Adults \$1



Fort Ransom State Historic Site

This former 200-man military post was built to protect Northern Pacific Railroad workers and settlers claiming land in the area. When the railroad was completed, the post was dismantled and surveyed for sale to homesteaders. Today, only building remnants, cellars, a fortification ditch, and a flagpole mark the remains of the once thriving post.

6194 West Hjelle Parkway, Fort Ransom, ND 58033, 701-328-2666

Lisbon

You've reached the end of the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway in Lisbon. This once booming railroad town is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Lisbon Opera House

The Lisbon Opera House was once the center of Lisbon's social life, hosting events, plays, band concerts, conventions, graduation exercises and touring shows. It was donated to the Lisbon Opera House Foundation, supported with commercial spaces located on the first floor. The original performance spaces on the second and third floors are available for touring.

413 Main Street, Lisbon ND, Appointment only



Lisbon Scenic Theater

The iconic Scenic Theater right down the street from the Lisbon Opera House opened in 1911 with a 10-minute black-and-white movie. The theater, which proclaims to be the oldest continuously running theater in America has been updated with modern digital technology, surrounded with beautiful art deco design. 419 Main Street, Lisbon ND 58054, 701-683-4822

Destination Distinctive Dining

Route 32 Café, 1018 Main Street, Lisbon, ND 58054, 701-683-2011
Have lunch as you explore Lisbon.





Fargo

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.



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 sprits, 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, ND 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.

OPTIONAL DAY FIVE

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.

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 25th Street South, and Memorial Union Gallery at North Dakota State University, 1401 Administrative Avenue.

Theatre Performances

Check out any one of the many theatre performances that take place in Fargo on a regular basis including The Stage at Island Park, Historic Fargo Theatre, Theatre at North Dakota State University, Theatre B, Straw Hat Players, Tin Roof Theatre Company, Harwood Prairie Playhouse, Cate City Bank Theatre, Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre, Wheelhouse Theatrical Productions, Gooseberry Park Players, Fargo-Moorhead Opera, Concordia College Theatre and Act Up Theatre.

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



OPTIONAL DAY SIX

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 8th to the 11th 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 Heimkomst 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 11th and 12th 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



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 8th Street South, Moorhead, MN 56560, 218-291-4211, May 23-Sept 6, Sat-Sun 10AM-4PM, or call for an appointment. Adults \$7.

