

Theodore Roosevelt National Park North Unit Scenic Byway

Remembering Roosevelt: America's Original Roughrider



3 Days/2 Nights - Optional Day 4
Gateway City: Williston, North Dakota



There's dramatic beauty in the untamed grandeur and vast silent expanses of the North Dakota Badlands that Theodore Roosevelt loved so much. Sweeping vistas of the Little Missouri River and brilliantly colored rock formations set against wide-open sparkling blue skies deliver a quintessential rugged badlands wilderness found nowhere else. The banded sandstone buttes glowing in the afternoon sun, craggy canyons, and meandering rivers of the area lifted Roosevelt's spirits and nourished his soul after great personal tragedies. Many know little about this man who was the 26th President of the United States or his quest to conserve untouched wilderness of the United States. Yet, every day, visitors from around the world enjoy the nearly 230 million acres in the five national parks, 18 national monuments, 51 bird sanctuaries, and four national game refuges he was responsible for preserving. Even fewer know that much of the motivation for the elite New Yorker to preserve scenic beauty, was Roosevelt's time in North Dakota.

Arriving in the state to hunt bison, Theodore Roosevelt first stepped off the train in Dakota territory on September 8, 1883. The skinny, young, bespectacled aristocrat had not spent much time outdoors, yet he grew to love North Dakota's rugged

wilderness. He established his own ranch and returned again and again to enjoy it. Roosevelt went on to write three books about his experiences and conservation ethic, the platform that ultimately got him elected President. Crusading relentlessly for preservation of the dramatic beauty in the United States, the National Park Service was finally created three years before Roosevelt passed away. North Dakota created Theodore Roosevelt National Park to celebrate his massive contributions to preserving irreplaceable American environments. Unlike most National Parks contained in one location, Theodore Roosevelt National Park is divided into three parts: the North Unit, home of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park North Unit Scenic Byway, the South Unit with its own 36 mile scenic drive, and Elkhorn Ranch Unit.

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Touring the Byway

We recommend starting your experience in Williston, taking time to explore the Fort Buford State Historic Site and Museum and the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, at the meeting of these two great rivers, and Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site. Both introduce you to life on the frontier in western North Dakota and the Lewis and Clark Expedition that opened the United States from East to West.

After an overnight in Williston, head for Theodore Roosevelt National Park. US Route 85 south of Williston transforms into a scenic road at Watford City, the gateway to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park North Unit and its Byway. The first half of the North Unit Scenic Byway tracks at the bottom of the colorful badlands, before climbing out of the canyon toward the spectacular River Bend Overlook, the drive's most dramatic view. From there, you're driving the rim of the badlands to the end, where you need to reverse your route and travel back. Across

the road from the Juniper Campground, a short walk from the Cannonball Concretions pull-off reveals smooth, natural spherical rocks formed by deposits of minerals around a core. At the Longhorn pull-off you can expect to see the small herd of longhorn steers, and, in other locations, bison, mule deer, and bighorn sheep.

After enjoying the North Unit Byway, you'll be heading south to the Old West town of Medora, where you can walk in the footsteps of Theodore Roosevelt. The Footsteps of Medora's Past historic walking tour includes a stop at the Chateau De Mores Interpretive Center. Here you will learn about the founding of Medora, one of the more unique towns in America. Tour the Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, a 26-room mansion built by Marquis de Mores, owner of a packing plant, stagecoach line, freight company, refrigerated rail cars, and a cattle and sheep ranch. Watch the History Alive! Presentation before touring the house and take the two-mile carriage ride through the badlands that loom overhead. De Mores Memorial Park in downtown Medora has a bronze statue of the Marquis de Mores and Packing Plant Chimney Park, on the west edge of Medora, was once the site of the Marquis' beef packing plant, three icehouses, several outbuildings, a railroad spur track, and a corral. The tall, native brick chimney is all that is left. At the end of the day, check into the Rough Riders Hotel, and dine in Theodore's Dining Room or at the traditional Pitchfork Steak Fondue!



In the morning, head out to travel the South Unit's 36-mile stunning scenic loop drive. The reason we're suggesting you drive this route on a separate day is that it will be best to allow one and one-half hours to drive the whole loop, on a road that winds across the jumbled badlands with fantastic scenery splaying out in all directions. Numerous scenic overlooks and trailheads let you stretch your legs and savor.

After enjoying the Medora Musical and other nightlife and exploring the Theodore Roosevelt National Park South Unit, you can take an optional Day Four to head out on the Old Red Old Ten Scenic Byway to Bismarck. The North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum includes the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Hall of Fame. Other attractions in Bismarck built during the Roosevelt era include Camp Hancock Historic Site and the Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site, as well as a great collection of art galleries and historic homes. From there, we wish you a pleasant journey home, or on another of North Dakota's Scenic Byways.



DAY ONE



Williston

Located at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers, Williston was not founded until 1887, yet the location served as the gathering place for the earliest inhabitants of the plains and a rendezvous point for fur traders and explorers coming down from Canada for millennia. Commonly referred to as “Western Star,” this city takes pride in its western heritage and is also home to oil rigs that make North Dakota the nation's second largest oil-producing state.

The Frontier Museum

The Frontier Museum is housed in a beautiful 1909 church, which is also the centerpiece of a rural village with a two-story home, restored Great Northern Railroad depot, country school, and a completely stocked general store and taxi depot, all moved here from the region. Exhibit materials collected from the far reaches of the northern great plains illustrate life on the rugged frontier. Explore history that, like the North Dakota plains, is not behind a rope. Said one visitor, “I sat down at a desk in the schoolhouse and could just imagine being in a one room school on the prairie!” 6330 First Avenue West, Williston, ND 58801, 701-580-2415, M-Sat 10 AM to 6 PM; Sunday appointment only, Memorial Day through Labor Day, contact the museum for appointments outside of hours and open days. Donations accepted.

Fort Buford State Historic Site and Museum

Situated at the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers, the site preserves remnants of the 1866 frontier military post, established to protect both overland and river boat routes. It also served as a major supply depot for military field operations. The post was the headquarters of a 30 x 30 mile military reservation, where the buildings were constructed on a one square mile patch. Preserved elements include a stone powder magazine, the post cemetery, the field officer's quarters turned museum, and the officer of the guardhouse quarters. Tours further illustrate the life of the soldiers and civilian help who lived on the post. The **Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center** reveals the story of the two mighty rivers as they would have appeared to Lewis and Clark in 1805. The rotunda features three large murals, Lewis and Clark journals, and paintings of the Missouri River landscape completed by Colonel Philippe Régis de Trobriand who was the commanding officer of Fort Stevenson in the late 1860s. Fort Buford, 15349 39th Lane NW, Williston ND 58801, 701-572-9034, 10AM-6PM Daily, Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center 9AM-6PM Daily, \$5.00 per adult, \$2.50 per child

Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site

Built considerably earlier than Fort Buford, the dilapidated condition of Fort Union was the reason that Fort Buford was constructed in the first place. Once the grandest fort and trading post on the Upper Missouri River, Fort Union served riverboat captains, fur traders, frontier capitalists, and the region's Native Americans from the 1820's to the Civil War. Over 25,000 buffalo hides were traded for \$100,000 in merchandise from around the world every year. The Bourgeois House Visitor Center which once witnessed elegant dinners is now outfitted with displays depicting life at the post and artifacts recovered on the site. If you visit on a weekend, you may experience traditional Native American music and crafts, plus presentations by tribal historians and elders. 15550 Highway 1804, Williston, ND 58801, 701-572-9083, 9AM-5PM Daily, \$5



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

The Williston 408 1st Avenue East, Williston, ND 58801, 701-572-0544

The Williston, a restored 1918 Elks Lodge is now an extended stay hotel that blends the opulence of old lodge buildings with beautiful contemporary design.

Destination Distinctive Dining

The Eleven Restaurant and Lounge @ The Williston For an easy dinner, reserve at the Eleven Restaurant right in The Williston.

Smiling Moose Rocky Mountain Deli, 120 26th St. East, Suite 600, Williston, ND 58801, 701-572-3354

Unique restaurant that delivers the perfect balance of bold, unique flavor combinations, hearty portions, and fresh ingredients in its house made meals, does not feel like a chain of any kind. Savor their signature Original Mo!

Destination Distinctive Retail

Books on Broadway, 121/2 West Broadway, Williston, ND 58801, 701-572-1433

A bookstore that includes antiquarian selections, local and regional authors, home gifts and décor, the Dakota Soda & Coffee Co. drinks and sweet treats, and a Woolworths table where you can buy gifts and toys for pocket change!

Little Muddy Gifts, 4 West Broadway, Williston, ND 58801, 701-713-4435

Larry Lynne Antiques, 10 West Broadway, Williston, ND 58801, 701-572-3586

DAY TWO



Watford City

When Lewis and Clark came through the area on their way to the Pacific Ocean, this was wild country with vast grasslands and ragged buttes. The first log cabin appeared in 1883, the same year that Theodore Roosevelt made his way to North Dakota. The Pioneer Museum and McKenzie County Heritage Park illustrate life on the frontier. Enjoy the outdoors exploring the Little Missouri National Grasslands to view the only bighorn sheep in the state.

Pioneer Museum, Long X Trading Post and Visitor Center

The Pioneer Museum showcases the stories of some of McKenzie County's first settlers, early ranchers, and oil and gas exploration in the area. Permanent exhibits like the largest fossil ever found in North Dakota and a petrified tree stump that weighs in at a hefty 17,000 pounds are complemented with traveling exhibits. 100 2nd Avenue SW, Watford City, ND 58854, 701-444-5804

McKenzie County Heritage Park

This six-acre park features the great “Island Empire,” the last and largest county in the state of North Dakota to be settled! All the buildings, at one time located in McKenzie County are filled with exhibits that include the “end of the line” train depot of the Great Northern Railroad, the Shafer Law Office of McKenzie County’s famous son, George Shafer, artifacts of Ice Age woolly mammoths, and more. 904 2nd Avenue SW, Watford City, ND 58854

Theodore Roosevelt National Park North Unit

Immerse yourself in the rugged splendor as you begin the 14-mile Theodore Roosevelt National Park North Unit Scenic Byway. Traversing the North Unit from the entrance to Oxbow Overlook, there are pull-offs and interpretive signs all along the route.





Medora

In Medora, the rugged Badlands western town, it appears time has stood still. Founded just before Roosevelt arrived and just after the Badlands military encampment was abandoned, it was named for the daughter of a wealthy New York banker. The Marquis de Mores built a meat packing plant, hotel, stores, and started a ranch, stagecoach line, freight company, and refrigerated rail cars, all of which ended in failure. Today, Medora is filled with historic buildings, museums, and nostalgia galore.

Medora Musical and Pitchfork Steak Fondue

Have dinner where every evening the chefs load up pitchforks with fresh steak, and fondue them western-style, complemented with all the fixings, before enjoying the “rootin'-tootiest, boot-scootiest” show in all the Midwest, an ode to Theodore Roosevelt’s time in the Badlands, and the Great American West. The musical features a reenactment of Theodore Roosevelt’s charge of the Battle of San Juan Hill, the Burning Hills Singers, country music by Coal Diggers Band, live horses on stage, and a finale with fireworks! Burning Hill Amphitheater, 3422 Chateau Road, Medora, ND 58645 800-633-6721, June - September, M-F 7:30PM, Sat-Sun 5:30PM and 8:30PM. Adults start at \$38.95 + tax, Students - 7 to 17 Starting at \$17.95 + tax



Destination Distinctive Accommodations

Rough Riders Hotel, 301 3rd Avenue, Medora, ND 58645, 701-623-4444

Each room is adorned with touches of the west and marked with Roosevelt ranch brands.

Request the Historic Room where it's rumored the President delivered a speech from the balcony.

For a really easy dinner, enjoy Theodore's Dining Room after starting with a sip at TR's Tavern.

Destination Distinctive Dining.

Cowboy Café, 214 4th Street, Medora, ND, 58645, 701-623-4343

For really good "Home Cooking at its Best," check out the Cowboy Café, which , displays brands carved into wooden booths from surrounding ranches, some in operations since the 1880s, and photographs of the ranchers.

Destination Distinctive Retail

Medora Boots and Western Wear, 316 Pacific Avenue, Medora, ND 58645 701-623-1005

Joe Ferris General Store, 251 Main Street, Medora, ND 58645 701-623-4447

Cowboy Lyle's Candy Barn, 284 Third Avenue, Medora, ND 58645 701-62302619

Hidden Springs Java, 350 Fourth Street, Medora, ND 58645 701-623-4700

DAY THREE



Theodore Roosevelt National Park South Unit

The stunning 36-mile scenic loop in the South Unit, meanders around the rolling, jumbled Badlands, delivering an expanse of fantastic scenery in every direction. Along the way, you will see a herd of wild horses, scenic overlooks, and trailheads punctuated every so often with hoodoos - otherworldly rock formations that look like they may have dropped off the moon. Start your visit with *Refuge of the American Spirit*, a film which explains more about Roosevelt's life here in the Dakotas and explore the museum which houses artifacts from the Roosevelt presidency and his time in the Badlands. Ranger led tours of Maltese Cross Cabin, restored to appear in Roosevelt's lifetime and holding some of his possessions, offers an authentic glimpse into Theodore Roosevelt's life here. 201 East River Road North, Medora, ND 58645

Chateau de Mores State Historic Site and Interpretive Center

This magnificent 26-room two story mansion was built by Antoine de Vallombrosa, the Marquis de Mores, still holds many of the original furnishings and items used by the family. If convenient when you are there, start your visit with the History Alive! Program, 20-minute explorations of the life and times of locals from days gone by. The monologues are based on original letters, diaries, and documents obtained from the State Historical Society. After his financial failures, the Marquis and his family left Medora to return to France and continue his visionary and adventurous lifestyle around the world. 3426 Chateau Road, Medora, ND 58645, 701-623-4355, May-October, weather permitting, Adults: \$10, Children: (age 6 -15) \$3, The program is presented on the porch of the Chateau on Saturdays and Sundays at 10:30AM, 1:30PM, and 3:30PM from June through August.



Footsteps of Medora Walking Tour

After your tour of the Chateau, pick up the technology needed to take the Footsteps Through Medora Walking Tour, with five stops including Chimney Park, Demores Park, St. Mary's Church, Von Hoffman House, and Billings County Courthouse Museum.

The North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame

If there's time, visit the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame, preserving North Dakota's Native American, ranching and rodeo culture, with exhibits and such as the National Day of the Cowboy, Day of the Great Plains Horse People, and Old-Fashioned Cowboy Christmas. 250 Main Street, Medora, ND 58645, 701-623-2000, Spring, Summer and Fall hours only, Adults \$9



OPTIONAL DAY FOUR

Painted Canyon Overlook Visitors Center

Just outside of Medora, the Painted Canyon Overlook Visitor Center delivers panoramic views of the unique geological formations. You'll likely also spot wildlife scampering about the landscape. A ranger-led geology presentation with hands-on exploration of the park's unique geology is offered daily beginning in June.

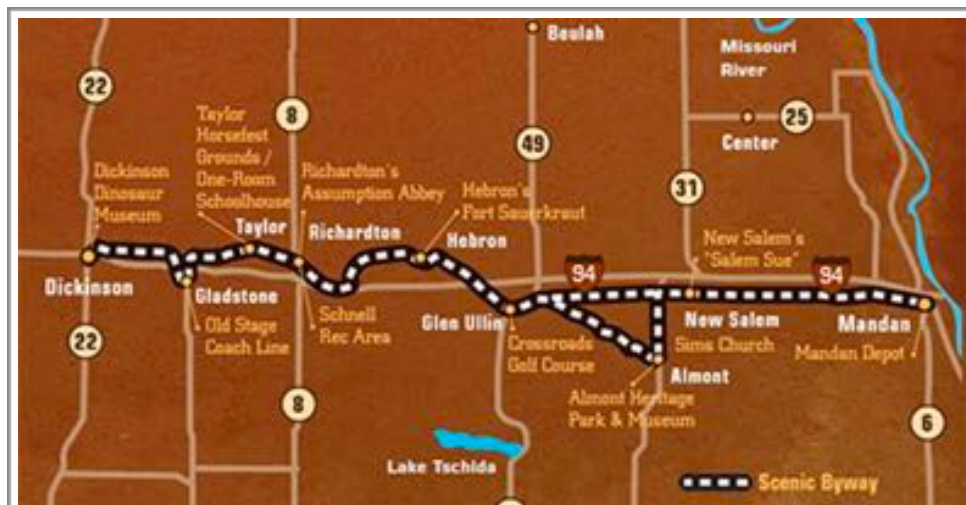
Exit 32 from Interstate 94, Belfield, ND 58622



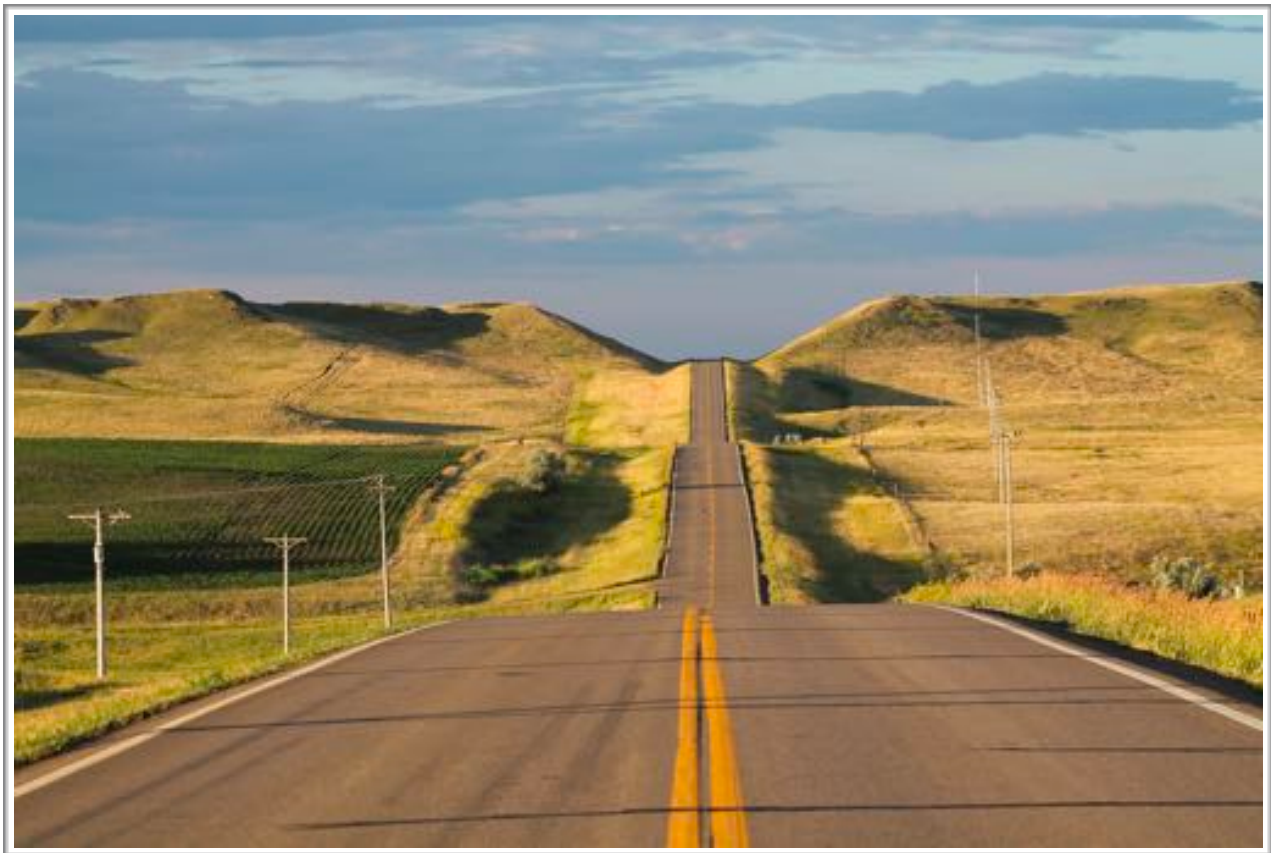
Old Red Old Ten Scenic Byway

It was a trail through rugged North Dakota country carrying settlers, wagons, and buggies to their destinations further west. General Custer used the route on his way to the famous Battle of Little Bighorn. The road was not paved, and no railroads had come through. The path was just looming, rocky outcrops along a dusty trail. In some parts of the landscape, geology delivered a surreal panorama. Railroad towns began appearing along the 108 miles between Mandan and Dickinson in 1864 when the Northern Pacific Railway started building an empire across the northern tier of the Great Plains, under the requirement that they provide rail service every 10-15 miles along a route. They required towns along the railroad to provide water for trains and housing for workers, which ultimately created communities along the lines.

Then in 1913, America decided it was ready and the Old Red Trail and other cross-country trails got a second look as the foundation of a new road system from coast to coast. It was finally acknowledged that cars were going to be a permanent fixture in the country. Highways, like Route 30, now the famous Lincoln Highway, Route 40, ultimately a part of Route 66, and Route 50 that stretches some 3,000 miles from Ocean City, Maryland to Sacramento, California, were planned. When Route 10 across the northern tier of the United States from New York City to Seattle, Washington was planned, it incorporated the Old Red Trail in North Dakota from Fargo to Medora. Despite harsh mud-covered roads and few markers, by the 1920s people were driving their cars on the route with a newfound sense of freedom.



Once the Interstates were built, many of the old roads were left behind. It took the Old Red Old Ten Scenic Byway to preserve the heritage on Route 10 and the Old Red Trail. Traveling through the rolling countryside, Old Red Old Ten bobs and weaves under the new road, which purposefully skirted towns along the way, on a path right through the quaint towns and pastoral landscapes. The scenery springs to life in historic districts and small villages, while elsewhere, the route is punctuated with twisted rock formations. To take you back to the era when Old Ten was built, we've identified places that were there when early drivers traveled the route. Slow down and enjoy it all; the scenery, amenities, museums, historic structures, lodging, eateries, arts, and outdoor recreation, as you venture through the rustic panorama.





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/Rough Riders Hall of Fame

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.

The **Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Hall of Fame** features oil portraits of recipients of the state's highest honor, the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award, given to outstanding North Dakotans who have attained accomplishments bringing honor to the state. 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 open 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