WHETHER YOU LIVE HERE OR YOU’RE CONSIDERING YOUR FIRST VISIT, THERE MAY BE SOME THINGS YOU DIDN’T KNOW.

For instance, did you know legendary movie actor Josh Duhamel was born and raised in Minot and has partnered with North Dakota Tourism to promote the state? Now you do! Here are some more fun facts to spur your interest as you plan a fun North Dakota adventure.

ND Fun Facts

DID YOU KNOW?

39th OR 40th

When President Benjamin Harrison signed statehood proclamations for North Dakota and South Dakota on Nov. 2, 1889, he kept a secret as to which he signed first. North Dakota is often considered the 39th state simply because of alphabetical order.

SAKAKAWEA? SACAGAWEA? SACAJAWEA?

Sakakawea, Sacagawea and Sacajawea are different spellings referring to the same legendary woman in North Dakota’s history. Whichever spelling is used today, she probably never expected our largest lake would be named for her.

Sitting Bull, the famous Hunkpapa Lakota Sioux chief, spent much of his life in North Dakota and great speculation surrounds the burial of his remains near Fort Yates.

None of the scenes in the popular movie “Fargo” were filmed there, but the woodchipper used in the movie is now on display at the Fargo-Moorhead Visitor Center.

Fargo, ND

“FARGO”

Downtown Minot
The world’s largest buffalo, Dakota Thunder, is a 26-foot-tall, 60-ton concrete giant that has been standing watch over Jamestown since 1959.

The world’s largest holstein cow in New Salem was built to honor the area’s dairy producers. Her name is Salem Sue. She is 38 feet high, 50 feet long and visible for five miles.

The world’s largest hamburger was eaten in Rutland, North Dakota, in 1982. It weighed 3,591 pounds (about half the weight of an elephant) and more than 8,000 people were invited to the meal.

North Dakota is dino dig central. Dakota the Dinosaur, who is located at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum in Bismarck, is one of only six mummified dinosaurs worldwide and was found near Marmarth. Not only can you see fossils like these at museums in North Dakota, but you can also go on a dig with real, working paleontologists.

The top visitor activity in North Dakota is outdoor adventure. It’s an outdoor playground for hiking, biking, canoeing, camping, snowmobiling, skiing, wildlife viewing, fossil digs, horseback riding, fishing, hunting and more.

The world’s largest French fry feed is held every year in Grand Forks, during Potato Bowl USA. A new record was set on Sept. 10, 2015, when 5,220 pounds of french fries were served. The Red River Valley is a major producer of red potatoes.

In 2008, Fargo, North Dakota, hosted the largest pancake feed in the world, serving up 34,818 pancakes.

In 2017, Buckets Blakes of the Harlem Globetrotters sank a trick shot from the top of the tower of the state capitol building through a basketball hoop on the ground, 242 feet below. Nothing but net!

North Dakota holds the Guinness World Record for the most snow angels made simultaneously in one place. On Feb. 17, 2007, 8,962 people made snow angels on the state capitol grounds beating the previous record of 3,784.

39.3 million acres — nearly 90% of North Dakota’s land area — is in
North Dakota is the nation’s largest producer of honey, thanks in part to our beautiful wildflowers. Aww! You don’t have to say it; we think you’re sweet, too!

We’re #1
North Dakota is the top producer of many foods.

Durum wheat is the primary ingredient in most pasta, and North Dakota grows half of all durum produced in the United States. We make a lot of spaghetti!

We produce enough...

**Wheat** for 15.5 billion loaves of bread

**Soybeans** to make 483 billion crayons

**Potatoes** for 171 million servings of french fries

**Corn** to sweeten 45 billion cans of soda

**Sunflowers** to fill 726 million bags of sunflower seeds

**Milk** for 894 million glasses

**Wool** for 421,500 sweaters

**Beef** for 100 million hamburgers

**Canola** to fill our state capitol tower more than 17 times

**Pork** for 41 million pork chops
SO MUCH TO DO, AND TECHNOLOGY TOO
WE’RE IN THE CENTER OF NORTH AMERICA — OF COURSE WE’RE CONNECTED!

Fargo is home to one of the world’s largest Microsoft® field campuses.

North Dakota was one of the first states to allow autonomous vehicles on public roads.

The first unmanned commercial flight to cross the Atlantic flew to England from Grand Forks.

Our state is one of seven FAA test sites conducting vital research for integrating unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into our national airspace system.

North Dakota ranks #2 in the nation for ultra-fast internet access.

We’re the fifth largest wind energy-producing state.

We produce six times more energy than we consume — providing a lot to neighboring states.

FOUR DISTINCT SEASONS
NO WONDER WE LOVE BEING OUTDOORS

North Dakota’s remarkably long temperate season includes an average summer temperature of 82°F (28°C). We typically enjoy more than 200 sunny or mostly sunny days per year. In June, the sun rises before 6 a.m. and sets after 9:30 p.m. — perfect for long days on the golf course or lake!

STATE SYMBOLS

FLOWER: wild prairie rose
BEVERAGE: milk
DANCE: square dance
FISH: northern pike
FOSSIL: teredo petrified wood
FRUIT: chokecherry

GRASS: western wheatgrass
TREE: American elm
BIRD: western meadowlark
NICKNAME: The Peace Garden State
INSECT: ladybug