



NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE IN NORTH DAKOTA



Double Ditch Indian Village



Chippewa Downs



Standing Rock Monument



MHA Nation Interpretive Center

Tribal nations are an essential part of North Dakota's history. All are welcome to explore the reservations and experience Native American culture by learning about each tribe's history, language and traditions while visiting attractions like reconstructed earthlodge villages. Attend a powwow and celebrate the culture through song and dance. There are approximately 30,000 Native Americans living in North Dakota. Though the individual tribes have distinct and different origins, histories and languages, Plains Indians are united by core beliefs and values that emanate from respect for the earth and an understanding of humankind's relationship with nature.

The tribes with the most influence on today's North Dakota are the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara; the Yanktonai, Sisseton, Wahpeton, Hunkpapa and other Dakota/Lakota/Nakota (commonly known as the Sioux) tribes; and the Chippewa and Metis. Visitors are welcome to explore the reservations and discover the beauty of Native American culture.

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site:

Tribes from across the Northern Plains journeyed to these permanent villages to trade, socialize and make war for more than 11,000 years.

Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site:

This was the principal fur trading post of the American Fur Company and between 1828 and 1867, the most important fur trade post on the Upper Missouri River.

Day 1

Morning — Fort Yates

The Standing Rock: Held sacred, the story tells of a woman and her child turned into stone.

Sitting Bull Burial Site: The original gravesite of the Hunkpapa Lakota leader. Sitting Bull played a prominent role in the shaping of the American West, notably defeating Custer in 1876.

Afternoon — Bismarck-Mandan

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park: Home to many historic attractions, including On-A-Slant Indian Village, a 400-year-old Mandan Village that thrived for more than 200 years. Tour five reconstructed earthlodges, the Custer House, granary, commissary storehouse, barracks and stables.

Day 2

Bismarck-Mandan

North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum: The Innovation Gallery: Early Peoples, uses more than 1,000 artifacts to tell the story of early life on the Northern Plains. Be sure to visit the exquisite 6-foot by 20-foot hand-painted panoramic mural of Double Ditch Indian Village in 1550.

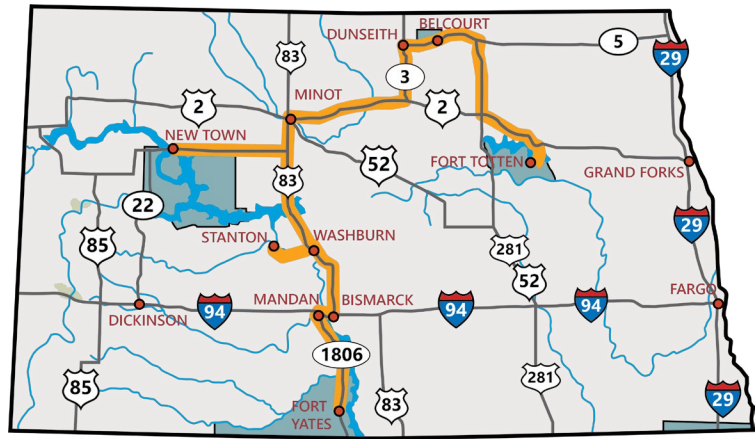
Double Ditch Indian Village State Historic Site: This site contains ruins of a large Mandan Indian earthlodge village believed to have once been inhabited for nearly 300 years until 1781.

Day 3

Washburn and Stanton

The Lewis And Clark Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan: The world-class interpretive center showcases the journey of the Corps of Discovery. Fort Mandan is a replica of the winter home used in Lewis and Clark's famous expedition. The site was near the Mandan Villages where the expedition traded goods for survival and knowledge in 1804-05.

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site: The ruins of this ancient Indian village were last occupied in 1845 by the Hidatsa and Mandan, and is the site where Lewis and Clark met Sakakawea in 1804. The site now has a modern museum, visitor center, Hidatsa earthlodge and the remains of three Hidatsa villages with 210 depressions.



Day 4

New Town

Four Bears Bridge: The bridge is a unique structure that bares aesthetic features selected by and representing the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribes.

Crow Flies High Observation Point: Take in the breathtaking view of Lake Sakakawea, the bluffs in the Badlands and the foundations of the underwater town of Sanish.

Old Scouts Cemetery: Pay tribute to Native Americans who served their country in times of war and peace, including the Arikara/Sanish warriors who served as scouts for Custer in the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

MHA Nation Interpretive Center: Discover the culture, oral tradition and history of the MHA Nation with museum-quality displays, living history programs, culture educational classes and more.

Day 5

Belcourt/Dunseith area

Turtle Mountain Scenic Byway: Take a hike in the wooded, rolling hills of the Turtle Mountains; play in Lake Metigoshe or take a stroll through the 2,339-acre International Peace Garden.

Turtle Mountain Heritage Center: This new museum next to Sky Dancer Casino showcases the heritage and history of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

Chippewa Downs: Horse track with races on four weekends in the summer.

Day 6

Fort Totten

Devils Lake: This great fishing destination derives its name from the Native American word Miniwaukan. Early explorers incorrectly translated the word to mean "Bad Spirit." Supported by the many legends of drowned warriors and lake monsters, the name evolved into Devils Lake.

Fort Totten State Historical Site: Constructed as a military post, it became an Indian boarding school, Indian health care facility and a reservation school. This site stands much as it once did, housing an interpretive center, museum and historic inn.

White Horse Hill National Game Preserve: 1,674-acre national wildlife refuge on the south shore of Devils Lake.