



## QUIRKY, UNUSUAL AND HIDDEN GEMS

**Larger-than-life, one-of-a-kind and sometimes bloody — North Dakota has its share of unusual stories to be told.**

### North Dakota Rocks

Geologic wonders abound, whether as untouched beauty or built by man, these sites have solid appeal.

- Mushroom-shaped caprocks, hoodoos, cannonball concretions, petrified wood, scoria — These are just a few of the geological wonders found in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
- Writing Rock State Historic Site — Two granite boulders with American Indian inscriptions in Divide County near Grenora.
- Paul Broste Rock Museum — Unique rock displays from all over the world in Parshall.
- Standing Rock State Historic Site — Woodland era burial mounds near Enderlin in the Sheyenne River Valley are named for a large boulder standing on the largest mound.
- David Thompson State Historic Site — Granite globe near Verendrye honors the European explorer and fur trader who was called “the greatest geographer of his day in British America.”
- Geographical Center of North America Monument — Stone cairn pyramid marks this site in Rugby, as determined by a 1931 U.S. Geological Survey.
- Japanese Gardens — A gift from Awano, Japan, this rock garden features three stone lanterns of individual significance in Sertoma Park in Grand Forks.
- Medicine Wheel Park in Valley City — Stone replica of a Native American structure features a meridian calendar, walking tour of the solar system.
- Initial Rock — On the way to Little Bighorn from Fort Abraham Lincoln, two of Lt. Col. George Custer’s troops carved their names into sandstone at the site southwest of Belfield.
- Mooring Stones — Hidden in the Turtle Mountains near Bottineau, these stones serve as possible evidence of Viking visitors long ago.

### Giant Turtles and Colossal Fish and other Roadside Attractions ... oh my!

Find that perfect selfie spot in front of local giants and other public art features.

- Enchanted Highway — Escape the ordinary on this 32-mile drive featuring several giant scrap metal sculptures including “Pheasants on the Prairie,” “Grasshoppers in the Field,” and “Fisherman’s Dream” to name a few.
- World’s Largest Buffalo Monument — Standing his ground since 1959, Dakota Thunder keeps watch over Jamestown. Don’t miss the National Buffalo Museum featuring a live bison herd with a rare white bison nearby.
- Sandy the Sandhill Crane — the World’s Largest Sandhill Crane standing 40 feet rests just off Interstate 94 in Steele.
- Wee’l Turtle — What does one do with more than 2,000 tire rims? Build a turtle, of course! Find Wee’l in Dunseith.



NORTH  
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- Tommy the Turtle — in case Wee'l is not enough, check out the World's Largest Snowmobile Riding Turtle in Bottineau.
- Rusty the Turtle in Turtle Lake — 2-ton turtle welcomes you to Turtle Lake.
- Wahpper Catfish — At 40-feet long, the world's largest catfish overlooks the Red River in Wahpeton.
- Salem Sue — You can't miss the World's Largest Holstein Cow, overlooking Interstate 94 at New Salem.
- Lewis, Clark and Sheheke — 12-foot figures welcome you to the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Washburn. Also find Lewis' dog, Seaman, at nearby Fort Mandan.
- Wally the Walleye — What else would you find in the "Walleye Capital of the World" (Garrison) but the world's largest walleye at 26-feet long.
- Wheat Monument — Standing tribute to the prairie settlers, these 35-foot iron wheat stalks stand in Williston.
- Viking Statue — On Pyramid Hill near Fort Ransom, this statue honors the Norwegian heritage of area residents.
- Scandinavian Heritage Park in Minot — Find a 27-foot Dala Horse, the oldest house in the state and many other statues and structures honoring the Nordic region and heritage of area settlers.
- Art Alleys and Public Art — Murals and other public art areas bring vibrancy to communities such as Bismarck, Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks, Stanley, Washburn and Jud.

## Ghosts of North Dakota's Past

Everybody has a few skeletons in the closet that they're not necessarily proud of ...

- Fort Abercrombie — This "Gateway to the Dakotas" was the first permanent U.S. military fort in what would become North Dakota. The fort was besieged by Dakota (Sioux) warriors for more than six weeks in the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862.
- Last Lynching — January 29, 1931, in a small community just east of Watford City, a crowd of men in masks overpowered local law enforcement, broke Charles Bannon out of jail and hanged him from a bridge for murdering all six members of the Haven family.
- Bloody 4th/Murderer's Gulch — You've heard of Deadwood and Tombstone, right? Well, they were tame compared to the Wild West of Bismarck in 1870-1880 when it was dubbed, the most violent place in the American West. Learn more of the story from Bismarck Tour Company.
- "Fargo" Woodchipper — Made infamous by the Coen brothers, this deadly movie prop has carved out a new home at the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

## Additional Rarities and Curiosities

Looking for more unique sites to visit? Here are a few more one-of-a-kind landmarks.

- Gingras Trading Post State Historic Site — The oldest standing structures in the state, this trading post began operation in the 1840s.
- ND Highway 91 — The shortest highway in the nation, this mile-long stretch of road in Harvey isn't found on any map. Find this bypass through town connecting Highway 52 and Highway 3.
- Whirl-A-Whip — The only surviving Whirl-A-Whip machine is still being used at Dakota Drug in Stanley.
- Fairview Lift Bridge — This bridge connects North Dakota and Montana across the Yellowstone River. Originally built to allow steamboat traffic on the river, it was used only once before the steamboats stopped.
- Waterfall — North Dakota's one and only waterfall can be found on an offshoot of the North Country Trail in the Sheyenne State Forest near Fort Ransom.
- Bagg Bonanza Farm — The last remaining bonanza farm in the U.S. can be found near Mooreton. With 20 restored buildings to tour, there's no lack of history to be experienced here.

