

# NORTH DAKOTA 8-DAY RV/CAMPING ITINERARY

## Day 1 — Fargo-West Fargo-Moorhead Area

Set up camp at [Lindenwood Campground](#) along the Red River in the heart of Fargo. Lindenwood has 46 sites with water and electricity, sewer and dump stations, concessions, toiletry items and firewood. Park amenities include playgrounds, recreational trails, softball diamonds and picnic shelters.

### Downtown Fargo-Moorhead

**Fargo Theatre:** Built in 1926 as a cinema and vaudeville theatre, the beautifully restored Fargo Theatre now serves as an art house theatre featuring independent and foreign films. The theatre is also Fargo's hottest downtown venue for concerts and other live events. In spring of 2009, the Fargo Theatre opened a second auditorium. The theater is on the National Register of Historical Places by the United States Department of the Interior.

**Heritage Hjemkomst Center/Clay County Heritage Center:** This accredited fine art museum is in the heart of historic downtown Fargo and includes exhibitions, performances, special events and tours.

**Plains Art Museum:** The museum is in a renovated turn-of-the-century downtown warehouse.

The redesign of the International Harvester (IH) branch house was directed by Hammel Green & Abrahamson, Inc., whose work also can be seen in the award-winning Minnesota History Center, the Walker Arts Center and the Minneapolis Institute of the Arts. Plains Art Museum is 56,000 square feet, fully accessible and contains the Hannaher's, Inc. Print Studio, Dawson Studio, The Store and Goldberg Art Lounge.

### North Fargo

**Fargo Air Museum:** North Dakota's premier aviation destination is home to aircraft of all eras – from the modern Global Hawk to an unmanned reconnaissance drone. The museum also hosts day camps, speakers, seminars and special exhibits throughout the year. See full-scale pieces of history, many of which still fly.

### South or West of Downtown

**Scheels All Sports:** A fully functioning 45-foot Ferris wheel is the centerpiece of one of the largest All Sports stores. In addition to a large sporting goods store, a cafe, coffee kiosk and interactive games bring the 196,000-square-foot destination to life.

**The Red River Zoo:** State-of-the-art zoo with over 60 animal exotic species on more than 16 acres of natural habitat specializing in rare and endangered cold-climate species. Children will enjoy the animal petting areas and a ride on the restored 1928 Diederich Family Carousel. Come see Red Pandas, Gray Wolves, European Lynx and a lot more.

**"FARGO" Woodchipper:** Stop at the Fargo-Moorhead Visitors Center and take a shot next to "The Woodchipper" from the movie Fargo. Yeah ... THAT woodchipper! The REAL movie prop and a fun replica paying homage to that famous scene from the movie are on display. It is a great photo op for visitors to FARGO!

## Day 2 — Jamestown-Devils Lake

Head for the lakes area of North Dakota, making a stop in Jamestown before pulling into Devils Lake.

### Jamestown

Frontier Village and World's Largest Buffalo: Visit an authentic pioneer town at the end of Louis L'Amour Lane next to the National Buffalo Museum and the live buffalo herd. Also, Frontier Village is home to "The World's Largest Buffalo," a 60-ton concrete buffalo statue.

National Buffalo Museum and Live Herd: The Museum is dedicated to the history of the American Bison, houses artifacts, many original artworks and has an observation point for the live buffalo herd.

### Devils Lake

The largest natural body of water in North Dakota is part of the charm of the city of Devils Lake. Main Street USA-type shopping, dining and activities for the whole family abound. Fishing in the spring and summer provide mouth-watering catches – from 10-pound pike to walleye worthy of wall hanging. Fall is when the trophy-winners are caught; and in winter, ice fishing takes over. Summer water adventurers can rent a pontoon, swim, kayak or water ski. But first set up camp:

Eastbay Campground: Seasonal and overnight camping for RVs and tents, bait shop/convenience store, gas, propane, boat rentals, kayak rentals, water bike rentals, cabins and two boat launching areas. Full-service marina with slip rentals available.

Woodland Resort: Devils Lake's only full-service resort on the shores of Creel Bay. Restaurant, cabins, motel, campground, bait shop and boat rental available. Full-service winter ice fishing headquarters with fish house rental and lodging packages. Home of the Perch Express guided ice fishing package.

Grahams Island State Park: Named after the first known white settler in the area, the park offers camping and picnicking facilities. There is a boat ramp providing access to the lake for fishing and other water sports, plus a bait shop and fuel facility. Devils Lake offers some of the best fishing in the Midwest and this park has modern campsites with electrical hook-ups and tent campsites. Comfort stations with hot showers and flush toilets and an RV sewage dump station are available from mid-May through October. Reservations recommended by calling 800-807-4723 or by going to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department website at [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov)

Fort Totten State Historic Site: The only preserved military post of the Indian War period in the Trans-Mississippi West.

White Horse Hill National Game Preserve: Once a national park, this 2½-square-mile refuge is home to many species of wildlife and birds.

### Hidden Gems

Spirit Lake Casino at St. Michael

Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site at Cooperstown

## Day 3 — Rugby-Minot

Start the day with a short drive to Rugby.

### **Rugby**

The city has long considered itself the geographic center of North America. While that has recently come up for debate, there is no doubt that the north-central North Dakota town is a hub of activities and attractions.

Geographic Center of North America Monument: The center is marked with a monument or cairn that is pyramid form in shape. It is 21 feet high, 6 feet wide at its base, and setting on a heart shaped foundation.

Northern Lights Tower: Monument honoring the Aurora Borealis, which dance through the night skies.

### **Minot**

Line up your lodging for the night, then tour the city. Campground options:

Roughrider Campground: Quiet, secluded, woody area near town with 80 sites, dump station, shower, laundry, playground, fire pits, Wi-Fi.

Swenson RV/KOA: 135 Sites with full hook-ups, on-site service techs, community room, coin laundry, bathrooms and showers, Wi-Fi.

### **Don't miss these gems:**

Scandinavian Heritage Park: Replicas are found here from each of the five Scandinavian countries: Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Iceland. See a real grass-roof Stabbur, a replica Stave Church from Gol, Norway, and a 25-foot-tall Swedish Dala horse.

Dakota Territory Air Museum: Founded in June of 1986 with the incorporators' dream and desire to provide the most comprehensive aviation facility in the state and region.

## Day 4 — Garrison-Washburn Area-Stanton-Bismarck

Swing over to Garrison, then take the route Lewis and Clark took on their way back down the Missouri River in 1806, ending up in Bismarck-Mandan.

### Garrison

Ye Olde Malt Shoppe: On Main Street in Garrison, this restaurant seems like an old friend. The retro restaurant will take you back to the good old days.

Wally the Walleye: The large monument greets visitors to Garrison, a hot spot for anglers on nearby Lake Sakakawea.

### Washburn Area

Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center: Modern interpretive center showcases the journey of the Corps of Discovery. Within the Interpretive Center, the Bergquist Gallery features a rare set of the printed artworks of Swiss artist Karl Bodmer. Outside, the statues of explorers Lewis and Clark and Chief Sheheke stand vigil.

Fort Mandan: Reconstructed site of Fort Mandan, winter home of Lewis and Clark in 1804-1805. The site is near the Mandan villages where the expedition traded goods for survival and knowledge.

### Stanton

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.

### Double Ditch Indian Village:

North of Bismarck on Highway 1804, Double Ditch Indian Village State Historic Site contains ruins of a large Mandan Indian earthlodge village believed to have been inhabited for nearly 300 years until 1781. The remains of earthlodges, refuse mounds and the surrounding fortification ditches are clearly discernible. Interpretive signs highlight important features around the site.

### **Upon arrival in Bismarck-Mandan, chose from several camping options:**

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park: While exploring the diverse historical landscape, visitors will learn about the cultural, historical and natural influences that make Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park known worldwide. Visitors can camp or overnight in camping cabins along the Missouri River. Hike, bike or horseback ride the extensive and scenic trail system that climbs through the hills providing breath-taking views of the river bottom.

Bismarck KOA: Many trees for lots of shade during the heat of the day. Swimming pool, three playgrounds, basketball, tennis and volleyball courts are available for your athletic desires. Laundry room is open 24 hours and Wi-Fi is available in the park.

Sibley Park Campground: Wooded campground with 113 RV sites with electrical hook-ups (20-, 30- and 50-amp) and separate tent area. There are also full-service restrooms, picnic shelters, playgrounds, a 24-hole disc golf course, water and dump stations, a boat ramp, amphitheater, walking path and historical/interpretive panels.

## Day 5 — Bismarck-Mandan Area

North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum: The state's largest museum has an outstanding collection of Plains Indian artifacts and interpretive exhibits that feature North Dakota's varied American Indian, military and agricultural history and prehistory. Four galleries of artifacts and specimens, high-tech displays and interactive exhibits. Museum store, life-size T. rex skeleton, James River Café on site.

Lewis and Clark Riverboat: A 100-foot paddle-wheeler featuring twin decks and a 70-foot cabin that can carry more than 150 people on the Missouri River. Reopening in spring of 2021.

Chief Looking's Village: On the bluff overlooking the Lewis and Clark Riverboat, this Native American site has a self-guided tour of the grounds, earthlodge depressions and a fortification ditch. Great overview of the Missouri River between Bismarck and Mandan.

Dakota Zoo: Home to more than 600 animals, including 125 species, the zoo has a large variety of animals ranging from alligators to moose to mountain lions.

North Dakota Capitol: The 19-story, Art Deco building was constructed in 1933 for \$2 million and contains unique woods and materials from many states and countries.

### Hidden Gems

Buckstop Junction

Camp Hancock

Fort Lincoln Trolley

## Day 6 — Gladstone Area-Dickinson-Medora Area

Follow Old Red Old Ten for a scenic journey to the west. This byway includes a stretch of gravel that can be bypassed at New Salem by jumping on Interstate 94 to the Glen Ullin exit. Then hop back on the byway to Gladstone.

### Gladstone Area

Enchanted Highway: A 30-mile drive from Interstate 94 lined with giant metal sculptures, including the awe-inspiring *Geese in Flight* at Exit 72. This amazing trip includes *Tin Family*, *Fisherman's Dream*, *Teddy Rides Again*, *Pheasants on the Prairie* and more. The gift shop in Regent has miniatures of each statue and the Enchanted Castle motel and restaurant offer comfort at the end of the road.

### Dickinson

Badlands Dinosaur Museum: Eleven full-scale dinosaur skeletons inside and two outside, including fossils, skeletons excavated from the area, one of the world's finest Triceratops skulls, skeletal casts and sculptures. Mineral collection from locations all over the world, invertebrate fossils and a rhinoceros and bison excavated from the area.

The Brew Coffee Shop: Once the church attended by Theodore Roosevelt while ranching in the area.

### Medora Area

This authentic Old West cowtown was founded in 1883 by the Marquis de Mores and named for his wife. Medora offers a musical extravaganza, trail rides, mountain biking, hiking, museums, many gift shops and restaurants during the summer season.

### Campground options:

Cottonwood Campground: Inside Theodore Roosevelt National Park, has 76 first-come, first-serve sites. Pull-through sites are available. Group site available. Reservations accepted. No hook-ups for water, sewer or electrical. No showers. Flush toilets with running cold water and water faucets May through September.

Medora Campground: Camp or stay in your RV along the Little Missouri River, just like Teddy Roosevelt did in 1883. Conveniently located on the west side of Medora. Hook-up spaces and primitive camping area. Facility amenities: 150 campsites of varying sizes, free Wi-Fi, access to bathroom and shower facilities, RV waste station.

Sully Creek State Park: Minutes away from the historic town of Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park. In the early spring, canoeing the Little Missouri River is a popular activity. Corrals are provided for those bringing in their own horses. Horseback riders, mountain bikers and hikers have access to the 144-mile long Maah Daah Hey Trail.

Red Trail Campground: Family owned and operated campground for more than 40 years open May through September. Nestled below a butte on the southeast edge of historic Medora. Tent sites, 100 RV sites with hook-ups, shower, sewer. Wi-Fi access.

## Day 7 — Medora

Theodore Roosevelt National Park: Named for the 26th President, it memorializes his contribution to conservation. Scenic drives provide a view of buffalo, deer, elk, bighorn sheep, wild horses, mule deer and prairie dog towns. Trail ride, mountain bike or hike through the Badlands on the marked trails or the 144-mile Maah Daah Hey Trail.

Medora Musical: Broadway-style variety show at the spectacular Burning Hills Amphitheatre. Western entertainment and a patriotic salute are part of each show.

Pitchfork Fondue: Unique western steak meal served at the Tjaden Center on the bluffs overlooking Medora.

North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame: Interpretive center for the history of Native Americans, ranching, rodeo and the western lifestyle of the plains and Badlands.

Chateau de More State Historic Site: Built in 1883, the elegant 26-room home of the famous French nobleman who founded Medora.

## Day 8 — Watford City-New Town-Williston Areas

### Watford City

Long before Watford City became the epicenter of the state's energy boom, it was the gateway to the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It's an area steeped in history, culture and scenic beauty and today it is bustling with new things to see and do.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Unit: Out-and-back 28-mile round-trip scenic drive along river bottom and high ground above valley to River Bend Overlook. From there, it's an easy drive along the rim of the badlands to Oxbow Overlook at the road's end. Campground in the park

### New Town

Earthlodge Village: Replica earthlodge village overlooking Lake Sakakawea.

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 Butte: Take in the breathtaking view of Lake Sakakawea, the bluff and the foundations of the underwater town of Sanish.

Three Tribes Museum: Dedicated to the history of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara through artifacts. Learn about the creation of Lake Sakakawea.

### White Shield

Old Scouts Cemetery: Honoring 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 Heritage Center: Opening in 2020 in White Shield.

### Williston

Set up camp.

Fort Buford State Historic Site Campground: Primitive campground with room for RVs and tents. Water available from hand pump. No electricity or sewer dump. Vault toilet nearby.

### Don't miss these historical gems.

Fort Buford State Historic Site: Remnants of a vital frontier plains military post established in 1866 to protect overland and river routes used by immigrants settling the west. Located near the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers. Place where the famous Hunkpapa Sioux leader, Sitting Bull, surrendered.

Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site: The grandest fort on the Upper Missouri River between 1828 and 1867. Assiniboine and six other Northern Plains Indian Tribes exchanged buffalo robes and smaller furs for goods from around the world here.

Fairview Lift Bridge and Cartwright Tunnel: The bridge and tunnel, now closed to vehicle and rail traffic, stretches 1,320 feet across the Yellowstone River and has been turned into a walkway. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## RV Camping In Other State Parks

### **Southeast North Dakota**

North Dakota's homesteading heritage is preserved at [Fort Ransom State Park](#). Nestled in the picturesque and heavily wooded Sheyenne River Valley, this park is managed as a natural and scenic area and is located on one of North Dakota's officially designated scenic byways and backways, the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway. Corrals and trails are provided for groups bringing in their own horses. Those bringing in livestock must use certified weed-free hay, which is available for sale at the park.

### **Northeast North Dakota**

Located on the north shore of Lake Renwick, [Icelandic State Park](#) offers visitors a wide array of recreational opportunities, but also glimpses of North Dakota's homesteading heritage and its natural beauty. The campgrounds offer full amenities, including electrical hook-ups, modern comfort stations with showers and sewage dump station. Three sleeping cabins are also available from mid-May through the end of September.

### **North-Central North Dakota**

Nestled in the scenic Turtle Mountains along the U.S./Canadian border, [Lake Metigoshe State Park](#) is one of the most popular year-round vacation spots in North Dakota. The small lakes within the park provide excellent opportunities for fishing, canoeing, boating, and swimming. Visitors can enjoy more than eight miles of trails.

### **Central North Dakota**

[Fort Stevenson State Park](#) on Lake Sakakawea's north shore was named for the late 1800s fort that served as a supply depot for other military posts in the Dakota Territory. Amenities include camping and picnicking facilities, cabins, visitor center, concessions, arboretum and mountain biking/hiking trails.

On the south shore of Lake Sakakawea adjacent to Garrison Dam, [Lake Sakakawea State Park](#) offers a wide range of water-based recreational activities and facilities. The park has a full-service marina and modern camping and picnicking facilities. Hikers enjoy a segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail.

Take in a Lewis and Clark Trail site and six-mile Nux Baa Gaa Trail. [Indian Hills Resort and Campground](#) offers a variety of camping and lodging services from rustic camping cabins, tent camping and RV campsites to modern lodging in a cabin for the whole family.

### **Western North Dakota**

[Tobacco Garden Campground](#) north of Watford City offers a full-service restaurant, C-store, bait and tackle shop, 100 campsites, wireless internet and hiking on Lake Sakakawea.