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Missouri River Road Trip

Experience 22 scenic and historic sites within a one-hour drive of Bismarck and Mandan.



Triceratops and T. rex skeleton casts at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum

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1. North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum

612 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck
 Learn the fascinating history of North Dakota through thousands of artifacts and specimens, high-tech displays, and interactive exhibits. See a full-scale *T. rex* replica, rare collections of Native American artifacts, a 1950s soda shop, and much more. From the time when dinosaurs ruled through the development of today's emerging industries, you'll find history for everyone. The Treehouse exhibit invites young children to discover and explore North Dakota life, past and present.
 Open year-round, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sat. & Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. • Free • ADA • Staff • Restrooms • Store • Café • 701.328.2666 • statemuseum.nd.gov

Open May 16 through September 15, Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat. & Sun., 12-4 p.m. Winter hours: second Fri. and Sat. of each month, 1-5 p.m., or by appointment • Free • Limited ADA • Staff • Restrooms • 701.328.2666 • history.nd.gov

2. North Dakota State Capitol and Grounds

600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck
 The focal point of the North Dakota Capitol grounds is the 19-story art deco Capitol building built in the early 1930s. The 132-acre grounds surrounding the building include an arboretum trail, statues, memorials, the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum, and the State Library, all in a park-like setting.
 Tours, year-round, Mon.-Fri., hourly from 9-11 a.m. & 1-3 p.m.; Memorial Day through Labor Day, Mon.-Fri., 8-11 a.m. & 1-4 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. & Sun. 1-4 p.m. • Free • ADA • Staff • Restrooms • Café • 701.328.2480 • nd.gov/fac

4. Camp Hancock State Historic Site

101 East Main Avenue, Bismarck
 A military installation established in 1872 to provide protection for workers building the Northern Pacific Railroad, it became a US Weather Bureau station in 1894. A log headquarters building serves as a museum with artifacts and information about local history. The site is also home to a 1909 Northern Pacific locomotive and the 1881 Church of the Bread of Life, moved to the site in 1965.
 Open Memorial Day to Labor Day, Fri.-Sun., 1-5 p.m. or by appointment • Free • Limited ADA • Restrooms • 701.328.2666 • history.nd.gov

3. Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site

320 East Avenue B, Bismarck
 This historic site preserves the mid-Victorian mansion as a historic and architectural exhibit. Purchased for \$5,000 from a Bismarck entrepreneur in 1893, the building served as the residence for 20 governors until 1960.



Camp Hancock

5. Dakota Zoo

602 Riverside Park Road, Bismarck

The Dakota Zoo houses more than 600 mammals, birds, and reptiles. Many animals, such as the prairie dog, mountain lion, and bison, are native to the region, while others, like the small cotton-top tamarins, the Bengal tigers, and the snow leopards, are of exotic origin.

Open daily May through September, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; October through April, Fri.-Sun., 1-5 p.m. weather permitting • Admission fee • ADA • Staff • Restrooms • Concessions • Gift shop • 701.223.7543 • dakotazoo.org



Former Governors Mansion State Historic Site

6. Riverside Park Road

East side of Missouri River, Bismarck

Take a short, scenic drive down River Road to find a partially reconstructed steamboat, a reproduction of Lewis and Clark's keelboat, sculptures by United Tribes Technical College students, and Sertoma Park, which includes the Super Slide Amusement Park, biking and walking trails, and Dakota Zoo.

7. Lewis and Clark Riverboat

1700 Riverside Park Road, Bismarck

Step back in time at the Port of Bismarck and enjoy a cruise on the 150-passenger Lewis and Clark Riverboat, which offers excursion, dinner, sunset, and pizza cruises.

Cruises daily, Memorial Day through Labor Day • Admission fee • Limited ADA • Staff • Restrooms • 701.255.4233 • lewisandclarkriverboat.com

8. Chief Looking's Village Overlook

2023 Burnt Boat Drive, Bismarck

This Native American village site has a self-guided tour of the earthlodge depressions and fortification ditch. The name of the site recognizes Chief Looking, the Mandan leader of the village.

Open May 1 through October 1, weather permitting • Walking trail • Interpretive signs • 701.222.6455 • bisparks.org

9. Fort Lincoln Trolley

2000 Third Street Southeast, Mandan

Two trolley stations link this scenic rail excursion from Mandan to historic Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park. The nine-mile, round-trip excursion features the original 1890s trolley car that ran from Main Avenue to the Capitol in Bismarck.

Open Memorial Day through Labor Day, departures from Third Street SE depot: Daily, 1, 2, 3 & 4 p.m. Departures from Fort Lincoln State Park: Daily, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 & 4:30 p.m. • Admission fee • 701.663.9018

10. Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park

4480 Fort Lincoln Road, Mandan

7 miles south of Mandan on Highway 1806

See the partly reconstructed 1872 Fort McKeen infantry post and military cemetery, a partial reconstruction of On-A-Slant Mandan Indian Village, dated 1600 to 1785, and the Fort Lincoln historical museum. Fort Abraham Lincoln, including a reconstruction of Lt. Col. George A. and Libby Custer's home, is at the south end of the park. Other reconstructed buildings are the commissary store, granary, and central barracks. Camping and picnic areas, walking trails, and tours of the Custer home.

Open Memorial Day through Sept. 30, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. • Admission fee • Staff • Restrooms • Concessions • Store • Limited ADA • 701.667.6340 • parkrec.nd.gov

11. Buckstop Junction

3805 East Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck

Tour historic buildings from the late 19th century through the early 1930s. It was established by the Missouri Valley Historical Society. Open April through September, hours vary, call for current schedule • Admission fee • Restrooms • Limited ADA • Gift shop • 701.250.8575 • buckstopjunction.org

12. Game and Fish Conservation and Outdoor Skills Area and Lobby Displays

100 North Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck

Enjoy a fishing pond and three interpretive trails: a wetlands trail; a prairie and drylands trail; and a tree and shrub identification trail located on 60 acres east of the Game and Fish Department. An outdoor amphitheater has picnic tables and room for small gatherings. The lobby contains exhibits of wildlife species.

Conservation and Skills Area open year-round, sunrise to sunset • Office lobby open year-round, Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m. • Free • Limited ADA • Self-guided interpretation via brochures and trail panels • 701.328.6300 • gf.nd.gov

13. Huff Indian Village State Historic Site

1/2 mile south of Huff; 22 miles south of Mandan

This site preserves a historic village that was a large, well-planned community where perhaps a thousand or more ancestors of the Mandan Indians lived around 1450. Depressions marking the locations of more than 100 lodges and are surrounded by a massive fortification system. The village covers about 12 acres.

Open year-round • Free • Walking trail • Interpretive signs • 701.328.2666 • history.nd.gov



Menoken Indian Village State Historic Site

14. Fort Rice State Historic Site*

30 miles south of Mandan

This site preserves Fort Rice, established July 7, 1864, by Gen. Alfred H. Sully as a field base during his 1864 expedition. An important Upper Missouri River post, it operated until November 1878. No original structures remain, but depressions, foundation lines, and WPA corner markers are visible. A brief history of the fort and a map appear on a site marker.

This site may be undergoing maintenance. Please call or check online regarding accessibility. • Free • Adjacent to county park with seasonal facilities • 701.328.2666 • history.nd.gov

15. Smith Grove Wildlife Management Area

25 miles north of Mandan

Some of the largest recorded cottonwood trees in North Dakota are located in Smith Grove's 233 acres. Twelve cottonwoods are over 15 feet in circumference, 90 to 100 feet tall, and estimated to be from 250 to 300 years of age. Visitors who travel north from the intersection of Old Red Trail and ND Highway 1806 (Collins Avenue) on the north edge of Mandan will discover several places of interest: Square Buttes (15.8 mi.), the tiny hamlet of Price (18.75 mi.), the ghost town of Sanger (25.75 mi.), and Cross Ranch State Park (28.5 mi.).

Open year-round • Free • Walking trails • 701.328.6300 • gf.nd.gov

16. Cross Ranch State Park

1403 River Road, Center

Cross Ranch State Park is located along some of the last free-flowing and undeveloped stretches of the Missouri River. A boat ramp and canoe and kayak rentals are available. An extensive trail system can be explored either on foot or on cross-country skis during the winter months. Skis and snowshoes are available for rent. The trails allow access to a 5,000-acre nature preserve with mixed grass prairie, river bottom forests, and woody draws. Campers can use the primitive campground or hike to a camping spot in a backcountry area.

Open year-round, daily, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. • Limited ADA • Daily park entrance fee or annual state park pass; camping additional • Restrooms • 701.794.3731 • parkrec.nd.gov

17. Fort Clark Trading Post State Historic Site

1 1/4 miles west of the town of Fort Clark

This site interprets Mandan and Arikara life and the fur trade on the Missouri River from 1822 to 1865. The archaeological remains of a large earthlodge village, cemetery, and two fur trade posts (Fort Clark Trading Post and Primeau's Post) are protected at the site, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. A self-guided tour brochure and interpretive signs describe archaeological features and provide additional information.

Open year-round • Free • Seasonal restrooms • 701.328.2666 • history.nd.gov

18. North Dakota State Railroad Museum

3102 37th Street Northwest, Mandan

Railroad artifacts and photographs, a Railroad Hall of Fame, and five acres with rolling stock are included in this museum that interprets the history of railroads in North Dakota.

Open Memorial Day through Labor Day, 1-5 p.m. • Free • Gift shop • 701.663.9322 • ndrailing.com/rrmuseum

19. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

564 County Road 37, Stanton

This site was a major Native American trade center during the 16th and 17th centuries and an important marketplace for the fur trade after 1750. See the remains of three Hidatsa villages with 210 depressions at the site. There is also a modern museum, a visitor center, nature trails, and a reconstructed earthlodge.

Open Memorial Day through Labor Day, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Labor Day through Memorial Day, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. • Free • Limited ADA • Restrooms • Store • 701.745.3300 • nps.gov/knri

20. North Dakota Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center

2576 Eighth Street Southwest, Washburn

Located within a few miles of a reconstruction of Lewis and Clark's 1804 winter post, Fort Mandan, the Interpretive Center immerses visitors in the journey of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Here, you will find interactive exhibits, the story of Fort Clark and the early fur trade, and "Our First Farmers" to the present.

Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Sundays Nov. 1-March 31 • Admission fee • Restrooms • ADA • Gift shop • 701.462.8535 • fortmandan.com



Double Ditch State Historic Site

21. Double Ditch Indian Village State Historic Site

7 1/2 miles north of Bismarck on Highway 1804

Overlooking the Missouri River, this site contains the ruins of a large Mandan Indian earthlodge village inhabited from 1500 to 1780. The remains of earthlodges, refuse mounds, and surrounding fortification ditches, from which the site name is derived, are clearly visible. The site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Open year-round • Free • Interpretive signs • Walking paths • 701.328.2666 • history.nd.gov

22. Menoken Indian Village State Historic Site

1 1/4 miles northeast of Menoken

Menoken Indian Village is thought to be one of the first prehistoric semi-permanent villages in the state, occupied around 1200. Visible on the site are lodge depressions and a bastioned fortification ditch. The site is a National Historic Landmark. Interpretive signs throughout the site provide a walking tour of the village.

Open year-round • Free • Interpretive signs • Walking paths • 701.328.2666 • history.nd.gov

Please contact sites for their hours as they may change.