

Fur Traders & Explorers



The first Europeans to see North Dakota came in search of furs and water routes. Your route will lead you to untold stories, paved paths to the doors of the past.

Pembina State Museum, Pembina, ND, www.history.nd.gov/historicsites/pembina

Discover Métis descendants and native people like the Ojibwa, Dakota, Assiniboine, and Cree.

Gingras Trading Post, Walhalla, ND, www.history.nd.gov/historicsites/gingras

House and store served the Métis, fur traders and explorers of the Northern Red River Valley of 1843-1873.

Fort Buford, Williston, ND, www.history.nd.gov/historicsites/buford

Established in 1866 to provide escorts for wagon trains, steamboats, international boundary patrols and known for Sitting Bull's surrender in 1881.

Fort Union Trading Post, Williston, ND, www.nps.gov/fous

This principle fur trading fort of the upper Missouri River region served the Assiniboine, Crow, Cree, Ojibwa, Hidatsa and Blackfeet tribes.

Fort Clark Trading Post, Stanton, ND, www.history.nd.gov/historicsites/clark

The American Fur Company built this post to serve the Mandan Indian earthlodge village.

Knife River Indian Villages, Stanton, ND, www.nps.gov/knri

American Indians occupied this area for more than 11,000 years. Remains of three Hidatsa villages, which were the home of Sakakawea.

Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, Washburn, ND, www.fortmandan.com

This center shares the history of the Corps of Discovery and the surrounding forts. It highlights a rare art collection of Karl Bodmer, the travels of Prince Phillip Maximilian and artifacts from every tribe Lewis and Clark encountered.

Fort Mandan, Washburn, ND, www.fortmandan.com

Relive history at the reconstructed winter home of Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery.

Fort Abercrombie, Abercrombie, ND, www.history.nd.gov/historicsites/abercrombie

First military post in North Dakota and used as the gateway to the Dakotas.

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, Mandan, ND, www.fortlincoln.com

This military post was the home of the 7th Cavalry and General George Custer during the Sioux Indian wars. The Custer house, commissary, barracks and block houses are available for touring.