

Minnesota-North Dakota 14-Day Loop Tour



Minnesota-North Dakota 14-Day Loop Tour

DAYS 1/2

Minneapolis - St. Paul

The Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul are not identical twins. Minneapolis' contemporary, sleek skyscrapers contrast with St. Paul's European-style architecture. Enjoy a city tour including Minneapolis' Nicollet Mall, the Walker Art Center, Guthrie Theater and Sculpture Garden. In St. Paul, Summit Avenue leads to the St. Paul Cathedral overlooking the State Capitol, the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, the Minnesota Science Museum, James J. Hill House and Minnesota History Center (2.5 hrs). Mall of America, the USA's largest shopping/entertainment center, beckons shoppers with 500 stores, restaurants, nightclubs, Camp Snoopy and Underwater Adventures (4.0+ hrs). Enjoy an entertaining evening at a play in the Hennepin Avenue Theater District, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Chanhassen Dinner Theater or Mystic Lake Casino. Overnight: Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

This sample itinerary will take you back in time where you'll get to experience the rich heritage and culture that makes North Dakota unique and the friendly hospitality that we are known for today. Make sure to bring the family and take part in all North Dakota has to offer!

DAY 3

Fargo-West Fargo-Moorhead Area

SCHEELS ALL SPORTS: The store features over 4 acres of retail space on two levels. It features over 85 Specialty Shops under one roof, making it the ultimate destination for athletes, fans and outdoor sport enthusiasts. The focal point of the new Fargo store is the "Scheels Wheel", the 45-foot, 12-car 1953 park-style Ferris wheel. Scheels unique store-within-a-store design offers the largest, most complete selection of all sports

gear and fashion found anywhere.

FARGO AIR MUSEUM: Come and visit the Fargo Air Museum and see these beautiful Aircraft on display. We have aircraft including the Goodyear F2G-1D Super Corsair, the World's only flying Super Corsair; a P-51D Mustang, the best-known fighter of WWII; Grumman TBM Avenger, the Navy's primary torpedo/bomber aircraft; the Mitsubishi A6M Reisen Zero Fighter, the symbol of Japanese air power during World War II and the Douglas DC-3 / C-47 Skytrain, best-known as the "Gooney Bird."

ROGER MARIS MUSEUM: Newly rebuilt museum traces the career of Roger Maris, the legendary Fargo athlete who hit 61 homers to break Babe Ruth's single-season home run record in 1961. Housed in the West Acres Shopping Center in Fargo, the museum allows visitors to re-live Roger's legendary life every minute the mall is open.

THE HERITAGE-HJEMKOMST CENTER displays an authentic handmade Viking longship that was sailed to Norway in 1982. The ship is on display at the Center, along with other national traveling exhibits.

Jamestown

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

NATIONAL BUFFALO MUSEUM & WHITE CLOUD & BUFFALO HERD: The Museum is dedicated to the history of the American Bison, houses artifacts, many original art works and has an observation point for the live buffalo herd, which includes "White Cloud," a rare albino buffalo.

WALK THE TRAIL OF LOUIS L'AMOUR: Self-guided walking tour of Louis L'Amour's hometown.

DAY 4

Bismarck-Mandan Area

NORTH DAKOTA HERITAGE CENTER AND SAKAKAWEA STATUE: 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.

FORT ABRAHAM LINCOLN STATE PARK: Experience the life at the Fort in 1875 at the Custer House. Tour the home of the General and Mrs. George Custer. Walk across the parade grounds to the barracks of the 7th Cavalry, the Commissary Store and visit the horses at the stables.

ON-A-SLANT INDIAN VILLAGE: On-A-Slant is a 400 year-old Mandan Village which thrived for over 200 years. The Mandan were gardeners, living in permanent housing, the earthlodge. Five reconstructed lodges can be toured today.

THE CUSTER HOUSE: The Custer House is a near replica of the final home of General George and Libbie Custer. Tours of the Custer House, the commissary storehouse, granary, barracks and stables take you back to another time. This was the last home and command of General George Armstrong Custer. It was from here that Custer and his 7th Cavalry rode to meet their fate at the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

FORT MCKEEN BLOCKHOUSES: Infantry blockhouses set high on the bluffs over-looking the Missouri River. Same vantage point early cavalry soldiers had as they viewed the wide expanse of the Missouri River.

LEWIS & CLARK RIVERBOAT: 100-foot paddle-wheeler features twin decks and a 70 foot cabin that can carry more than 150 people. Departs in the afternoon, also dinner and sunset cruises on the Missouri River.

DAY 5

Washburn Area

LEWIS & CLARK INTERPRETIVE CENTER: This is a world-class interpretive site along the route Lewis and Clark traveled almost 200 years ago.

Bergquist Gallery features a rare set of the printed artworks of Swiss artist Karl Bodmer.

Viewing of a 12-minute informational video on Lewis & Clark and Corp of Discovery.

Ft Clark exhibit has information on steamboats, frontier trade and American Indian culture.

FORT MANDAN: Reconstructed site of Fort Mandan, winter home of Lewis and Clark in 1804-1805.

Stanton Area

KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE: Visit the ruins of an ancient Indian village occupied in 1845 by the Hidatsa & Mandan. This is where Lewis & Clark met Sakakawea in 1804.

Replica Earthlodge with exhibits.
Museum & artifacts.

Gladstone Area

ENCHANTED HIGHWAY: Metal sculptures, including "World's Largest Tin Family," "Teddy Rides Again," "Pheasants on the Prairie," "Grasshoppers in the Field," "Geese in Flight," and "Deer Crossing."
www.enchantedhighway.net

Dickinson

DAKOTA DINOSAUR MUSEUM: Life-size Triceratops and Pachycephalosaurus outside the entrance. 10 full-scale dinosaurs in a central display.

DAY 6

Medora Area

This authentic Old West cow-town 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.

SOUTH UNIT THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK: Named for the 26th President, it memorializes his contribution to conservation. North Dakota Badlands provide the scenic backdrop to this park. The loop drive provides 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 Maah Daah Hey Trail.

CHATEAU DEMORES STATE HISTORIC SITE: Built in 1883, the elegant 26-room home of the famous French nobleman who founded Medora.

"BULLY" THE PLAY

MEDORA MUSICAL: Broadway-style variety show at the spectacular Burning Hills Amphitheater. Western entertainment and a patriotic salute are part of each show.

PITCHFORK FONDUE: A unique western steak meal served at the Tjaden Center on the bluffs overlooking Medora.

BULLY PULPIT GOLF COURSE: This 18-hole course is set in the beautiful North Dakota Badlands. Some courses impose themselves on the landscape; the Bully Pulpit Golf Course conforms to the landscape. Bully Pulpit was designed by world renown golf course architect, Dr. Michael Hurdzan.

DAY 7

Medora Area continued

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. See Sitting Bull's Headdress!

NORTH UNIT THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK: The North Unit, known as the Grand Canyon of the North, contains 9,740 hectares. In the park you will find badlands, open prairie, hard wood draws, over 100 bison, prairie dogs and other wildlife, the Little Missouri River, and a past history that includes Theodore Roosevelt. Inside the 2 Units of the National Park there are 12,108 hectares designated as wilderness areas

LONG X VISITORS CENTER: Home to the McKenzie County Tourism office, is the central location for visitor information on the area.

Dinner and Overnight in Watford City

DAY 8

Williston Area

MISSOURI – YELLOWSTONE CONFLUENCE INTERPRETIVE CENTER: The Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center tells the story of the confluence of these two mighty rivers, as well as provides the same magnificent view that Lewis and Clark Expedition members enjoyed when they visited in 1805 and 1806. The rotunda area will include three large murals featuring quotes from the Lewis and Clark Journals, and paintings of the Missouri River landscape by Colonel Philippe Régis de Trobriand, commanding officer of Fort Stevenson near present-day Garrison, N.D. in the late 1860s.

FORT BUFORD STATE HISTORIC SITE: Military post established at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers in 1866. The Fort played an important role as a supply depot during the Indian wars era. Nez Perce Chief Joseph and Hunkpapa Sioux Sitting Bull were imprisoned here. It is the site of Sitting Bull's surrender in July of 1881.

FORT UNION TRADING POST NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE: Dominated the fur trade on the Upper Missouri River between 1829 and 1867, the Fort was built near the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers. It was home to John Jacob Astor's powerful American Fur Company. Indians and the fur traders peacefully co-existed before the great Indian wars.

MINOT AREA

SCANDINAVIAN HERITAGE PARK: This park includes the following buildings and statues: Visitor Information Center, Danish windmill, flag display, eternal flame, a 220-year-old house from Sigdal, Norway, authentic Finnish sauna, waterfall, Dala horse, and Gol Stave Church. Several statues include those of Leif Eiriksson, Sondre Norheim, and Casper Oimoen.

ROOSEVELT ZOO: This offers educational displays, zoo tours and over 200 mammals, birds and reptiles, including giraffes, zebras, wolves, camels, bison, snow leopards and the white Bengal tiger.

Dinner and Overnight in

DAY 9

Rugby

GEOGRAPHICAL CENTER OF NORTH AMERICA: The geographical center of North America is marked at this junction with a stone cairn. There is a museum village that has many antiques and historic buildings.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN

INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN: The International Peace Garden is a symbol of peace between Canada and the United States. The 2,300-acre botanical monument spans the international boundary and honors the longest unfortified border in the world. Points of interest are the 18-foot floral clock, the Peace Tower and the Carillon Bell Tower and Peace Chapel. The International Peace Garden is one of the most spectacular floral gardens on the continent with more than 140,000 annuals planted each year.

DEVILS LAKE AREA

FORT TOTTEN HISTORIC SITE: The only preserved military post of the Indian War period in the Trans-Mississippi West.

SULLY'S HILL NATIONAL GAME PRESERVE: Once a National Park, this 2 ½-square-mile refuge is home to many species.

GRAND FORKS AREA

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA CENTER FOR AEROSPACE SCIENCES

Leader in aviation training and research development Tours feature: CAS Altitude Chamber, Atmospherium Planetarium, Severe Weather Analysis Center, Aeroheritage Room(mini museum), Flight Training Room (simulators) and Computer Based Instruction Lab and Flight Operations

RALPH ENGELSTAD ARENA: It's impossible to describe the \$104+ million Ralph Engelstad Arena in just a few words, but it is described by many as the "finest facility of its kind in the world." The 400,000 square foot arena is nothing but first class. All concourse floors are granite, each seat is constructed of leather and cherry wood, and there are 48 full luxury suites, two mini suites, and two enormous club rooms featuring the longest freestanding bars in the state.

NORTH DAKOTA MUSEUM OF ART: Located on the campus of the University of North Dakota. Exhibits of regional, national and international art housed in three galleries.

RIVERWALK CENTRE (Downtown East Grand Forks, MN): Across the street from Cabela's, Riverwalk Center is filled with unique stores, restaurants, and specialty shops.

Dinner and Overnight in Grand Forks.

DAY 10

Grand Forks to Bemidji

PAUL AND BABE: No visit to Bemidji is complete without the traditional photo opportunity with the legendary lumberjacks.

BEMIDJI WOOLEN MILLS FACTORY AND OUTLET: 'Warming the World since 1920' Tour the factory and outlet store, manufacturing essential woolen apparel for the outdoor industry right here in Bemidji.

ITASCA STATE PARK: Established in 1891, Itasca is Minnesota's oldest state park. Today, the park totals more than 32,000 acres and includes more than 100 lakes. Walk across the mighty Mississippi as it starts its winding journey 2,552 miles to the Gulf of Mexico.

Overnight in Itasca State Park in a cabin or Douglas Lodge

DAY 11

FOREST EDGE WINERY: This winery is located on the edge of the Paul Bunyan State Forest, about 25 miles south of Bemidji. Sample wines handcrafted from fruits and berries that survive the winters of Minnesota's North Country.

GRAND RAPIDS

JUDY GARLAND MUSEUM: Restored childhood home of Judy Garland, memorial flower garden and gallery showcasing the carriage used in the Wizard of Oz and once owned by Abraham Lincoln.

THE IRON TRAIL: This is an exciting circle tour of northern Minnesota. The Lakes, Pines and Mines Tour will highlight our state's unique heritage through a wide variety of one-of-a-kind attractions, magnificent sightseeing and unsurpassed service to you.

TOUR U.S. HOCKEY HALL OF FAME: America's hockey showcase. Beginning in 1973, the Hall has honored and recognized outstanding coaches, players, builders and administrators who have contributed to the success and promotion of American Hockey.

HIBBING:

CITY TOUR OF HIBBING WITH DRIVE BY OF BOB DYLAN'S CHILDHOOD HOME: Hibbing was the boyhood home of songwriter/musician Bob Dylan. Born on May 24, 1941, he was named Robert Allen Zimmerman. His parents, Abraham and Beatty (Stone) Zimmerman had one other child, David. The Zimmerman family moved to Hibbing in 1948, when Bob was seven years old. He attended public school and began playing the guitar while he was in junior high school. For most of Bob's life in Hibbing, he resided at 2425 7th Avenue East. He graduated from Hibbing High School in 1959.

Travel to Duluth for Overnight

DAY 12

GREAT LAKES AQUARIUM: Explore the magic of Lake Superior and watch otters scamper under waterfalls, gigantic sturgeon lurk in the two-story aquarium, large lake trout navigate their freshwater habitat, while bald eagle presides over everything. Discover the power of education through the magic of entertainment surrounded by the aquarium's more than 120,000 gallons of freshwater displays.

NORTH SHORE ADVENTURE

NORTH SHORE SCENIC RAILROAD: train ride along the shores of Lake Superior - Riding in vintage open and air-conditioned coaches, you'll cross over North Shore rivers that splash and tumble towards Lake Superior. Riding the train is great fun!

SPLIT ROCK LIGHTHOUSE: Shipwrecks from a mighty 1905 November gale prompted this rugged landmark's construction. Completed by the U.S. Lighthouse Service in 1910, Split Rock Light Station was soon one of Minnesota's best known landmarks. Restored to its 1920s appearance, the lighthouse offers a glimpse of lighthouse life in this remote and spectacular setting.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY HERITAGE & ARTS CENTER: Known locally as the "Depot", this historic building was constructed in 1892 and for years served as Duluth's busiest railroad station and "Port of entry". Today vintage steam locomotives and their antique, wooden coaches still wait silently for passengers trackside in the Lake Superior Railroad Museum, home of the Midwest's largest, indoor train collection.

DAYS 13/14

Depart Duluth for Twin Cities

MALL OF AMERICA - Mall of America is located in Bloomington, MN., only three miles from Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and within 15 minutes of downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul.

You can easily spend several days enjoying the rich variety of stores, restaurants and attractions at Mall of America. In addition, the area offers an outstanding array of sports, theaters, parks, nightlife and other activities to complement your visit to the Mall. For example, take a relaxing and tranquil walk in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge only minutes south of Mall of America. Or, have fun any time of the year at the Hyland Ski and Snowboard Area Disc Golf Course just west of Mall of America in Bloomington.

Light Rail Transit service now provides convenient and inexpensive train service between Mall of America and downtown Minneapolis.