

Minneapolis to Denver Gateways Minnesota – North Dakota – South Dakota

MINNESOTA

Minnesota is a contrast between town and country. Minneapolis and St. Paul are thriving cities with arts, entertainment and dining on a more comfortable, relaxed scale than “big cities.” In the heart of the north, the Mighty Mississippi begins its journey through charming river towns on its way to the Gulf of Mexico.

Day 1 – 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. The city tour includes 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**, **Mall of America**, the USA’s largest shopping/entertainment center, beckons shoppers with 500 stores, restaurants, nightclubs, **Nickelodeon Universe** and **Underwater Adventures**.

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: Twin Cities metro area

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota is one of the most diverse and unspoiled travel destinations in the country. Whether you choose to enjoy our scenic wonders, take advantage of our many recreational opportunities, or join in one of our many celebrations, you’ll find reason to spend time in North Dakota. As you travel our 70,665 square miles of vast plains, you will discover many places like the endless fields of grain in the Red River Valley, the scenic beauty of the International Peace Garden and the rugged panorama of our colorful Badlands. You will find North Dakota is an all-inclusive vacation getaway

Day 2 – FARGO

Fargo-West Fargo-Moorhead Area

SHEELS ALL SPORTS features over 85 Specialty Shops under one roof, making it the ultimate destination for athletes, fans and outdoor sport enthusiasts. Tour the **FARGO AIR MUSEUM** and see these beautiful Aircraft on display. The **FARGO THEATRE** is a 1926 Vintage movie palace and has a restored Wurlitzer pipe organ. Stroll through **BONANZAVILLE’S** acres of historic buildings, including a sod house, a church, court house and country store.

Overnight: Fargo

Day 3 – Depart Fargo for Jamestown -1 hour 31 mins / 97.67 miles

Jamestown community is home to the **Frontier Village & World’s Largest Buffalo**. The Frontier Village is home to a 60-ton concrete buffalo, buffalo herd and a pioneer village. The **National Buffalo Museum & White Cloud & Buffalo Herd** museum houses artifacts, many original art works and has an observation point for the live buffalo herd, which includes “White Cloud,” a rare albino buffalo.

Black Leg Ranch and Rolling Plains Adventures - Interstate 94 West (approximately 90 miles)

Come experience the Wild West! Step back in time to a land where Cowboys still roam the open range. A land where Native American’s hunted buffalo by the herds of 10,000 and more! Ride horseback down the wagon trails from the 1800’s while driving cattle. See a land that hasn’t changed much since the early settlers or Lewis and Clark’s Expedition in 1804.

This is not a “Dude Ranch” nor is it a “Guest Ranch”; it is a “Working Cattle Ranch”. As a welcomed guest you will get the true Cowboy experience. You will learn from the BEST, Cowboys who have bloodlines dating back to the early 1600s who were pioneers of this country.

<http://www.rollingplainsadventures.com/guestranch.html>

24401 62nd Ave SE

Mckenzie, ND 58572

Day 4 – Ranch and Bismarck/Manda – United Tribes Powwow

Bismarck North Dakota became a state in 1889. It was the 39th state in the union, however, Bismarck, the capitol city’s history starts well before that. Bismarck was originally named Edminton. The name was changed when there was a very wealthy railroad Baron from Germany scheduled to visit. The town people were hoping to win some financial favors from the Baron whose name was ... Otto Von Bismarck. Much to the dismay of the town, they only received a letter of appreciation.

While in the Bismarck-Mandan area a visit to **Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park** located on the Missouri River banks includes a host of history and culture. Take a walk to the **On-A-Slant Indian Village**, the reconstructed earthlodges of the Mandan Indians. Tour **The Custer House** the home of General George & Libbie Custer, commissary storehouse, granary and barracks and stables. **Five Nations Arts Depot** located in the restored Great Northern Railroad Depot and features authentic American Indian wares. A visit to the **North Dakota Capitol Building** is the 19-story Capitol Building, built in the early 1930s, often referred to as the “Skyscraper of the Prairie.” **North Dakota Heritage Center** is the State Museum and has one of the largest collections of Plains Indian artifacts, second only to the Smithsonian. For a relaxing evening take in the **Lewis & Clark Riverboat**. This paddle-wheeler features twin decks and a 70 foot-cabin and offers dinner cruises.

UNITED TRIBES TECHNICAL COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL POWWOW:

The Powwow is held annually in the Lone Star Arena at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, North Dakota and has become one of the premier cultural events of North Dakota, receiving numerous awards over the years. Representing over 70 tribes, featuring over 1500 dancers and drummers, and drawing over 20,000 spectators. The Powwow has become a must see event!

<http://www.unitedtribespowwow.com/>

Grand Entry Thursday – Saturday 7PM and Friday – Saturday 1PM and Sunday Noon

Day 5 – Medora Area (132 miles west of Bismarck on Interstate 94, exit 27)

HISTORIC MEDORA: Medora is the gateway to the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. 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 are bustling during the summer season. The **Chateau De Mores State Historic Site** elegant 26-room home was built in 1883 for the famous French nobleman who founded Medora. The **Medora Musical** offers a colorful production at the spectacular Burning Hills Amphitheater. The western entertainment and patriotic salute are included in each show. **Pitchfork Fondue** is a unique western steak meal served at the Tjaden Center on the bluffs overlooking Medora. **Cowboy Hall of Fame** centers around the documents of horse culture of the Northern Plains and offers entertainment daily, evening movies and a gift shop.

SOUTH UNIT THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK opens up to the North Dakota Badlands which provide the scenic backdrop to this park. It is named for the 26th President, it memorializes his contribution to conservation. Visitor’s center and Theodore Roosevelt’s cabin from the Maltese Cross Ranch are located at the entrance of the 36-mile loop. View the buffalo, deer, elk, big-horn sheep, wild horses, mule deer and prairie dog towns.

Other options:

- Trail rides through the Badlands on the marked trails or the Maah Daah Hey Trail
- Mountain biking through the Badlands on Maah Daah Hey Trail
- Hiking along trails through the Badlands to see nature and wildlife
- Canoeing through the Theodore Roosevelt National Park on the Little Missouri River.
- “Bully Pulpit” golf course – 18-hole golf course located in the Badlands of North Dakota

Day 6 - Depart for Deadwood (140 miles) via Spearfish Canyon Scenic Byway.

Deadwood, an Old West town started with the gold rush of 1876. Highlights in Deadwood include historic tours which depart from Main Street every hour in summer months which tell you the history and legends of characters such as Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane, Poker Alice and Potato Creek Johnny. Other highlights include the '76 Museum which contains the old buggies and wagons from early days, the Adams Museum, the historic Franklin Hotel with rooms named after those who stayed there and historic Main Street itself. Gaming was brought back in 1989, but has always been a part of Deadwood history. Tatanka: Story of the Bison commissioned by Kevin Costner, with an interpretive center and 17 larger than life bronze sculptures, including three Indian hunters on horseback chasing 14 rampaging bison off a cliff, the Adams Museum and House, Mount Moriah Cemetery - where Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane are buried, Saloon #10 - the only museum in a bar where Wild Bill Hickok was shot. In Lead there is Presidents Park, Black Hills Mining Museum and Homestake Visitor Center.

From Rapid City and travel to **Badlands National Park** via I-90 east to Exit 110 at Wall. Travel on Highway 240 (Badlands Loop Road), a state scenic byway through Badlands National Park, a 244,000 acre wilderness area formed during the Oligocene age. This fossil-laden sea bed offers spires, pinnacles and wide views. Stop at a few of the scenic overlooks to see the vistas. (1 ½ hours) Morning and evening are the best time for photo opportunities.

Tour the **Custer State Park** wildlife loop and watch for bison, pronghorn antelope, deer, elk, prairie dogs, coyotes, mountain goats and bighorn sheep in this 73,000 acres wildlife preserve that is the second largest state park in the U.S.

Overnight in Rapid City

DAY 7 – Drive to South Dakota

Tour **Mount Rushmore National Memorial**, offering a visitor center and museum, amphitheater used for the evening lighting ceremony in summer months, the presidential walking trails, gift shop and restaurant which serves 3 meals daily.

Depart Mount Rushmore for Crazy Horse Memorial via Highway 244 and Highway 385 S. You might catch a glimpse of mountain goats along the road as you depart Mount Rushmore.

Crazy Horse Memorial is the largest mountain carving taking place in the world at this time. The face has been completed and work has begun on the horse's head. First stop is the theater, where a short film will show you the progress and work on the carving. Also offered are the Indian Museum of North America, sculptor's home, gift shops and a restaurant which is open during summer months.

DAY 8

Arrive in Denver – overnight