

3 State Sample Itinerary

Gateway Denver – South Dakota – North Dakota- Minneapolis St. Paul

Itinerary suggestions

DAY 1

Arrive in Denver – overnight

DAY 2 – 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 3

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.

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.

DAY 4

Depart Deadwood early for Medora, North Dakota (140 miles) via Spearfish Canyon Scenic Byway.

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 5

Bismarck-Mandan Area

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

Overnight

Black Leg Ranch and Rolling Plains Adventures

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 6 – Depart for Fargo via Jamestown

Interstate 94 East (approximately 106 miles from Bismarck)

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.

Downtown Fargo-Moorhead - 1 hour 31 mins / 97.67 miles

Fargo Theatre is a 1926 Vintage movie palace and has a restored Wurlitzer pipe organ.

Plains Art Museum is one of the largest art museum between Minneapolis and Seattle offers three galleries for your enjoyment..

Fargo Air Museum features flyable aircraft exhibits include the F4-U Corsair, P 51 Mustang, Fairchild, Bell Helicopter and "Duggy – the Smile in the Sky" DC 3, and many more.

Scheels Largest All Sports Store In The World: Offers 88 Sports Specialty Shops, 4 Acres of gear and apparel to explore, 45-foot working Ferris wheel, Fudge shop, Starbucks, Deli and daily demonstrations

Overnight in Fargo

Day 7 - Fargo-Moorhead

Finish your shopping, visiting the numerous attractions, and, fun-things to see and do.

Travel to Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport - **3 hrs 55 mins / 249.24 miles**

Or if you have some time...

Day 8- 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 the **Mall of America**, the USA's largest hopping/entertainment center, beckons shoppers with 500 stores, restaurants, nightclubs, **Nickelodeon Universe** and **Minnesota Sea Life Aquarium** (4.0+ hrs).