EXPLORING THE LEWIS & CLARK TRAIL

North Dakota TOUR 3

"I heartily enjoy this life with its perfect freedom. There are few sensations I prefer to that of galloping over these rolling limitless prairies or winding my way among the barren fantastic and grimly picturesque deserts of the so called Badland…" — Theodore Roosevelt

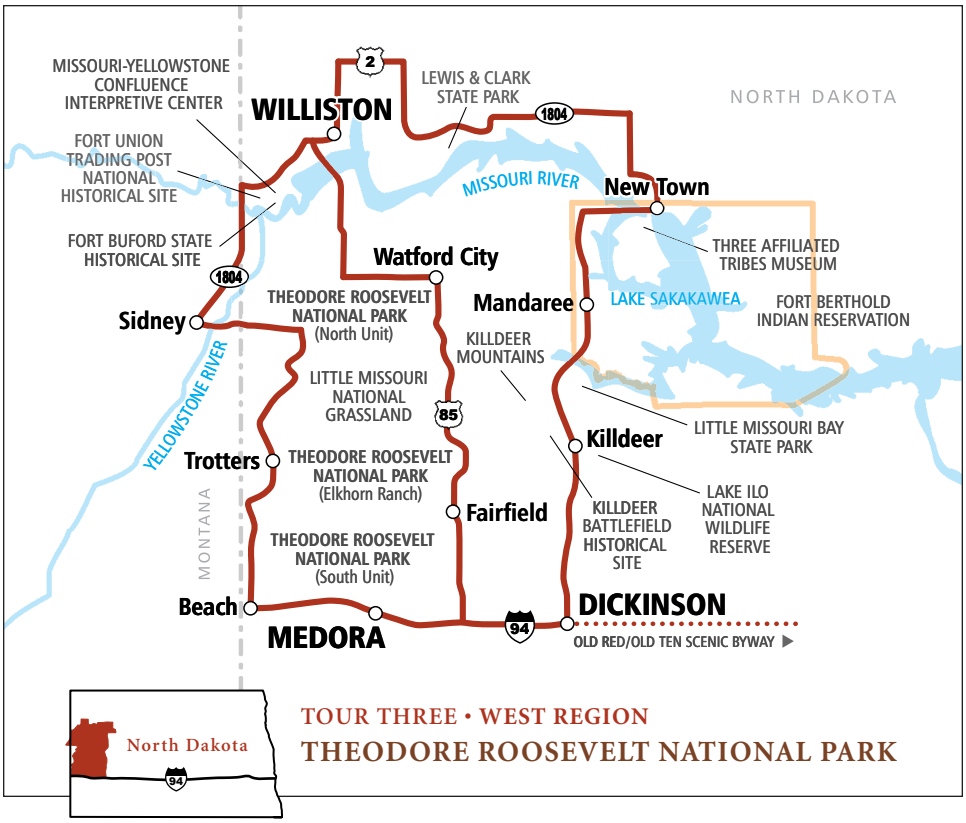
100 years ago Theodore Roosevelt found his perfect freedom in North Dakota. This vacation, you can, too!

Williston – US 2/US 85, ND 1804. Area attractions include the Frontier Museum complex in Williston that includes rural church, restored depot, a depot taxi and a country school.

Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site – Near Williston on ND 1804 at the North Dakota and Montana border. The Fort Union Trading Post was the principal trading post of the American Fur Company. The restored fort and the nearby Fort Buford State Historic Site and the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center bring alive the days of the fur trade near the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers.

GATEWAY TO THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK

North Unit – Visitors can journey off the Trail south from Williston on US 85 to Watford City which connects with the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, known for its fantastic multi-colored buttes, deep forests, and rugged canyons. The 14-mile Scenic Byway originating at the Park's Visitor Center leads to dazzling scenic overlooks, nature trails, and roadside pullouts where visitors can enjoy the rugged beauty of the butte formations. For more info, go to: www.nps.gov/thro/index.html.



The Maah Daah Hey Trail connects hikers and bikers with the **Theodore Roosevelt Elkhorn Ranch.** The trail is also accessible off of US 85 heading west from Fairfield over a gravel road suitable for RV's.

The popular **South Unit** off of I-94 at **Medora** offers a more wide-open view of free-ranging bison herds, antelope and prairie dog towns. A scenic loop tour leads visitors to an array of fantastic views. Trail riders on horseback can take it all in while viewing bison along viewscapes of the winding Little Missouri River.

Medora – Off of I-94. An Old West resort town at the South Entrance to the Park features the nightly Pitchfolk Fondue and the Medora Musical in the Burning Hills Amphitheater during summer months. Attractions include the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame, the Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, trail rides, "Teddy Roosevelt Salute to Medora" playing in the Old Town Hall Theater, a variety of lodging facilities including the historic Roughrider Hotel, the Harold Schafer Heritage Center, Billings County Museum, Historic Walking Tours, gift emporiums and a variety of dining and snack opportunities. The Painted Canyon Visitor Center is 7 miles east off of I-94 offers one of the most magnificent views of the Badlands. For more information, go to: www.medorand.com.

Dickinson – 34 miles east of the Park on I-94 offers an array of attractions for en route travelers including the Dickinson Museum Center, an 11-acre park with 11 historic buildings and the Joachim Museum. The Dinosaur Museum features 11 life-sized dinosaur skeletons, many excavated in south-west North Dakota. The Ukrainian Cultural Institute is a favorite of many visitors and Patterson Lake Recreation Area is nearby. For more information, go to: www.visitdickinson.com.

Old Red/Old Ten Scenic Byway – from Dickinson to Bismarck/Mandan parallels I-94 remembers the easy-going travel days before the interstate when visitors could take in all the roadside attractions. For more information, go to: www.oldredolten.com.

Hike and find your own "perfect freedom" in the beautiful Badlands of North Dakota

Photo Courtesy of the North Dakota Department of Commerce

For more information on the great attractions and parks along the Lewis and Clark Trail, go to:
lewisandclarkcountry.org

THIS PROJECT WAS FUNDED IN PART BY A GRANT FROM **THE LEWIS AND CLARK STEWARDSHIP ENDOWMENT**: A NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION BICENTENNIAL LEGACY PROJECT. FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION AT: WWW.LEWISANDCLARK.ORG | **ADDITIONAL FUNDING HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY:**

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Fort Mandan Foundation fortmandan.com
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation lewisandclark.org
National Park Service Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail nps.gov/lecl