Exploring North Dakota’s National Treasures

There are three national park service sites in North Dakota. Each is a unique experience; each protects and preserves a different aspect of American natural and cultural history; and each is an adventure to remember.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park
Comprised of three units: the North Unit, the South Unit, and the Elkhorn Ranch Unit, Theodore Roosevelt National Park stretches across 70,456 acres of western North Dakota. It preserves an area of land that profoundly affected President Theodore Roosevelt and is a beacon for nature lovers and outdoor enthusiasts. Abundant wildlife, scenic drives, and miles of trails await your arrival. Turn to page 2 to learn more!

Fort Union Trading Post NHS
Not your standard fort - Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site is a must for anyone with an interest in Early American History. Built not as a government or military post, but rather for trade, Fort Union has seen the likes of George Catlin, Karl Bodmer, John James Audubon, and Prince Maximilian. Great tribal leaders from many of the nations that traded here have also graced this Fort. Come for a visit and walk in their footsteps. Special events throughout the year make history come alive. Turn to page 14 to learn more!

Knife River Indian Villages NHS
Located on the Knife River directly north of its confluence with the Missouri River, though Hidatsa and Mandan hunted bison and other game, they were primarily farmers living in villages along the Missouri and its tributaries. The site was a major American Indian trade center for hundreds of years prior to becoming an important marketplace for fur traders after 1750. Today, visitors can see the archeological remains of earthlodge villages and experience the landscape where Lewis and Clark met Sakakawea on their journey west. Turn to page 15 to learn more!

Elkhorn Ranch
The Elkhorn was the “home ranch” of Theodore Roosevelt while he cowboied in the Dakota Badlands. It was here, Roosevelt said, “...the romance of my life began.” Although the home no longer stands, the site of the ranch house is protected and available for visitors to enjoy today just as Theodore Roosevelt did in the 1880s. Take a trip out and see why this area had such a profound impact on a future U.S. President. Turn to page 5 to learn more!

Wander through the remains of an ancient forest. Remote and protected, this is the third most important collection of petrified wood in North America. Just a short visit here can offer insight into the past, instill wonder, inspire questions, and spark a desire to learn more about the geologic forces still at work in the badlands. A 30 minute drive and a 3 mile hike are all that is required for this incredible journey. Turn to page 5 to learn more!

Hiking Guide
With over 95 miles of trails in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, there is plenty of opportunity to get out and truly explore the North Dakota Badlands. Detailed hiking maps and descriptions will help you choose the right adventure. For your safety, be sure you and someone not hiking with you know where you are going and how long you plan to be out. Hike prepared. Always carry water and a hat. The Hiking Guide is located on pages 7-10.

Hiking Guide

Summer Program Schedule
Jr. Ranger & Night Sky Programs
Fort Union NHS
Knife River Indian Villages NHS
TRNHA & Area Map

Welcome to the North Dakota National Parks
Whether you are seeking to encounter a piece of American history, take a glimpse into the life of a former president, or enjoy wildlife in their natural habitat, the North Dakota National Parks have something for you. Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site all provide opportunities to experience important chapters of the American story.

The vast North Dakota prairies, rivers, and badlands are home to a wide variety of native wildlife such as bison, elk, bighorn sheep, and golden eagles. The Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site is a must for anyone with an interest in Early American History. Built not as a government or military post, but rather for trade, Fort Union has seen the likes of George Catlin, Karl Bodmer, John James Audubon, and Prince Maximilian. Great tribal leaders from many of the nations that traded here have also graced this Fort. Come for a visit and walk in their footsteps. Special events throughout the year make history come alive. Turn to page 14 to learn more!

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Plan Your Visit

RESTITUTION

Welcome to Theodore Roosevelt National Park! There are three park visitor centers where you can obtain information and maps. The North Unit Visitor Center located at the park entrance in Medora, and Painted Canyon Visitor Center at exit 32 on I-94. There are NO RESTROOMS available along the scenic drives.

In case of an emergency, practice Leave No Trace Principles. Leaving toilet paper behind is considered litter and could result in a $500 fine.

ACCESSIBILITY

The park’s developed areas are accessible. Service dogs are permitted on leash in developed areas.

There are NO RESTROOMS available along the scenic drives.

How Can I Stay Safe?

HEAT & DEHYDRATION

The prairie is often hotter and drier than what you may be used to. Heat and heat exhaustion are common dangers that can be avoided with adequate preparation. Carry and drink water at least 1 gallon per person per day. Always wear a hat.

BENTONITE CLAY

When it rains here, soft clays become the predominant feature. Mud in the North Dakota Badlands has been known to turn into a lake and create a trudge for survival, fatly trap horses, and sink the tires of vehicles. Always be aware of the forecast before heading out for adventure.

WILDFIRE

Fire sensitivities happen when visitors disturb the wildfire. If you see a fire in the distance, never approach or touch it. Bison are known to charge people who disturb them.

Look before you reach it. If bitten by a rattlesnake, call a park ranger or contact a ranger. While deaths are extremely rare, medical treatment is almost always necessary.

THUNDERSTORMS

Lightning kills more people each year than any other weather event. On the Great Plains, severe thunderstorms are a common summer experience. If thunderheads begin to develop, consider moving toward a vehicle or enclosed shelter. Lightning storms do not protect against lightning.

In the case of a tornado, the best shelter is inside a sturdy building away from windows. If a building is not available, go to the basement or a ditch or low area and cover your head.

HORSEBACK RIDING

Backcountry trails throughout the park are open to horse riders. Stock are not prohibited on trails and in all campgrounds except the Painted Canyon Camp. Boarding is available at Peaceful Valley Ranch. Campers must be at least 1/4 mile from a road or trailhead and out of sight of roads and trails. Your campsite must be at least 100 feet from any water. The maximum group size is 8 people without horses and 8 people with horses.

Additional backcountry regulations apply. Please visit our website or visitor centers for more information.

What Can I Do Here?

CAMPING

Campgrounds have restrooms, drinking water, picnic tables, and fire grates.

There are no showers. Limited shelter facilities are available in the communities of Medora and Watford City.

GUESTแ ROOMS

R安倍�

Sleeps are conducted from Peaceful Valley Ranch in the South Unit by a private concessionaire. Restrooms are offered daily from late May through early September. For more information call (701) 643-4568.

WATERTRANS

The Little Missouri River is usually navigable from mid-April through June. A river depth of less than 1 mile at Medora is required for fair boating and 2.5-3 feet for good boating. Depths can be checked at the visitor centers and online.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

The park is open to backcountry camping, free permits are required and are available at park visitor centers.

Hiking

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PETS

Shaded picnic areas are available in all federal fee areas. Pets are not allowed in the backcountry, except in dog parks. Campgrounds have pet waste bags available.

Fire grates. Water, picnic tables, restrooms, drinking water, camping and fire grates. There are no showers. Limited shelter facilities are available in the communities of Medora and Watford City.

Recreation Rangers are responsible for protecting the park and the visitors who come here. They patrol, write tickets, and have full authority as Federal Law Enforcement Officers. You may see them in their marked trucks patrolling the road, swimming the campground, or hiking in the trail in the backcountry.

Will We Lose Our Trees?

Fifty percent of the hardwood trees in Theodore Roosevelt National Park are ash trees. A small green beetle from Asia, the Emerald Ash Borer, is threatening their existence. From 2002 through 2014, this insect has spread to 21 states, as well as to Ontario and Quebec. It has been responsible for the deaths of more than 5.9 billion ash trees in the U.S. This insect has the potential to eliminate ash from North America,” says Michael Brown of the USDA. “It attacks all species of ash and it kills 100 percent of what it contacts. If humans don’t stop helping this beetle spread, it could reach every state.”

Drying

Obey posted speed limits. In most areas where you can obtain a view of the park, the posted speed is 45 MPH. Never stop or park on or near the road to protect resources, please use pullouts and turn off your car while parked. Federal law enforcement officials have the authority to arrest you for a violation.

Bicycling

Bicycles may only travel on roads or trails, including sections of the Maah Daah Hey Trail. They are not allowed off roadway on or trails, including sections of the Maah Daah Hey Trail. Most light vehicles are prohibited.

Collecting dead and down wood is allowed so you can build your own camp fire. Collecting wood outside of the campground is prohibited. Destruction or injury to standing trees is prohibited. It is illegal to possess firewood for a state park.

Read "Will We Lose Our Trees?" on the next page to find out why.

COLLECTING/DEFACING

National Features of the park are protected. This includes, but is not limited to, wildlife, cultural artifacts, rocks, soil, plants, shed antlers, and animal bones.

Collecting of these items is prohibited. In addition, graffiti including carving initials in rocks or wood is illegal.

Help us keep the park clean, safe, and beautiful for ourselves and all of those who come after us.

Wildlife truly is Wild

Theodore Roosevelt National Park is a place where you can see the Great American Bison in action. It is home to a wide variety of native animals that generally live in human isolation. They are not tame. For your safety, remember that these animals are truly wild and should be regarded as such.

WHAT WE ASK

Bois, bison, and prairie dogs are common. Elk, pronghorn, and bighorn sheep are harder to spot. Careful eyes may find animals such as badgers and coyotes. Only the lucky few see mountain lions and bison. Wildfire. Check out page 6.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Do the right thing and don’t disturb the bison. They are not tame. For your safety, remember that these animals are truly wild. They are not tame.

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The Elkhorn Ranch today. A local rancher of the time, J.H. Reid, stated that by 1901, “...every scrap of the ranch had disappeared with the exception of a couple of half rotted foundations.”

Getting There
From the South Unit, it is a 30 minute drive to the trailhead. High-clearance vehicle recommended. Check road conditions at the visitor center.

1. Begin your journey west-bound on I-94.
2. Turn right onto FH 2. Continue past the Elkhorn Campground until you reach the Elkhorn Ranch Parking Area, approximately 3 miles.
3. The site of the ranch house is on your right, 3/4 mile from this point.

The Elkhorn Ranch & Petrified Forest

Elkhorn Ranch & Petrified Forest

Maah Daah Hey Trail (pronounced ma da hey)

The hike to Petrified Forest is approximately 3 miles round-trip, out and back. If you follow the whole loop, be prepared for a 10 mile hike!

Attention: The hike to Petrified Forest is approximately 3 miles round-trip, out and back. If you follow the whole loop, be prepared for a 10 mile hike! Some forests were buried by flood deposits or volcanic ash falls. When silica-rich water soaked into the trees, organic compounds in the wood were dissolved and replaced by very small crystals of quartz. This is petrification. Theodore Roosevelt National Park has the third most important collection of petrified wood in North America. No roads lead to this area, keeping it remote and well preserved. Head out for an adventure of discovery! A three mile round-trip hike will have you strolling through the remains of this ancient forest.

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The north end of the 101-mile trail winds south, connecting seven campgrounds and all three units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It ends south of Medora.

The trail is generally open to horseback riders, hikers, and bicyclists. However, bicycles are not allowed on trails within the National Park, so an alternate route bypassing the South Unit is provided.

For more information visit www.mdhtr.com or www.dakotacyclery.com. Let the adventure begin!

Maah Daah Hey Trail

IN THE MANDAN LANGUAGE THE trail name means “an area that has been or will be around for a long time.” In the adventure world, it is simply legendary.

The north end of the 10s-mile trail begins at the US Forest Service CCC Campground, located 10 miles south of Watford City, north of the Unit of the park. From there, the trail winds south, connecting seven campgrounds and all three units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It ends south of Medora.

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Historic Open-Range Demonstration Herds

Feral Horses
The park’s horses are considered feral because they are descendants of domestic stock. They are often spotted on the east side of the South Unit. Free roaming and completely independent of human care, these horses provide the opportunity to experience a piece of wild American spirit that was common to Theodore Roosevelt’s era but is increasingly rare today.

Longhorn Steers
In 184, 400 longhorns were driven from Texas on the Long X Trail to what is now the North Unit of the park. Since 1885, the park has maintained a small demonstration herd to commemorate the cattle operations of the 1880’s. The herd is comprised of steers, which are males that cannot reproduce. They are often seen in the sagebrush flats near the North Unit’s “Longhorn Pullout.”

Other Possible Wildlife Sightings

Pronghorn
Pronghorns may be spotted near the north boundary of the South Unit. Not a deer or an antelope, this animal is in a family all its own. Its horns are not horns or antlers but something in between. While other antelopes may leap over fences, the pronghorn crawls underneath. Look for this fastest animal in North America with top speeds reaching 50 – 60 MPH.

Bighorn Sheep
Bighorn sheep blend so well into the dry rugged land of the west. They have a distinctively different gait from the graceful leaps of white-tailed deer. When startled, a male bighorn will move in a series of stiff-legged jumps with all four feet hitting the ground together. This gait allows the deer to out-distance predators in rough terrain. Look for them in open areas at dawn and dusk.

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The Big Six Wildlife Checklist

Historic Open-Range Demonstration Herds

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### North Unit Map

- **Legend**:
  - U.S. Highway
  - Park Scenic Drive
  - Other Park Road
  - Other Road
  - Park Boundary
  - Wilderness Boundary
  - Park Trail
  - Maah Daah Hey Trail (Miles between points)
  - Visitor Center
  - Campground
  - Picnic Area
  - Backcountry Trailhead
  - Spring or Well

- **Keys to Hiking Guide**
  - Easy to Moderate

### South Unit Map

- **Legend**:
  - Interstate Hwy
  - Park Scenic Drive
  - Other Park Road
  - Other Road
  - Park Boundary
  - Wilderness Boundary
  - Park Trail
  - Maah Daah Hey Trail (Miles between points)
  - Visitor Center
  - Campground
  - Picnic Area
  - Point of Interest
  - Guided Trail Rides
  - Backcountry Trailhead
  - Spring or Well

- **Keys to Hiking Guide**
  - Easy to Moderate

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**CAUTION**

Burning coal veins exist off-trail in the North Unit’s backcountry. Coal veins can burn at temperatures above 1000°F – hot enough to melt rock. Ground around these areas is extremely unstable. For your safety, stay away from smoking ground and report any suspected fire activity to the visitor center. These areas have been closed by order of the Superintendent.

**NAVIGATION**

While these maps are sufficient for short day hikes, topographic maps purchased at park visitor centers are recommended for longer hikes. Note that trail names have changed in recent years and may not be updated on commercial maps. We suggest taking this map along with a topographic map when heading out into the backcountry.
Visiting the wilderness and backcountry areas of Theodore Roosevelt National Park is fun and exciting, but should not be taken lightly. The Visitor Guide

Facts About Wilderness

- President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law in 1964.
- The world’s first wilderness is the Gila Wilderness, established in 1924.
- Over 750 wilderness areas are in the United States, covering 110 million acres.
- The newest wilderness is the Sleeping Bear Dunes Wilderness in Michigan, established in 2014.
- The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, signed by President Jimmy Carter in 1980, added over 56 million acres of wilderness to the system, that can reveal its mystery, its melancholy, and its charm.”

Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness

Established in 1978 and comprising 29,920 acres, the Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness is located in both the North and South Units of the park at the heart of the North Dakota badlands. This landscape fascinated our 26th president and served as a place of solace, healing, and rejuvenation at a devastating time in his life. “Here is where the romance of my life began,” he wrote. The Theodore Roosevelt National Park would like to extend a huge “Thank You” to our partners and volunteers who have given their time or raised funds in support of the park’s mission. In this fiscally challenging time, outside support is becoming increasingly vital to our efforts to preserve and protect this special place.

Volunteers in Parks (VIPS) are involved in many facets of park management, maintenance of the native garden, upkeep of trails and facilities, preservation and archiving of historic documents, staffing special events, working in visitor centers and campgrounds, and completing projects. They have donated over 46,000 hours of service in the past 5 years to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. To join the effort, contact Laura Thomas at Laura_H_Thomas@nps.gov.

Prep for your “Taste of the Wilderness” hike

- Be sure to bring the 10 Essentials listed in the next box.
- Make sure you have everything you’ll need and will use your gear

Always carry the 10 Essentials

- High Energy Food and Plenty of Water (at least 1 gallon per person, per day)
- Navigation (topographic map, compass, and/or GPS)
- First Aid (including mole skin and insect repellent)
- Light Source (with extra batteries)
- Sleeping Bag or Blanket
- Communication (whistle, mirror, and/or cell phone)
- Knife (emergency blanket)

April 10 – 21
May 22 – June 2
June 6 – 19
June 23 – 27
July 6 – 18
July 22 – August 5
August 9 – 22
September 6 – 23
October 7 – 20
November 7 – 20

WANT TO GET YOUR CLASS INVOLVED? CALL ANY OF THESE PARKS OR VISIT THEIR WEBSITES!

Theodore Roosevelt National Park
701-624-4466
www.nps.gov/thro

Fort Union Trading Post NHS
701-624-9067
www.nps.gov/fou

WANT TO JOIN A PARK STOREBOOK OR ONLINE AT WWW.TRNHA.ORG.

Volunteers in Parks (VIPS)

Volunteers in Parks (VIPS) are involved in many facets of park management, maintenance of the native garden, upkeep of trails and facilities, preservation and archiving of historic documents, staffing special events, working in visitor centers and campgrounds, and completing projects. They have donated over 46,000 hours of service in the past 5 years to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. To join the effort, contact Laura Thomas at Laura_H_Thomas@nps.gov.

Volunteers in Parks (VIPS)

Volunteering in Theodore Roosevelt National Park is fun and exciting, but should not be taken lightly. The backcountry environment can be deceptive physically and mentally challenging, regardless of your chosen activity. You can’t always predict what you’ll encounter in the park, but some careful planning can help you enjoy a safe and enjoyable experience.

Exploring Wilderness Safely

1. WHO’S YOUR BUDDY? Leave your itinerary with a trusted friend or family member who is not travelling with you, in case you become overdue.

2. KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW...AND WHAT YOU DON’T. When picking up your backcountry camping permit, talk with park staff about terrain, current trail conditions, and possible hazards.

3. CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT. Make sure you have everything you need before you hit the trail. Make a list and check it twice.

4. KNOW THYSELF. Be honest about your knowledge and physical ability. Do not attempt a trail when you’re capable of.

5. DRINK WATER. Water is your friend: drink lots before and during your trip. If you wait until you’re thirsty, you’re already becoming dehydrated. Avoid drinking alcohol, caffeine, or sugary beverages before and during your trip. Carry at least one gallon of water/person/day. Backcountry water sources are high in sediment and are not recommended for filtering.

6. COTTON IS ROTTEN. Cotton absorbs water and sweat and does not dry quickly. Avoid wearing it. Wool or polypropylene are better.

7. WHAT’S YOUR ROUTE? Be familiar with your intended route before you take off. Some of the park’s trails, particularly in the North Unit, can become hidden by vegetation during wet years and some wildlife trails can appear to be hiking trails. A GPS unit can be handy (if it’s charged), but a good map and compass will never fail you!

8. GET A CURRENT WEATHER FORECAST. Park staff can help you with this when you get your backcountry permit.

9. ARRIVE EARLY AND RESTED. Give yourself plenty of daylight and be well rested.

10. STAY AWAY from cliffs, sinkhole edges, and burning coal veins.

11. BE AWARE OF HAZARDOUS PLANTS AND WILDLIFE. When getting your backcountry permit, talk with staff about the natives.

12. CARRY THE 10 ESSENTIALS listed on the next page.

Attention Teachers!

Attention Teachers!

Explore 50 Years of Wilderness

“in order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.”

Wilderness Act of 1964

When Europeans first came to North America, they encountered a continent which was unlike any of the places they left behind. It seemed foreign, threatening, and intimidating. They felt the need to conquer it. It took less than 500 years to turn the 2 billion acres of no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and

Visiting the wilderness and backcountry areas of Theodore Roosevelt National Park is fun and exciting, but should not be taken lightly. The Visitor Guide

Facts About Wilderness

- President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law in 1964.
- The world’s first wilderness is the Gila Wilderness, established in 1924.
- The largest wilderness is the Wupatki-St. Elias in Alaska.
- Over 750 wilderness areas are in the United States, covering 110 million acres.
- 5% of the U.S. is designated wilderness, over half of which is in Alaska.
- The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, signed by President Jimmy Carter in 1980, added over 95 million acres of wilderness to the system, the greatest single increase in wilderness acreage with one stroke of a pen.
- President Ronald Reagan signed more wilderness protection laws in 1986 than any other president to date.
- The newest wilderness is the Sleeping Bear Dunes Wilderness in Michigan, established in 2014.

Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness

“There are no words that can tell the hidden spirit of the wilderness, that can reveal its mystery, its melancholy, and its charm.”

Theodore Roosevelt

Established in 1978 and comprising 29,920 acres, the Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness is located in both the North and South Units of the park at the heart of the North Dakota badlands. This landscape fascinated our 26th president and served as a place of solace, healing, and rejuvenation at a devastating time in his life. “Here is where the romance of my life began,” he wrote. The Theodore Roosevelt National Park would like to extend a huge “Thank You” to our partners and volunteers who have given their time or raised funds in support of the park’s mission. In this fiscally challenging time, outside support is becoming increasingly vital to our efforts to preserve and protect this special place.

Volunteers in Parks (VIPS) are involved in many facets of park management, maintenance of the native garden, upkeep of trails and facilities, preservation and archiving of historic documents, staffing special events, working in visitor centers and campgrounds, and completing projects. They have donated over 46,000 hours of service in the past 5 years to Theodore Roosevelt National Park. To join the effort, contact Laura Thomas at Laura_H_Thomas@nps.gov.

Prep for your “Taste of the Wilderness” hike

- Be sure to bring the 10 Essentials listed in the next box.
- Make sure you have everything you’ll need and will use your gear

Always carry the 10 Essentials

- High Energy Food and Plenty of Water (at least 1 gallon per person, per day)
- Navigation (topographic map, compass, and/or GPS)
- First Aid (including mole skin and insect repellent)
- Clothing extra layer, rain gear, extra socks, and bulky hiking boots
- Light Source (with extra batteries)
- Sleeping Bag or Blanket
- Communication (whistle, mirror, and/or cell phone)
- Knife (emergency blanket)

April 10 – 21
May 22 – June 2
June 6 – 19
June 23 – 27
July 6 – 18
July 22 – August 5
August 9 – 22
September 6 – 23
October 7 – 20
November 7 – 20

WANT TO GET YOUR CLASS INVOLVED? CALL ANY OF THESE PARKS OR VISIT THEIR WEBSITES!

Theodore Roosevelt National Park
701-624-4466
www.nps.gov/thro

Fort Union Trading Post NHS
701-624-9067
www.nps.gov/fou

What can students experience? At Knife River Indian Villages NHS, they might enter an earth lodge or see the remains of a village along the Knife River. A wireless system allows rangers to broadcast from prescribed fires, archeological work, and other special events. At Theodore Roosevelt National Park, students might take a tour of Theodore Roosevelt’s Maltese Cross Cabin or learn about North Dakota’s dark night sky. The possibilities are endless!
**Family Fun Packs and Discovery Packs**

**Did You Notice a Wildflower You Couldn’t Identify? Have You Been Squinting at Eagles Soaring at the Badlands?** Join the Northern Sky Astronomical Society for a tour of the universe, the Badlands, and local landmarks. These packs are available to everyone and every age group.

**Family Fun Packs**
- **Available to everyone and every age group**
- **Must be returned during visitor center open hours.**
- **A credit card or driver's license is required for checkout.**
- **Must be returned during visitor center open hours.**
- **Available to everyone and every age group.

**Discovery Packs**
- **Available to everyone and every age group**
- **Must be returned during visitor center open hours.**
- **A credit card or driver's license is required for checkout.**
- **Available to everyone and every age group.**

**How Do We Do It?**

**Junior Ranger Field Journal**

**Be a Junior Ranger!**

**Junior Rangers are an elite class of young park enthusiasts. They dedicate their time and energy to the protection and care of National Parks.** These programs are designed to help you learn about the natural and cultural history of the places you visit. There are over 400 units of the National Park System. See how many badges you can collect!

**How Do We Do It?**

Report to your nearest visitor center and receive a free activity booklet. Complete the activities specified for your age group and you will be sworn in and awarded a badge. Most programs can be completed as little as half a day.

**Collect Them All in North Dakota:**
- Theodore Roosevelt NP
- Knife River Indian Villages
- Night Prowls
- Junior Rangers at Fort Union Trading Post NHS
- Junior Paleontologist at Theodore Roosevelt NP

One family takes collecting in Ranger badges very seriously!

**Half the Park is After Dark**

**Have you ever seen the Milky Way pouring across a jet black sky or cast a moon shadow on the face of a pale white butt?** How about the stars? What if you missed the full moon? Join us as we explore and celebrate the dark side of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Activities are free and open to all!

**Full Moon Hikes**
- **Free tickets are required and available at the South Unit Visitor Center.**
- **Drop-in is not accepted.**
- **A credit card and driver's license is required for checkout.**
- **Must be returned during visitor center open hours.**
- **Available to everyone and every age group.**

**Night Prowl and Star Viewing**
- **Junior Ranger Field Journal**
- **Available to everyone and every age group**
- **Must be returned during visitor center open hours.**
- **A credit card or driver's license is required for checkout.**
- **Available to everyone and every age group.**

**Badlands Star Party (North Unit)**

**August 22-23, 2014**

**Join the Northern Sky Astronomical Society for a tour of the universe, telescopes, and solar scopes! Call 701-842-9071 to learn more.**

**Dakota Nights, An Astronomy Festival — September 19-21, 2014**

**Astronomers, Rangers, and Historians come together for a three-day festival celebrating North Dakota’s dark skies and rich heritage. Visit our website to learn more.**

[www.nps.gov/thro]
Fort Union Trading Post NHS

**WELCOME TO FORT UNION TRADING POST**

**National Historic Site.** A trip to Fort Union takes you back in time to the mid-19th century, the heyday of Fort Union and the fur trade on the Upper Missouri River. Fort Union Trading Post was the most important fur trading post on the upper Missouri from 1828 to 1865. At this post, the Assiniboine, Crow, Cree, Ojibway, Blackfeet, Hidatsa, and other tribes traded buffalo robes and other furs for trade goods such as cloth, guns, blankets, knives, cockades, and beads.

**EXPLORING THE POST**

This partially reconstructed trading post serves as a stage for living history interpretation. During the summer, various fur trade personnel are portrayed. Walk in the steps of many famous individuals from several countries and cultures such as Kenneth McKenzie, Alexander & Natawista Culbertson, George Catlin, Father Pierre DeMet, John James Audubon, Sitting Bull, Karl Bodmer, and Jim Bridger.

**AVAILABILITY ACTIVITIES**

- Use the self-guiding map to tour the reconstructed fort.
- Visit the visitor center, museum, and bookstore.
- Junior Trader program for kids.
- Watch various films on Fort Union and the fur trade, including *Firearms of the 1830s,* *The Buffalo Robe,* and *Mysteries of the Archeological Collection,* and more!
- Experience the Reconstructed Trade House where living history programs are conducted in the summer.
- Bodmer Overlook hiking trail (open seasonally).

**BODMER TRAIL**

This two mile trail climbs to the point where in 1835, Karl Bodmer sketched images of Fort Union, Assiniboine Indians, and the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers. The trail passes through the historic ruins of the short-lived railroad town of Mondonak and some privately owned pasture land. Please make sure to close all gates while hiking. The parking area and trailhead are on the north side of the highway. Ask for a Bodmer Trail Guide at the visitor center.

**TRADE HOUSE**

Our costumed interpreters transport you back to 1835 in the most important building at Fort Union. The Trade House is located between the Fort gates through the south entrance. When tribes came to trade, the main trading sessions were done here. Come learn the stories and history of this unique place.

**Hiking Guide**

**Hiking Trail**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round-Trip Time &amp; Distance</th>
<th>Trail Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Village Trail</strong></td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 mi / 2.1 km</td>
<td>3rd Annual Knap-In Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>North Forest Trail</strong></td>
<td>2 – 3 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 mi / 8.0 km</td>
<td>3rd Annual Knap-In Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Two Rivers Trail</strong></td>
<td>3 – 4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2 mi / 10 km</td>
<td>3rd Annual Knap-In Event</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Knif River Indian Villages NHS**

**WELCOME TO KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES**

**National Historic Site.** Where history comes alive. By touring our visitor center, you can learn about Northern Great Plains Indian culture as well as native plants and animals. Stroll through the museum and enjoy a 20 minute film describing life in an Indian Village from the perspective of Masidiewic. Step back in time as you walk through the remains of village sites.

**RANGER PROGRAMS**

Take your park experience to a whole new level! Ranger Programs are available Memorial Day through Labor Day. Programs are free and visitors of all ages are welcome.

**MORE FUN**

Discovery Packs containing bird guides, binoculars, magnifying glasses, and a pack of wildflower cards are available for checkout at the visitor center. Free!

Jr. Ranger Booklets are available for kids 6-12. For ages 3-5, Jr. Ranger Booklets are available. Return them to the visitor center to receive your badge or button. Turn to page 9 to learn more.

**Knife River Indian Villages NHS**

**2014 Schedule of Events**

**Spring Photography-in-the-Field Workshop**

May 10
Whether you are a professional or you are just getting started, join our group for the practical application of photography lessons. All camera formats are welcome – from “point and shoot,” to digital SLR, to film. Workshop hours are 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM CDT.

**3rd Annual Knap-In**

June 21
Join Fort knappers as they demonstrate their skills in creating arrowhead, knives, and other tools. Event hours are 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM CDT.

**Hands on History Series**

July 10, 17, 24, & 31
Learn about pottery, quillwork, and other topics. Come and join us at any part of the hands-on activities.

**Kids’ Camp**

Aug 4, 11, 18, & 25
Tuesday in July, children ages 6 to 12 can participate in special activities at the park. Each Tuesday focuses on a different theme. Sign up for one or all four weeks. During the month of June, there will be two activities per week. In the kids’ camp, you must call at least one week in advance. Please reserve your space in advance by calling 701-785-3300.

**Music for the Villages**

Aug 13
Enjoy Native American music performed by traditional artists.

**Fall Photography-in-the-Field Workshop**

September 27
Whether you are a professional or you are just getting started, join our group for the practical application of photography lessons. All camera formats are welcome – from “point and shoot,” to digital SLR, to film. Workshop hours are 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM CDT.

**Visitor Guide**

**Knife River Indian Villages NHS**

**Superintendent** Wendy Ross

**Address** Knife River Indian Villages NHS

P.O. Box 9

564 County Road 37

Stanley, North Dakota 58871

**Hours of Operation**

Visitor Center Daily 8:00 am – 6:30 pm, CT

**Website** www.nps.gov/knri

**Admission** Free.

**EMERGENCY** Dial 911 or visit a uniformed park employee

**Visitor Center**

10 Kilometers

200

Village Trail

Two Rivers Trail

1.3 mi / 2.1 km

5 mi / 8.0 km

2 – 3 hours

3 – 4 hours

6.2 mi / 10 km

701-796-3000

**Mailing Address**

Knife River Indian Villages NHS

P.O. Box 9

564 County Road 37

Stanley, North Dakota 58871

**Park Information & Lost and Found**

701-785-3300

**Directions**

From Williston, North Dakota, take Highway 1806 north 25 miles to Route 119. Turn right and proceed 5.5 miles to route 226. Turn left and proceed 1.3 miles to 307. Turn right and proceed 2 miles to the Knife River Indian Villages NHS.

**Accessibility**

Visitors participating in summer events at Knife River Indian Villages NHS.
Supporting our National Parks

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR WAYS TO HELP SUPPORT THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK OR Knife River Indian Villages National Historic site in their efforts to preserve and protect spectacular natural and cultural features? We recommend visiting one of our park bookstores! Any purchase you make helps to support the National Park Service. Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association takes great pride in its ability to provide assistance to our natural areas throughout North Dakota.

The Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association was established in 1951 as a non-federal, nonprofit organization governed by a volunteer board of directors. Over the years, TRNHA has donated approximately $900,000 to be used for various educational activities and research projects. Funds are raised by the sale of maps, books, and interpretive merchandise in bookstores located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park’s three visitor centers, at Knife River Indian Villages NHS, and at Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge.

The funds raised by TRNHA have been used to support interpretive and visitor service activities including the printing of trail guides, junior ranger booklets, informational handouts, and site-specific publications. The Association has also supported the parks by funding research projects, park libraries, and Student Conservation Association interns. They brought tens of thousands of new jobs to the area making North Dakota - a formation called the Bakken, which is rich with oil reserves. Until recently, the oil was not extractable. A new and controversial technique – hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” – has allowed oil companies to recover the old oil fields and their daily oil production in the last five years. This huge influx of activity has brought tens of thousands of new jobs to the area making North Dakota the ‘land of opportunity’ for many.

But what does this mean for our parks? It’s important to realize that the land area of all three parks combined makes up less than 1% of the area known as the Bakken Oil Field. These tiny islands of natural landscape are being surrounded by development. New wells are going in every month; many can be seen from inside park boundaries. Each new well means another drill rig, well pad, pumpjack, debris pit, flare pit, storage tanks, and access road on the landscape. Each new well requires 2000 “trucking events” to complete its setup and to begin pumping oil. Noise and dust from heavy truck traffic and pumping equipment is constant. Numerous flares can be seen in the formerly dark night sky as excess natural gas is burned off. The oil boom begs a difficult question: how can we develop our resources while still protecting our parks and wildlife?

Surprised by the amount of truck traffic in the area? Can’t find the sleepy cowboy towns you remember? The reason for all of the changes you will see lies two miles below the surface of western North Dakota - a formation called the Bakken, which is rich with oil reserves. Until recently, the oil was not extractable. A new and controversial technique – hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” – has allowed oil companies to recover the old oil fields and their daily oil production in the last five years. This huge influx of activity has brought tens of thousands of new jobs to the area making North Dakota the ‘land of opportunity’ for many.

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Join us for a Teddy Bear Picnic in the South Unit Visitor Center on July 10, 2014! For more information visit: www.trnha.org