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 preserves an area of land that profoundly affected President Theodore Roosevelt. The park 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 was 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
Is located on the Knife River directly north of its confluence with the Missouri River. 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!
**Plan Your Visit**

**INFORMATION**
Welcome to Theodore Roosevelt National Park! There are three park visitor centers where you can obtain information and maps: visitor centers are located near the entrances of the North and South Units as well as at exit 12 on I-94 (Painted Canyon Unit). The North Unit and Painted Canyon visitor centers are open seasonally.

**RESTROOMS**
Restrooms are accessible in all campgrounds, and picnic areas. There are NO RESTROOMS available along the scenic drives.

**ACCESSIBILITY**
The park’s developed areas are accessible. Service dogs are permitted on leash in developed areas and on the Little Mo, Moirocourt, Skyline, Vista, Wind Canyon, and Buck Hill trails only. The South Unit Visitor Center film offers captions. Call the park’s accessible telephone to assist with toilet and assistive listening devices.

**EMERGENCY**
Dial 911 or contact a uniformed employee.

**THUNDERSTORMS**
On the Great Plains, severe thunderstorms are common in summer. If thunderheads begin to develop, get into a vehicle or enclosed shelter. Overhangs do not protect against lightning.

**HEAT & DEHYDRATION**
Dehydration 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 carry and drink water: at least 1 gallon per person per day. Always carry and drink water: at least 1 gallon per person per day. Always carry and drink water: at least 1 gallon per person per day. Always carry and drink water: at least 1 gallon per person per day. Always carry and drink water: at least 1 gallon per person per day. Always carry and drink water: at least 1 gallon per person per day. Always carry and drink water: at least 1 gallon per person per day. Always carry and drink water: at least 1 gallon per person per day. Always carry and drink water: at least 1 gallon per person per day. Always carry and drink water: at least 1 gallon per person per day.

**WATERCRAFT**
The Little Missouri River is usually navigable from mid-April through June. A river depth at least from less than a foot to several feet. Depths can be checked at the visitor centers and online.

**CAMPING**
Campgrounds have restrooms, drinking water, picnic tables, and fire grates. There are no showers. Limited shower facilities are available in the communities of Medora and Watford City.

**HIKING**
With over 95 miles of hiking trails throughout the park, there is plenty of room to stretch your legs. Trails vary from less than a mile to epic hikes of more than 20 miles in length. Turn to the Hiking Guide on pages 7-11 to learn more.

**PICNIC AREA**
Shaded picnic areas are available adjacent to the campgrounds and South Unit. These facilities have restrooms, picnic tables, and fire grates.

**BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING**
The park is open to backcountry camping. Free permits are required and are available at park visitor centers. Special regulations and limitations on group size apply.

**FEES**
Fee dollars are used to fund projects throughout the park. Turn page 12 to read about how your fee dollars are being used. Inquire at park visitor centers for more information.

**Wildlife**

**Wildlife viewing tips**
• Pick the right time of day—down and dusk are the best times to see wildlife.
• Drive slowly. Animals are often overlooked by speedy drivers.
• View wildlife from a distance. If your presence changes an animal’s behavior, you are too close and can be fined for disturbing wildlife. Binoculars are known to charge visitors who invade their space.
• Remember that the park is their home and we are the visitors.

**Wildlife you may encounter**

**Elk**
Look for elk in the South Unit grazing in prairie dog towns near sunrises or sunsets. Great herds are by the late 1800’s, the National Park Service reintroduced elk into the badlands in 1985. They are the visitors.

**Bison**
Bison roam the landscape throughout both units and are seen at all hours of the day. When viewing bison, give them a wide berth. They may appear slow and doze, but these animals are incredibly athletic and temperamental.

**Mule Deer**
Mule deer live in the dry, rugged land of the Badlands. Look for them in open areas at dawn and dusk. Their straight bodies, large ears, and black-tipped tails differentiate them from White-tailed Deer.

**White-tailed Deer**
Though less common than Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer can be seen during the evening or early morning. White-tailed deer may be seen on the campgrounds, in wooded areas, and river bottoms.

**Pronghorn**
Pronghorns may be spotted near the north boundary of the South Unit. Not a deer or an antelope, this is a mammal in all its own. It is the fastest land animal in North America with speeds reaching 65 MPH.

**Prairie Dogs**
Prairie dogs live in family communities or “towns” and are a critical part of the food web. See them from the South Unit road or on a bike in the North Unit.

**Coyote**
Coyotes are often seen in prairie dog towns. They have a complex communication system; you may hear them more often than you think.

**Longhorn Steers**
In 1868, 350 longhorns were driven from Texas on the Long X Trail to what is now the North Unit of the park. Since 1967, the park has maintained a small herd as a reminder of 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 north side. They appear in the spring, summer, and fall.

**Historic Open-Range Demonstration Herds**
The park’s herd is considered a holdover because they originated from domestic stock. They are often seen on the east side of the South Unit. Completely independent of human care, these “wild” horses provide the opportunity to experience a piece of wilderness that was common to Theodore Roosevelt’s era but is increasingly rare today.

**Important Regulations**

Driving

To most areas of the park, the posted speed is 25 MPH. Never stop or park on the road. Use pullouts and turn off your car while parked. Federal law requires all passengers to wear seat belts.

Don’t drink and drive. Rangers and police will enforce laws against alcohol and prescription drugs. Don’t drink and drive. Rangers and police will enforce laws against alcohol and prescription drugs. Don’t drink and drive. Rangers and police will enforce laws against alcohol and prescription drugs. Don’t drink and drive. Rangers and police will enforce laws against alcohol and prescription drugs. Don’t drink and drive. Rangers and police will enforce laws against alcohol and prescription drugs. Don’t drink and drive. Rangers and police will enforce laws against alcohol and prescription drugs.

**Bicycling**
Bicycles are permitted only on roads. They are not allowed on trails, including sections of the Maah Daah Hey Trail that lie within park boundaries. The rules of the road apply to bicycles. Please wear your helmet.

**Fire**
Fires are only allowed in fire grates at the campgrounds and picnic areas - never on the ground or in the backcountry. When fire danger is high, campfires may be prohibited altogether. It is illegal to bring in wood from your own state. We “sweep” the West at the end of the season. (page 12)

**Collecting/Defacing**
All natural 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 and/or possessing these items is illegal as do birds, snakes, and insects (including carvings initials in rocks or wood).

**Particles**
If you can legally possess firearms in National Park buildings and certain facilities. Federal law also prohibits discharging a firearm inside a National Park area.

**Know the Law**
- National Parks have special rules that protect park resources.
- It is your responsibility to know the law.
- If you have a question, ask an officer or visit our website and read the Superintendent’s Compendium & Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Find them at www.nps.gov by clicking on Management and then Laws and Policies.

**Camping and Fees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campgrounds</th>
<th>North Unit - No Hookups</th>
<th>$14/night, $7 with Senior or Access Pass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cottonwood Campground</td>
<td>South Unit - No Hookups</td>
<td>$14/night, $7 with Senior or Access Pass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Round-up Campground</td>
<td>South Unit - Primitive</td>
<td>$5/night, $4/night with Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Backcountry Campground</td>
<td>North – Undeveloped</td>
<td>Free Permit Required</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>South – Undeveloped</td>
<td>Free Permit Required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Group sites are available only (reservation.gov). Campgrounds are open year-round. Group site fees are half-price. Inquire at park visitor centers for more information.

**ANNUAL PASS**
- $80 admission to all federal lands for up to four days in any park

**SENOR PASS**
- $40 admission to all federal parks for life, permanently disabled U.S. residents

**ACCESS PASS**
- $10 admission to all federal lands for life, permanently disabled U.S. residents

**MILITARY PASS**
- Free admission to all federal lands for life, personnel, veterans, and their families

**Fees**
- Face $20 per vehicle; $15 per person over 15. $10 per individual bicycle, horse, or mule
- Entrance fees are paid for seven days. A variety of passes are available (listed to the right).

**TEMPORARY PASS**
- $35 per vehicle
- Inquire at entrance stations or visitor centers.

**SEE YOUR PHOTO ON NEXT YEAR’S PASS!**
- Bring a photo to pick one out!
The Elkhorn Ranch Unit

"My home ranch-house stands on the river brink. From the low, long veranda, shaded by leafy cotton-woods, one looks across sand bars and shallows to a strip of meadowland, behind which rises a line of sheer cliffs and grassy plateaus."

- Theodore Roosevelt, from Hunting Trips of a Ranchman

THE HISTORY

This secluded and quiet spot that Roosevelt chose for his Elkhorn Ranch brought much comfort and solitude to a man who was still reeling from personal tragedy.

Here, he filled his days with the rewarding labor of cattle ranching and the adventures of hunting. Many say this is where Theodore Roosevelt developed his conservation ethic. Of the park’s 3 units, the Elkhorn Ranch Unit is considered to be the most historically significant.

THE ADVENTURE

Today, the National Park Service chooses to leave this special place as underdeveloped as possible.

The cabin site is accessible by trail only. A 1.5 mile round trip walk takes visitors to the cabin site, where only the foundation stumps remain.

From the location of what was once TR’s shady veranda, let the solitude and beauty of this rugged landscape calm and inspire you, just as it did our "Conservation President.”

The petrified wood lies in two main concentrations, one on the North Petrified Forest Trail and the other on the south. Both are roughly 1.5 miles from the parking area. (One-and-back is roughly 3 miles)

ATTENTION: If you continue beyond the petrified forest, the loop trail is 10.8 miles long and requires a map, compass, and extra water and supplies. Do not attempt this hike if you are not well prepared. See ‘Exploring Trails Safely’ on page 6.

GETTING THERE

From the South Unit, it is a 3 hour and fifteen minute drive to the Ranch Site. High-clearance vehicle recommended. Check road conditions at the visitor center.

- Begin your journey westbound on I-94.
- Take exit 23 turning north (right) along Forest Service Road 730.
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- Follow County Road 11 for 2.5 miles until you reach the Elkhorn Ranch Parking Area.

Everything within a National Park is protected for ourselves and future generations. If you witness anyone collecting petrified wood or defacing petrified wood or other rocks, report it to a ranger as soon as possible.

Maah Daah Hey Trail (pronounced ma da hey)

THE HISTORY

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.

With the recent addition of a southern leg, the trail is nearly 400 miles long. It stretches from the USFS CCC Campground near the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, down through the South Unit, and terminating at the USFS Burning Coal Vein Campground.

THE ADVENTURE

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 and other trailheads outside of the park, visit www.mdta.com or call the US Forest Service McKenzie Ranger District at (701) 842-2393.

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- Begin your journey westbound on I-94.
- Take exit 23 turning north (right) along Forest Service Road 730.
- Follow County Road 11 for 2.5 miles until you reach the Elkhorn Ranch Parking Area.
- Immediately after turning onto Forest Service Road 730, you will see a sign for North Unit. Turn right onto Forest Service Road 730. You will see a sign for North Unit.
- Continue west on Forest Service Road 730 for 2 miles until you reach the North Unit parking area.

Petrified Forest

North Dakota Badlands were once on the eastern edge of a flat, swampy area covered with rivers that fanned out into a broad, sea-level delta. This swampy region contained dense forests of sequoia, bald cypress, magnolia, and other water-loving trees growing in or near the shallow waters.

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.

Today, Theodore Roosevelt National Park has the third most important collection of petrified wood in North America.

The Petrified Forest area is located in the Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness in the park’s South Unit. This area can only be accessed on foot or on horseback, but it’s well worth the effort!

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Petrified Stumps eroding out of the hillside.

Elkhorn Ranch & Petrified Forest Driving Map

The Elkhorn Ranch Unit

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**Summer Programs**

**Theodore Roosevelt National Park**

**South Unit Programs**

- **Park Films**
  - Our featured film, *Refuge of the American Spirit*, shows every half-hour in the South Unit visitor center theater (17 minutes).
  - Theodore Roosevelt National Park, a brief overview of the park.
  - Show on demand at the Painted Canyon visitor center. (8 minutes)

- **Geology Talk**
  - Experience, hands-on, the fascinating geology of the park from the running vantage point of the Painted Canyon Overlook.
  - Daily, 15 - 30 minutes

- **Cabin Tour**
  - A tour of Roosevelt’s original Maltese Cross Cabin explores how his experiences in Dakota Territory influenced his life and work.
  - Several tours daily, 15 - 20 minutes

- **Evening Program**
  - A time-honored tradition, gather in the campground amphitheater to hear tales, legends, and even some authentic education!
  - Nights, 45 - 60 minutes

- **Junior Ranger Program**
  - A program for visitors of all ages! Fun, interactive activities reveal the secrets of nature. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
  - Saturdays, 1 to 2 hours

- **Petrified Forest Hike**
  - Follow a caravane on dirt and gravel roads to the remote northwest corner of the South Unit (high-clearance vehicle recommended) where you’ll begin a guided Wilderness hike to the Petrified Forest. (Hike is about 3 miles.)
  - Saturday mornings, 4 to 5 hours including drive time

- **Full Moon Hike**
  - Explore the badlands by the light of a full moon. Tickets are required and available for free on the day of the hike at the South Unit Visitor Center.
  - Saturdays, 1 to 2 hours

- **Night Prowl**
  - On the darkest nights of summer, experience the nocturnal world of the badlands with a short walk through the darkness. Tickets are required and available for free on the day of the program at the South Unit Visitor Center.
  - Monthly, Prowl: 45 minutes

- **Stargazing**
  - Following each night proul, rangers with telescopes will be providing tours of the starry night sky.
  - No tickets required

- **Guided Hike**
  - Explore the wild side of the North Dakota Badlands with a ranger as your guide! Hikes are considered easy, but may contain steep grades or stairs.

- **Offered occasionally. See weekly program schedules**

**North Unit Programs**

- **Evening Program**
  - A time-honored tradition, gather in the campground amphitheater to hear tales, legends, and even some authentic education!
  - Weekends in July and August, 45 - 60 minutes

- **Guided Hikes and Special Programs**
  - Throughout the summer season, guided hikes and special programs may be offered as staffing permits. These events will be advertised in weekly program schedules posted in various locations in the north unit.
  - Offered occasionally. See weekly program schedules

**Trail Safety**

- Visiting the wilderness and backcountry areas of Theodore Roosevelt National Park is fun and exciting, but should not be taken lightly.
- Careful planning can help protect you and ensure a safe and enjoyable adventure.

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

2. **GET ALL THE FACTS.** 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. **DRINK WATER**
  - Before and during your trip. If you are thirsty, you are already becoming dehydrated. Carry at least one gallon of water per person per day.
  - Natural water sources must be treated or filtered before they are safe to drink.

5. **KNOW HOW TO NAVIGATE.** Be familiar with your route before you leave. Trails, particularly in the North Unit, can become hidden by vegetation and wildlife trails can appear to be hiking trails. A GPS is handy (if charged), but a good map and compass are best.

6. **BE AWARE OF HAZARDOUS PLANTS AND WEATHER.** Know how to spot poison ivy and be on the lookout for cacti. Never approach wildlife, especially bison.

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

**Hiking Guide**

**Easy**

- **Skyline Vista South Unit**
  - 10 minutes
  - 0.2 mi / 0.3 km to vista and back

- **Boilcourt Trail South Unit**
  - 15 minutes
  - 0.3 mi / 0.5 km to vista and back

- **Little Mo Trail North Unit**
  - 30 - 45 minutes
  - 0.7 mi / 1.1 km (paved inner loop)
  - 1.1 / 1.8 km (unpaved outer loop)

- **Buck Hill South Unit**
  - 10 minutes
  - 0.2 mi / 0.3 km to hiltop and back

- **Wind Canyon Trail South Unit**
  - 20 minutes
  - 0.4 / 0.6 km loop

**Easy to Moderate**

- **Ridgeline Trail South Unit**
  - 30 minutes
  - 0.6 / 1 km loop

- **Coal Vein Trail South Unit**
  - 30 - 45 minutes
  - 0.8 / 1.3 km loop

- **Painted Canyon Nature Trail South Unit**
  - 45 minutes
  - 0.9 / 1.4 km loop

- **Caprock Coulee Nature Trail North Unit**
  - 1 hour
  - 1.6 / 2.6 km (round trip)

- **Prairie Dog Town via the Buckhorn Trail South Unit**
  - 1.5 hours
  - 2.0 / 3.2 km (round trip)

- **Sperati Point via the South Achenbach Trail North Unit**
  - 1.5 hours
  - 2.4 / 3.9 km (round trip)

**Caprock Coulee South Unit**

- 2 – 3 hours
- 4.1 mi / 6.6 km loop

**Maah Daah Hey South Unit**

- 4 – 5 hours
- 8.4 / 13.5 km loop

**Lone Tree Loop South Unit**

- 5 – 6 hours
- 9.6 / 15 km loop

**Backhorn North Unit**

- 6 – 8 hours
- 11.4 / 18.3 km loop

**Jones/Lower Talkington/ Lower Paddock Loop South Unit**

- 6 – 8 hours
- 11.4 / 18.3 km loop

**Upper Paddock/ Talkington Loop South Unit**

- 8 – 10 hours
- 15.4 / 24.8 km
- 19.4 / 31.2 km (Painted Canyon)

**Achenbach North Unit**

- 10 – 12 hours
- 18 mi / 30 km loop

- This flat, paved nature trail ends at a scenic vista with the Little Missouri River visible in the distance.
- An easy gravel trail with a slight grade showcases a grand view that is a ranger favorite for sunsets.
- Explore the river bottom habitat along a paved nature trail with slight grades. Take along a trail brochure, available at the trailhead, to learn about the river bottom.
- A short, steep paved trail (with stairs) climbs to the highest accessible point in the park. The view from the top is worth every step.
- A gravel path (with stairs) overlooks wind-sculpted geologic features and is the best view of the Little Missouri River. The South Unit has to offer. A steep climb to the top of the ridge is optional. Another ranger favorite for sunsets!

**Moderate to Strenuous**

- **Caprock Coulee South Unit**
  - 2 – 3 hours
  - 4.1 / 6.6 km loop

- **Maah Daah Hey Trail South Unit**
  - 4 – 5 hours
  - 8.4 / 13.5 km loop

- **Lone Tree Loop South Unit**
  - 5 – 6 hours
  - 9.6 / 15 km loop

- **Backhorn North Unit**
  - 6 – 8 hours
  - 11.4 / 18.3 km loop

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- **Upper Paddock/ Talkington Loop South Unit**
  - 8 – 10 hours
  - 15.4 / 24.8 km
  - 19.4 / 31.2 km (Painted Canyon)

- **Achenbach North Unit**
  - 10 – 12 hours
  - 18 mi / 30 km loop

- This loop combines the Jones Creek Trail, the Lower Talkington Trail, and the Lower Paddock Creek Trail. Add it to the Upper Paddock/Talkington Loop for an epic adventure of 23.4 miles.

- This trail combines part of the Lower Talkington Loop with the Upper Talkington and Upper Paddock Creek Trails. Accessing the loop from Painted Canyon will add 4 miles round trip to your hike.

- Deep climbs and descents and two river crossings awaits you on this trail that leads deep into the heart of the Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness. This trail requires hikers to be well prepared and have good navigation skills.

**Time & Distance**

- **Boicourt Trail South Unit**
  - 0.2 mi / 0.3 km

- **Coal Vein Trail South Unit**
  - 0.8 / 1.3 km

- **Caprock Coulee Nature Trail South Unit**
  - 0.9 / 1.4 km

- **Prairie Dog Town via the Buckhorn Trail South Unit**
  - 2.0 / 3.2 km

- **Sperati Point via the South Achenbach Trail North Unit**
  - 2.4 / 3.9 km

- **Jones/Lower Talkington/ Lower Paddock Loop South Unit**
  - 11.4 / 18.3 km

- **Upper Paddock/ Talkington Loop South Unit**
  - 15.4 / 24.8 km

- **Achenbach North Unit**
  - 18 mi / 30 km

**See page 5 for more information.**
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. Be aware 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.
Thankful for Helping Hands

VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS (VIPs) PLAY STARRING ROLES IN supporting and protecting our nation’s treasures. The national parks in North Dakota are served by many dedicated individuals who donate their time and talents to help us achieve our mission.

If you would like to become a VIP, contact any of the 3 national parks in North Dakota or any of the 497 (and counting) national park sites across the US and its territories.

Volunteers make Lifeways Event a Success

EVERY SEPTEMBER, KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES NHS hosts Lifeways of the Northern Plains. Roughly 1,400 fourth grade students from North Dakota attend this 4-day, long educational event. Students take their turn at 6 different stations—art, throwing, Indian sign language, flute music, earthlodge tour, building, hide-painting, and constructing an earthlodge frame.

Volunteers play an important role at Knife River NHS events.

Lifeways could not run with park staff alone. In 2014, nine volunteers assisted with Lifeways, many of them returning from previous years. The volunteers have different backgrounds, but they all enjoy helping students learn about the Hidatsa culture.

Knife River NHS would like to thank those who volunteer at Lifeways and all other events for their excellent work. We could not accomplish our goals without you!

Celebrating 100 Years of Parks for the People

August 25, 2016 is the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. From now through December, 2016, parks throughout the country will celebrate our Centennial.

Before we take a look forward to the future, it is worthwhile to revisit the past. Our journey started with a simple but radical idea that has grown into the National Park System we know today.

In the early history of the U.S., there were no truly “public” lands. The idea of preserving lands for the general public began to take shape gradually, over the course of several decades. In 1864, President Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant Act into law. This law protected California’s Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias from exploitation. Though administration of the land was turned over to the State of California, the seeds of the “National Park Idea” were sown.

By 1916, there was an obvious need for the national parks to be centrally managed. The act to create the National Park Service was signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson on August 25, 1916. Since then, the National Park System has grown to include over 400 different units. These parks preserve our history and our heritage.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of the last 100 years, we seek to connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates. Join the celebration in 2016 as parks across the country hold special events to commemorate our Centennial.

Dogs in Parks

DOES YOUR FURRY FRIEND NEED A PLACE TO STRETCH his legs? Not all areas within national parks are open to pets. Below are some places to go if your puppy needs some room to roam.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK
- Roads and parking areas (watch for traffic)
- Campgrounds and picnic areas
- Medora bike path (outside the park - south unit)
- USEF Little Missouri National Grasslands and Maah Daah Hey Trail (outside the park)

Please note: pets are not permitted on trails or in the backcountry in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

KNIFE RIVER INDIAN VILLAGES NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
- All trails, roads, and picnic areas
- Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site

Please remember, when inside a national park, pets must be restrained on a leash at all times. Always clean up after your pet. Pets are not permitted in park buildings.

If you have questions about pet regulations, speak to a ranger at any park visitor center.

Save our Trees!

ABOUT FIFTY PERCENT OF THE hardwood trees in Theodore Roosevelt National Park are ash trees. A little green beetle from Asia, the Emerald Ash Borer, is threatening their existence. From 2002 through early 2015, this insect has spread to 36 states, as well as Ontario and Quebec. It has been responsible for the deaths of more than 100 million 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 attacks.” The primary way the beetle travels is on loads of firewood carried by travelers from one state to another. If humans don’t stop helping the beetle spread, it could reach the park this year! Remember:

IT IS ILLEGAL TO BRING IN WOOD FROM ANOTHER STATE.

If you have brought wood from another state, burn it as soon as possible!

For Teachers

LEARNERS AROUND THE NATION ARE ABLE to experience the rich cultural and natural history that the North Dakota National Parks offer without ever leaving the classroom. Distance learning equipment brings the park right to your students - no school busses required!

At Knife River Indian Villages NHS, students can virtually experience an earth lodge, see the remains of an earth lodge village, watch prescribed fires and archeological work, and other special events. At Theodore Roosevelt National Park, students can take a tour of Roosevelt’s Cabin or learn about North Dakota’s dark night sky.

Find out how to get your class involved by calling any of the 5 park sites or by visiting the “Education” section of the parks’ websites.

What’s with the Oil Boom?

SURPRISED BY ALL THE TRAFFIC and construction? The past decade has brought great changes to this region.

Deep beneath western North Dakota, the Bakken formation contains rich oil deposits. New technology has only recently made it feasible to recover these reserves. Most oil here is extracted by hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," a technique that fractures the bedrock, using a slurry of sand, chemicals, and water to extract the trapped oil.

The Bakken oil boom has brought tens of thousands of new jobs to the area, endowing North Dakota with the highest employment rate in the United States. How does this affect us in the park?

The three units of Theodore Roosevelt are small islands taking up less than 1% of the Bakken region, but providing vital habitat for native plants and animals. As development surrounds the park units, you can see and hear its impacts. While traveling the surrounding area, you may encounter traffic, noise, dust, and booming prices to follow the booming jobs.

Other impacts are less obvious. When spilt, fracking fluids can be more harmful to the environment than the oil itself. Because oil is cheaper to collect and more profitable than natural gas, many operations burn off excess gas until they are able to build collection infrastructure. Gas flares and 24-hour facilities light up and obscure the formerly dark skies of North Dakota.

The oil boom challenges us to wonder: how can we develop energy resources while still protecting natural habitats?
2015 Photo Contest

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK AND Theodore Roosevelt Nature & History Association announce the 4th annual Picture Yourself in Theodore Roosevelt National Park Photo Contest. We want your photos!

The 2016 TRNP annual pass will feature the winning photo from 2015, and the 2016 TRNP calendar will display the top 12 photo entries. All contest entries may be used in ranger programs, publications, and more.

Photos taken between September 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015 are eligible for the contest. For official rules, entry forms, and other information visit: trnha.org

TRNHA will announce the Grand Prize Winner and top finalists following a slideshow presentation of all entries, December 5, 2015.

2014 finalist, by David Schram
2014 3rd place, Little Missouri, by John Neukirch
2014 2nd place, Badlands Dawn, by David Bruner.

We want your photos!

Your Fee Dollars at Work

Roosevelt National Park's fees increased was over 20 years ago. The overall public reaction has been very positive.

You may wonder where your park fee monies go. Federal laws ensure that parks use recreation fees in ways that directly benefit visitors.

Recent projects funded by fee money include printing this free Visitor Guide, producing our award-winning orientation film, and maintaining campgrounds and trails. A project to design and install new wayside exhibits and trailhead information signs is in its second year.

In 2016, the National Park Service will celebrate its 100th birthday. Parks across the nation will use fee money to continue the agency’s mission of preserving America’s treasured places while providing visitors with opportunities to enjoy and connect with our national heritage.

We hope that on future visits you will notice the many improvements taking place. Your money will certainly be put to good use!

Half the Park is After Dark

A ranger guided hike explores the sights and sounds of night in the badlands on the darkest nights of summer.

Free tickets are required, available at the South Unit Visitor Center on the day of the prowl.

NIGHT PROWL (SOUTH UNIT)
A ranger directs an educational short film. Recreation fee money added in the creation of several educational videos in 2014. New film projects are in the works this year as well.

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Stargazing (South Unit)
Following each Night Prowl, rangers with telescopes will share facts and stories about the night sky in a relaxed and casual setting (weather permitting).

Tickets are not required.

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Family Fun Packs and Discovery Packs

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STARGAZING (SOUTH UNIT)
WELCOME TO FORT UNION Trading Post National Historic Site

A trip to Fort Union takes you back to the mid-1800s, 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 1848 to 1867. Here, the Assiniboine, Crow, Crece, Ojibway, Blackfeet, Hidatsa, and other tribes traded buffalo robes and other furs for goods such as cloth, guns, blankets, knives, cookware, and beads.

EMERGENCY Dial 911 or contact a uniformed park employee

Hours of Operation
Winter hours: Daily 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, CT
Summer hours: Monday through Labor Day Daily 8:00 am – 7:00 pm, CT
The Fort is closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day.
Admission is free.

Visitors participating in summer events at Knife River Indian Villages NHS

2015 Schedule of Events

Knife River Indian Villages NHS

Knife 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 15 minute film describing life in an Indian Village from the perspective of Maxwaelew. 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. Visitors of all ages are welcome to attend.

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!

Junior Ranger Booklets are available for kids 6-12. Junior Explorer booklets are available for ages 3-5. Return them to the visitor center to receive your badge or button. Turn to page 15 to learn more.

Knife River Hiking Guide

Hiking Trail Time & Distance (round-trip) Trail Description

Village Trail 30 minutes 1.3 mi / 2.1 km This trail begins at the visitor center and meanders to two village sites: the Lower Hidatsa Village and the Sakakawea Village (Austria Village). A loop at the second site includes a walk along the Knife River.

North Forest Trail 2 – 3 hours 5 mi / 8.0 km The trail explores bottom-land forest and native prairie with spectacular views of the Missouri River. As you enter the forest, you can choose to walk 0.1 miles on the Big Hidatsa Trail to the Big Hidatsa Village.

Two Rivers Trail 3 – 4 hours 6.2 mi / 10 km This trail follows the Knife River to the south end of the park. Here you can see where the Knife River flows into the Missouri River.

Important Regulations

FISHING

Catching walleye, catfish, orpike from the Knife River. The parking lot of the Sakakawea Site is a great location. North Dakota fishing regulations apply. Visitors under the age of 16 may fish without a license.

PETS

Pets are allowed on trails, in picnic areas, and along park roads if they are under control and on leashes no longer than 6 feet. Pets are not allowed in park buildings. Please clean up after your pet.

2015 Schedule of Events

Spring Photography-in-the-Field Workshop May 9

When 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. Fieldwork hours are 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM CDT.

4th Annual Knap-In June 20

Join flint knappers as they demonstrate their skills in creating arrowheads, knives, and other tools. Fieldwork hours 9:30 AM – 5:00 PM CDT.

Hands on History Series July 11 & 18

Learn about pottery, quillwork, jewelry, and other topics. Center and join in the fun of hands-on activities.

Kid’s Camp Aug. 14-16

Enjoy Native American music performed by traditional artists.

Fall Photography-in-the-Field Workshop September 26

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. Fieldwork hours 8 AM – 5:00 PM CDT.

2015 Schedule of Events

Fort Rendezvous June 6-8

Fort Union Trading Post NHS hosts its 3rd annual Fort Rendezvous. Come and experience the upper Missouri’s frontier for trade in one of the largest meeting gatherings in the states. Activities include living demonstrations, traditional American Indian foods, music, arts, crafts, and much more!

Indian Arts Showcase August 1

Come to the 3rd annual Indian Arts Showcase. This event commemorates American Indian history and culture through music, dance, storytelling, traditional foods, and more. A dynamic event that presents the Native American Arts and Culture. Watch as Native Americans perform traditional dances and music. This is an excellent way to get to know the culture of the Plains Indian peoples.

Living History Weekend September 5

A reenactment of a 19th century fort will feature demonstrations of life and work at Fort Union. Visitors will be able to see authentic 1870’s period clothing and items being used in the fort. Visitors will also have the opportunity to help buckskin, roll logs, and much more.

Blacksmith Workshop September 26

Learn the lost art of metalworking presented by Fort Union. Participants are advised to bring their own leather and metal appropriate clothing.
Supporting our National Parks

Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association

Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association (TRNHA) is a nonprofit cooperating association working in partnership with the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in North Dakota. Since its creation in 1951, TRNHA has donated over $928,000 in aid and support to national parks and wildlife refuges.

TRNHA operates 5 bookstores located in Theodore Roosevelt NP, Knife River Indian Villages NHS, and Upper Sours NWR. Proceeds from bookstore sales, memberships, and donations are used to support many NPS and USFWS programs.

TRNHA funds scientific and oral history research throughout the parks. Recent funding has been used for mountain lion studies and elk management efforts.

TRNHA publishes free trail guides, brochures, and checklists as well as many items sold in the bookstores that emphasize the natural and cultural history of the area.

In addition to hosting many annual events, TRNHA supports several National Park Service programs including the Dakota Nights Astronomy Festival, the Junior Ranger Program, and Student Conservation Association internships.

Membership Registration Form

☐ Individual $20 ☐ Supporter $250
☐ Family $35 ☐ Partner $500
☐ Friend $50 ☐ Corporate $1000
☐ Contributor $100
☐ New ☐ Renewal

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City __________________ State ______ ZIP ______
E-mail ____________________________

Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association
Submit to TRNHA bookstore or mail to:
TRNHA P.O. Box 167
Medora, ND 58645

2015 TRNHA Special Events

61st Annual Bird Walk
June 7, 2015
Cottonwood Campground
Theodore Roosevelt National Park
Bring your binoculars and prepare to explore the diversity of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Bird enthusiasts from across the region will join together to count species and add to their life lists. A pancake breakfast will be served following the bird walk. (Donations are appreciated)

Photo Contest: Picture Yourself in Theodore Roosevelt National Park
Submission period begins April 18, 2015
Awards Ceremony December 5, 2015
TRNP South Unit Visitor Center
Are you a photographer? Then submit your best photos of Theodore Roosevelt National Park for a chance to see your photo on the park’s annual pass! All photos must be taken between September 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015. See page 12 for details.

National Teddy Bear Picnic Day
July 10, 2015
Cottonwood Picnic Area
Theodore Roosevelt National Park
Did you know the Teddy Bear was named for Theodore Roosevelt? Find out why during TRNHA's annual Teddy Bear Picnic. Bring along your own teddy bear and join us for an afternoon of fun! All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Publications

Research

Education

Area Map

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