The Celebration Continues!

Thank you for being part of the National Park Service’s 100th birthday celebration in 2016!

In 2017, we are looking forward to the next one hundred years. There are so many ways to continue celebrating your national parks.

Consider becoming a partner, volunteer, or a career with the National Park Service! Contact your favorite park or visit the www.volunteer.gov site to find volunteer opportunities. The Student Conservation Association recruits youth into volunteer positions within the agency and you can find more information at www.thesca.org.

If you have always wanted work in a park, the National Park Service advertises jobs at www.usajobs.gov.

Add your voice to our planning process and help us decide how to manage our parks at www.parkplanning.nps.gov.

Join us as we look forward to a new century of protecting and enjoying America’s remarkable places! Share your park experiences using #FindYourPark and #EncuentraTuParque on social media!

Knife River Indian Villages NHS has been awarded the Pinnacle Award for the 2015-2016 school year, marking the third year in a row the park has received this honor.

The Pinnacle Award is presented annually by the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC) to organizations that receive outstanding scores on program evaluations submitted by participating educators.

“Receiving this award indicates remarkable quality of educational content and exceptional skill at program delivery.”

-Janet Zanetis, CILC Managing Director

Knife River Indian Villages NHS’ interpretive park rangers present programs from the park’s earthlodge through using videoconferencing technology. The distance learning program currently being offered is titled, “People of the Earthlodge: Lifeways of the Hidatsa.”

For more information about Knife River Indian Villages NHS, or to schedule a distance learning program, please call 701-745-3300.

You may also request a program at www.cilc.org. Click on “Content Provider Programs,” then “Knife River Indian Villages.”

Modern-day Bison Management

National Parks fill many roles. They are refuges for wildlife, places for adventure, and they preserve our shared history and culture. But did you know parks are also on the cutting edge of science?

The bison in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, or more specifically their genes, are part of a study to learn more about the history of the species. North American bison of today are descended from only a few animals because of their near extinction in the early 1900s. Today, most bison are kept in relatively isolated herds in parks and preserves. These circumstances have surely impacted the diversity of the bison gene pool.

How can we compare the genes of modern bison to those of bison from the past? The answer is DNA. Biologists have been collecting hair and tissue samples from park bison since 2014. They’ve also teamed up with archaeologists to gather DNA samples from bones and teeth found in the region. Bison remains found at Knife River Indian Villages NHS date back to long before the species’ near-extinction.

Geneticists will compare DNA from living bison with DNA in centuries-old bison bones. The results will help wildlife managers better understand the history of the species. The findings will be used to inform bison practices and help biologists ensure the future health of the species.

FINDING BISON DNA: A citizen scientist sorts materials unearthed by burrowing mammals in the Big Hidatsa Village Site.

Knife River’s Excellence in Education

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For more information about Knife River Indian Villages NHS, or to schedule a distance learning program, please call 701-745-3300.

You may also request a program at www.cilc.org. Click on “Content Provider Programs,” then “Knife River Indian Villages.”
Plan Your Visit

Welcome to Theodore Roosevelt National Park! This park features three separate units—the South Unit, the North Unit, and the Elkhorn Ranch Unit. It includes unique geological sites, such as the Petrified Forest and Painted Canyon, as well as abundant opportunities to observe wildlife and learn about the 26th president’s ranching experiences in the North Dakota Badlands.

The South and North units each have scenic drives and park visitor centers, where you can obtain information and maps. See pages 5 & 6 of this guide for maps and hiking information.

Each unit offers exceptional ways to experience the badlands of North Dakota. Here are a few suggestions, depending on your length of stay and interests:

- **2 HOURS**
  - Take the scenic drive.
  - Hike a short trail to an overlook.
  - Do some wildlife spotting.
  - Attend a ranger program.
  - Tour the Maltese Cross Cabin in the South Unit.

- **HALF DAY**
  - Pack a lunch and have a picnic.
  - Visit Petrified Forest or Painted Canyon, both in the South Unit.
  - Hike one moderate or many short trails.
  - Attend more than one ranger program.

- **FULL DAY**
  - Bike some of the scenic drive.
  - Hike a strenuous trail.
  - Visit the Elkhorn Ranch.
  - Explore the backcountry.
  - Find a scenic spot to watch the sunset.
  - Camp in a campground or backcountry.

**ACCESSIBILITY**

At the South Unit Visitor Center, the park film offers captioning, audio description, and assistive-listening devices. The park brochure is available in braille. Service animals are permitted on leash in all developed areas including Skyline Vista, Boicourt and Little Mo trails, and the River Bend Overlook viewing deck. All other trails and undeveloped areas are closed to service animals for safety reasons.

Ranger-led programs are accessible with the exception of some guided hikes.

**COLLECTING OR DEFACING**

Natural features of the park are protected. This includes wildlife, plants, artifacts, rocks, soil, bones and shed antlers. Collecting or possessing these items is illegal, as is graffiti (including carving in rocks or wood). Help us keep the park clean, safe, and beautiful so everyone can enjoy it.

**FIREARMS**

You must comply with all applicable firearms laws. If you can legally possess firearms under North Dakota, local, and federal laws, you may do so in a National Park. Federal law prohibits firearms in National Park buildings and facilities. Federal law also prohibits discharging a firearm inside a national park.

**DRONES**

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), including drones and other flying toys, cannot be operated by the public within a national park. The National Park Service has determined that UAVs can influence wildlife behavior and pose a safety risk to the landscape, wildlife, and park visitors.

**PETS**

Must always be leash and attended, and may walk on roads, sidewalks, in picnic areas, parking lots, & campgrounds. Please clean up after your pet. Pets are not allowed on trails, in buildings, or in the backcountry.

**HEAT & DEHYDRATION**

Dehydration and heat exhaustion are common hazards that can be avoided with preparation. Carry and drink lots of water: at least one gallon per person per day. Wear a hat and use sunscreen.

**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.

**RESTROOMS**

Restrooms are located in visitor centers, picnic areas, and campgrounds. See maps, pages 5 and 6. In case of an emergency, practice Leave No Trace; leaving toilet paper behind is littering.

**PICNIC AREAS**

Shaded or covered picnic areas are available adjacent to the campgrounds in both the South and North Units. These facilities have restrooms, picnic tables, fire grates, and trash containers.

**HORSEBACK RIDING**

Backcountry trails throughout the park are open to horseback riders. Stock are prohibited on nature trails and in all campgrounds except Roundup Horse Camp. Guided trail rides are no longer offered.

**KNOW THE LAW**

National Parks have special rules to help protect park resources. If you have a question, ask! Or find information about park regulations at www.nps.gov/thro.

It is your responsibility to know the law.

**WEB PAGE**

www.nps.gov/thro/planyourvisit/things2do.htm
The following programs are offered June through August, as staffing permits. All programs are free! Regular park entrance fees apply.

**North Unit Programs**

**Evening Program**
Programs in the rustic Juniper Campground amphitheater focus on a wide array of topics, including geology, wildlife, and history. **Weekends, June–August, 45–60 minutes**

**Park Film**
*Refuge of the American Spirit* shows every half hour in the South Unit Visitor Center theater. **(17 minutes, year-round)**

**Cabin Tour**
A tour of Roosevelt’s original Maltese Cross Cabin explores how his experiences in Dakota Territory influenced his life and ours. **Several daily, 15–20 minutes (self-guided in off season)**

**Geology Talk**
Experience the fascinating geology of the park from the stunning Painted Canyon Overlook. **Daily, June–September 15–30 minutes**

**Evening Program**
Programs in the Cottonwood Campground Amphitheater focus on a wide array of topics, including wildlife, geology, history, and astronomy. **Most evenings, June–September, 45–60 minutes**

**Guided Hikes, Full Moon Hikes, Night Prowls, and Stargazing**
These special programs are offered on summer weekends as staffing permits. **Occasional summer programming; see weekly schedules.**

**Starry Nights**
Celebrate and enjoy North Dakota’s dark night skies! The North Unit hosts an annual Star Party and the South Unit offers ranger-led sky tours and full moon hikes as well as the annual Dakota Nights Astronomy Festival. Dates and details can be found on program schedules posted during the summer.

**Photo Contest**
Theodore Roosevelt Nature & History Association (TRNHA) announces the 6th annual Picture Yourself in TRNP Photo Contest. Eligible photos must be taken in the park between September 1, 2016 and August 31, 2017. For official rules visit [www.trnha.org](http://www.trnha.org).

**Keeping the Wild in wildlife**
Wildlife spotting is fun, but if you’re not careful, you could put yourself in danger. Getting too close to animals can cause injury or death, be sure to keep your distance.

If your presence changes an animal’s behavior, you are too close! Please respect all wildlife and their habitats.

**Your Fee Money**
Federal law ensures that parks use recreation fees in ways that directly benefit you, the visitor. Your fee dollars help pay for printing free publications, such as this guide, trail brochures, and Junior Ranger books.

In the spring of 2016, fee-funded trail information signs were installed at all trailhead locations in the park.

Other 2016 projects include the addition of restrooms in two locations along the South Unit Scenic Drive. Non-fee collecting parks, such as Fort Union and Knife River, also benefit from funds collected at other sites.
South Unit

Short Trails and Points of Interest

1- Skyline Vista  0.3 mile round trip
A short, paved path leads to a viewing area overlooking the Little Missouri River.

2- Ridgeline Trail  0.6 mile loop
A scenic nature trail climbs to a grassy ridge. Pick up a trail brochure at the trailhead to learn about the badlands ecosystem as you hike. This trail has steep stairs with no hand rail.

3- Old East Entrance  0.8 mile round trip
Hike through a prairie dog town to the park’s original entrance station. (The building is closed and locked at all times.)

4- Coal Vein Trail  0.8 mile loop
Trail brochures, available at the trailhead, explain how the area around the trail has changed since an underground coal vein fire. This trail has steep trails with no hand rail.

5- Buck Hill  0.2 mile round trip
Drive to the highest accessible place in the park. Enjoy the view from the parking lot overlook or walk the short, steep trail to the top for panoramic views.

6- Boicourt Trail  0.3 mile round trip
A gentle gravel path leads to a viewing area that looks out across the park to the south. The park looks very green and lively from this southern-facing vantage point.

7- Wind Canyon Trail  0.3 mile loop
This short trail follows a cliff edge overlooking the river. This trail is a favorite of photographers at sunset. Use caution on steep sections and near cliff edges.

8- Petrified Forest  3 miles round trip
Hike your way through the remains of an ancient swamp! See page 6 for directions to the trailhead.

9- Painted Canyon Visitor Center and Overlook  A sidewalk runs along the rim of the badlands at Painted Canyon. With a northern facing vantage point, this overlook earned its name because of the bare, colorful butte faces that streak the landscape.

10- Painted Canyon Nature Trail  1 mile loop
Explore the badlands from top to bottom (and back up again!) This nature trail features interesting geology and great views.

Backcountry Trails

The South Unit has many backcountry trails not shown on the map above. Backcountry trails are minimally marked and can be difficult to follow. It is unsafe to enter the backcountry without a topographic map and compass. Maps are sold in visitor centers and online. The map in the park brochure is not detailed enough for navigation.

Respecting Park Horses

Increasingly, visitors are approaching too closely to horses. This results in stress on the animals and an interruption of their normal behaviors.

When hiking or while driving the scenic road, always give horses and other wildlife plenty of space. Approaching wildlife is considered harassment and may result in fines and temporary area closures. Please respect wildlife and other visitors by watching all animals from a distance.
North Unit

Short Trails and Points of Interest

1- Cannonball Concretions
One of the park's top geological attractions is visible from a pullout on the scenic drive. View the concretions and explore the surrounding scenery.

2- Little Mo Nature Trail
0.7mi or 1.4mi round trip
An easy nature trail explores the habitat along the Little Missouri River. Extend your hike on the moderately difficult long loop to climb the river terrace for great views.

3- Prairie Dog Town
2 miles round trip
Start at the Caprock Coulee trailhead. Take the Buckhorn Trail to a prairie dog town where you can watch hundreds of curious prairie dogs scurrying about.

4- Caprock Coulee Trail (loop)
4.2 miles round trip
This loop trail is one of the most scenic trails in the park. Start in a shady coulee and emerge atop the prairie. Take in the sweeping views of the badlands as you descend back down to your starting point. Bring extra clothing and water for this hike.

5- Caprock Coulee Nature Trail
1.4 miles round trip
The first 0.7 mile of the Caprock Coulee Trail is a nature trail. Learn about the plants and geology along the trail as you explore a coulee.

6- River Bend Overlook
This may be the most famous view in the entire park. Take in the vast scenery from a wheelchair accessible viewing deck or from the overlook shelter down a short trail with stairs.

7- Oxbow Overlook
At the road’s end, take a stroll along a short sidewalk atop the rim of the badlands. Be sure to look for wildlife amongst the surrounding buttes.

8- Sperati Point
2 miles round trip
A gentle walk along the South Achenbach Trail leads to a small rise in the landscape with stunning prairie and badlands scenery on all sides. This is a good hiking option for times when other trails are wet and muddy.

Backcountry Trails

The North Unit has many backcountry trails not shown on the map above. Backcountry trails are minimally marked and can be difficult to follow. It is unsafe to enter the backcountry without a topographic map and compass. Maps are sold in visitor centers and online. The map in the park brochure is not detailed enough for navigation.

If you choose to hike a backcountry trail without a topographic map, do not go far from the road. If you lose the trail, turn around immediately and retrace your steps.

Trail Safety

Visiting the backcountry is fun and exciting but should not be taken lightly. Be sure to plan carefully to ensure your adventure is both fun and safe.

Phone a friend. Leave your itinerary with a trusted friend in case you become overdue.

Drink water. 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.

Get all the facts. Talk with park staff about trail conditions, weather, and possible hazards.

Check your equipment. Wear sturdy shoes and clothing, a hat and sunscreen. Bring emergency supplies including food, a flashlight, first aid kit, and extra clothing.

Beware of wildlife. Never approach wildlife, especially bison. Bison will charge if threatened.

Know how to navigate. Trails are difficult to follow. A GPS is useful (if charged), but a map and compass are best. Topographic maps are sold in park visitor centers.
The Elkhorn Ranch brought much comfort and solitude to Theodore Roosevelt during a difficult time in his life. Many say this is where he developed his conservation ethic.

Today, the area remains remote and undeveloped. Only the foundation stones remain at the cabin site which is accessed by a 1.5 mile round-trip walking trail.

The main gravel roads leading to Elkhorn are generally well maintained. However, the final 3 miles on FH2 may require high clearance and/or 4-wheel drive after rain or snow. Ask about road conditions at any park visitor center.

Driving Directions from the South Unit (75 minutes)
- Take I-94 westbound to exit 10.
- At the end of the exit ramp, turn right on County Road 11 (gravel). Follow County Road 11 for 8.8 miles.
- Turn right on Westerheim Road. Follow Westerheim road for 6.5 miles.
- Turn left on Bell Lake Road. Follow Bell Lake Road 11.7 miles.
- Turn right onto FH2 towards the USFS Elkhorn Campground. Follow FH2 for about 3 miles, continuing past the campground and Maah Daah Hey trailhead, to the end of the road. This is the Elkhorn Ranch Unit parking area.

Driving Directions from the North Unit (1hr 45min)
- Take US 85 north (left) from the park entrance. Travel 13.8 miles to Watford City.
- Turn left at the light to stay on US 85. Travel 16.5 more miles on US 85.
- Turn left onto ND-68 W. Travel 16.7 miles.
- Turn left onto ND-16 S. Travel 31.4 miles.
- Turn left on Black Tail Road/FH 2 (gravel). Travel 12.2 miles.
- Turn right on Belle Lake Road (still FH 2). Travel 3 miles.
- Staying on FH2, turn left towards the USFS Elkhorn Campground. Follow FH2 for about 3 miles, continuing past the campground and Maah Daah Hey trailhead, to the end of the road. This is the Elkhorn Ranch Unit parking area.
For special events at Fort Union, please visit www.nps.gov/fous/planyourvisit/calendar.htm

For special events at Knife River, please visit www.nps.gov/knri

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

For special events, please visit www.nps.gov/knri
Supporting Our Parks

Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association

TRNHA operates five bookstores located in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Knife River Indian Villages NHS, and Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge. Proceeds from store and online sales, memberships, and donations support NPS and USFWS programs.

TRNHA also sponsors special events and funds scientific and oral history research. Annual events such as Junior Ranger Day and the Dakota Nights Astronomy Festival couldn’t happen without the support of TRNHA.

Shop online and learn more about TRNHA at www.trnha.org.

Be a Junior Ranger!

Pick up your free Junior Ranger activity book at the nearest visitor center.

Finish the activities for your age group and share your answers with a park ranger to earn an official Junior Ranger badge.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park
- Junior Paleontologist
- Night Sky Explorer

Knife River Indian Villages NHS
- Junior Ranger

Fort Union Trading Post NHS
- Junior Trader

Attn: 4th Graders!

All US 4th graders are eligible for a free Every Kid in a Park Pass which allows 4th graders and their family members free entrance to all national parks.

Fourth graders must visit www.everykidinapark.gov, print off the voucher, and bring it to a national park. The pass is valid until Aug. 31, 2017.

Plan a Field Trip

For information and curriculum materials visit:

Knife River Indian Villages NHS www.nps.gov/knri/learn/education

Theodore Roosevelt National Park www.nps.gov/thro/learn/education

Fort Union Trading Post NHS www.nps.gov/fous/learn/education

There’s More…

There’s so much to explore in North Dakota! Visit these websites to discover other opportunities for learning and adventure:

North Dakota Tourism www.ndtourism.com

State Historical Society www.history.nd.gov

Heritage Center and State Museum www.statemuseum.nd.gov

Parks and Recreation www.parkrec.nd.gov

US Fish and Wildlife Service (wildlife refuges in ND) www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie