Sample Two Day Itinerary for Bismarck-Mandan, North Dakota, USA

Day 1

North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum – FREE; Open 8 am-5 pm Monday-Friday; 10 am-5 pm Saturday-Sunday; closed major US holidays.

Start your chronological journey through time with the Adaptation Gallery: Geologic Time. Dinosaur tracks in the hallway floor lead you to the story of early North Dakota life and geology, featuring life-sized skeleton casts of a Tyrannosaurus Rex and a Triceratops ready to battle.

Follow the footprints symbolizing the arrival of the first people to inhabit North Dakota. The Innovation Gallery: Early Peoples features more than 1,000 artifacts telling the story of early life on the Northern Plains. Don't miss the exquisite 6 feet by 20 feet hand-painted mural of Double Ditch Indian Village in 1550.

There are also numerous displays of North Dakota's varied military and agricultural history, as well as a special, rotating exhibit in the Governors Gallery.

Plan to spend at least 2 hours visiting the museum. Also open are the new Museum Store, new Great Plains Theatre, the renovated Russell Reid Auditorium, select hallway exhibits and more. **statemuseum.nd.gov**

Visit **North Dakota's State Capitol** where you will find a unique blend of the State's past, present and future. The Capitol, known as the "Skyscraper on the Prairie," stands proudly in the heart of Bismarck. Built during the Great Depression, and completed in 1934, you will see some beautiful art deco architecture popular during that era. Being that is was built during these trying years, the budget was $2 million and every dollar was crucial, which is why we do not have a decorative dome like many others – it was a waste of space and money, at the time. These hour-long tours are free and open to the public. Free guided tours are available Monday-Friday at 9 am, 10 am, 11 am, 1 pm, 2 pm and 3 pm. Tours normally run 45-50 minutes long. Self-guided tours are also available during the week. Visit **omb.nd.gov/capitol-complex** for up-to-date hours and more information.

Roughriders Hall of Fame (part of the Capitol Tour)**.** An honorary rank of Colonel in the North Dakota Theodore Roosevelt Rough Riders was established during the 1961 Dakota Territory Centennial. The award recognizes present or former North Dakotans who have been influenced by this state in achieving national recognition in their fields of endeavor, thereby reflecting credit and honor upon North Dakota and its citizens. Recipients of the award are chosen by the Governor, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, and the Director of the State Historical Society.

The **Capitol grounds arboretum trail** winds behind the Governor's residence and along the Capitol building, highway building, Liberty Memorial building, the Heritage Center, and the Veteran's Memorial. Approximately 75 species of trees, shrubs and blooming flowers are identified. **www.nd.gov**

Former Governors' Mansion – this state historical site served as the residence for 20 governors from 1893 to 1960. Also featured is a restored "horse-and-buggy-era" carriage house with exhibits. This visit will take you close to an hour. FREE. For open days and hours, visit **history.nd.gov**.

North Dakota's Gateway to Science – Open in March 2023, the expanded North Dakota's Gateway to Science is 43,000 square feet of amazing hands-on science fun for all ages! The $26 million building sits on a hill overlooking the Missouri River and is a treat for all. The interactive galleries tell the story of innovation and opportunity in North Dakota with exhibits on agriculture, energy, healthcare, transportation and more. For open days and hours, visit **www.gatewaytoscience.org** or email gscience@gscience.org.

Day 2

History comes to life at historic **Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park.** Take a trip to 1875 and the home of General George and Libbie Custer on Cavalry Square, where their staff still entertains guests with stories of Libbie, the General and the time they spent in Dakota Territory. At the Fort Lincoln Commissary Store enjoy a hand crafted latte and browse through souvenirs, gifts, and a fine collection of books on General Custer. You can easily spend 3 hours here.

> The hills above Fort Abraham Lincoln provide a great view of the Missouri River Valley with the **Fort McKeen Blockhouses** standing guard over both the fort and an ancient Mandan Village. **On-A-Slant Indian Village**, dating back to the 1500s, features six rebuilt earthlodges with exhibits and guided tours. The park's Visitor Center house the nation's best display of Mandan artifacts and history, along with items of interest on Lewis and Clark and General Custer. Plan to spend about 3 to 4 hours on your visit. **www.parkrec.nd.gov**

Cruise the fabulous Missouri River aboard the 150 passenger **Lewis and Clark Riverboat**. Excursion cruises, dinner cruises and sunset cruises are all available for your enjoyment throughout the summer months. These cruises are 1-1½ hours. **www.lewisandclarkriverboat.com** Open daily US Memorial Day-US Labor Day and weekends through the end of September, weather permitting. Pricing is determined by the type of cruise being taken; group rates may apply.

The **Bismarck Art Alley 5.5** features murals by local and regional artists depicting North Dakota. Located in downtown Bismarck, the full length of the alley between Fifth and Sixth streets. FREE and open all hours.

Mandan's new **Art Alley**, just north of Main Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues NW, is a vibrant space celebrating local history, art and culture. FREE and open all hours.

We have other wonderful adventures to add to your visit, tailoring it to your group's wants & needs. Please let us know what you are looking for and we can help perfect your trip!

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