

Native American Scenic Byway - South Dakota

The history of the Lakota and other cultures here offers a glimpse of a seemingly untouched land and a view of our homelands. This journey is only a piece of the incredible story of our nation, the stories are not only about our past but our dreams of the future.



Length: 315 miles / 504.0 km

Time: Six hours to drive this section of the Native American Scenic Byway

Local Information

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
605-964-7812

Lower Brule Sioux Tribal Tourism
605-473-5561

Visitor Services

Fees



There are no fees along the byway proper.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities



Bicyclists and pedestrians are well accommodated along this route. In Chamberlain and Pierre, the two largest population centers on the byway, walking/biking paths are located along the river. Low traffic levels and wide highways are conducive to safe bicycle travel along the entire byway.

Camping



There are places to camp along this byway.

Food



There are places to buy food along this byway.

Gasoline



Gasoline is available.



Information

Overlooking the Missouri River on Interstate 90 between exits 265 and 263, there is an Interstate rest area that includes the Lewis and Clark Information Center. Information is available on attractions and places of interest in the vicinity.



Lodging

There is overnight lodging along this byway.



Phone

Public phones are available along this byway.



Restrooms

There are toilet facilities along this byway.



Retail

There are places to shop along this byway.

Special Considerations

Since most tourist traffic is experienced during the summer months, several of the interpretive sites (those with trained staff and living history interpreters) are most likely closed during the off-season. Also, the speed limit along the Byway is 55 mph, and gasoline is available in Oacoma, Chamberlain, Fort Thompson, and Fort Pierre.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

Open year-round.

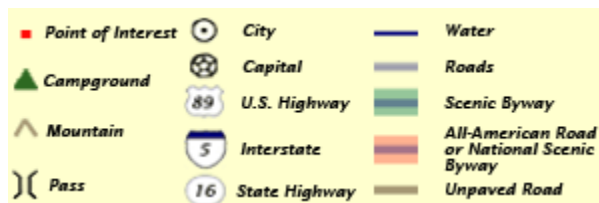
High Season

Summer Months

Map and Directions



Legend:



Driving Directions

This route begins on Interstate 90 near Exit 265. Simply cross the Missouri River at Chamberlain-Oacoma and follow the signs along the byway to learn more about this area. For example, in the South Dakota state capital city of Pierre, you can find the visitors information center located near the waterfront and receive information about the byway.

From Chamberlain to Fort Pierre

- Begin on I-90 near Chamberlain and continue across the Missouri River to Oacoma.
- At Oacoma, take the I-90 Loop to South Dakota (SD) 50.
- Follow SD 50 to BIA 4 and continue on BIA 4 to Fort Thompson.
- From Fort Thompson, take SD 47 to BIA 5 and proceed on BIA 5 to Lower Brule.
- Proceed on BIA 10 to SD 1806, and then continue on SD 1806 to US Highway 83 at Fort Pierre.

Fischer's Lilly Park Spur

- Follow US 83 north until you reach the junction of Route 1806.
- A 2.5 mile connecting spur along Route 1806 will take you to Fort Pierre Chouteau.

From Fort Pierre Chouteau to North Dakota

- Return down Route 1806 to Fort Pierre, then turn right onto US Route 14.
- Continue for 38 miles to the junction of SD Route 63, and turn right.
- Travel north along Route 63 for 46 miles until you reach the junction of Highway 212.
- Turn right onto Highway 212, and continue for 43 miles. You will pass through the towns of Eagle Butte, Parade, Ridgeview, and La Plant.
- Turn left onto BIA Route 7 and continue north for 30 miles.
- Turn right onto BIA Route 4 and continue for 8 miles to the junction of SD Route 20.
- Turn right onto SD Route 20 and continue for 6 miles to the junction of Highway 12.
- Turn right onto Highway 12, and continue for 3 miles to the junction of Route 1806.
- Turn left onto Route 1806 and continue for 31 miles to the border of South Dakota, where the byway ends.

Getting to the Byway

From Sioux Falls, SD to Native American Scenic Byway - SD

- Take I-90 west to Main St. in Chamberlain.
- Drive north on Main St. into town where the byway begins.

Road Trip: Native American Byway Tour

Departure: Akta Lakota Museum, South Dakota

Destination: Holy Hills of the Mandan Indians, North Dakota

Time to allow: 2 days

The Native American Scenic Byway highlights the natural and cultural sites of four distinct Sioux tribes in South Dakota.

Day 1

- **Start: Akta Lakota Museum**

The Akta Lakota Museum and Cultural Center is devoted to preserving and promoting Sioux culture, past and present. The museum is located at the St. Joseph's Indian School for Native American Youth.

- **Stop 1: Crow Creek Indian Reservation**

From previous stop: 25 minutes / 19.5 mi (31.2 km)

Directions: Follow SD-50 northwards for 12 miles, then turn left onto BIA-4 and continue for 2.2 miles. BIA-4 becomes E Fort Thompson Road, continue for 5.3 miles into Fort Thompson

This is the home of the Mdewakanton (People of Spirit Lake) and Ihanktonwan (People of the End) bands of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in Central South Dakota.

- **Stop 2: Lower Brule Indian Reservation**

From previous stop: 20 minutes / 16 mi (25.6 km)

Directions: From Fort Thompson Road, turn left onto SD-47 and continue 5.7 miles. Turn right and continue for 8.3 miles.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours 30 minutes

The Reservation for the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe is located along the southwestern shore of the Big Bend of the Missouri River. Visitors to the reservation enjoy the tribal casino as well as visits to Lake Sharpe and the Big Bend Dam.

- **Stop 3: Farm Island Recreation Area**

From previous stop: 30 minutes / 22.5 mi (36.0 km)

Directions: From Lower Brule, head west on BIA road 10. Continue for approximately 7.5 miles. Turn right onto SR 1806, and continue for approximately 15 miles.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

The park is nestled along the shores of the Missouri River and provides a great place for a variety of outdoor recreation activities. Camping, boating, and fishing are popular activities here. Swimmers enjoy the beach of the Missouri River.

- **End: Pierre**

From previous stop: 10 minutes / 4 mi (6.4 km)

Directions: Travel four miles west along SR 1806 to reach the Pierre City limits.

Visitors can begin traveling the Native American Scenic Byway at the north terminus at the South Dakota capital of Pierre. While in Pierre, visitors can tour the Cultural Heritage Center which showcases South Dakota history. An extensive collection tells the story of the Great Sioux Nation. Also in Pierre is the State Capitol building which has been deemed one of the most fully restored Capitol buildings in the United States. The building looks much as it did when completed in 1910.

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 62 miles / 99.2 km

Total Travel Time: 1 hour 25 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 4 hours 30 minutes

Day 2

- **Stop 1: Fisher's Lilly Park**

From previous stop: 10 minutes / 3 mi (4.8 km)

Directions: Start out going southwest on US-14 / US-83 / S EUCLID AVE toward E Pleasant Dr., then continue to follow US-14 / US-83 for 0.2 miles. Turn right onto US-14 / US-83 / SD-34 / W SIOUX AVE. Continue to follow US-83 S. for 2.5 miles. Turn left onto W Main Ave and continue across the bridge in Fort Pierre to reach Fisher's Lilly Park.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

This historical site commemorates the meeting between the Teton Sioux and Lewis & Clark. It is also near the site where they held their first council.

- **Stop 2: Eagle Butte and the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation**

From previous stop: 1 hour 50 minutes / 90 mi (144.0 km)

Directions: Turn right onto 1st St. / US-83 / SD-1806 / SD-1806. Continue to follow US-83 N / SD-1806 N for 1.1 miles. Turn left onto US-14 / SD-1806 / SD-34. Continue to follow SD-34 for 38.2 miles. Turn right onto SD-63 and continue for 48.1 miles. Turn right onto US-212 / SD-63 and continue for 1.8 miles. Turn right and continue for 0.3 miles. Turn left and continue for 0.3 miles. Turn right onto Main St. in Eagle Butte.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours

Eagle Butte is the center of the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. In Eagle Butte, the H.V. Johnston Cultural Center provides a museum and gift shop, and serves as a local activity center. While traveling Highway 65, be sure to look for the Cheyenne River Pullout. This scenic overlook features interpretive signs with the history of the Cheyenne River Valley, including the history of Chief Big Foot's Village.

- **Stop 3: Sakakawea and Sitting Bull Monuments**

From previous stop: 1 hour 50 minutes / 82 mi (131.2 km)

Directions: Go East on Highway 212 and continue for approximately 50 miles. Turn right onto BIA road 8 and continue for 30 miles to the junction with SR 20. Turn right onto SR 20, and follow the road as it curves north. Turn right (east) on Highway 12, and continue for 2 miles. Turn right from Highway 12 and follow the road to the monuments.

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

These two monuments commemorate the lives of Sakakawea and Sitting Bull with plaques that recount their history.

- **Stop 4: Fort Manuel**

From previous stop: 45 minutes / 25 mi (40.0 km)

Directions: Return northwards then turn right onto Highway 12. Continue for 2 miles, then turn left onto SR 1806 and continue for 22 miles. Continue for a mile beyond Kenel to find the fort.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours 30 minutes

A replica of Fort Manuel, built in its original dimensions, overlooks the Missouri River. The fort houses a museum that describes the fur trade's impact on Native Americans.

- **Stop 5: Fort Yates Stockade**



From previous stop: 30 minutes / 23.1 mi (37.0 km)

Directions: Turn onto SD-1806 heading northward and continue for 10 miles. SD-1806 becomes unnamed road, but continue for 0.8 miles. Continue onto CR-4365 for 8.3 miles. Turn onto ND-24 and continue for 2.3 miles. Turn right onto CR-4320 and continue for 1.7 miles into the city of Fort Yates.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

The Fort Yates Stockade is the only building that remains intact from the military post established in 1874. Situated in downtown Fort Yates, the building allows visitors to experience life on the prairie.

- **End: Holy Hills of the Mandan Indians**



From previous stop: same location

Directions: From Fort Yates, retrace the route back to SR 1806. Turn right to continue northward on the byway. These hills mark the northern terminus of the byway.

Early legend describes these hills as the resting place of the first Mandan's bullboats after the great flood. These hills lie at the boundary of the Standing Rock Scenic Byway in North Dakota, marking the northern terminus of the Native American Scenic Byway.

Totals for Day 2

Total Distance Traveled: 223.1 miles / 357.0 km

Total Travel Time: 5 hours 5 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 7 hours