

# WATFORD ★ CITY ★

GATEWAY TO THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK

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plan your ultimate  
Western North Dakota  
vacation!



*Badlands.  
Good Times.*

VisitWatfordCity.com





# Welcome to Watford City

Located on the edge of the west in North Dakota, Watford City offers so much to see and do.

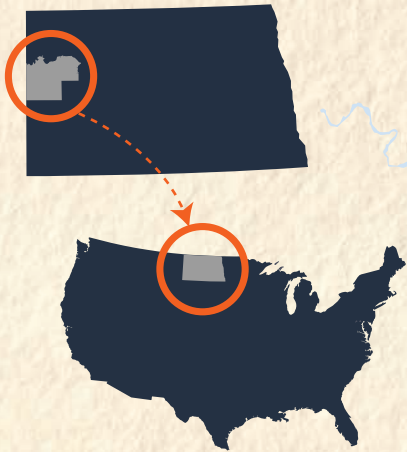
Put some miles on your hiking boots in the pristine Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Make a splash and kayak Lake Sakakawea at Tobacco Gardens Resort & Marina. Muddy your bike tires on the Maah Daah Hey Trail. And when you're ready to unwind kick back with fine dining, cocktail bars, and settle in to one of Watford City's stunning luxury hotel rooms.

## Long X Visitor Center

Watford City's Long X Visitor Center, The Merc and Art Gallery are your windows into Western North Dakota! Featuring regional tourist information, an art gallery and a retail store selling locally made products, books, art, ice cream treats and more. It's a great place to start any adventure in McKenzie County.

## Can't Miss Checklist:

- Snap a selfie** from a Theodore Roosevelt National Park North Unit vista
- Blaze the trail** through the Little Missouri National Grasslands
- Cruise the bay** at Tobacco Gardens Resort & Marina
- Try on a buffalo robe** at Fort Union National Historic Site
- Pick your favorite ice cream flavor** at the Merc in the Long X Visitor Center
- Map the stars** from Long Butte Ranch
- Walk in the footsteps** of indigenous peoples at the MHA Nation Interpretive Center & Earthlodge Village
- Try the slides** at our indoor & outdoor water parks.



# Where is McKenzie County?

McKenzie County is located in Western North Dakota, with Montana next door.



- 1 Long X Visitors Center, the Merc and Art Gallery
- 2 The Lewis & Clark Trail Museum
- 3 Sundheim Park, Fairview Liftbridge & Cartwright Tunnel
- 4 Sather Dam
- 5 Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Unit
- 6 Walter Chaloner Memorial
- 7 Maah Daah Hey Trailhead & CCC Campground
- 8 Grassy Butte: The Old Sod Post Office Historic Site
- 9 Little Missouri State Park
- 10 Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center
- Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site & Fort Buford
- 11 Tobacco Gardens Resort & Marina
- 12 MHA Interpretive Center & Earthlodge Village
- 13 Theodore Roosevelt National Park Science Byway
- 14 Killdeer Mountain Four Bears Scenic Byway
- 15 Birt Hill Trail & Little Missouri National Grasslands
- 16 McKenzie County Ag Expo  
McKenzie County Athletic Park
- 17 McKenzie County Sportsman's Club

*Centrally located  
to all of Western  
North Dakota's  
premier attractions!*



# Can't Miss Day Trips

*Watford City is located in the heart of western North Dakota's premier vacation attractions.*

- Theodore Roosevelt National Park North Unit
- Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Center, Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, & Fort Buford
- Tobacco Gardens Resort & Marina, Birnt Hills Trail, & Little Missouri National Grasslands
- MHA Nation Interpretive Center & Earthlodge Village
- Maah Daah Hey Trail
- Long X Visitor Center, shop at The Merc, Visit the Art Gallery



## McKenzie County Heritage Park & North Dakota Oil Museum

The pioneering spirit runs strong in McKenzie County, and we are honored to be stewards of that heritage. We invite you to explore McKenzie County's rich history, from prehistoric to farming and ranching to modern day oil exploration. Step back in time exploring buildings and artifacts from the great "Island Empire", the last and largest county in the state of North Dakota to be settled. Discover more about the petroleum industry and its history and its future here, including a to-scale replica of a drilling and work-over rig. We can't wait to share the stories of McKenzie County with you!



## **Tobacco Gardens Resort & Marina & Birnt Hills Trail**

Just 26 miles north of Watford City, nestled on the south shore of Lake Sakakawea, are two destinations for the year-round-outdoor-explorer's dream. Navigate the waters of Lake Sakakawea in a kayak. Or hike, ride, or bike the Birnt Hills Trail, and then enjoy the rugged comforts at the Tobacco Gardens Resort & Marina. Set up camp, fish for your dinner, grab a bite at the full-service restaurant or stop in the well-stocked convenience store.

## Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Theodore Roosevelt came to Dakota Territory in 1883 to mend a broken heart after the death of his wife and his beloved mother on the very same day. He was a skinny, young, spectacled traveler from New York. He could not have imagined how his adventure in this remote and unfamiliar place would forever alter the course of the nation.

Visitors to Theodore Roosevelt National Park's North Unit will find abundant watchable wildlife including bison, elk, prairie dogs, deer, and golden eagles, just to name a few.

The Visitor Center, located at the entrance, is the beginning of a Scenic Byway drive of 14 miles that takes you through the North Unit.

The campground is located four miles from the entrance of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park's North Unit. Camping is available to guests year-round.







**“ I would  
not have  
been  
President  
had it  
not been  
for my  
experience  
in North  
Dakota. ”**

*— Theodore Roosevelt*

## Little Missouri National Grasslands

Stretching over one million acres, the Little Missouri National Grasslands offers the opportunity to view the only bighorn sheep in the state of North Dakota. Elk, antelope, whitetail and mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse, eagles, falcons, and the busy prairie dogs often present themselves for the enjoyment of the visitor. The grasslands stretch from the banks of Lake Sakakawea to the north, to the state line to the west, and through McKenzie County. There are six non-motorized designated trails in the McKenzie Ranger District. Adventurers can explore the trails by hiking, biking, or as Teddy Roosevelt did, on horseback. Backcountry camping can be enjoyed anywhere on the Little Missouri Grasslands.





## Maah Daah Hey Trail

The Maah Daah Hey Trail is a world-renowned 144-mile trail that weaves through the north and south units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the Little Missouri National Grasslands. The name originated with the Mandan Tribes and translates to “land that will be around for a long time.” This trail system features nearly every type of terrain found in western North Dakota. This varies from grassy flats and ridges to very rough, steep clay badlands buttes with everything in between, including river bottoms and wooded draws to rolling prairie. The north end of the trail is located just across the Little Missouri River from the entrance of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.



## Lake Sakakawea

Lake Sakakawea, a reservoir on the Missouri River, makes up the entire northern border of McKenzie County and is the largest lake in North Dakota. The lake is named in honor of the young Shoshone guide Sakakawea who served as an interpreter for Lewis & Clark as they explored this territory in the early 1800s. The historic waters are still a favorite for explorers and offer recreation for water sports of all types. Boating and water sports abound at the lake. Pleasure and fishing boats, sailboats, wind-surfers, and canoers are commonly seen enjoying the vast expanse of the lake. In addition, swimming, waterskiing, jet-skiing ice-fishing, and scuba diving are just some of the favorite activities. Pack your gear and hit the lake any time of year!





## Embracing a Vibrant Culture

The Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara, known collectively as the MHA Nation or Three Affiliated Tribes, welcome visitors to experience their vibrant culture. The tribes believe their presence in North America is from the beginning of time. On the shores of Lake Sakakawea, just 45 miles east of Watford City, you can walk in the steps of indigenous peoples inside an earthlodge at the Earthlodge Village and MHA Interpretive Center. The Three Affiliated Tribes Museum features artwork, crafts, artifacts and historical pieces. Stimulate your senses at one of MHA Nation's summer powwows and events.

## Lewis & Clark Trail

The Confluence, or the junction where two rivers meet, of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers is located in McKenzie County. This was an important stop for the Native American tribes, traders and trappers, and also a strategic military point.

The Confluence played an important role in the Lewis and Clark (Corps of Discovery) expedition. They considered the Confluence of these two great rivers as one of the most important places in North America. The Corps of Discovery traveled this section of the Missouri River corridor in 1804 and on their return journey in 1806.

The Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Center, Fort Union Trading Post and Fort Buford State Historic Site, are a short 50 mile drive from Watford City.





## Fort Union National Historic Site

Fort Union was the most important fur trading post on the upper Missouri for 39 years (1828-1867) – longer than any other post on the frontier. It was renowned as a center of peaceful economic and social exchange between Plains Indians and white cultures. The fort that you see today is a full-scale reconstruction built on the exact locations of the original structures.

## Fort Buford State Historic Site

Fort Buford was one of a number of military posts established to protect overland and river routes used by immigrants settling the West. While it served an essential role as the sentinel on the northern plains for 29 years, it is probably best remembered as the place where the famous Hunkpapa Sioux leader, Sitting Bull, surrendered in 1881.

# GOLFING



## **Award Winning Golf Course**

Fox Hills Golf Course is a 18-hole upscale public golf course that rides the rolling prairie hills into large greens that can be approached equally well through the air or under the wind along the ground. We also enjoy a great social calendar, golf tournament schedule, leagues, and other great events throughout the year. Prepare yourself for an unparalleled golfing experience. Our course is a pleasure for golfers of any skill level to play. Test your accuracy with our fairways, water hazards and sand traps; we have everything you need to challenge you and improve your game.



# YOUR Next Event STARTS HERE

McKenzie County offers exceptional meeting spaces, beautiful hotels, state-of-the-art audio-visual capabilities, affordable rates, and remarkable places to discover and explore.

Choose from over fifteen meeting space in Watford City and across the County.



**For a complete list, scan here.**



We offer more than 800 hotel rooms, dozens of restaurants, and facilities that can accommodate meetings and events of all sizes, including weddings, tournaments and meets.

*This isn't your typical conference community!*



## Rough Rider Center

The Rough Rider Center—Presented by Northern States Fishing Tools offers exceptional design features, state of the art audio-visual capabilities, affordable rates, remarkable vistas, and comprehensive meeting planning services to create professional and memorable events.

The convention hall and meeting rooms are used for everything from weddings to trade shows to safety trainings and corporate meetings.

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Between the 22,000 square foot Arena and the 22,000 square foot Field House, the facility can welcome large-scale conferences, meetings and corporate events, weddings and private-holiday gatherings.

- Convention Hall and Ballroom can house anywhere from 15 to 400 people for meetings, weddings, conferences, banquets, etc.
- Smaller meeting space to accommodate from less than 5 to 25.
- Full industrial kitchen featuring anything a caterer may need to prepare a meal, large or small.
- Catering services for large and small groups.

# Ag Expo

The McKenzie County Ag Expo "Where Agriculture Meets Community" includes 212 acres of land with a 112,000 square foot building. The facility brings a wide variety of events and opportunities like rodeos, tradeshow, motorsports and agriculture exhibitions to McKenzie County and the region.

The facility offers many different sized rooms along with amenities that can be rented for personal or public events.

- 53,000 square foot Livestock Expo Indoor Arena
- 3 Exhibit Halls between 4,000 and 7,000 square feet
- Outdoor Arena with Grandstands
- Kitchen, Bar and Concessions
- Catering services for large and small groups
- 103 RV Spots



## Arnegard's Family 4th

The annual event celebrates America's birthday during one of the best 4th of July celebrations in western North Dakota. Activities include a BBQ, games, a parade, and a huge fireworks display.

## McKenzie County Fair

While the rodeo performances are the main feature, there are lots of exciting attractions at the fair. Highlights include a demolition derby, beef barbecue, evening dances, petting zoo, 4-H livestock show, horsemanship shows, and an exciting carnival.

## Alexander's Old Settler's Day

Alexander's Old Settler's Day is spread across four days. It's one of McKenzie County's largest events and features a parade, programs in the park, an art & craft show, dances, and a community church service.



## The Best of the West Ribfest

Get fired up for one of North Dakota's premier events, Best of the West RibFest. Teams compete for top honors serving up more than 6,000 pounds of ribs annually, along with a kid's zone, festival food, street vendors, and live music. Come for the ribs, stay for the music.

## Powwows

Powwows are a time for people to gather, sing and dance, renew acquaintances, and make new friends. Powwows are a visual extravaganza beyond compare.

## Homefest

Homefest is a weekend filled with fun. The event features golf tournaments, street dances, food, art, and activities for the whole family.

[www.watfordcityevents.com](http://www.watfordcityevents.com)



# STAY & DINE



## Settle In & Get Cozy

Explore fun, history, outdoor recreation, and culture at your leisure. Then, at the end of the day, unwind with unexpected comfort and amenities in one of the 800 rooms in our stunning hotels. You'll find deluxe suites, extended stay lodging, and charming and rustic log cabins. Wherever you decide to bunk for the night, you'll find large city amenities with small town hospitality.



**For a complete list, scan here.**



# Can't Miss Eats & Sips:

*Live like a local & try our favorite treats, eats, & drinks.*

- Hand-crafted brew and the Jalapeno Popper wood-fired pizza at Stonehome
- Certified organic roast Caramel Macchiato at Door 204
- Moscow Mule at Teddy's Lounge
- Pancake stack and cup o' Joe at Little Missouri Grille
- The Humpty Dumpty burger and your favorite pint at JL Beers
- Your favorite hand-cut steak at Outlaws Bar & Grill
- Burger, Sandwiches and Wraps with a scenic view at Fox Hills Golf Course



**For a complete list, scan here.**

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