

MEDORA

ADVENTURE GUIDE



Medora[™]
EXPLORE IT. ADORE IT.



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MEDORA, NORTH DAKOTA

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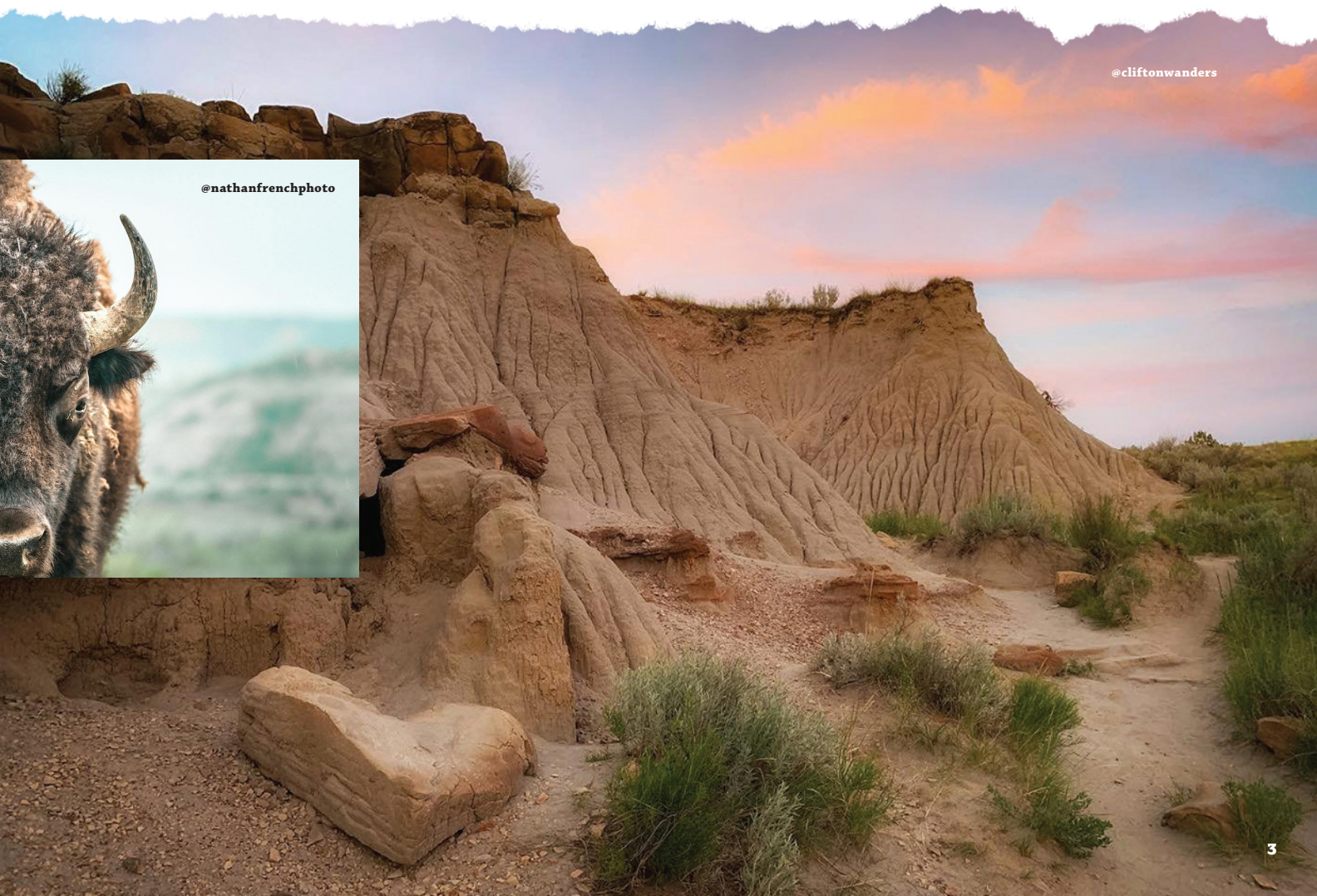
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LEGEND TO LEGENDARY

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@cliftonwanders

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MEDORA

ONE BIG LITTLE VACATION

You can measure Medora by its size. 130 people, give or take. But you can't measure the effect it has on the people who visit. This place speaks to you, the same way it spoke to a young Theodore Roosevelt. It's the way the horizon expands. The way an afternoon moves at its own good time. The way whatever notification lighting up your phone feels a little less important. This place may be a tiny dot on the map. But, by the time you leave, it'll hold a big place in your heart.



REASONS TO GO



A STORIED PAST

Discover the history of a cow town that shaped the life of Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States.



THE BADLANDS

Picture immense buttes, world-class wildlife, sweeping landscapes that go on to infinity. This is the west like you've never seen it before.



FAMILY THRILLS

A great family vacation brings out the kid in all of us. Between Medora Musical's bright lights and the Badlands' starry nights, Medora sets the stage for epic memory making.

LONG STORY SHORT

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MEDORA AND THE PEOPLE WHO SHAPED IT

1880

The Northern Pacific Railway reaches the Little Missouri River, opening the area to free range cattle ranchers.

1883

A French nobleman, the Marquis de Morés, founds a town along the railroad, naming it after his wife, Medora. He opens a meat-packing plant with a plan to ship beef directly from the range to the consumer.



ORIGINS

The land around present-day Medora is occupied by Crow, Cheyenne, Sioux, Arikara, Mandan, Hidatsa and other Indigenous tribes.

1883

A young Theodore Roosevelt visits the Dakota Territory on a buffalo hunt. The 15-day trip inspires him to invest in a ranch near the town of Medora.

1884

After the deaths of his wife and mother, Roosevelt leaves for the Badlands. He buys 1,000 more head of cattle and a second ranch, called Elkhorn, about 35 miles north of a now-booming Medora.

1885

Roosevelt's Elkhorn Ranch House is completed. It becomes the headquarters of his ranching operation. He lives "the strenuous life" on the frontier.

1886-87

A summer drought and hard winter devastates the ranching industry. Roosevelt's operation slows and his Badlands visits become infrequent. Medora's population dwindles.

1903

President Roosevelt visits Medora. As he describes it "the entire population of the Bad Lands down to the smallest baby had gathered to meet me."

1947

Congress establishes the land near the Little Missouri River as Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park. It remains the only national park named after a person.



1958

Local volunteers carve an amphitheater into Burning Gulch, one mile west of Medora. The venue shows a production called *Old Four-Eyes* to celebrate Teddy Roosevelt's 100th birthday.

1962

North Dakota businessman Harold Shafer, founder of the Gold Seal Company, sets about returning Medora to its former glory. He purchases and revitalizes the Rough Riders Hotel, Ferris Store, and the deserted theater in Burning Gulch.

1965

Teddy Roosevelt Rides Again: a Medora Musical debuts. It's the first edition of the musical that still plays today.

1986

Harold Shafer's Gold Seal Company creates a new organization, the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. Its goal: preserve the spirit of Medora for generations to come.



1992 – PRESENT

Renovations transform the Burning Hills Amphitheatre into a stadium-style venue with a capacity of 2,863. To date, more than 4 million folks have seen the *Medora Musical*. Talk about making history.



BRIGHT LIGHTS BRIGHTER STARS

MEDORA MUSICAL JUNE 7 - SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

Showtimes:

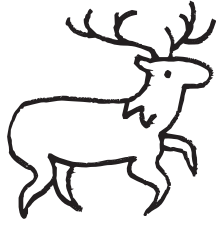
7:30 pm MDT Tues-Fri, Select Weekend Dates

5:30 & 8:30 pm MDT Sat & Sun*

A little history. A little humor. A whole lot of Western spirit. There's no show on earth quite like the Medora Musical. It's an ode to country-western music, America, Theodore Roosevelt and the untamed spirit of the Badlands – performed live and outside all summer long. Highlights include high-energy tunes, kid-friendly jokes, live horses on stage and a blazing firework finale.

**Variable show times. Double-show weekends begin June 24.*





Elk have quietly become a main attraction before the opening act, often grazing on the butte behind the theater as the audience enters.



TICKET SPECIALS

Wednesdays and Sundays
Kids 17 and under are FREE

Tuesdays and Thursdays
Seniors get 15% off

Daily
Active military plus spouses and dependents get 50% off



See ticket prices and more information at [Medora.com/medoramusical](https://www.Medora.com/medoramusical)

CRITICAL RECEPTION

“WONDERFUL NIGHT!”



“The settings on the stage are so professional and the Badlands in the distance is beautiful. It was a highlight of our trip. A wonderful way to spend a late summer evening!” – *Indiana visitor*

“WE WILL BE BACK AGAIN”



“We had a blast at the musical. The entertainment was top notch, and so fast-paced you were glued to the stage! Just the fact you’re outdoors under the stars makes it a night you’ll always remember!” – *Minnesota visitor*

“GREAT FAMILY EVENT”



“This is a great activity for families of all ages! Also does a wonderful tribute to our military servicemen and women. So glad they honor those who have served our country and give respect to our flag!” – *North Dakota visitor*

“A MUST-DO EXPERIENCE”



“The show, scenery and everything about it far exceeded my expectations. The highlight of our vacation.” – *Missouri visitor*

MEDORA GOSPEL BRUNCH

JUNE 16 – SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

Showtimes:

9:30 am MDT Wed & Fri - Sun

How about breakfast and a show? This toe-tapping gospel revue goes perfectly with a hearty Medora brunch. Start with a beautiful array of your brunch favorites — endless helpings of egg bakes, breakfast meats and other fixings. Then take in one electrifying gospel show with a full band, four gospel singers and a surprise guest performer, all hosted by the “Queen of the West,” Emily Walter.

THE TEDDY ROOSEVELT SHOW

JUNE 7 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2023

Showtimes:

3:30 pm MDT Wed - Sun

The world’s premier Theodore Roosevelt repisor, Joe Wiegand, shares the dramatic legend of Medora’s larger than life Rough Rider. Hear the story of Teddy’s bison hunt, ranching days, bar fight with the Mingusville Bully and capture of the notorious boat thieves.



“I NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN PRESIDENT IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR MY EXPERIENCES IN NORTH DAKOTA.”

– Theodore Roosevelt



SMALL TOWN BIG FUN

MEDORA RIDING STABLES & TRAIL RIDES

Cowboy up! See the Badlands buttes and canyons from horseback on a one- or two-hour ride. Great for all skill levels, even if aren't a barrel racer in your spare time.

NORTH DAKOTA COWBOY HALL OF FAME

Experience the legends of cowboys, cowgirls and the Native Americans in this immersive museum experience.



SPECIAL EVENTS

From the Hot Air Balloon Rally to Independence Day in Medora, there are plenty of reasons to make plans. See the highlights at Medora.com/calendar.

JOE FERRIS GENERAL STORE

Visit this original frontier store for gifts, souvenirs, knickknacks and oddities. Whether it's a coffee mug or music box, you'll find something memorable to give or get.

POINT TO POINT PARK

Home to mini golf, zipline adventures and a lazy river pool modeled after the Little Missouri, Point to Point Park is a do-it-all destination for family fun.

POINT TO POINT TRAILS

Over, under, through – never around. Theodore Roosevelt's favorite game, "Point to Point," dared participants to strike out in a straight line, conquering whatever came in your way. It's the inspiration for this 1.5-mile loop just outside of town. Join guided hikes in the morning, led by Medora's own TR repressor, Joe Wiegand.



Find more things to do
at Medora.com/do



ROUGH TERRAIN SMOOTH GREENS

BULLY PULPIT GOLF COURSE

Winding through meadows, buttes and bluffs, the 18 holes of Bully Pulpit Golf Course utterly amaze. There's a reason it's been ranked one of America's 100 Greatest Public Courses by Golf Digest. There's actually plenty of reasons between the elevation changes, gnarly topography and Little Missouri River views. Just try and keep your eye on the ball.



See green fees and set tee times at
[Medora.com/bullypulpit](https://www.Medora.com/bullypulpit)





ANCIENT COUNTRY FRESH PERSPECTIVES

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK

The Badlands alien landscapes are something else entirely, harsh yet beautiful, unforgiving and majestic. This underrated national park captured the imagination of Theodore Roosevelt in 1883, just like it captivates thousands of visitors today.



THE CAN'T MISS LIST

Just a few highlights from 70,400 acres of unreal wilderness.



SOUTH UNIT SCENIC LOOP DRIVE

This drive loops around the park, running past the most-popular scenic overlooks and trailheads.



MALTESE CROSS CABIN

See Roosevelt's original North Dakota home at the South Unit Visitor Center.



HOODOOS

These funky columns of weathered rock seem like they're straight out of galaxies far, far away.



WIND CANYON TRAIL

This short hike above the Little Missouri River leads to some of the most dramatic vistas in North America.



EQUAL PARTS HELLISH & HEAVENLY

What's the truth about North Dakota's Badlands? You decide.

"Hell with the fires burned out."

- General Alfred Sully describing the Badlands on a military expedition



"It is here the romance of my life began."

- Theodore Roosevelt writing from the present-day park





RIDE IN RAMBLE ON

MAAH DAAH HEY TRAIL

The 150 miles along the Maah Daah Hey are a smorgasbord for the eyes, featuring plateaus, peaks, valleys, prairies, rivers and that endless North Dakota sky. This nationally recognized single-track path is open to non-motorized uses, like biking, hiking and horseback riding.

MEET THE LOCALS

Keep an eye out for these Badlands inhabitants.



BISON



WILD
HORSES



ELK



PRAIRIE
DOGS



LONGHORN
STEERS



“Maah Daah Hey” is a phrase from the Hidatsa Mandan tribe. In English it means, “An area that will be around for a long time.”



BADLANDS GOOD EATS

PITCHFORK STEAK FONDUE

New York has pizza. Kansas City has BBQ. Medora has pitchfork steaks. Featured on the Food Network, these 12oz steaks are fondued western-style on, you guessed it, pitchforks. The entrée comes with baked beans, baked potatoes, garlic toast, and a host of extras and desserts – all served buffet style with a side of Badlands views.

Served just steps from the Burning Hills Amphitheatre, pitchfork fondue is the perfect pre-show meal. You can buy tickets for both at Medora.com.



See the full menu
of dining options at
Medora.com/eat



MORE BITES

THEODORE'S DINING ROOM

Upscale tastes in a downhome venue

BADLANDS PIZZA & SALOON

Great stop for a pizza and brew

FUDGE AND ICE CREAM DEPOT

Historic building offering ice cream and homemade fudge

SHERIFF BEAR'S ICE CREAM & BURGERS

Cold sweet treats, plus burgers and breakfast sandwiches fresh off the grill





NOT-SO ROUGHING IT

PLACES TO STAY OPEN MAY 12 - OCTOBER 1



MEDORA CAMPGROUND

Nestled under large cottonwood trees along the Little Missouri River, the Medora Campground features both primitive and full-hook-up sites. For unique stays, roll with the Conestoga wagon.



BADLANDS MOTEL

Convenient and comfortable, the Badlands Motel is a quiet reprieve in the middle of the action. Stay here and the outdoor pool, mini-golf course, kids park, and tons of unique shops are steps away.



HYDE HOUSE

Built in 1883, the Hyde House is one of downtown Medora's oldest structures. Equal parts old and new, it features antique furnishings and a modern kitchenette, complete with an oversized fridge, microwave and coffee maker.



See more beds to put your boots under at [Medora.com/stay](https://www.Medora.com/stay)



ALWAYS OPEN NEVER BORING

FUN BEYOND THE SUMMER

ROUGH RIDERS HOTEL

The Rough Riders Hotel is flush with an unmistakable western charm and historic touches – like walk-in showers decorated with Roosevelt’s cattle brands. Book one of the historic rooms for some real time traveling.

THEODORE’S DINING ROOM

Historic elegance meets fresh flavors in Medora’s marquee restaurant. From garden salads to bacon-wrapped steaks and bison osso bucco, Theodore’s Dining Room has a dish for every taste. Your table is waiting.

OLD TOWN HALL THEATER

The Old Town Hall hosts special events and a variety of acts throughout the year. For fans of music, magic, and comedy, it’s a big-ticket attraction. One highlight during the winter season is a *Very Merry Badlands Christmas*, performed by past and present stars of the *Medora Musical*. See what’s coming next.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK

Both units of the park are open 365 days a year, offering a whole new color palette of views. Scenic loop access is available as road conditions permit.





Medora Musical *Bully Pulpit* *Theodore Roosevelt*
GOLF COURSE MEDORA FOUNDATION

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