

# WATFORD ★ CITY ★

GATEWAY TO THEODORE  
ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK



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

# Watch Our Videos!

This Visitor Guide is enabled with Augmented Reality (AR). That means you can use a website to view short videos of things to see and do in Watford City and McKenzie County. It's easy and works on any mobile device.

## How it works:

1. Find the images with an orange bar indicating AR-enabled content.
2. Lay your Visitor Guide flat
3. Visit [go.innovatar.io](https://go.innovatar.io) and scan the AR-enabled images
4. Begin your tour of McKenzie County!

*\*WiFi is recommended*

Scan this image for an AR featured video!







# 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 the Little Missouri River's historic water. 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.

## WATFORD ★ CITY ★

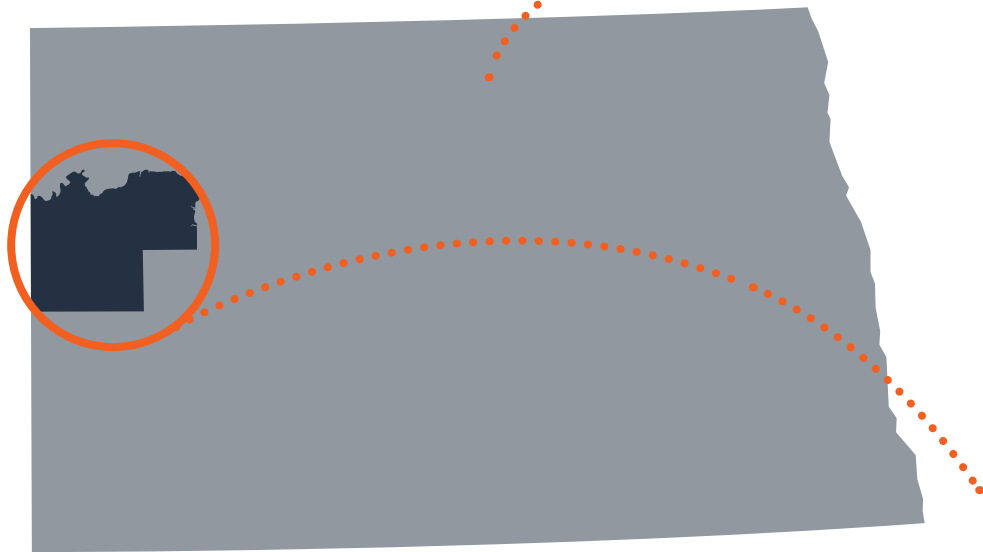
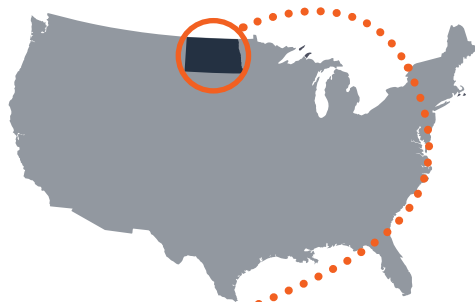
*\*Cowboy boots optional*

## 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 flavor at the Long X Visitor Center ice cream shop
- ☐ Map the stars from Long Butte Ranch
- ☐ Walk in the footsteps of indigenous peoples at the MHA Nation Earthlodge Village
- ☐ Try the slides at our indoor & outdoor water parks.

# Where is McKenzie County?

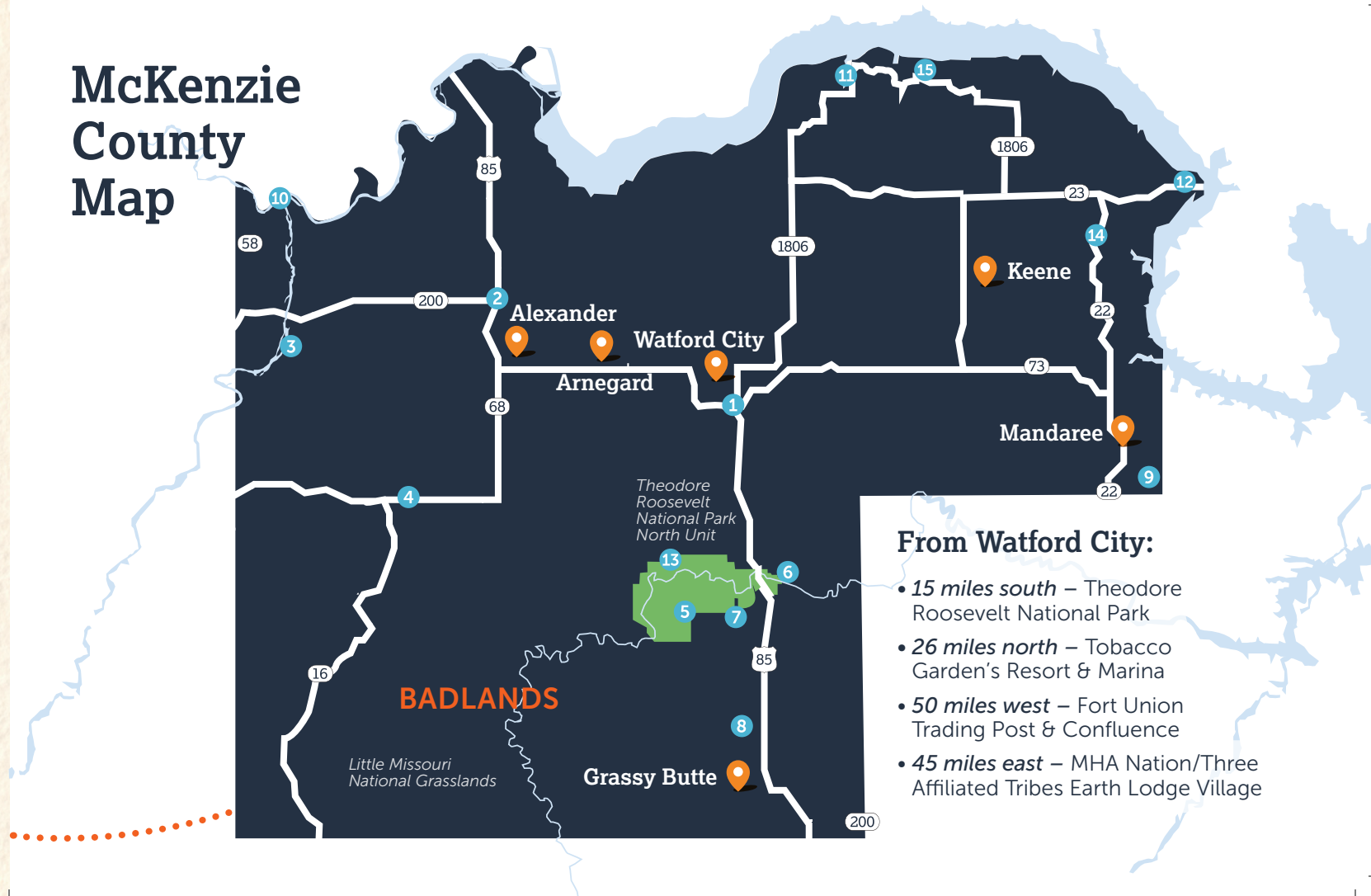
McKenzie County is located in Western North Dakota, with Montana next door.



- 1 Long X Trading Post  
Visitor Information Center & Pioneer Museum of McKenzie County  
Wild West Water Park  
Children's Play Water Park  
McKenzie County Heritage Park
- 2 The Lewis & Clark Trail Museum
- 3 Fairview Liftbridge & Cartwright Tunnel Museum
- 4 Sather Dam
- 5 Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Unit
- 6 Long X Bridge & Walter Chaloner Memorial
- 7 Maah Daah Hey Trailhead & CCC Campground
- 8 Grassy Butte: The Old Sod Post Office National 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 Three Affiliated Tribes Museum & Earthlodge Village
- 13 Theodore Roosevelt National Park Science Byway
- 14 Kildeer Mountain Four Bears Scenic Byway
- 15 Birnt Hill Trail & Little Missouri National Grasslands



# McKenzie County Map



## From Watford City:

- *15 miles south* – Theodore Roosevelt National Park
- *26 miles north* – Tobacco Garden's Resort & Marina
- *50 miles west* – Fort Union Trading Post & Confluence
- *45 miles east* – MHA Nation/Three Affiliated Tribes Earth Lodge Village

# 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/Three Affiliated Tribes Earthlodge Village and Museum
- Maah Daah Hey Trail
- Long X Visitor Center and Pioneer Museum



## Long X Trading Post: Visitor Center and Pioneer Museum

This easy-to-find visitor center is a great place to start any adventure in McKenzie County. Talk to the locals, enjoy a cup of coffee or ice cream, and shop for locally-made Pride of Dakota gifts. Then, check out The Visitor Center exhibits. A must see is the largest, most well-preserved fossil ever found in North Dakota; a 17,000 lb. petrified tree stump. The two-story Pioneer Museum showcases traveling cultural and geological exhibits and features stories of some of McKenzie County's first settlers and exhibits on early ranching, farming, and oil and gas exploration.



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## 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

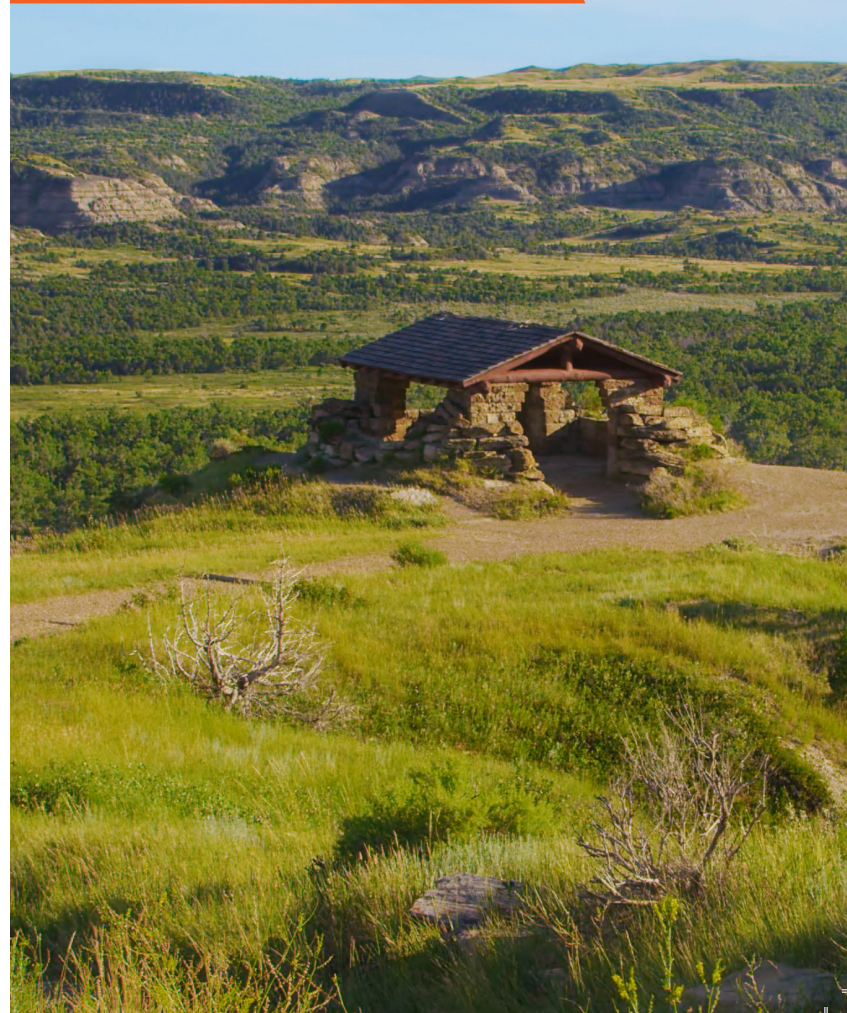
Theodore Roosevelt came to Dakota Territory in 1883 to mend a broken heart after the death of his wife and his beloved mother on the very same day. He was a skinny, young, spectacled traveler from New York. He could not have imagined how his adventure in this remote and unfamiliar place would forever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

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

*— Theodore Roosevelt*





# EXPLORE OUTDOORS

## 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. The MHA Nation welcomes visitors to experience their vibrant culture. 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.





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## 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, water-skiing, 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!

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## 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. 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.

# HISTORY

## 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.

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## 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.



## 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.

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## 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.watfordcityeventst.com](http://www.watfordcityeventst.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 900 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.





# 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
- The Winchester hand-cut steak at Outlaws Bar & Grill
- BBQ and Pepperjack Mac at American Smoke Wagon BBQ
- Beer Cheese Mac with a scenic view at Fox Hills Golf Course



McKenzie County Tourism  
P.O. Box 699  
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