

“Struggles for a Home”

This 5-day itinerary follows the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway and gives an overview of the “U.S./Dakota Conflict of 1862” - the largest Native American, pioneer and U.S. government battles in American history!

Day 1 - Originate in Minneapolis/St. Paul

- 10am-11:30 Stop in Henderson at the **Joseph R Brown Minnesota River Center and Research Library**, an interpretive center that tells the story of this soldier, Indian trader, logger, farmer, land developer, freight forwarder, printer, legislator who was instrumental in the Minnesota River valley.
- 12:15-1 Lunch at the Le Sueur Diner
- 1:30-4 Explore the **Treaty Site History Center** where the treaty of 1851 between the Dakota people and the federal government was signed, **Traverse de Sioux Park**, and **Greenlawn Cemetery** the second oldest cemetery in MN (platted in 1854) where missionaries, Dakota, pioneers and war veterans are buried.
- 6:30 Evening meal and choice of select lodging in St. Peter.

Day 2 - Originate in St. Peter

Choice of breakfast locations in St Peter

- 9:00-11:30 On to Mankato to visit **Land of Memories City Park** where an annual wacipi (pow wow) is held, **Winter Warrior Sculpture** that commemorates the death of 38 Dakota sentenced to hanging by President Lincoln. Stop in to the **Blue Earth County Heritage Center** to review the exhibits on the Dakota Conflict of 1862 and early pioneers
- 12:00 Lunch in Mankato
- 2:00-4:30 Tour historic New Ulm’s **Defender’s Monument, and Brown County Historical Museum** on a city wide tour.
- Evening meal and hotel in New Ulm.

Day 3 - Originate in New Ulm

Breakfast in New Ulm

- 9:30 am Visit **Harkin Store** and chat with costumed staff, and investigate the line of wares – many of them original inventory – at this 1870s general store.
- 10:30 Onward to **Ft. Ridgely State Park and Historic Site**. Built in 1853 Fort Ridgely was intended to serve as a "police station" between the line of settlement and the Dakota reservations along the upper Minnesota River. A staging ground for Civil War volunteers, Fort Ridgely was attacked twice during the U.S./Dakota Conflict

of 1862. The restored commissary building houses an AV program, exhibits and gift shop.

- 12noon Have lunch in Morton and take a quick stroll through their unique shops.
- 1:00-3:00 At **Lower Sioux Agency State Historic Site and Visitors Center** explore the history and culture of the Dakota, learn how government employees and missionaries sought to change their traditional way of life at the agency, and discover the roots of the U.S./Dakota Conflict of 1862 in the visitor center exhibit. Outdoors, investigate the original 1861 agency warehouse and three miles of trails with interpretive signs telling more of the agency's story. Renville County Museum, Morton Monuments
- 3:30-4:30 At **Birch Coulee Battlefield State Historic Site**, on September 22, 1862 an advance party of 150 soldiers was surprised and attacked at this site by the Dakota during the U.S./Dakota Conflict of 1862. The battle went on for 36 hours with heavy casualties. Reinforcements finally arrived from Fort Ridgely and ended the battle.

Dinner and Hotel in Redwood Falls

Day 4 - Originate in Redwood Falls

Breakfast in Redwood Falls

- 9am Follow the byway through Redwood Fall's spectacular **Alexander Ramsey Park**. to view Ramsey Falls, a zoo, breathtaking overlooks, a golf club, trail system and fishing.
- 10am-12 Onward in the steps of history toward the **Schwandt Memorial** commemorating settlers killed during the U.S./Dakota Conflict of 1862. Further along are the **Rudi Memorial** - an original dovetailed log cabin built in 1868, and finally the **Joseph R Brown State Wayside**. Remnants of the Brown's beautiful home still stand today after being destroyed in the Conflict. A little further you reach **Wood Lake Battlefield & Monument** which commemorates the battle of Wood Lake fought here September 23, 1862 between the forces of General Sibley and Little Crow. This was the site of the last battle of the US Dakota Conflict of 1862.
- 12 noon Lunch at Prairie's Edge Casino & Resort
- 2:00-4:00 Discover **Upper Sioux Agency State Park and Historic Site**. Established by the federal government in 1854 as a center for instructing the Dakota People in farming methods. The park offers two rental tipis and is the site of an annual wacipi (pow wow) the first week in August. On toward Granite Falls to the **Yellow Medicine County Museum**. Items exhibited show the life of the early settlers and their progress through the pioneer years, Native American artifacts, authentic log cabin and church on the site.

Dinner and hotel at Prairie's Edge Casino and Resort, Granite Falls

Day 5 - Originate in Granite Falls

Breakfast at Prairie's Edge Casino and Resort

9:30am On toward Montevideo **Olof Swensson Farm Museum** a 22-room house, timber-framed barn, family burial cemetery and remains of a grist mill. Constructed in 1901, the house contains original furnishings from this unique Norwegian/Swedish family. Then into Montevideo to **Historic Chippewa City** a unique 23 building, turn of the century village. Stroll the boardwalks as you reminisce of times gone by. Visit the Millinery Shop, Law Office, School House and our authentic log cabins. A 1915 Seagraves Pumper and a 1914 Dodge hearse are also on display.

12:30 Lunch in Montevideo

1:30 Just outside of Montevideo, **Camp Release Monument** was erected in 1894 by the State of Minnesota to commemorate the release of 259 captives during the United States/Dakota Conflict. Next visit the **Lac qui Parle Mission** located on the shores of Lac qui Parle Lake. The reconstructed mission and wading trails with interpretive signs mark the site where many Dakota had their first intensive contact with EuroAmerican culture. Learn about life at the nearby Fort Renville trading post, the development of the Dakota alphabet, and the translation of the Bible into the Dakota language.

Dinner and choice of hotel in Montevideo

Day 5 - Originate in Montevideo

Breakfast in Montevideo

Stroll Montevideo's picturesque main street and shops before leaving town. Have a safe journey home!

For More information contact:
Western Minnesota Prairie Waters at 866-866-5432
prairiewaters@umvrdc.org
or
www.prairiewaters.com and www.mnrivervalley.com