

# Dakota Language Byway Tour

Mni Sota Wakpa (Minnesota River) flows through Dakota homeland. The river valley and surrounding landscape is a region to which Dakota people have always been connected. The depth and importance of these connections is reflected in Dakota names for natural features and places along the riverway. Dakota stories and traditions are also related to some of these places. Using Dakota names as you visit these places or spot waŋbdi (eagle) flying in the sky is a way to maintain and honor Dakota ties to the river valley and the places that we share along the byway.

Dakota is an oral language. Beginning in the 1830s, Christian missionaries developed a Dakota alphabet, dictionaries, and grammar guides for the purpose of translating the Bible and other writings into the language. Much of these language studies and translation work took place along the Minnesota River valley – particularly at the Lac qui Parle Mission.

In the Dakota language the emphasis is most often placed on the second syllable of a word. Phonetic guides to help with pronunciation are provided in parentheses in the checklist. Syllables are separated by dashes. The stressed syllable is capitalized.

FOR MORE BYWAY INFORMATION, VISIT [www.mnrivervalley.com](http://www.mnrivervalley.com) OR CALL 1-888-463-9856



Bde Hdakinyan  
Lake Traverse

Bde Inyan Takinyanyan  
Big Stone Lake

Bde Iyedan  
Lac qui Parle

Mayawakan Wakpa  
present-day Chippewa River

Čaŋšayapi Wakpa  
Redwood River

Wağa Ožu Wakpa  
Cottonwood River

wi  
sun

waniyetu  
winter

wetu  
spring

bdoketu  
summer

ptanyetu  
autumn

maħpiya  
clouds

mağažu  
rain

waŋbdi  
eagle

pte / tatanġa  
buffalo

ptežičadan  
buffalo calf

tiŋta  
prairie

Pežihutazizi Oyate  
Upper Sioux Community

Čapa Wakpadan  
Beaver Creek

Čaŋšayapi Otunwe  
Lower Sioux Community

Mni Sota Wakpa  
Minnesota River

Mağatanġa Ota Bde  
Swan Lake

Čaŋ Kaška Wakpadan  
Shantaska Creek

kimamana  
butterfly

waħča  
flowers

peži  
grass

psipsičadan  
grasshopper

iŋyan  
stone

ahdeška (ah-DAY-shkah)

salamander or lizard

čañ (chahn)

tree

čapunġa (cha-POON-kah)

mosquito

četaŋ (chay-TAHN)

hawk

iŋyan (EEN-yahn)

stone

kimamana (kee-MAH-mah-nah)

butterfly

peži (pay-ZHEE)

grass

psipsičadan (p'see-P'SEE-cha-dahn)

grasshopper

pte (p'TAY)

buffalo cow, also buffalo (general)

ptežičadan (p'tay-ZHEE-cha-dahn)

buffalo calf

taħča (TAHK-cha)

deer

tatanġa (ta-TAHN-ka)

buffalo bull, also buffalo (general)

tiŋta (TEEN-tah)

prairie

waħča (wahk-CHA)

flowers

waŋbdi (wahn-b'DEE)

eagle

wabdoša (wah-B'DO-sha)

red-winged blackbird

zitka (zee-TKAH)

birds

waziyata  
North

wiyoħpeyata  
West

wiyoħyanpata  
East

itokağata  
South