

# Civil War Itinerary

## 1. Maple Creek Crossing State Historic Site, Chaffee, ND

Maple Creek Crossing recognizes a stream crossing important to travel in the days before bridges. With its gently sloping banks and firm bottom, this ford across the Maple River was a landmark in the early days of the exploration and settlement of Dakota Territory. Euro-American use of the crossing may have occurred as early as 1822 when discouraged members of the Selkirk Colonies moved from the Pembina area to the Mississippi River near Fort Snelling. By 1843 oxcart brigades were fording the Maple River on an established trade route between St. Paul and the Canadian border settlements. Military expeditions, explorers, freighters, and immigrants used the crossing as well.

## 2. Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site, Abercrombie, ND

The fort guarded the oxcart trails of the fur trade era, military supply wagon trains, stagecoach routes, and steamboat traffic on the Red River. Fort Abercrombie once served as a gateway to the West and the spear point of the army's advance to the Northern Plains. The original guardhouse and the reconstructed blockhouses and stockade attest to the bloody conflict that spilled into the Dakotas from Minnesota. Explore the buildings and visitor center.

## 3. Camp Atchison State Historic Site, Binford, ND

Camp Atchison served as a major base camp and landmark for the 1863 Sibley expedition. General Sibley had been pursuing Sioux Indians in the aftermath of the US-Dakota War of 1862 in Minnesota. Friendly Chippewa Indians visited the General and told him the Sioux were moving toward the Missouri River. Sibley decided he needed to quickly pursue them so left sick men, weak horses, cattle, extra wagons and other impediments at Camp Atchison.

## 4. Big Mound Battlefield State Historic Site, Tappen, ND

This was the first major battle fought in Dakota Territory by General Henry H. Sibley's Minnesota volunteers. It was the beginning of a week-long series of running battles that ended with the escape of the Native people to the west side of the Missouri River.

## 5. Whitestone Hill State Historic Site, Kulm, ND



For a long time, Whitestone Hill nourished millions of roaming bison and was a hunting paradise for native American people. Whitestone Hill marks the site of the fiercest attack on Sioux people in North Dakota and a place to contemplate our tumultuous past. The richness of the grasslands makes it clear why the Native Americans treasured this place.



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## 6. Fort Rice State Historic Site, Fort Rice, ND

Fort Rice was established in 1864 by General Alfred H. Sully as a field base during his 1864 expedition to punish the Sioux or Dakota people for attacks on people and steamboats. Fort Rice was the first of a chain of forts intended to guard Northern Plains transportation routes on the Upper Missouri River. It became one of the most important military posts on the Upper Missouri River.

## 7. Sully's Heart River Corral, Richardton, ND

On July 19, 1864, General Alfred Sully led his expedition away from the skeletal outlines of the newly established Fort Rice with a wagon train of immigrants en route to the newly discovered gold fields of Montana. To continue his pursuit of the Sioux, Sully left the immigrants and a military guard behind at the Heart River while Sully headed toward the Killdeer Mountains. The frightened gold seekers dug rifle pits to protect the wagon train from attack. Remnants of these pits are still visible.

## 8. Killdeer Mountain Battlefield State Historic Site, Killdeer, ND

In July of 1864, troops commanded by General Sully and a gathering of Sioux Indians battled on this site. This attack on an Indian trading village in the Killdeer Mountains was one of a series of military reprisals against the Sioux that followed the US-Dakota War of 1862 in Minnesota.

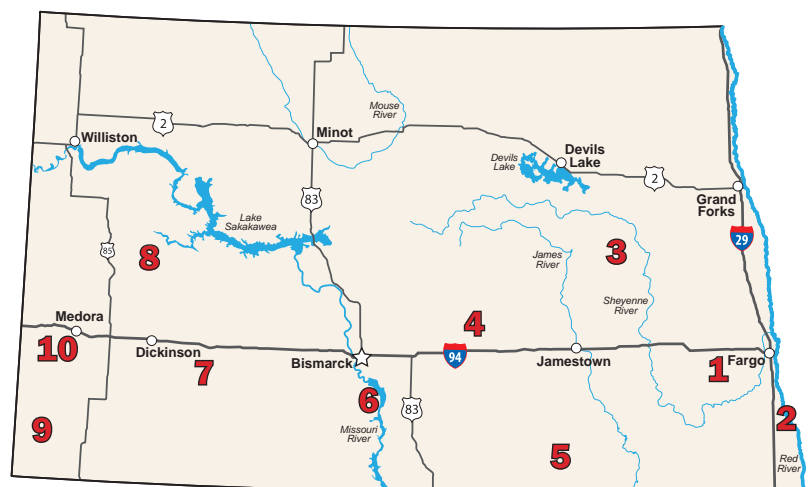
## 9. Fort Dilts State Historic Site, Rhame, ND

Fort Dilts is the site of a dramatic episode in North Dakota history where gold seekers in an embattled wagon train circled their wagons and waited for rescue by the cavalry. General Sully's attack on the Indian Village at Killdeer Mountain five weeks earlier, and the running battle through the Badlands between Sully and the Lakotas has lasted into early August. The Lakota warriors were in no mood to allow any military-escorted wagon train to pass through their territory.

### **\*\*Bonus site\*\***

## 10. Battle of the Badlands, Medora, ND

This was a running battle through the Badlands of North Dakota fought between the US cavalry led by General Alfred Sully, and a coalition of the Lakota and Dakota Sioux native American tribes. In addition to the Battle of the Badlands interpretive site, the site also contains portions of the 1864 and 1876 military trails, and the 1876 Snow Camp of the Custer Expedition to the Little Bighorn.



Learn more about North Dakota's past at [ndstudies.gov](http://ndstudies.gov).

