

# Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

PO Box 9  
Stanton, ND 58571  
(701) 745-3300



## Park Information



### Visitor Center

The Visitor Center is open year round. The park hours are 7:30 AM- 6:00 PM (Mountain Time) between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends, and 8:00 AM- 4:30 PM the rest of the year. The park is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Years Day. There is no entrance fee. Experience the day-to-day life and customs of the Northern

Plains Indians by looking through the museum, watching the orientation film, and stepping into the full sized earthlodge. Craft-work made by the descendants of these village Indians may be purchased here. Visitor Center programs and some trail areas are wheelchair accessible.

### Hikes and Walks

Visitors may take ranger guided tours or self-guided walks to three village sites in the 1,758 acre park. Evidence of earthlodges, fortification ditches, cache

pits and artifacts are visible. Pets are permitted on trails but must be on a leash at all times. Pets are not allowed in the Visitor Center or earthlodge.

### Self-Guiding Walks

Interpretive signs describe features found at the village sites. To hike the Village Trail from the Visitor Center to the village sites and return is about one and a quarter miles. The Awatixa Xi'e Village, or Lower Hidatsa, is closest to the Visitor Center and has thick midden deposits. Awatixa Village, or Sakakawea Village, is along the bank of the Knife River where erosion reveals a vertical profile of village remains. This is the site that Sakakawea was residing in when Lewis & Clark came through the

area. Big Hidatsa Village, a two-mile drive from the Visitor Center, contains the greatest quantity of earthlodge depressions in the park. Other park trails varying in length from one-half to seven miles take hikers through prairie and woodland ecosystems. Trails are open from sunrise to sunset. Two Rivers and North Forest trails are also groomed for cross-country skiing in the winter time.

### Ranger Guided Tours

Ranger Guided tours of the furnished earthlodge are held at the top of every hour from 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. There are also Ranger programs on Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 PM. Ranger guided

walks to Lower Hidatsa and the Sakakawea Village are also available on Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 AM. Programs can also be scheduled in advance by calling 701- 745- 3300.

### Camping and Picnicking

To preserve archeological features, camping is not permitted within the park. Camping, both primitive and with electricity, is available in nearby cities

and state parks within a thirty-mile radius. Visitors may picnic at the picnic shelter near the visitor center or the Stanton city park.

### Accommodations

Year-round motels, food service, and gas stations are located in nearby communities. Basic first aid

services are available in the park. The nearest hospital is in Hazen, fifteen miles away.

### Climate

An important part of your visit is preparing for the weather. Thundershowers are common on summer afternoons.

Winter travelers should be prepared for periods of subzero weather and snow. Average seasonal temperatures may be:

Jan- Mar	Highs - 10 to 30 F
April- Jun	Highs 35 to 85 F
July- Sep	Highs 70 to 100 F
Oct- Dec	Highs 0 to 50 F

Lows	- 25 to 5 F
Lows	10 to 50 F
Lows	40 to 70 F
Lows	- 15 to 20F

---

## Summer Activities

Weekend activities and special events may include demonstrations or programs on cultural and natural history such as bison, gardening, tool making, and Native American crafts. The Northern Plains

Indian Culture Fest is scheduled for the last full weekend in July. Contact the park in early summer for an event schedule.

---

## Additional Info

Many species of migratory birds visit the park in spring and fall. A bird checklist is available in the park Visitor Center. Fishing is permitted along the Knife and Missouri Rivers with a North

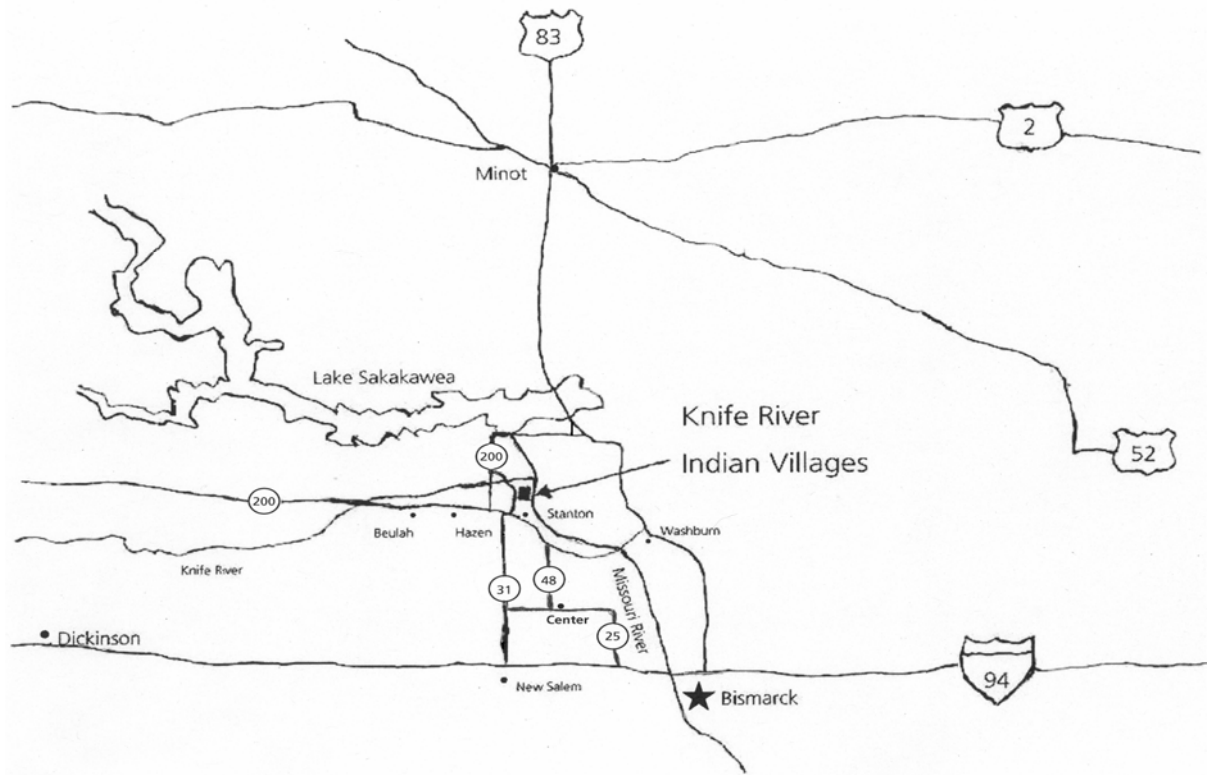
Dakota license. Swimming in the rivers is allowed at your own risk. All vehicles must remain on designated roads. Bicycles are not allowed on trails. Horses and firearms are prohibited.

---

## Getting There

Knife River Indian Villages is located on the west bank of the Missouri River, 60 miles north-west of Bismarck and 90 miles south of Minot, at

Stanton, North Dakota. The park Visitor Center is located one half mile north of Stanton on County Road 37.



---

## Preserving the Past

Knife River Indian Villages was established as a National Historic Site in 1974 to preserve remnants of the culture and agricultural lifeways of the Northern Plains Indians. Help us

to preserve the past and prevent destruction of valuable scientific information by leaving all cultural and natural material where you find them. These items are protected by federal law.

