

The 30th Annual “TEDDY TOUR” of Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota May 16 -18 2015

DISTANCE INFO: (kilometres)

Regina to Williston via Plentywood	326
Regina to Williston via Weyburn	304
North Unit to Medora (south unit)	120
Williston to North Unit	106
Oungre to Williston	105
Medora to Dickinson	60
South Unit scenic drive	40 (43 with Buck Hill)
North Unit scenic drive	33
Medora to Belfield	28
Cottonwood campground to Medora	10
Regina to the South Unit	547

Phone List / Information

North Visitor center 1-701-842-6828

South Visitor center 1-701-623-446

Park web site : <http://www.nps.gov/thro/>

Points to Remember:

- ✓ *Note: cell phone coverage is patchy at best outside of Williston. Depending on your phone plan, be aware of the high cost of roaming charges.*
- ✓ *The recent oil boom has impacted the Williston area. High numbers of heavy trucks and machinery may be expected; thankfully NOT in the park though. Some have opted for the Plentywood route to avoid at least some of the congestion. With the changes in the oil industry lately, the truck traffic may be lessened*
- ✓ *Booking a hotel room in Williston or Medora should be done well in advance of the trip due to family events and the high number of transient workers.* (all the more reason to camp this year!)

Travel and camping

- Remember: no citrus fruit or Canadian beef products! I now carry very little food down with me. Williston has food!
- Take your passport!
- Port of Oungre (highway 35) open 8am – 9 pm. Port of Regway (highway 6) open 24/7 as is the American side of Raymond. Highway #35 may have some issues this year. Check before you leave
- Be aware that buying gas can be a challenge between Regina and Plentywood if you take that route
- a couple of times I have had a problem using a Canadian debit card - have some credit cards or cash with you.
- *We have booked the group site in the Cottonwood Campground for Saturday and Sunday.* The site is found on the far north end of the South Unit campground loop. The club will pay the small camping fee there. **NOTE: the group site does NOT accomodate camper units, but suitable sites are available nearby.** All the sites are

walk-in

- camping in the North Unit is \$10 per site if you are not in the group site
- please note: your Sask Cycle Association insurance is invalid outside of Canada.
Consider your normal travel insurance options

Buffalo:

- **these impressive beasts have not been a problem in the 29 years the club has been doing these trips.** Bison often roam freely in the campground but our biggest concern is avoiding the huge piles of steaming fertilizer! *Don't let the bison cause you to stay home - they are one of the best reasons to go (along with the wild turkeys and horses and coyotes and antelope and deer and prairie dogs and wabbits)* If you encounter them (bison - not wabbits!) on the road while cycling, do not attempt to pass by - WAIT - for either a passing truck to shepherd you through or until they meander on down the road.
- Be especially cautious of moms with calves.

"Stocking Up"

- the stores in the Williston mall (highway 2/85 and 26) and the mega Walmart on the north end can supply all your needs. For some unknown reason Coleman fuel is hard to come by, at least in Walmart.
- There are 4 liquor stores in Williston including the one in the Albertson's mall. The convenience store in Medora has a pretty good selection of camping supplies, liquor and basic food.
- there are usually lots of tourist services, including restaurants, in Medora this weekend.

Camping/Hotel Facilities :

- as mentioned, we have booked the group site in the south unit Cottonwood campground for Saturday and Sunday nights. There is a nice raised pad with tables and several quite pleasant secluded camp sites. There are no electrified sites in the park.
- The water will be on in both the north and south campgrounds this weekend. Take suitable water containers. The South Unit has flush toilets and cold water near the group site. There are no showers in the park. *We do have our new shower enclosure for those we deem too smelly! Do not assume that riders who may be staying in the motel are keen to have you use their showers - wait for an invitation and take your own towel!*
- Do a search for hotels which will be open. Book early as family gatherings and the need for worker accommodation makes it sometimes tough to get a room in Williston or Medora.
- *I would certainly encourage you to join the majority of participants who will be camping this weekend.*

Weather:

- be prepared for some cool nights. Bring some cold weather camping and cycling gear. The daytime temperatures vary widely so check the local forecast before you leave – prepare for heat and cold and wet.
- bring rain gear and waterproof boots. The club should have their spiffy new portable rain shelter but let's hope we don't have to use it!

Note: We use Regina time for all events.

DAY ONE – Saturday, May 16

Meet at the Juniper Campground parking lot in the North Unit before 2 pm. If you have the time and inclination, consider driving down to camp in the North Unit on Friday to make for a more leisurely day on Saturday.

We need to leave Juniper by 2 o'clock in order to do the loop without rushing and still make it down to the South Unit in time to set up camp before supper. If you can't make it by 2, start when you can – we'll meet you on the way back as there is only the one road. Be prepared for a big hill near the start, then a series of rolling hills for the remainder. The entire scenic drive is 33 km. The ride usually takes 3 hours, allowing for frequent stops and a lunch break at the end of the road. Be prepared for some roaming but non-aggressive buffalo along the way. Do not approach any closer than 100 m and be prepared to wait patiently for them to clear the road or for a passing motorist to ferry you through.

We then **drive** 120 km to the South Unit where most set up camp in the Cottonwood Campground, 10 km inside the park. Take the first Medora exit off #94. **Drive through town** and head for the tall brick chimney which is near the park entrance. Once past the park visitor center (where you can purchase your park pass if they are open), cross the highway, pass over the cattle gate and watch for the first road on your left as the camping sign is sometimes missing.

Hotel patrons staying in Medora will probably have more than one choice at this time of year. Book early or decide this year is a good one for camping! Supper is usually out at the campsite.

DAY TWO – Sunday, May 17

Breakfast coffee will be ready in the campsite anytime after 8:00. **A hearty free breakfast to follow around 9:00.** In the unlikely event of rain, we will meet at the picnic shelter at the other end of the campground. Cutlery and plates provided. Hotel patrons are invited, no, **required**, to attend this meal! We usually stick together for the first part of the ride and will **try to get out of camp by around 10:30**

The South unit is a 40 km, usually 4 hour loop with the option of Buck Hill for lunch adding an additional 2 km vertical challenge! Leave the campground, ride to the main road and turn left. Take the first paved road to your left (about 5 km up the road) which leads to a steep hill and Wind Canyon with a spectacular view of the Missouri River. From there, a series of rolling (and sometimes challenging) hills will bring us back to camp. Should the road ever be blocked by bison ... WAIT! They will move eventually. Back off and relax. A passing truck may offer to shoo the beasts away or shepherd you through. Built in breaks! How well planned eh??!

Explore Medora or the surrounding area in the afternoon or just chill with your friends. *Scouting for new or interesting restaurants in town would be highly praised!* **We would like to meet somewhere suitable for supper around 6 (Regina time)** but feel free to feast in camp if you wish. We will have the club shower enclosure set up for those who wish to clean themselves up a bit. Heat up a supply of warm water and go for it! Do not assume that hotel guests are eager to have you use their showers. Wait for an invitation.

DAY THREE – Monday, May 18

A counter-clockwise loop of the park awaits you this morning. A group decision last night will have determined our start time. *The view and experience on this reverse loop really is different AND you have the challenge of beating your previous time!* Hiking the many trails or cycling the hilly route to Medora may interest you later in the day. Maps and guides are available in the visitor center or online. As we need to account for all the participants before heading back to Regina, please let the tour leader know of your plans.

Please note: "Unless you indicate by email that you do not want this to be done, your name and accommodation location will be shared with the other participants in this event. This will be done to simplify communications "

Contact Ron Keall at 306-545-1494 or rkeall@sasktel.net for further information or to add your name to a car-pooling list.