



**WILLISTON AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
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Featured Member

Fort Union Trading Post – National Historic Site

We are proud to introduce this week's featured member – Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site!

A trip to Fort Union takes you back in time to the mid-19th century, the heyday of Fort Union and the fur trade on the Upper Missouri river.

Tour the partially reconstructed fort and walk where many famous folk from several countries and cultures walked, folk such as Kenneth McKenzie, Alexander & Natawista Culbertson, Father Pierre DeSmet, Sitting Bull, Karl Bodmer, and Jim Bridger.

Fort Union Trading Post was the most important fur trading post on the upper Missouri from 1828 to 1867. At this post, the Assiniboine, Crow, Cree, Ojibway, Blackfeet, Hidatsa, and other tribes traded buffalo robes and other furs for trade goods such as beads, guns, blankets, knives, cookware, and cloth.

Today, the reconstructed Fort Union represents a unique era in American history, a brief period when two different civilizations found common ground and mutual benefit through commercial exchange and cultural acceptance.

Fort Union Trading Post is open daily, year around with the visitor's center located in the Bourgeois House.

Activities available at the fort include:

- Self guided map of reconstructed fort to explore site
- Bourgeois House/visitor center, museum, bookstore, film
- Reconstructed Trade House, living history programs in summer
- Junior Trader program for kids
- Bodmer Overlook hiking trail (open seasonally)





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Did You Know?

Each June the Fort holds a Rendezvous with a 19th Century Fur Trade Fair, which includes a variety of period arts, crafts, and music. Over 100 Re-Enactors from across the country and Canada participate – camping at the Fort and demonstrating traditional skills and lifeways.

This event is open to the public, and those in attendance are encouraged to participate in learning skills, touring the site, and trading their own goods (or Current US Currency 😊) for period items and materials.



Did You Know?

Fort Union Park Ranger and Cultural Resource Interpreter, Loren Yellow Bird was a technical advisor on the Oscar Winning film, *The Revenant*. He educated the film's director and stars, including Leonardo DiCaprio, on Arikara Language, culture, costumes, and battles and frontier skills. The real-life subject of the *Revenant*, Hugh Glass spent time at Fort Union.





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