

Grand Cities Destination Planning Guide

Grand Cities...where you'll find a warm welcome and everything you need to make your next meeting, conference, convention, athletic tournament or special event a spectacular success. Impressive facilities rarely found in communities our size, comfortable, convenient and affordable lodging, great food, courteous service, and lots of assistance from our Convention and Visitors Bureau all await you.

Our professional staff

We're geared up to help you throughout the event planning process, from finding exactly the right type of facility to making sure all the pieces fall easily into place from beginning to end.

Complimentary event services

- **Bid preparation and presentation**
Our sales staff will prepare and present formal bid proposals for conventions and events. The staff will also coordinate and host site visits and familiarization tours.
- **Hospitality packets**
We offer information for registration packets, including a hospitality bag, Greater Grand Forks Visitors Guide, Visitor Bargain Brochure, and other brochures based on availability.
- **Housing**
We will assist in coordinating housing needs by setting up room blocks.
- **Name badges**
The Greater Grand Forks Convention & Visitors Bureau will provide printed name badges with holders for multi-day conventions and stick-on name badges for one-day meetings.
- **Registration mailing**
We will provide accommodation guides with a coded map for your mailings.
- **Entertainment**
We can assist with arrangements for groups to tour various attractions and provide contact information for speakers and entertainment.
- **Welcome signage**
Multi-day events will receive a welcome banner and signs which may be displayed at the host facility. For large events, we will also distribute welcome signs to area hotels, restaurants and businesses.

- **Pre-event promotion**
Our staff has the ability to develop and distribute a professional and attractive e-mail promotion piece for updating potential attendees. We will also provide you with materials and presentations to take to other events for attendance promotion.
- **Registration assistance**
Our professional personnel can assist with convention registration.
- **Transportation**
We will provide you with shuttle bus contact information to help get your group where they need to go.
- **Public relations/publicity**
Our qualified staff can supply a contact list of our local and regional media and prepare and distribute news releases, along with pre-event promotion e-mail blasts. The senior staff members are available to give a welcome, during conventions, upon request. Letters of welcome from the mayor(s) of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks are also available.
- **Event planner tool**
This valuable feature allows your event attendees to register and/or pay online for your convention, conference or sporting event. As the planner, you can either enter all the information yourself or have one of our qualified staff assist you.
- **VIP gifts**
Based on event size, the CVB may be able to provide gift plates/baskets for your event VIPs. These typically include popular locally-made food and beverage items, along with a variety of accompaniments.
- **Flip Video**
While in you are in town enjoying our venues, parks and shopping, check out a flip video and take some candid video of what you saw

and liked. Turn the camera back in, we'll edit the family friendly content and post on our website.

- **Electronic Billboard**
Multi-day events will be welcomed on the electronic billboard (corner of DeMers Ave and Washington St.)
- **Summer Fun Recreation Gear**
Call your CVB contact and make advance arrangements to check out games and sports balls free of charge for your groups use at a nearby park.

Group tour services

- Step-on guide service for city tour
 - Itinerary planning
 - Assistance with arrangements for tours, restaurants, and hotels
 - Promotional materials—video, photos, and brochure shells
 - Visitor Center reception
- Add to that small-town hospitality, competitive pricing, and quick and easy access to facilities and housing, and you have all the ingredients for a Simply Grand event. Come join us in the friendly cities of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

Contact information

To learn more about making your event a big success.

- Visit our website at www.visitgrandforks.com
- Contact the sales department at the Greater Grand Forks Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-800-866-4566 or (701) 746-0444 or email: sales@visitgrandforks.com

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- **FASA BreakAway Lounge**
The CVB will provide eligible youth groups a space to get away and relax. It will be supplied with video game systems (Wii, Xbox etc), portable DVD players, along with movies and TV series', snacks and beverages.
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Did you know?

A few quick facts about the Grand Forks Region

- Grand Forks was founded at the confluence of the Red Lake River and the Red River by traders and trappers who used “les grand fourches” to congregate and set up a trading post. Legend has it the city was settled when the crew of steamboat captain Alexander Griggs retrieved a lost keg and came to shore with it on the banks of the modern downtown.
- Today, Greater Grand Forks is an impressively cosmopolitan area, with a regional population of about 100,000 residents spanning two communities and two states.
- Although it’s difficult to tell now, in 1997 Grand Forks and East Grand Forks were devastated by the Flood of the Century and a subsequent fire that destroyed 11 downtown buildings. The peak flow of the Red River measured in Grand Forks during the flood was 137,000 cubic feet—more than 1 million gallons—per second.
- The Grand Forks shopping scene includes shopping centers with big retail names and one-of-a-kind boutiques and stores. You’ll find unique shops in our restored Downtown along with a Farmers Market every Saturday during the summer.
- The Greater Grand Forks Region is home to four institutions of higher education, including North Dakota’s only schools of law, medicine, and aerospace, as well as technology-driven campuses that offer students training for technical and skill-based careers. The University of North Dakota, the state’s oldest and largest institution of higher learning, is in Grand Forks. Northland Community Technical College has a campus in East Grand Forks. Located outside the Grand Cities are the University of Minnesota-Crookston and Mayville State University.
- The Red River Valley is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world. Major crops include wheat, durum wheat, sugar beets, potatoes, beans, sunflower seeds, corn, and oats. Plenty of these crops stay right here in the Valley, finding their way to local restaurants, bakeries, and grocery stores.
- Greater Grand Forks is home to the Grand Forks Air Force Base and the North Dakota National Guard.
- By the late 1930s, there were so many flashing neon lights on DeMers Avenue “Ripley’s Believe it or Not” credited East Grand Forks with the highest three-block concentration of neon lights in the world. We no longer make that claim, but the Boardwalk is still a pretty lively place with plenty of restaurants and shopping.
- You may hear the term “coulee” on your visit to Grand Forks. Webster’s defines it as a deep gulch or ravine, but we use it to refer to a picturesque, meandering stream that winds its way throughout the city.
- What do you get when you let children help design a playground? Sherlock Forest Playground in East Grand Forks. It’s not quite like anything you’ve seen before, and it gets rave reviews from kids.



Need more information?
Find it in our Guide.



Grand Cities at a glance

Population

Grand Forks
Metro Area: 97,478
Grand Forks: 54,576
East Grand Forks: 8,611
Grand Forks
Air Force Base: 2,500
UND Enrollment: 12,559

Transportation

Highways: Interstate 29 and
U.S. Highway 2
Airlines: Northwest/Mesaba/
Pinnacle Airlines
Passenger Rail Service: Amtrak
Bus Lines: Triangle,
Dietrich, Jefferson

Transportation

Grand Forks International Airport

Grand Forks Flight Support
701-772-5504

Airport Authority
701-795-6981

U.S. Customs
701-772-3301

Airport Parking
701-772-0090

Airlines

Northwest/Mesaba/Pinnacle Airlines
Grand Forks International Airport
800-225-2525

Charter Information
Grand Forks Flight Support
2467 Air Cargo Drive
Grand Forks, ND 58203
701-772-5504

Allegiant Air
Grand Forks International Airport
702-505-8888

Railway Service

Amtrak
5555 DeMers Avenue
701-775-0484 (local terminal)
800-872-7245 (info & reservations)

Taxi Service

Nodak Radio Cab
1101 5th Street S
701-772-3456

Dial-A-Ride Nodak Cab
701-772-3456
(available for people with disabilities)

Dial-A-Ride Grand Forks Taxi
701-775-8294

Grand Forks Taxi
105 5th Street N
701-780-8890

Red, White and Blue City Cab
1811 20th Street S
701-610-3369
888-746-5008

Bus Lines

Triangle Transportation
1724 Gateway Drive
701-775-4781 (local terminal)
or 218-773-2631 (office)

Grand Forks City Bus
701-746-2600
(routes & fare info)

Dietrich Bus Service
1115 55th Street N
701-772-0601
800-772-0601

Jefferson Lines
1724 Gateway Dr.
701-775-4781 (local terminal)
800-451-5333
(info and schedule)

Rental Car Agencies

Avis Rent-A-Car
Grand Forks International Airport
701-775-0688 (local)
800-831-2847

Econo Rent-A-Car
405 Gateway Drive
701-775-2317 (local)

Enterprise Rent-A-Car
2650 32nd Avenue S
701-775-3977 (local)
800-325-8007

Hertz Car Rental
Grand Forks International Airport
701-746-6426 (local)
800-654-3131

National Car Rental
Grand Forks International Airport
701-746-1375 (local)
800-227-7368

Price King Rent-A-Car
910 S Washington Street
701-775-2509 (local)
800-570-3754

Touring Around...

Itinerary ideas to help you make the most of your stay.

Shop Until You Drop Tour (weekend)

Day 1

Start your day at the Farmer's Market in the Town Square. This outdoor market features a variety of vendors selling produce, crafts, and various foods. (Hours are Saturdays 8am-2pm, mid-June through mid-September)

Check out the boutiques and shops in the downtown area. As you go from shop to shop, stop and look at the pocket parks located throughout downtown.

Stop at Badman Design to see many handcrafted items including jewelry, wine racks, picture frames, ornaments, tables, mirrors and much more.

A must stop is Widman's Candy Shop—a chocolate lover's heaven! Try their world famous "Chippers," which are actually chocolate-covered potato chips. They also offer other unique items such as chocolate-covered dill pickles, olives and jalapenos, along with more conventional favorites.

Enjoy lunch at one of many downtown local restaurants in Grand Forks or along the boardwalk of restaurants in East Grand Forks.

Cabela's, the world's foremost outfitter, is located on DeMers Avenue in downtown East Grand Forks. A 60,000-square-foot store, it features hunting and fishing equipment and outdoor gear—along with a waterfall, aquarium and several game mounts situated throughout.

The Riverwalk Centre is located just across the street from Cabela's. It houses specialty shops, a 12 screen movie theater and other new developments are underway.

Pay a visit to the Grand Cities Mall and check out the variety of stores and bingo hall.

Enjoy an meal at one of many fine area restaurants.

Attend a concert at the Alerus Center.
(subject to scheduling)

Day 2

Have breakfast out at any one of our local restaurants or relax and have a continental breakfast in your hotel.

Off to the Columbia Mall to check out the 70 stores including Macy's, Sears, JC Penney, and more.

Enjoy a nice lunch in one of the mall area restaurants.

Next stop is the Marketplace, located across from the Columbia Mall. There are several well known retailers such as Super Target, Old Navy, Best Buy, Bed Bath & Beyond, Michael's Crafts, Kohl's, Gordman's Department Store, Famous Brand Foot Wear, and many others. You will easily be able to spend the majority of the afternoon checking out all the stores.

Have a delicious dinner, followed by a quiet evening at one of the many hotels, sitting by the pool or relaxing in the hot tub!

Touring Around...

You Should See Us Now Tour

A video is available for viewing enroute to Greater Grand Forks. This video chronicles the Red River Valley's flood history and features footage of the historical '97 flood and fires that devastated our communities. Presented by our "step-on" guide, the '97 flood recovery tours through the community, showing the water damage, new developments, and the flood protection now in place. (approx. 1 hour)

Stops can easily be added along the way to check out some of the many impressive developments that have taken place since 1997.

Tour the \$100 million state-of-the-art Ralph Engelstad Hockey Arena, one of the finest in the world. You will want to check out the marble floors, leather seats, over 300 televisions, and more. The new addition of the Betty Engelstad Sioux Center, UND's basketball and volleyball facility, is also included in the tour. (Tours at 1:30 PM Monday thru Friday, approximately 1 hour 15 minutes)

Tour Cabela's, a 60,000-square-foot store featuring a 35-foot-high mountain with wild game mounts and gigantic aquarium featuring fish of the Red River Valley area. Public display fish feeding at Cabela's is scheduled on even calendar days.

The Marketplace features several popular retail stores including Super Target, Best Buy, Old Navy, Michael's Craft Store, Gordman's, Kohl's, Bed Bath & Beyond, Lowe's, and more.

Aviation Today

Your group will enjoy touring Grand Forks Air Force Base. There are a variety of tours for you to choose from including: KC-135 Stratotanker; military working dog demonstration; control tour/radar approach control; Heritage Park; Cold War Memorial Park; sports and fitness center; and more. (approx. 4 hours depending on your choice of tours - two weeks advance notice needed)

After a morning of learning about our Air Force, your group will see the latest in technology at the John D. Odegard Aerospace Science Center—one of the top pilot training centers in the nation. The tour includes: high altitude chamber; flight simulators; air traffic control and air traffic control tower simulators; weather analysis; super computer; and more. (approx. 1 hour 15 minutes) Your group can also go out to the airport to see the planes, hangars, etc. (this adds approx. 1½ hours and you will need to transport the group to the airport)

Touring Around...

Sports Tour (full day)

Start your day with 18 holes of golf at King's Walk, our 18-hole Arnold Palmer PGA signature course. (4 hours)

Enjoy lunch at the Eagle's Crest Grill located in the King's Walk Club House.

Following lunch, make a stop at Cabela's, the world's foremost outfitter, located on DeMers Avenue in downtown East Grand Forks. A 60,000-square-foot store, it features hunting and fishing equipment and outdoor gear. Check out the waterfall, aquarium and several game mounts located throughout.

At the Grand Cities Mall, you can test your climbing skills at the Northern Heights Rock Gym.

Tour the fabulous Ralph Engelstad Arena. A \$100 million hockey facility, it is one of the finest in the world. Be sure to check out the marble floors, leather seats, and more. You can also see the new Betty Engelstad Sioux Center addition—the home of the UND basketball and volleyball teams. Don't forget to make a stop in the pro shop to pick up UND Fighting Sioux souvenirs. (Monday thru Friday tours at 1:30 pm; approximate time: 1 hour 15 minutes)

Head back to the hotel and get ready for dinner at one of many local restaurants.

Attend an evening sporting event—perhaps a hockey or football game or the races at the River Cities Speedway.

Agricultural Tour (one day)

Agriculture is the leading industry in the Red River Valley. Greater Grand Forks is located in the heart of the valley and has some of the richest farmland in the nation. Our major crops include sugar beets, wheat, potatoes, soybeans, sunflowers, and corn. Tours can be arranged to observe a working farm, harvest, the various types of crops grown, farm equipment, or perhaps a farm with several types of antique tractors. Your options will vary depending on the time of year you visit.

Drive through the countryside to see the various types of crops grown in the valley. If the timing is right, you may be able to watch the harvest.

Stop at the East Grand Forks Heritage Center, where you can enjoy a Buffalo Burger BBQ lunch and check out the antique farm equipment that was once used in the Red River Valley. In addition you can tour the pioneer home, church, general store and other buildings. There is also a Model Railroad Museum on the grounds. The layout is all DCC or computer controlled and it has the capacity to allow 99 engineers to operate at one time. (1½ hours for lunch and RR Museum)

Arrive at a local farm to learn about the farming business and see some of the equipment used to operate the farm. Learn more about the crops raised in the valley.

Touring Around...

Art History Tour (one day)

Stop at Badman Design and meet David Badman, creator of such handcrafted items as jewelry, wine racks, picture frames, tables, mirrors, and much more. (1/2 hour)

Widman's Candy Shop, a chocolate lover's heaven, is a delicious stop for any tour. Try the world famous "Chippers" (chocolate-covered potato chips) or one of many other creations including chocolate-covered dill pickles, olives, pistachios and corn nuts. (1/2 hour depending on size of group and purchases)

Tour the historic Empire Arts Center and see the current exhibit. (1/2 hour)

Visit one of our art galleries such as Browning Arts, Arts Place or 3rd Street Gallery. As you walk around downtown, be sure to stop and check out the many statues and pocket parks.

Lunch at one of the downtown restaurants.

Visit the ND Museum of Art and see the current exhibit, as well as the permanent collection of art. (45 minutes)
Take a coffee break in the lower level of the museum and enjoy a great cup of coffee and one of their delicious desserts. Make a stop at the museum gift shop before leaving and check out the unique gifts available from around the world.

Return to the hotel, relax, and get ready for dinner.

Dine at one of our many local-flavor restaurants.

Enjoy an evening out and catch a performance at one of our many venues: Chester Fritz Auditorium; Firehall Theatre; Empire Theater; or the Alerus Center. (subject to scheduling)

Return to the hotel and relax by the pool or enjoy a soak in the hot tub before calling it an evening!

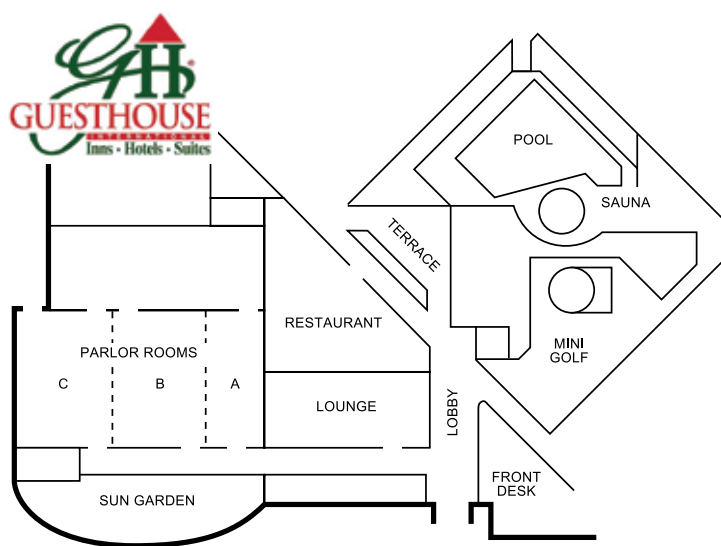
GuestHouse International Town House

Features

Meeting/banquet rooms: 4
Capacity: 300 people
Specialty rooms: Deluxe
Hospitality Suites
Shuttle Service: airport
courtesy shuttle

710 1st Avenue N.
Grand Forks, ND 58203
Phone: (701) 746-5411
Toll Free: (800) 867-9797
www.guesthouseintl.com

- 104 guest rooms
- Indoor atrium with swimming pool, whirlpool, miniature golf and more
- Muddy Rivers Bar & Grill with charitable gaming, entertainment and catering



Meeting Rooms	Square Feet	Banquet	Classroom	Theatre	Reception
Parlor Room A	800	48	32	60	40
Parlor Room B	1,200	100	60	150	64
Parlor Room C	1,200	100	60	150	64
Parlors B & C	2,400	225	130	300	128
Parlors A, B, and C	3,200	265	184	360	168
Parlors A, B, and C (with dance floor)	3,200	196	–	–	128

Ramada

Features

Meeting/Banquet rooms: 7
 Capacity: 750 people
 Parking: 300 vehicles
 Shuttle Service: airport
 courtesy shuttle

Jct. I-29 and US Hwy. 2
 Grand Forks, ND 58203
 Phone: (701) 775-3951
 Toll Free: (800) 2-RAMADA
www.gframada.com

- 100 guest rooms with dataport phones, high speed internet, voice mail and other amenities
- Indoor swimming pool, sauna and whirlpool
- B&B's Restaurant and Dreamer's Lounge
- A "Gold Key Ramada" and winner of the "Inn of the Year" and the "Guest Service Award"



Meeting Rooms	Square Feet	Banquet	Classroom	Theatre	Reception
Conference Center	6,232	750	430	900	800
Amigo	896	80	63	117	100
Bravo	864	72	45	100	100
Coronado	2,924	350	220	453	400
Diablo	1,548	156	90	170	180
Coral	459	40	-	50	50
Governors	550	-	25	50	60
Mezzanine	176	-	8	161	20

Hilton Garden Inn Grand Forks/UND

Features

Meeting/banquet rooms: 3
Capacity: 200 people
Parking: 150 vehicles

**4301 James Ray Drive
Grand Forks, ND 58203
Phone: (701) 775-6000
or 877-STAYHGI
Fax: (701) 746-0298
www.grandforksund.
stayhgi.com**

- 100 guest rooms (23 suites); each with refrigerator, microwave and coffee maker
- Free in-room high-speed internet access; two dual-line speakerphones with voice mail and dataports
- 24-hour business center
- Heated indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, fitness center
- Great American Grill Restaurant and Lounge
- Located on the western edge of the University of North Dakota campus and connected via a skywalk to the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences.



Meeting Rooms	Square Feet	Banquet	Classroom	Theatre	Reception
Ray Executive Board Room	670	–	–	–	–
Buchli	1,440	80	60	100	–
Dahl	1,440	80	60	100	–
Buchli/Dahl	2,880	200	160	200	200

Clarion Inn

Features

Meeting/banquet rooms: 6
 Capacity: 385 people
 Specialty Rooms: VIP Suite
 Shuttle Service: airport
 courtesy shuttle

1210 N. 43rd Street
 Grand Forks, ND 58203
 Phone: (701) 772-7131
 email: holidayinn@rrv.net
www.grandholidaystay.com

- 148 guest rooms (six suites)
- Heated indoor swimming pool and atrium, Splash Island Family Water Park featuring 110-foot water slide, fun island play feature, 25-person spa, snack bar and seating area, and more
- Peartree Restaurant and Sugar's Lounge and Casino



Meeting Rooms	Square Feet	Banquet	Classroom	Theatre	Reception
Eielson	1,152	100	55	100	140
Griggs	714	48	30	60	70
Merrifield	630	48	30	60	70
Winship	739	48	30	60	70
Wheeler	652	48	30	60	70
Griggs 2	2,735	380	144	400	420
Cushman	684	40	30	50	70

Canad Inns Destination Center

Features

Mtg Capacity: 20-50 people
Specialty Rooms: VIP Suites
Shuttle Service: airport
courtesy shuttle

**1000 South 42nd Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201
www.canadinns.com**

- Entertainment complex attached to the Alerus Center
- 201 rooms with penthouse floor, executive suites with fireplace, adult theme suites with jacuzzi, king leisure with jacuzzi, kids theme rooms, deluxe queen and king rooms, and accessible guest rooms
- 40,000-square-foot aquatics center with pool, waterslides, sprayers, lazy river, hot tub, and arcade
- Restaurants: l'Bistro's Italian Eatery, AALTOS, water park concessions
- Nightlife: Tavern United Sports Pub and Playmaker's Gaming Lounge
- Amenities: wireless high-speed internet, in-room refrigerators, in-room microwaves, hotel business center and gift shop

