Traveling the Otter Trail Scenic Byway, you’ll discover a land steeped in tradition and beauty. From more than 1,000 sparkling lakes and wildlife-filled wetlands to 19th century flour mills, scenic trails and spectacular roadside sculptures, the Byway offers something for everyone.

You’ll find many intriguing historic sites, informational markers, and the rich natural and cultural resources that make this picturesque route an attraction for visitors from around the world.

Otter Tail County is one of Minnesota’s most productive agricultural regions as well as one of its best-known all-season recreational areas. With fishing and watersports, golfing, hunting, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing, this lovely land of lakes and forests is the perfect year-round vacation spot for the entire family.

The Byway connects many of the county’s scenic and historic locales. You’ll pass by tribal hunting grounds and battle sites of great Indian nations. You’ll trace the routes of fur traders and explorers. You’ll learn about an old Mormon colony, the first permanent white settlement in the county. You’ll see where towns were platted, boomed and died. You’ll also discover the important roles played by railroads and European immigrants in developing the region.

So let’s hit the trail! You’re in for adventure, scenic beauty and a fascinating learning experience on the Otter Trail Scenic Byway.

Use this guide to plan your scenic tour

Byway Sites
We’ve selected 23 locations we think you’ll find interesting, both historically and culturally. Many have kiosks or display panels containing information about the site, and many have other features such as trails, picnic facilities and opportunities to view wildlife.

Services
The various communities along the Otter Trail Scenic Byway offer everything you’ll need: food, lodging, rooms, fuel, emergency services and lots of unique shopping opportunities.

Starting Point
You can begin your tour at any point—"A" through "S"—along the 150 mile loop of the Otter Trail Scenic Byway. Be sure to watch for the colorful Otter Trail signs which provide directions along the way.

Always Drive Safely
The Byway has many curves and turns as it winds throughout the county. Always watch your speed and look for pedestrians, especially children and tourists, blind driveways, slow-moving farm equipment (be careful as you pass) and wildlife as you enjoy your drive.

Environmental Stewardship
We’re proud of our historic, cultural and natural resources and are glad to share them with you. However, we ask you to remember that taking plants or animals from their natural environments may harm or destroy fragile habitats—and may also be illegal. Please don’t litter or leave any items behind. We also ask that you respect not only the historic sites but also the private property along the Scenic Byway.

Let’s hit the trail. You’re in for an adventure!
Fergus Falls is a river city, and it was the original town on the banks of the Redwood River. Established in 1872, it became the county seat of Otter Tail County in 1873. With a population of 13,000, it is the largest city in the county.

**Downtown**

- **St. Mary’s Cathedral**: Located at the intersection of County Road 25 and Second Avenue. The cathedral is a beautiful example of Gothic Revival architecture. It features stained glass windows and a stunning altar.

- **Fergus Falls Convention Center**: Located on the corner of 2nd Avenue and 5th Street. The center is a popular venue for conferences, exhibitions, and concerts.

**Rural Schools**

- **The Barnhard School**: Built of local stone in 1871, the school is a fine example of Gothic Revival architecture. It was used as a school until the early 1900s.

- **Ottertail City**: The city was founded in 1872 and is named for the otters that once lived in the area. It is a popular destination for tourists.

**Perham: Railroads and Industry**

- **Falls Central School**: Located on County Road 2, the school was in use from 1872 to 1968. It is now a museum and offers a glimpse into the history of education in the area.

**Fergus Falls: River City**

- **St. Mary’s Cathedral**: Located at the intersection of County Road 25 and Second Avenue. The cathedral is a beautiful example of Gothic Revival architecture. It features stained glass windows and a stunning altar.

**Perham: Railroads and Industry**

- **Falls Central School**: Located on County Road 2, the school was in use from 1872 to 1968. It is now a museum and offers a glimpse into the history of education in the area.

**Pelican Rapids: The Immigrant Story**

- **The Immigrant Story**: Located on the north shore of Lake Pelican. The exhibit tells the story of the immigrants who came to the area and how they built a new life.

**Perham: Railroads and Industry**

- **Falls Central School**: Located on County Road 2, the school was in use from 1872 to 1968. It is now a museum and offers a glimpse into the history of education in the area.

**Vining: Roadside Sculptures**

- **Vining Roadside Sculptures**: Located on the north side of State Highway 110 in the “jewel” of civilization. The town is known for its roadside sculptures, which are a unique attraction for visitors.

**Otter Tail Lake**

- **Otter Tail Lake**: Located approximately 4 miles south of Pelican Rapids on the lake. The lake is a popular destination for fishing, boating, and camping.

**Maplewood State Park**

- **Maplewood State Park**: Located on the north side of State Highway 110. The park is a popular destination for hiking and camping.

**Countryside Museum**

- **Countryside Museum**: Located on the corner of County Roads 8 and 108. The museum features exhibits on the history of agriculture and rural life.

**Ottertail City**: The city was founded in 1872 and is named for the otters that once lived in the area. It is a popular destination for tourists.

**Countryside Museum**

- **Countryside Museum**: Located on the corner of County Roads 8 and 108. The museum features exhibits on the history of agriculture and rural life.

**Otter Trail Scenic Byway**

- **Otter Trail Scenic Byway**: Located on the north side of State Highway 110 in the “jewel” of civilization. The town is known for its roadside sculptures, which are a unique attraction for visitors.

**Otter Trail Scenic Byway**

- **Otter Trail Scenic Byway**: Located on the north side of State Highway 110 in the “jewel” of civilization. The town is known for its roadside sculptures, which are a unique attraction for visitors.

**Byway Site Map**

- **Byway Site Map**: A map showing the location of all the byway sites.

**Byway Site Information**

- **Byway Site Information**: Detailed information about each byway site.

**Byway Site Maps**

- **Byway Site Maps**: Maps showing the location of each byway site.

**Byway Site Photos**

- **Byway Site Photos**: Photos of each byway site.

**Byway Site Videos**

- **Byway Site Videos**: Videos of each byway site.

**Byway Site Audio**

- **Byway Site Audio**: Audio recordings of each byway site.

**Byway Site Text**

- **Byway Site Text**: Detailed text about each byway site.

**Byway Site Links**

- **Byway Site Links**: Links to other websites related to each byway site.

**Byway Site Social Media**

- **Byway Site Social Media**: Social media links for each byway site.

**Byway Site Contact Information**

- **Byway Site Contact Information**: Contact information for each byway site.

**Byway Site Directions**

- **Byway Site Directions**: Directions to each byway site.

**Byway Site Accessibility**

- **Byway Site Accessibility**: Information about accessibility at each byway site.

**Byway Site Parking**

- **Byway Site Parking**: Information about parking at each byway site.

**Byway Site Restrooms**

- **Byway Site Restrooms**: Information about restrooms at each byway site.

**Byway Site Shopping**

- **Byway Site Shopping**: Information about shopping at each byway site.

**Byway Site Restaurants**

- **Byway Site Restaurants**: Information about restaurants at each byway site.

**Byway Site Lodging**

- **Byway Site Lodging**: Information about lodging at each byway site.

**Byway Site Activities**

- **Byway Site Activities**: Information about activities at each byway site.

**Byway Site Events**

- **Byway Site Events**: Information about events at each byway site.

**Byway Site Festivals**

- **Byway Site Festivals**: Information about festivals at each byway site.

**Byway Site Museums**

- **Byway Site Museums**: Information about museums at each byway site.

**Byway Site Art Galleries**

- **Byway Site Art Galleries**: Information about art galleries at each byway site.

**Byway Site Libraries**

- **Byway Site Libraries**: Information about libraries at each byway site.

**Byway Site Historical Sites**

- **Byway Site Historical Sites**: Information about historical sites at each byway site.

**Byway Site Other Sites**

- **Byway Site Other Sites**: Information about other sites at each byway site.

**Byway Site Contact Information**

- **Byway Site Contact Information**: Contact information for each byway site.

**Byway Site Directions**

- **Byway Site Directions**: Directions to each byway site.

**Byway Site Accessibility**

- **Byway Site Accessibility**: Information about accessibility at each byway site.

**Byway Site Parking**

- **Byway Site Parking**: Information about parking at each byway site.

**Byway Site Restrooms**

- **Byway Site Restrooms**: Information about restrooms at each byway site.

**Byway Site Shopping**

- **Byway Site Shopping**: Information about shopping at each byway site.

**Byway Site Restaurants**

- **Byway Site Restaurants**: Information about restaurants at each byway site.

**Byway Site Lodging**

- **Byway Site Lodging**: Information about lodging at each byway site.

**Byway Site Activities**

- **Byway Site Activities**: Information about activities at each byway site.

**Byway Site Events**

- **Byway Site Events**: Information about events at each byway site.

**Byway Site Festivals**

- **Byway Site Festivals**: Information about festivals at each byway site.

**Byway Site Museums**

- **Byway Site Museums**: Information about museums at each byway site.

**Byway Site Art Galleries**

- **Byway Site Art Galleries**: Information about art galleries at each byway site.

**Byway Site Libraries**

- **Byway Site Libraries**: Information about libraries at each byway site.

**Byway Site Historical Sites**

- **Byway Site Historical Sites**: Information about historical sites at each byway site.

**Byway Site Other Sites**

- **Byway Site Other Sites**: Information about other sites at each byway site.