

NOKOTA *Experience*

NORTH DAKOTA - USA

DESCRIPTION

The Nokota horse descends from the free-roaming herds of the Badlands in southwestern North Dakota. Throughout the 20th century, the population of wild horses declined drastically, with the last remaining ones surviving in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. In the 1980s, a group of passionate individuals, including the Kuntz brothers, decided to preserve these horses, now known as the Nokota.

The Nokota Experience offers a unique ground based approach for a group of eight participants, guided by Matthias Geysen and Leila Pagès, professionals committed to a sensitive and respectful connection with horses and the living world.

They accompany participants while honoring the horses pace, the present moment, and each person's inner experience.

This approach is rooted in a vision of mutual respect, where the animal is a partner — not a tool.



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Thematic workshops help deepen this connection through non-verbal communication, personal reflection, and cultural discovery of the Nokota heritage. Participants evolve in a simple, authentic setting where nature dictates the rhythm of the days. Evenings are shared in a warm atmosphere.

The privileged encounter with Native American culture and the presence of the herd in the background give these moments a powerful atmosphere, filled with wisdom and serenity.

At the end of the stay, each participant leaves with a deeper understanding of horses and of themselves. A unique, authentic experience inspired by the bond with the living world.

This immersion is captured on film by Lola Trouvé in a documentary where you become an active participant in preserving the Nokota horse.

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PROGRAM

Day 1 : Flight (at your expense) to Bismarck, ND (airport code BIS). Welcome by the team and transfer to the reserve. At the end of the day, opening circle around the fire: introduction to the spirit of the journey, the natural setting, the guides, and the link between Nokota horses and Native American peoples. Dinner prepared by a chef.

First night on Dakota land.

Day 2 : Hiking in Theodore Roosevelt National Park to discover the origins and history of Nokota horses. Visit of the historic western town of Medora. Wildlife, Badlands landscapes, understanding the connection between nature, horses and Native American peoples. Return to Whiskey Road Reserve at the end of the day.

Day 3 : A grounding moment allows participants to connect with the environment and to approach the horses with humility and calm. We go to meet the herd to learn to read their body language, understand social interactions and organization, feel the dynamics, and gradually enter their space. Evening around the fire, sharing and integration.

Day 4 : Progressive approach to the herd, with the possibility of first contacts if the horse chooses. In this spirit, the magic happens: the horse remains free to come, to stay... or to walk away. Through your intuition and observations, you apply the keys provided by Leila and Matthias. Personal time at the end of the day.

Day 5 : A day dedicated to the human-horse relationship. Deepening the connection through non-verbal communication: postures, movement, subtle signals, social interactions. Work on letting go, presence, and accuracy. Workshop: "What the horse reveals about us." Evening inspired by Native American traditions around the fire.

Day 6 : Final immersion with the herd, freely and accompanied. Moments of silent connection and integration of the experience. Final workshop: how to integrate this relationship with the living world into everyday life. Closing circle around the fire: sharing, reflections, and transmission. Last night at Whiskey Road Reserve.

Day 7 : After breakfast, transfer to Bismarck Airport for the return flight.

A half-day visit will be dedicated to the Buffalo Grande Foundation, where bison herds live freely. This visit will be scheduled depending on availability within the immersion program.

DEPARTURE	RETURN	PRICE EXCLUDING FLIGHTS
01.06.2026	07.06.2026	\$6960

TOTAL DURATION:	RIDING DAYS	NB DE PARTICIPANTS
7	ground-based experience	6min. & 8max.

Language	COMFORT
ENGLISH	INTERMEDIATE





PRACTICAL INFORMATION

ACCOMMODATION

Lodging takes place

Option 1 – in the home of our host Paul, who offers warm and attentive hospitality. Typical North Dakota house, cozy and friendly. Double or single rooms depending on availability, 3 bathrooms, shared spaces: living room, kitchen, relaxation areas.

Option 2 – Fully equipped individual RV

*Bed linens, towels, and basic toiletries provided.

This stay will be filmed as part of a documentary dedicated to the Nokota horse. Participation in the stay therefore implies consent to be filmed and to the distribution of recorded images. This consent will be formalized through a media release contract.



CLIMATE

North Dakota has a humid continental climate. Average minimum (early morning) and maximum (afternoon) temperatures in June in Bismarck are: 11°C (52°F) and 25°C (77°F).

FORMALITIES

Citizens of visa waiver countries (including France, Belgium, Switzerland) must hold a biometric passport valid at least 6 months after the planned return date, and must apply for an electronic travel authorization (ESTA) at: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/>

PRICE

The price includes: lodging, all meals, all visits, guiding, tips, and US taxes.

The price does not include : flights to/from Bismarck, travel insurance, personal expenses, ESTA.



REGISTRATION

Registration becomes effective upon receipt of the completed and signed registration form, accompanied by a 30% deposit (credit card on the website or bank transfer — bank details on request). The balance is due 45 days before departure.

Note : No horseback experience required. Accessible to all. A physical condition allowing walking and standing is necessary. English required.

INSURANCE

All participants must be covered by insurance including medical assistance and repatriation. For those already holding such insurance (credit card coverage, multi-risk insurance, etc.), it is sufficient to provide the insurer details on the registration form. Otherwise, we offer Mutuaide Assistance insurance at a rate of 4% of the trip price.

GENERAL TERMS OF SALE

The general terms comply with Decree n°94-490 of June 15, 1994, pursuant to Law n°92-645 of July 13, 1992.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Registration implies acceptance of our general and special conditions, which each participant acknowledges having read.

Cancellation by the organizer :

If the number of participants is insufficient, the stay may be canceled at our initiative up to 31 days before the scheduled departure date. In that case, participants will be fully refunded, without any additional compensation.

Cancellation by a participant :

Cancellations received:

61+ days before departure: refund minus insurance premium (if any) and an administrative fee of €80 per person.

* 60 to 31 days: 25% cancellation fee.

* Less than 31 days: 100% of the invoiced amount.

Any stay interrupted for health reasons may be eligible for reimbursement of unused days by your assistance-repatriation insurance, if you specifically subscribed to such coverage. Voluntary early departure does not entitle any refund. Price disputes will not be considered after the stay; each participant must assess before departure whether the price suits them.

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

In 2009, Cavaliers du Monde became the 7th French tour operator certified Responsible Tourism by AFNOR Certification, and the only equestrian tour operator to receive this label.

