

WESTERN NEBRASKA'S UNIQUE STOPS, ONE-OF-A-KINDS AND AMAZING STORIES



Western Nebraska is full of unique, one-of-a-kind and special treasures and places. This tour will take you on a journey through western Nebraska to search out some of the state's quirky and amazing destinations. Nebraska truly is one of a kind and you'll see that on this exciting tour.

DAY 1

Kimball • Sidney • Bayard

MORNING

Arrive in Kimball late morning to start your Nebraska one-of-a-kind tour at a unique private home. Located in a former Atlas E Missile site, Kimball's only **underground house** (allow 1 hour) covers more than 20,000 sq. ft. and has a 47-ton "garage door" and a 120-foot long access hallway. Meet with the owners as they tell you how they make such a massive space livable and comfortable.

AFTERNOON

Afterward, head to Sidney for lunch and your next stop, **Cabela's** (allow 1 hour) flagship store. Known as the world's largest outdoor outfitter, the 85,000 sq. ft. showroom is an educational and entertainment attraction museum featuring quality animal displays in realistic recreations of their natural habitats. Depart for Bayard and stand at the base of Chimney Rock, the most recognized landmark along the Oregon, California and Mormon Trails.

Visit **Chimney Rock National Historic Site and Visitors Center** (allow 1.5 hours) to view museum exhibits highlighting the pioneer experience, including a hands-on opportunity where you can "pack your own wagon," and an informative video highlighting the fascinating stories of pioneers trekking westward. The Twin Cities of Scottsbluff and Gering offer a number of excellent lodging and dining opportunities for your group.

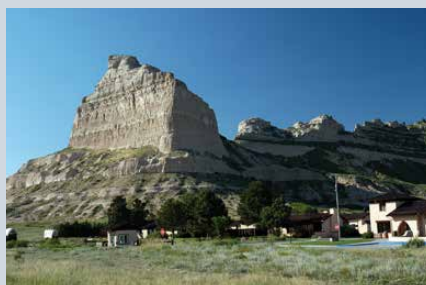
DAY 2

Gering • Agate Fossil Beds National Monument • Harrison • Crawford • Chadron

MORNING

After breakfast, depart for Gering to explore **Scotts Bluff National Monument** (allow 1.5 hours), a prominent landmark used by American Indians and pioneers along the

Oregon and Mormon Trails. Wagon ruts are visible at the base of the monument and a drive to the summit gives you a tremendous view of the North Platte River Valley, including clear day views of Chimney Rock to the east and Laramie Peak in Wyoming to the west.



Settle in for a scenic ride through some of the most desolate and remote sections of Nebraska as you travel to your next destination this morning, **Agate Fossil Beds National Monument** (allow 75 minutes). Located south of Harrison, this unique attraction features paleontology exhibits from the Miocene Era and the impressive Cook Collection, a collection of American Indian artifacts given to James Cook by Red Cloud of the Oglala Lakota Sioux.

AFTERNOON

Enjoy a delicious, made-from-scratch lunch at **Harrison House** in Harrison. Built in 1886 by the Chicago Northwestern Railroad, this historical treasure will show you true northwestern Nebraska hospitality. After lunch, head east along the Bridges to Buttes Scenic Byway to Crawford.

Your first stop is a short drive north of town to **Hudson-Meng Research and Education Center** (allow 1-1.5 hours), a sheltered archaeological site where 600 bison perished 10,000 years ago. Enjoy guided interpretive tours and hands-on educational activities, and observe active archaeological excavations each June.

On your way back, stop by **High Plains Homestead** for a quick refresher break where you can enjoy a cold sarsaparilla or piece of tasty homemade pie. High Plains Homestead also is the proud location of the Coffee Burger, a two-pound hamburger placed on a regular sized bun, made famous at Sioux Sundries in Harrison.

Your final stop today is the **Museum of the Fur Trade** (allow 1 hour) in Chadron. This one-of-a-kind museum is dedicated to preserving the nation's lucrative fur-trading industry. Also on museum grounds is the Bordeaux Trading Post (built 1837) which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Chadron offers a number of great restaurants and lodging properties for you to choose from.

DAY 3

Alliance • Hyannis • Arthur • Ogallala • Paxton

MORNING

After breakfast depart for Alliance along the Gold Rush Scenic Byway to visit the one-of-a-kind **Carhenge** (allow 45 minutes), an exact replica of England's famous Stonehenge built with old cars instead of stones.

While in Alliance, you'll tour the Knight Museum & Sandhills Center (allow 1 hour). This innovative historical museum features exhibits from five distinct areas: Life in the Sandhills, Native American Life, Life in the Country, Life in the Town, and The Railroad.

Settle back and enjoy a leisurely ride along the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway through a unique ecosystem and landscape, the Nebraska Sandhills. Your next stop is a wonderful homemade lunch at **Whisperin Angel Inn** or **Hyannis Hotel** (allow 1 hour) in Hyannis.

AFTERNOON

Your first stop this afternoon is tiny Arthur and the **Arthur County Courthouse and**

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Jail and the Pilgrim Holiness Church. At 26x28 sq. ft., the courthouse is one of the smallest courthouses in the country, and today houses a museum. The church is unique in that it's one of only a handful of buildings in the country made entirely out of baled rye straw, the predominate building material in an area where traditional construction materials were expensive or unavailable (allow 45 minutes for both attractions). Continue your scenic ride through the remote Nebraska Sandhills to Lake McConaughy and the Old West town of Ogallala.

Ogallala truly embraces its colorful western past and you can experience this past at **Front Street and Cowboy Museum** (allow 1 hour), a recreation of a 1880s main street. During the summer, don't miss The Crystal Palace Revue and Shoot Out, Nebraska's longest-running summer theatre.

This is followed by a tour of the unique **Petrified Wood and Art Gallery** (allow 30 minutes) where you'll find intricate works of art made from petrified wood from around the world. The onsite gift shop offers unique and collectible gift items.

Visit one of the largest, privately held lilac collections in the country, **Meadowlark Hill Lilac Collection** (allow 45 minutes). Stop for dinner at Nebraska's most famous watering hole, **Ole's Big Game Steakhouse** in Paxton. This unique family eatery showcases mounts and memorabilia from worldwide hunting adventures and has some of the most mouthwatering steaks you'll find anywhere. After dinner, continue to North Platte to check into your hotel.

DAY 4

North Platte

MORNING

First stop this morning is **Fort Cody Trading Post** (allow 45 minutes), one of the state's largest, and most eclectic, gift shops. Explore the Old West Museum in the back of the store and don't miss the 20,000-piece, hand-carved animated miniature version of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.

Enjoy a spectacular 360-degree view of Union Pacific Railroad's Bailey Yard (the world's largest railroad classification yard) from atop the 95-foot tall, 8-story **Golden Spike Tower and Visitor Center** (allow 1 hour). Historical and regional railroad memorabilia can be purchased in the gift shop. Next tour the home and historic barn of "Buffalo Bill" Cody at **Buffalo Bill State Historical Park** (allow 2 hours). Before departing North Platte, enjoy lunch in one of the city's many fine restaurants.

