

# BUFFALO BILL'S RAILS & TRAILS WEST

To experience western Nebraska is to experience the Old West. This is a land filled with history and culture. From the Native American tribes who first settled this wild region, fur traders and trappers looking for fortune, early pioneers searching for a better way of life out west, and farmers and ranchers who carved out an existence in this wild and rough landscape. Hear their exciting stories and tales as we explore and experience western Nebraska.

---

## Travel Day to Nebraska

Overnight: North Platte

### Day 1

#### North Platte

Overnight: North Platte

#### Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center

Enjoy a catered breakfast while taking in a bird's eye view of the world's largest railroad classification yard from atop the 7<sup>th</sup> floor open air observation deck or the 8<sup>th</sup> floor enclosed deck.

#### Dusty Trails

Experience a truly Nebraskan activity, leisurely floating down the North Platte River in a horse watering tank. Chairs and coolers can be placed in the tanks for an even more enjoyable time.

#### Buffalo Bill State Historical Park

Tour the home of Colonel William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and his wife and hear more about their lives and their interesting adventures.

#### Lincoln County Historical Museum

Hop aboard a wagon from the park to the museum for a deliciously prepared Dutch oven lunch and a guided tour of the museum grounds, including an authentic recreated Old West town and learn more about the story of the famous World War II North Platte Canteen.

#### "Here's the Beef" Tour

Listen to educators from the West Central Research and Extension Office and a local chef as they explain the steps needed to raise and process beef from pasture to the table. Dinner will be a full meal including five cuts of beef.



### Day 2

#### North Platte • Ogallala • Sidney

Overnight: Sidney

#### Grain Bin Antique Town

Stroll through salvaged and repurposed historic grain bins searching for that perfect antique treasure.

#### Fort Cody Trading Post

Explore one of Nebraska's most eclectic gift and souvenir shops, watch a working 20,000-piece miniature replica of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, and tour Old West exhibits in the newly-renovated museum.

### **Front Street and Cowboy Museum**

Enjoy an authentic western style lunch in this recreation of a 1880s Old West main street in downtown Ogallala, also known as the town “too tough for Texans. The Crystal Palace Revue is a rootin’ tootin’ western shootout complete with cowboys and showgirls and takes place from June to mid-August.

### **Petrified Wood and Art Gallery**

Explore Native American artifacts and delicate works of art and carvings formed from pieces of ancient petrified wood from around the world.

### **Boot Hill Cemetery**

Recount the stories of outlaws, gamblers, and desperados who met their final resting place, buried with their boots on.

### **Mansion on the Hill**

See how Ogallala’s upper class residents lived in this fully furnished Victorian-style mansion.

### **Camp Lookout**

Visit the oldest building in Sidney, initially built as housing for soldiers in 1867 to protect railroad workers on the Union Pacific railroad from attacks by the Sioux and Cheyenne. Re-enactors entertain groups with stories of the building and its many colorful inhabitants over the years.

### **Sidney’s Boot Hill Cemetery**

Enjoy an evening grave dousing before heading to dinner in one of Sidney’s many excellent dining venues.

## **Day 3**

### **Potter • Kimball County • Gering**

Overnight: Gering

### **Potter Community Theatre**

Enjoy a wonderful catered breakfast where the Potter Melodrama has been providing entertainment with a variety of productions for the past 30 years.

### **Collective Gathering**

Shop this quaint local business specializing in unique and hard-to-find antiques.

### **Potter’s Historic Duckpin Bowling Alley**

Step back in time to the 1920s in this restored three-lane bowling alley. It’s definitely a one-of-a-kind bowling experience.

### **Potter Sundry**

No trip to Potter is complete without a famous Tin Roof Sundae (vanilla ice cream, chocolate syrup, chocolate ice cream, marshmallow cream, and nuts).

### **EJE Ranch**

Learn about the High Plains Region’s short grass prairie on this working ranch and the unique opportunity of venturing into the prairie to learn more about this fragile ecosystem first hand.

### **Rocky Hollow Buffalo Company**

This working ranch raises grass fed bison and gives groups the unique opportunity to hand feed them hay biscuits and learn more about how these majestic animals exist and thrive in western Nebraska’s High Plains region.



**Rocky Hollow Buffalo Company, Kimball**

### **Five Rocks Amphitheatre**

Enjoy an authentic Old West dinner along the Mormon and Oregon Trails where we'll enjoy an Old West dinner at Five Rocks Amphitheatre.

## **Day 4**

### **Scotts Bluff County • Bayard**

Overnight: Gering

#### **Scotts Bluff National Monument**

Visit this imposing natural formation that also was a prominent landmark for American Indians, fur traders, and Oregon and Mormon trail pioneers. At 800 feet above the North Platte River, a drive to the summit offers a tremendous view of the entire valley and the wagon ruts still visible at the base.

#### **Wildcat Hills Nature Center**

Enjoy lunch amidst the unique flora and fauna of the beautiful and rugged Wildcat Hills region.

#### **Chimney Rock National Historic Site**

Chimney Rock was the most recognized landmark along the Overland Trails. Today the newly renovated visitor center highlights the fascinating stories of the early westward migrating pioneers and other explorers and inhabitants.

#### **Legacy of the Plains**

Learn about the lives and stories of the people who explored and settled the High Plains of Nebraska. Exhibits focus on the archeology of Native American and Westward expansions, the lives of pioneering settlers, the establishment of irrigation, the diversity of cultures on the High Plains, and the innovative technologies and cultural practices of raising animals and crops in a semi-arid environment.

## **Day 5**

### **Northwest Nebraska**

Overnight: Fort Robinson State Historic Park

#### **Agate Fossil Beds National Monument**

Located in remote northwest Nebraska, explore this internationally recognized fossil site where mammal bones from the Miocene Epoch are on display, as well as an impressive collection of artifacts gifted to James Cook by leaders of great Native American nations like Red Cloud and American Horse. Also take in a behind-the-scenes peek at valuable artifacts that normally are not on display.

#### **Hudson-Meng Education & Research Center**

Head out onto the vast High Plains of the Oglala National Grassland and this one-of-a-kind destination housing one of the most important paleo-archeological discoveries in North America where the bones of hundreds of *Bison antiquus* (an extinct form of the modern bison) died after the last Ice Age. Watch as modern archeologists conduct research and undercover these bones for better study.



#### **Toadstool Geologic Park**

Explore this Badlands "moonscape" and learn more about this area's fascinating geology. The park is noted for its unusual geological formations, some in the shape of toadstools, and scientifically valuable fossils of animals that passed through this area as far back as 30 million years ago.

## Day 6 Northwest Nebraska

### Fort Robinson State Historic Park

After breakfast, enjoy historic tours, jeep and stagecoach rides, and the chance to view bison and purebred Texas longhorn herds. First used as a fort from the early days of the Old West until after World War II, the fort was the site of the 1879 Cheyenne Outbreak and the death of famed Sioux Chief Crazy Horse.

### Museum of the Fur Trade

Visit the only museum in the country dedicated to preserving the nation's fur-trading industry and explore the onsite Bordeaux Trading Post (built 1837), which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Items from the 2015 Academy Award winning movie, *The Revenant* starring Leonardo DiCaprio, will be on display.

### Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center

Learn more about the history and culture of the High Plains region and the interesting life and literature of Nebraska author Mari Sandoz, author of "Old Jules" and "Crazy Horse."

### Tour Route Map



**Driving Times and Distance**  
(Drive times are approximate.)

| Location                        | Drive Time    | Distance |
|---------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| North Platte-Ogallala           | 55 min.       | 53 miles |
| Ogallala-Sidney                 | 1 hr. 10 min. | 72 miles |
| Sidney-Potter                   | 25 min.       | 19 miles |
| Potter-Kimball                  | 25 min.       | 21 miles |
| Kimball-Gering                  | 45 min.       | 42 miles |
| Gering-Agate Fossil Beds        | 55 min.       | 49 miles |
| Agate Fossil Beds-Fort Robinson | 50 min.       | 48 miles |
| Fort Robinson-Chadron           | 30 min.       | 25 miles |

Don't reinvent the wheel. Let us help you plan your next exciting Nebraska group tour itinerary. We can assist you with general information about tour destinations, group rates at attractions, restaurants, and accommodations, as well as give you personalized service and attention to make planning your tour easy and fun.

**North Platte**

Amanda Connick  
aconnick@visitnorthplatte.com

**Kimball**

Jessica Rocha  
visit@kimballne.org

**Ogallala**

Tracy Muir  
info@explorekeithcounty.com

**Gering**

Karla Niedan-Streeks  
karla@visitgering.com

**Sidney, Potter**

Kevin Howard  
director@visitsidneyne.com

**Agate Fossil Beds, Fort Robinson, Chadron**

Kerri Rempp  
director@discovernwnebraska.com

**Nebraska Tourism Group Tour Manager**

Micheal Collins (CTIS)  
Email: [micheal.collins@nebraska.gov](mailto:micheal.collins@nebraska.gov)  
Cell: 402-432-1384



For additional Nebraska group tour information  
[visitnebraska.com/group\\_travel](http://visitnebraska.com/group_travel)

