

# Nebraska's Central Flyway Sandhill Crane Migration



Spend time exploring Nebraska's Central Flyway, home to the great sandhill crane migration. Here you'll discover cultural and heritage museums, wild west experiences and unrivaled birding opportunities.

## Day 1 Kearney

After lunch in Kearney, we visit **The Archway**, an impressive interactive museum that commemorates the nation's westward expansion through interactive exhibits and self-guided audio tours. On a side note, at a height of 310 feet, this is the only tourist attraction in the country to span a federal interstate highway. Our next stop in Kearney is **Classic Car Collection** where we can wander through more than 200 classic cars that highlight the evolution and art of the automobile and its impact on our lives.

Dinner is at **Alley Rose** in downtown Kearney to feast on one of its delicious locally prepared signature dishes. After dinner, we head out to **Rowe Sanctuary** for a guided sunset sandhill crane viewing on the banks of the Platte River where thousands of cranes end their daily routine of foraging for food in the surrounding fields to rest for the night in the river. *Overnight: Kearney*

## Day 2 North Platte

We start today heading west to North Platte and **Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center** for a bird's eye view of the world's largest railroad classification yard from the 7<sup>th</sup> floor open air observation deck or the 8<sup>th</sup> floor

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enclosed deck. Lunch today is at one of North Platte's newest restaurants, **The Cedar Room**, an American Fusion restaurant and the first of its kind in North Platte. After lunch, it is time to get wet at **Dusty Trails** for 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.

Tonight's dinner and entertainment is "**Ride with the Wild Bunch.**" We meet Colonel William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and his wife to hear about their lives and their interesting adventures. Afterward, hop aboard a horse drawn wagon to nearby **Lincoln County Historical Museum** and a deliciously prepared Dutch oven dinner. A tour of the museum, including an authentic recreated Old West town and artifacts highlighting the story of the famous World War II North Platte Canteen round out your day. *Overnight: Kearney*

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### Day 3 Grand Island, Hastings

After breakfast, we venture to downtown Grand Island to meet the owners of **Zabuni Coffee** to hear their unique and inspiring story of how they are supporting local coffee growers and producers in Kenya to bring their product to Nebraska. Once we finish downtown, it is time to head to **Raising Nebraska** at Fonner Park. This 25,000-square-foot interactive museum connects consumers with farmers who raise their food by explaining the steps from "farm to fork." Experience a virtual combine harvest experience, full-sized pivot irrigation system, a 50-foot-long interactive floor map of Nebraska, and an interactive dinner table.



Now it is time for lunch and to go back into the past at **Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer**. Declared one of the top ten living history museums in the country, this amazing museum transports us back to the early pioneer and settlement days of Nebraska. **Fonner Rotunda** houses one of the state's finest collections of cowboy and Native American art and artifacts while the annual "Wings over the Platte" exhibit during the spring sandhill crane migration displays artwork by artists from across the country highlighting the migration and is a "must-see" for any bird lover. Now we head south to Hastings to experience three floors of natural and cultural history exhibits and view full dome astronomy shows in the Planetarium at the **Hastings Museum of Natural & Cultural History** before dinner in town. *Overnight: Grand Island*

### Day 4 Alda

Our destination early this morning is **Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center** near Alda where we will witness one of nature's most amazing natural phenomena during a sunrise sandhill crane viewing from a blind on the Platte River.