



## Kearney: Choose your Adventure

This region has a little something for everyone. With Kearney as your base, take advantage of the wide-ranging attractions of south central Nebraska, from museums on the pioneers to the search for Bigfoot.

### Day 1 Kearney

This morning we head north of Kearney to Pleasanton to tour one of Nebraska's newest agricultural industries, the cultivations and processing of hemp for therapeutic uses at **Sweetwater Hemp Company**. The owners will explain the process of extracting and handling hemp to create products for medicinal purposes, such as depression, pain, and other ailments. We return to Kearney for a tour of **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.

Afterward lunch is at **Alley Rose** in downtown Kearney to feast on one of its delicious locally prepared signature dishes. Next, we are off to **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. *Overnight: Kearney*

### Day 2 Grand Island

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

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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. Our last stop in Grand Island before heading back to Kearny is

**Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center** near Alda where we will learn more about one of nature’s most amazing natural phenomena. Each spring more than 600,000 sandhill cranes, 90 percent of the world’s population of these birds migrate through the Central Nebraska Flyway from Grand Island to North Platte. *Overnight: Kearney*



### Day 3 Hastings, Red Cloud



After breakfast in Grand Island, we head south to Hastings to take a walk on the wild side at the **Bigfoot Crossroads of America Museum** where we explore the many Bigfoot sightings and stories from Nebraska and around the world. Next, we 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**. Next, we continue our tour of Hastings at the **Prairie Loft Center for Outdoor and Agricultural Learning**. This unique interactive agricultural center gives a deeper understanding of agriculture and how it connects people to the land and our food.

After lunch in town, we head further south to the Nebraska-Kansas state line to follow in the footsteps of one of Nebraska’s most revered authors, Willa Cather, author of *O Pioneers!*, *My Antonia*, and *Death Comes for the Archbishop*. While in town, we will visit several nationally designated historic buildings prominent in Willa Cather’s life and books on a **Willa Cather Foundation Tour** before exploring the **National Willa Cather Center** and **Red Cloud Opera House**. *Overnight: Kearney*

## Day 4 North Platte

After breakfast we head west to North Platte where our first stop will be the **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 enclosed deck. Afterward, we climb aboard Union Pacific's steam locomotive at **Cody Park Railroad Museum** where we also can see UP's #6922, the largest diesel locomotive ever made, peek inside the historic Hershey Depot, and climb aboard a mail car and caboose to view historic railroad memorabilia. Lunch today is an Old West adventure, "**Ride with the Wild Bunch.**" We will meet Colonel William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and his wife to hear about their lives and their interesting adventures.



GOLDEN SPIKE TOWER

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. Now we head to North Platte's historic Canteen District for a special ice cream donut sandwich, waffle sundae, or other tasty concoction at **Double Dips Ice Creamery**. Before departure, our final stop in town is **Fort Cody Trading Post**, one of Nebraska's most eclectic gift and souvenir shops. Do not miss the working 20,000-piece miniature replica of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and tour Old West exhibits in the newly renovated museum.



FORT CODY TRADING POST