

BIRDS & BRUSHSTROKES

NEBRASKA'S SANDHILL CRANE MIGRATION



Groups overnight in Kearney and enjoy exciting day trips to bird and natural destinations across the central Nebraska flyway.

Day 1 Travel Day

After a day of travel, we arrive in Kearney where we check into our hotel to freshen up before an early dinner at **Alley Rose** in downtown Kearney to feast on one of this popular restaurant's delicious locally prepared signature dishes. *Overnight: Kearney*

Day 2 Kearney

We start out the morning before the sun rises by heading to **Rowe Sanctuary** for a guided sunrise sandhill crane viewing on the banks of the Platte River where thousands of cranes begin their daily routine of foraging for food in the surrounding fields. After a quick breakfast in Kearney, our next stop is **The American Automobile Experience** where we wander through more than 200 classic cars that highlight the evolution and art of the automobile and its impact on our lives.

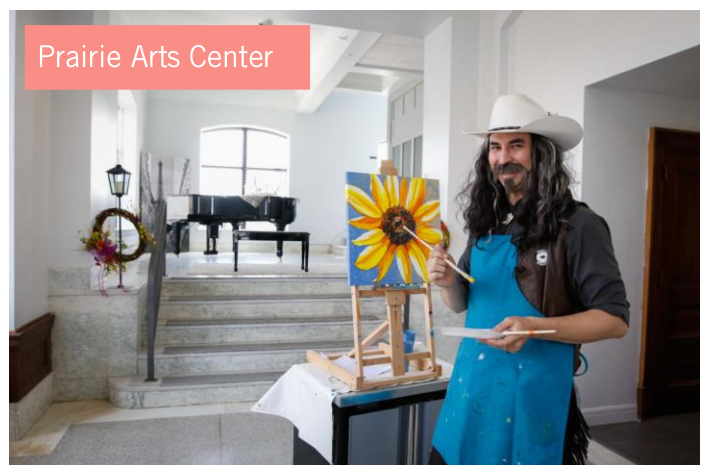
Afterward, we head to the only tourism attraction in the nation to span a federal interstate highway, **The Archway**. This impressive interactive museum commemorates the nation's westward expansion through interactive exhibits and self-guided audio tours. After lunch, we head to the newly renovated **Museum of Nebraska Art** to discover more than 6,000 works of art by artists from across Nebraska and the United States. We round our time before dinner by channeling our inner artist at **The Rustic Patch** during a private art class. *Overnight: Kearney*



Day 3 North Platte

We start today heading west to North Platte where our first stop is a special treat of an ice cream donut sandwich, waffle sundae, or other tasty concoction at **Double Dips Ice Creamery**, located in North Platte's historic Canteen District. Our next stop is to experience tasty Nebraska wines while creating our own sandhill crane painting at **Prairie Arts Center**.

Next, we head to the **Lincoln County Historical Museum** to learn more about the North Platte Canteen, one of the most heartwarming stories to come out of the war years. Over the course of WWII, volunteers from around North Platte fed, comforted, and supported over six million servicemen and women as they traveled through on their way to the front. This experience offers a look into one of the greatest volunteer efforts the U.S.A has ever seen. The tour includes historical museum exhibits, a canteen style meal, and an informative presentation of the WWII Canteen from a local historian.



After lunch, it is time for a different view of the cranes when we load onto a bus at **Dusty Trails** for a guided tour of the sandhill cranes as they forage for food in pastures and fields around the Platte River. Now we head to the **Golden Spike Tower** for a private tour and bird's eye view of the world's largest railroad classification yard from the 7th floor open air observation deck or the 8th floor enclosed deck. Dinner tonight will be served aloft overlooking the Yard. *Overnight: Kearney*

Day 4 Kearney, Grand Island

Our day starts with an early morning guided tour to view the fascinating prairie chicken mating dance with **Prairie Wind Birding Tours** and enjoy the sights and sounds as the males boom and dance to woo the females in the lek. We return to Kearney for a quick breakfast before heading to our next destination, Grand Island where our first stop will be **Fred's Flying Circus**. This whimsical, 3D art display is the creation of the late Fred Schritt and truly is a unique, "sky-high" art exhibit. Our next stop is **The Chocolate Bar** downtown for a cup of delicious coffee and to try some of their amazing chocolates before heading to **Arts and Drafts** to unleash our inner artist by creating our own sandhill crane painting.



Prairie Wind Birding Tours



Sandhill Crane Migration

Now it is time to go back into the past at **Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer** where we start our exploration with a delicious lunch of fresh, homemade salads, sandwiches and more at Stuhr Bistro. 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. We also will have an opportunity to go behind the scenes to see how the museum stores and catalogues its many acquisitions.

Now it is off to one of Grand Island's coolest attractions, **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. Speaking of dinner, tonight we will enjoy a delicious farm-to-table dinner at Raising Nebraska along with entertainment, a hands-on learning experience, or fascinating presentation by a noted local speaker. *Overnight: Grand Island*

Day 5 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. Afterward, we return to Grand Island for a delicious breakfast and head out of town.

For more information about this and other Nebraska sample group itineraries:

MICHEAL COLLINS, CTIS
Group tour manager
402-432-1384
micheal.collins@nebraska.gov
www.visitnebraska.com/group_travel



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