

BUFFALO BILL'S RAILS & TRAILS WEST



Day 1 Travel Day

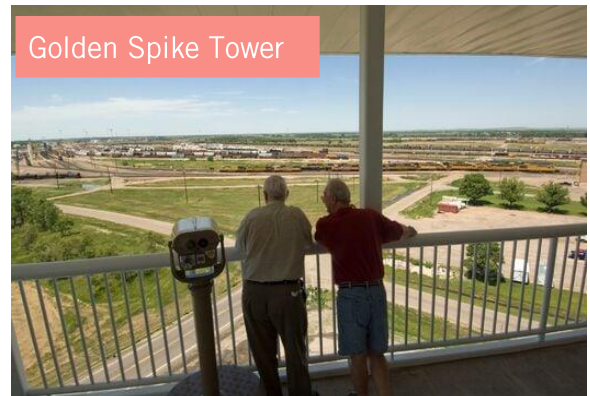
Overnight: North Platte

Day 2 North Platte

After breakfast, we start the day off with a working farm tour where we will see what farming in Nebraska is really like at **Miller Farms**. The owners will tell us all about irrigated and dry land corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle, and the equipment they use to bring food from their farm to your plate. Afterward, take a stroll through salvaged and repurposed historic grain bins to forage out that perfect antique treasure at **Grain Bin Antique Town** before heading to **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. Next, we step aboard Union Pacific's steam locomotive at **Cody Park Railroad Museum** where you 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.

Now it is time to "Ride with the Wild Bunch" at **Buffalo Bill State Historical Park**. We will 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 lunch. 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 also are on the menu. After lunch, we head to **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.

Next on our tour is the **Golden Spike Tower**. Rising 8-stories above the tracks, the tower offers a panoramic view of Union Pacific's Bailey Yard, the largest classification rail yard in the world, from an open-air platform or enclosed viewing area. Over 10,000 rail cars pass through Bailey Yard each day, and you can see it all from your bird's eye view atop the tower. Now imagine having a private catered meal served on the 8th floor as the sun sets over the railyard. This is truly an experience you don't want to miss. *Overnight: North Platte*



Day 3 North Platte, Ogallala, Sidney

Who says you cannot have ice cream for breakfast? Enjoy 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.



Next, we depart North Platte and head west to Ogallala, once known as the "town too tough for Texans" where our first stop is **Mansion on the Hill**, a fully furnished Victorian-style mansion, for a glimpse into how Ogallala's upper-class residents lived. We visit the **Petrified Wood Gallery** where we explore Native American artifacts and delicate works of art and carvings formed from pieces of ancient, petrified wood from around the world. Across the street is **Front Street and Cowboy Museum**, a recreation of an 1880s Old West main street where we will enjoy an authentic western style lunch at the Crystal Palace Saloon. From June to mid-August, do not miss the Crystal Palace Revue, a rootin' tootin' western shootout, complete with cowboys and showgirls.

We depart Ogallala and head to Sidney where our first stop in town is **Fort Sidney Museum and Post Commander's Home**, which was a strategic point as the initial supply depot of the 267-mile Sidney-Deadwood Trail to the gold fields of the Black Hills. Next, we stop at **Camp Lookout**, 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, today re-enactors entertain you with stories of the building and its many colorful inhabitants over the years. Dinner tonight is at the 360-acre working ranch, **Lazy S Ranch** where after dinner hang out with alpacas and goats. Or try your hand at "walking a chicken." If you are not too tired after dinner, head back to **Sidney's Boot Hill Cemetery** once the sun goes down for a ghostly good time grave dousing. *Overnight: Sidney*

Day 4 Sidney, Potter, Kimball, Gering

After a "stick-to-your-ribs" breakfast at **Dude's Steakhouse**, we head to nearby Potter to connect with our inner artist at **Potter Art Loft**, a quaint community art studio. Other destinations in downtown Potter include **A Collective Gathering**, a local business specializing in unique and hard-to-find antiques and Potter's historic **Duckpin Bowling Alley** where you can step back in time to the 1920s in this restored three-lane bowling alley. It is a one-of-a-kind bowling experience. No trip to Potter is complete with a stop at **Potter Sundry** for one of its famous Tin Roof Sundaes (vanilla ice cream, chocolate syrup, chocolate ice cream, marshmallow cream, and nuts).



After lunch in Kimball, we head to **EJE Ranch** to learn about the High Plain's short grass prairie on a working ranch and the opportunity to venture out into the prairie to see this fragile ecosystem firsthand. Next, we head north along the Fossil Freeway to **Rocky Hollow Buffalo Company**. This working ranch raises grass fed bison and you will have the unique opportunity to view these majestic animals up-close and learn how they have thrived for thousands of years in western Nebraska's High Plains region. We end our day with dinner at **Steel Grill** in Gering. Make sure to order their signature steak nachos. *Overnight: Gering*

Day 5 Gering, Bayard

Start the morning at **Scotts Bluff National Monument**, an imposing natural formation which 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. Lunch is a catered affair amidst the unique flora and fauna of the beautiful and rugged Wildcat Hills region at **Wildcat Hills Nature Center**.

Now it is time to head to **Chimney Rock National Historic Site** along the **Western Trails Scenic & Historic Byway**. Chimney Rock was the most recognized landmark along the Overland Trails and today a newly renovated visitor center highlights the fascinating stories of the early westward migrating pioneers and other explorers and inhabitants. We round out the time in Gering with a wagon train dinner at **Legacy of the Plains**. While there we 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. *Overnight: Gering*

Day 6 Harrison, Crawford

After breakfast, we venture into the remote landscape of northwest Nebraska to **Agate Fossil Beds National Monument**, an internationally recognized fossil site from the Miocene Epoch. The visitor center also includes an impressive collection of artifacts gifted to James Cook by leaders of great Native American nations like Red Cloud and American Horse. We also can enjoy a behind-the-scenes peek at valuable artifacts that normally are not on display. Next, we head into Nebraska's Pine Ridge to **Fort Robinson State Historic Park**. First used as a fort from the early days of the Old West until after World War II, today we can enjoy historic tours, jeep and stagecoach rides, and the chance to view bison and purebred Texas longhorn herds. *Overnight: Gering*

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

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Flight time from Denver International Airport to North Platte: 1 hour
Drive time from
Denver to North Platte: 3½ hours
Omaha to North Platte: 4 hours