

# GERING

## LAND OF RUGGED BUTTES & BLUFFS



**HEAD WEST FOR NATURE** escapes, ranch experiences and jaw-dropping natural attractions. Based in Gering, this trip will show your group the legacy of the pioneers and the state's early settlers. Groups overnight in Gering each night and enjoy exciting day trips to destinations in Gering and across western Nebraska.

### DAY 1 NORTHWEST NEBRASKA'S HIGH COUNTRY



Fort Robinson State Historic Park, 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.

We head back to Gering where we learn about the lives and stories of the people who explored and settled the High Plains of Nebraska at **Legacy of the Plains**. 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. We end our day by returning to Gering for dinner at **The Steel Grill**. Make sure to order their signature steak nachos. *Overnight: Gering*

### DAY 2 NEBRASKA'S ANSWER TO STONEHENGE

We 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.

Next we head east along the **Western Trails Scenic & Historic Byway** to **Chimney Rock National Historic Site**. 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.



Carhenge, ALLIANCE

Now it is time for a drive through the impressive Sandhills for our next destination, a truly unique

Nebraska stop. **Carhenge** is an exact replica of England's world-famous Stonehenge, constructed entirely from old cars in 1987. Other outdoor art displays and sculptures and a gift shop also are onsite. Afterward, we make our way to **Knight Museum and Sandhills Center** and exhibits that depict the rich pioneer spirit of western Nebraska, the Sandhills region, Ogallala Aquifer, and other informative exhibits highlighting the region's rich culture and heritage.

Our last stop in Alliance is **Dobby's Frontier Town** where we step back in time to the turn-of-the-century to see what life was like for the early settlers of the plains. Some of the places we will visit are an authentic 1889 one room schoolhouse, general store, post office, the first Black homestead in Nebraska, and a baled straw house. *Overnight: Gering*

### DAY 3 THE HISTORIC LINCOLN HIGHWAY

After breakfast we head south of Gering to explore the unique flora and fauna of the beautiful and rugged Wildcat Hills region at **Wildcat Hills Nature Center** before departing for downtown Potter to experience small town Nebraska charm. One of the first things we can do is bowl like our grandparents did at the 1920s at Potter's historic **Duckpin Bowling Alley**, a restored three-lane bowling alley and one-of-a-kind bowling experience. While there we also can enjoy a delicious Tin Roof Sundae (vanilla ice cream, chocolate syrup, chocolate ice cream, marshmallow cream, and Spanish peanuts). at **Potter Sundry**. This tasty ice cream treat will put a smile on even the grumpiest traveler. Nearby **Chuckaboo Station** is the "in" spot in town for a coffee or hand-crafted beer.



Potter Sundry, POTTER



Scotts Bluff National Monument, GERING

After lunch in town, we head east along the **Lincoln Highway Scenic & Historic Byway** to Sidney to relive this wild and woolly western town at **Fort Sidney Museum and Post Commander's Home**. In the 1870's Fort Sidney was a strategic point as the initial supply depot on the 267-mile Sidney-Black Hills trail, allowing military and civilian traffic to reach the Black Hills gold fields.

Next stop is **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 a mouthwatering steak at **Dude's Steakhouse**, Sidney's oldest steakhouse to prepare us for our next stop when it is dark outside. Once the sun goes down, we spend a ghostly good time grave dousing at **Sidney's Boot Hill Cemetery**, so make sure you do not bring back ghostly friends to your hotel room. *Overnight: Sidney*



Boot Hill Cemetery, SIDNEY

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

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# SHOW ME WHERE I'M GOING

