





# Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway

## The Route

From just west of South Sioux City to Valentine on Nebraska Highway 12.

## The View

Forested bluffs, winding rivers, sandhills, grasslands, wetlands, high prairies, lakes, waterfalls, and a national wildlife refuge.

## The Adventure

Famous footsteps, world-class canoeing, the state's tallest waterfall, wildlife viewing, state recreation areas, and fishing.

## Contact

Northeast Nebraska RC&D  
402-582-4866  
[www.nebraskaoutlawtrail.org](http://www.nebraskaoutlawtrail.org)

As its name suggests, the Outlaw Trail has a rich Old West history. Yes, outlaws frequented these parts. In fact, legend has it that this area was once a regular hideout for Jesse James and his gang. So, you best be on the lookout as you travel this 231-mile stretch from near South Sioux City to Valentine.

Along with its colorful past, the beauty of the Outlaw Trail is simply delightful. Here, find yourself amid diverse Nebraska landscapes that range from wetlands to croplands to prairies. Wildflowers are abundant throughout this byway as is animal life, which can most readily be seen near Valentine at Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge.

Long before the escapades of Jesse and his gang, this area was home to several American Indian tribes. Discover their rich history along the way.

The navigable waters of the Missouri River drew many visitors to this area, including Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Today, you can follow their historic footsteps and relive their exciting, ground-breaking expedition. See where the explorers came upon their first prairie dogs at Old Baldy, north of Lynch.

All along the Outlaw Trail, you'll find yourself among treasured historical reminders. Explore unique museums, military forts, refurbished buildings, and sites reminiscent of those rowdier times.

Hike and bike the trails at Ponca State Park about 20 miles northwest of South Sioux City. Put a tube or canoe into the Niobrara River near Sparks for a breathtaking adventure through deep, forested gorges. Afterwards, take a welcomed break at the nearby 70-foot-high Smith Falls.

A wide variety of events and attractions complete the Outlaw Trail experience. This byway is the perfect route for playing, gazing, and relaxing, and it features some of the best boating, fishing, and swimming spots in the state.

**far left** The Niobrara River is one of the top ten canoeing rivers in the nation. **below left to right** Nighttime falls on the Missouri River near Aten. Northeast of Valentine, Smith Falls displays nature's wonder via a 70-foot drop. Boaters call it a day at Lewis and Clark Lake. A refurbished general store is a favorite haunt in the ghost town of Meadville.

M. Forsberg, Nebraska DED

D. Curran, Nebraska DED

M. Forsberg, Nebraska DED

M. Forsberg, Nebraska DED

