

ENCOUNTER



U.S. Highway 20

The Route

197 miles from Valentine west to the Wyoming border on U.S. Highway 20.

The View

Rolling sandhills, wild prairies, and pine-studded bluffs and buttes.

The Adventure

Western heritage, archaeological wonders, world-class mountain biking, winding canoe trips, and rare wildlife.

Contact

Valentine Chamber of Commerce
402-376-2969
www.visitvalentine.com

Left

Toadstool Geologic Park, Crawford

Right Clockwise

Chadron State Park, Chadron; Legend Buttes Golf Course, Crawford; Arthur Bowring Sandhills Ranch State Historical Park, Merriman; High Plains Homestead, Crawford; Niobrara River, Valentine; Bryan Bridge, Valentine

Bridges to Buttes Byway

This length of road takes you through Nebraska in its most pristine form—untamed by time, untouched by urban sprawl. The vast, open sky seems to stretch endlessly from the rolling hills of the eastern portion of the byway to the striking bluffs and buttes in the west. And that means awe-inspiring sunrises and sunsets along with some of the best stargazing you'll find anywhere.

While on the Bridges to Buttes Byway, you'll definitely want to explore the outdoors. Hop on a mountain bike and trek the nationally acclaimed single- and dual-track trails of Chadron State Park, hike the mile loop through Toadstool Geologic Park outside Crawford, paddle down the Niobrara River at Valentine, tackle the Pine Ridge terrain in a Jeep or on horseback at Crawford's Fort Robinson State Park, check out Snake River Falls near Valentine, or cast a line southwest

of Valentine at Merritt Reservoir. And for the wildlife lovers, there are two wildlife refuges.

The area's history is a unique patchwork of archeological discoveries, American Indian heritage, early military outposts, pioneer struggles, and a ranching way of life. This diverse background is reflected in a variety of museums and attractions including Fort Robinson State Park outside Crawford, Hudson-Meng Research and Education Center near Crawford, the Museum of the Fur Trade outside Chadron, and the Arthur Bowring Sandhills Ranch State Historical Park near Merriman.

To top off the experience, hang your hat somewhere you'll find true Western hospitality, such as the High Plains Homestead near Crawford and other bed and breakfasts and guest ranches in the area.

