

# JOURNEY



Nebraska Highway 12

## ***The Route***

A 231-mile jaunt from near 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)

### **Left**

Confluence of Niobrara and Missouri Rivers, Niobrara

### **Right Clockwise**

Kreycik Riverview Elk Ranch, Niobrara; Ponca Tribe Annual Powwow, Niobrara; Smith Falls, Valentine; Lewis and Clark Lake, Crofton; St. James Marketplace, Wynot

# Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway

As the byway's name suggests, this area was rumored to be the hideout for many an outlaw back in the day—including Jesse James. Today, however, you'll find the area inhabited by friendly folks ready to share their way of life with you.

To get a firsthand look at how the locals live, visit the farms and ranches that populate the open spaces, such as Kreycik Riverview Elk Ranch near Niobrara. You can also purchase locally produced goods at the St. James Marketplace.

But long before the farmers (and even the outlaws), the Lewis and Clark expedition made its way through the region. You can retrace the route to Old Baldy outside Lynch, where the explorers encountered their first prairie dogs. Or follow in the footsteps of a temporarily lost member of the party on the Private Shannon Trail.

American Indians were the first to make their home here. Their heritage can be experienced on the Santee Indian Reservation and at the Ponca Earthlodge in Niobrara.

Along this route, outdoor recreation abounds. The Niobrara River, one of the country's top canoeing destinations, gives visitors a chance to take in the beautiful scenery aboard a canoe, kayak, or tube. You can even watch the water cascade over a 70-foot cliff at Smith Falls outside Valentine. For boating enthusiasts, the deep, clear waters of Lewis and Clark Lake by Crofton will not disappoint.

You'll also want to hike or bike through Ponca State Park, view the confluence of the Niobrara and Missouri Rivers at Niobrara State Park, and tour the landscape of Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge near Valentine.

