

ESCAPE



U.S. Highway 26 & Nebraska Highway 92

The Route

A 144-mile route from Ogallala northwest to the Wyoming border along U.S. Highway 26 and Nebraska Highway 92.

The View

Towering geological formations, pine-shaded bluffs, wagon wheel ruts, Old West storefronts, and the state's largest lake.

The Adventure

Covered wagon rides, exciting water sports, the cow town experience, Western history, and camping.

Contact

Ogallala/Keith County Chamber of Commerce
800-658-4390
www.visitogallala.com

Left

Front Street, Ogallala

Right Clockwise

Boot Hill, Ogallala; Wildcat Hills State Recreation Area, Gering; Scotts Bluff National Monument, Gering; Ash Hollow Pageant, Lewellen; Lake McConaughy, Ogallala

Western Trails Scenic & Historic Byway

What was once a main thoroughfare of the western migration is now an awe-inspiring journey full of unexpected sights and exciting adventures that attracts outdoor enthusiasts and history buffs alike.

As you make your way along this route, you can't help but be taken aback by the outcroppings of rocky plateaus rising from the prairie. It was quite a sight for the pioneers on the Oregon and Mormon Trails as well.

Three of the more famous rock formations that served as landmarks for the emigrants—Chimney Rock near Bayard, Courthouse and Jail Rocks outside Bridgeport, and Scotts Bluff National Monument west of Gering—are popular stops for today's travelers. And more pioneer history can be found at a number of parks and museums, including Ash Hollow State Historical Park near Lewellen.

The area also boasts a storied Wild West past since the Texas Trail ended in Ogallala. Known as the Cowboy Capital, the town saw its share of gambling, dance hall girls, and main street shootouts. You can get a taste of this colorful heritage at Front Street and Boot Hill, both in Ogallala.

Agriculture is an important aspect of this region as well. Take some time to appreciate this key element of the Nebraska way of life at the Farm And Ranch Museum in Gering and at area wineries.

As far as the great outdoors, you couldn't ask for more options. Lake McConaughy and Lake Ogallala provide excellent boating, sailing, swimming, and fishing near Ogallala. You can hike through more than 700 acres of wilderness at Wildcat Hills State Recreation Area south of Gering. And golf courses with amazing backdrops are scattered all along the route.

