

EXPLORE



Nebraska Highway 2

The Route

272 miles on Nebraska Highway 2 from Grand Island to Alliance.

The View

Dramatic sandhills, remote countryside, expansive farmland, marshes and wetlands, winding rivers, and a hand-planted forest.

The Adventure

The annual sandhill and whooping crane migration, thoroughbred horse racing, Western heritage museums, American Indian artifacts, floating, boating, and camping.

Contact

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Left
Sandhills Landscape

Right Clockwise
Nebraska National Forest, Halsey; Middle Loup River, Mullen;
Lakeside Ranch, Alliance; Rowe Sanctuary, Gibbon;
Aunt Betty's Bed & Breakfast, Ravenna

Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway

Having been described as one of the last unexplored frontiers, this journey is defined by wide-open spaces and dramatic, panoramic views. The seemingly untouched beauty of the undulating sandhills, the dark night sky sparkling with stars, the winding networks of rivers and trains—it all adds up to a sense of tranquility you won't find anywhere else.

In addition to the grass-covered sand dunes, another element of the landscape unique to the area is the Bessey Ranger District of the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey. This 90,000-acre, pine-covered region includes the largest section of hand-planted forest in the world.

For another unique view, head to the Platte River Valley near Grand Island. Every year from late February to early April, more than 500,000 sandhill cranes descend on the area to rest and recuperate during their migration north. Spring also

brings millions of other waterfowl through the area, creating a birding spectacle like no other. For more opportunities to view wildlife, visit Valentine National Wildlife Refuge southwest of Valentine and Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge south of Ellsworth.

Ready to tour the waterways? Canoeing enthusiasts will enjoy the challenge of the Dismal River. And for those looking for a more relaxing water adventure, tanking is the ticket. This unusual activity involves a leisurely float down the river in a stock tank.

To round out your Sandhills Journey experience, explore the history of central Nebraska at a variety of museums and informational stops including the Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer in Grand Island and the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway Visitor Center in Broken Bow.

