Mari Sandoz Country



Fort Robinson State Park



Prehistoric Wonders

Hudson-Meng Bone Bed One of the most important archaeological sites anywhere on the Great Plains the Hudson-Meng Bone Bed is possibly the largest Paleoindian-age bison kill site ever discovered. On-going research at the site uses modern scientific techniques to decipher the mystery of how so many bison died there in prehistoric times. Open Memorial Day through Labor Day. Small fee. 308-432-0300.
http://www.fossilfreeway.net/hudson.php

Toadstool Geological Park Between 24 and 38 million years ago this area was a braided river system home to ancient wildlife. Following eons of flood deposits and volcanic ash blankets from farther west, erosion began to cut downward revealing a Badlands moonscape. Namesake "toadstools" and trackways of long extinct animals can be viewed along the one mile loop trail. A primitive campground and picnic area are located at trailhead. 308-432-0300.
http://www.fossilfreeway.net/toadstool.php

Agate Fossil Beds National Monument An interpretative center features life-sized replicas of animals who roamed this area 20 million years ago. A modern visitors center features fossil and plant displays, interactive computer programs, walking trails, and a picnic area as well as a rare collection of Native American artifacts given to pioneer rancher and scout James A. Cook by the Lakota Sioux Chief Red Cloud and his friends. Open daily, year round. Visitor center open 8 to 5 daily, with extended hours during the summer months. No fee. 308-668-2211.
www.nps.gov/agfo/

Eleanor Barbour Cook Museum of Geology at Chadron State College Chadron State College hosts an impressive collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils from Nebraska and around the world. Visitors can see rare agates, jade, and petrified wood. Call 308-432-6377 for information and times. www.csc.edu/sci/ebcmuseum/

Trailside Museum at Fort Robinson A new, life size display of the fossils of two ancient mammoths who died with their tusks locked in combat is the highlight of this museum operated by the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Other exhibits showcase a wealth of fossils, geology, and Native American history. Open Memorial Day through Labor Day. Small Fee. 308-665-2929.
www.trailside.unl.edu

Indians & Early Settlers

FORT ROBINSON STATE PARK
This 2,000 acre state park (Nebraska's largest) offers excellent recreation opportunities including: hiking and biking trails, horseback riding, swimming pool, jeep and stagecoach rides, fishing, cabins and camping. The drive-through loop offers viewing of the buffalo herd , longhorn cattle and big horn sheep. The fort was originally established as a military reservation serving as headquarters for army troops stationed to guard Red Cloud Indian Agency. Nebraska Park permit required. 308-665-2900.
www.outdoornebraska.org/parks/explore.asp

State Historical Society Museum History comes alive in the museum (1905 Post Headquarters) with original items from Fort Robinson's famous history. Interpretive displays, gift shop. Open year round. Small fee. 308-665-2919. www.nebraskahistory.org/sites/fortrob/

Site of Crazy Horse's Death Visit the site where famous Sioux military leader, Crazy Horse, was killed by a soldier while placed under arrest in 1877.

Red Cloud Indian Agency/Prisoner War Camp Site of Indian Agency established in 1874, housing thousands of Ogalala Sioux, Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho during the pre-reservation era. A camp was built here in 1943 to house German World War II prisoners. Interpretive signs tell history of the site. 308-665-2919.

Post Playhouse The Playhouse, a summer repertory theatre, features musicals and comedies in a historic setting. Open late-May through mid-August. For more information on show times, ticket sales and performances call 308-665-1976. www.postplayhouse.com

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN CHADRON
Visitors can learn about the history and architecture of this National Register downtown area by picking up a self-guided historic walking tour pamphlet at the Chamber Visitors Information Center, 706 W. Third Street.

MUSEUMS
Museum of the Fur Trade The internationally-recognized Museum of the Fur Trade, called Chadron's hidden treasure, is dedicated to saving and exhibiting the history of the North American fur trade. Exhibits include Indian art and artifacts, furs, weapons, clothing, textiles and the largest known collection of Northwest trade guns in the world. Explore James Bordeaux's reconstructed trading post built in 1837 and visit the garden of Indian plants. Museum Shop offers contemporary Indian beadwork, books, gift items and antiques. Open May 1 through October 31, otherwise by appointment. Small Fee. 308-432-3843. www.furtrade.org

Dawes County Historical Museum This locally-focused museum offers a window on settler history. Unique collections illustrate Dawes County history through photos, quilts, clothing, furniture, genealogy records, an original log house and barn, a pioneer church, an 1890s schoolhouse and a caboose. The Rodney Heesacker antique toy collection is not to be missed. Open Memorial Day through September30th. No admission fee. 308-432-4999. www.discoverdawescounty.com

Crawford Historical Museum Once a rowdy town frequented by well-known Wild West figures, cowboys and soldiers from nearby Fort Robinson, Crawford is now a prime location for railroad fans to snap photos of mile-long trains on the busy freight and coal line that bisects the community. The museum has photos and objects from the town's storied past. 341 Second St. Open May to mid-October, Mon-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
www.crawfordmuseum.org

Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center Dedicated in 2002, the center showcases a collection of materials from famed Nebraska author Mari Sandoz, and includes revolving historic and scientific exhibits, many related to the culture and heritage of the High Plains. The center also incorporates the C.F. Coffee Gallery with interpretive exhibits exploring the development of the cattle industry on the High Plains. Open year round. Closed Sundays and Holidays. 308-432-6401.
www.nebraskahistory.org/sites/fortrob/

MARKERS AND MONUMENTS
Warbonnet & Yellow Hair Monuments An encounter between the 5th US Calvary and a group of Cheyenne Indians took place near Warbonnet Creek on July 17,1876. The only fatality was Cheyenne warrior Yellow Hair, who was killed by Buffalo Bill Cody. Memorial was constructed here to recognize the Yellow Hair-Cody confrontation.

The Great Outdoors

Oglala National Grassland One of 20 national grasslands managed by the US Forest Service, this 94,000 acre area extends from near Chadron to South Dakota and Wyoming. Hunting, fishing, biking and sight-seeing opportunities abound, but be aware that parcels of private land are found in this area. Purchase a forest recreation map before you take this journey "off the beaten path." Free Motor Vehicle Use Maps available at local convenience stores show roads open for off-road motorized travel. 308-432-4475 or 308-432-0300.
www.fs.usda.gov

Nebraska National Forest The 51,000 acre Pine Ridge Ranger District of the Nebraska National Forest is public land managed to provide a variety of recreational uses as well as livestock grazing and limited timber production. Over 80 miles of trails through the scenic ponderosa pine forest offer hunters, hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders nearly unlimited access to the backcountry. Private lands are intermingled with the national forest. Forest maps are available from Forest Service offices. Free Motor Vehicle Use Maps available at local convenience stores show roads open for off-road motorized travel.308-432-0300 or 308-432-4475.
www.fs.usda.gov

Soldier Creek Wilderness Area This historic area served as horse and mule pasture and recreation area for troops stationed at Fort Robinson. This federal wilderness area encompasses 7,794 acres and offers 10 miles of scenic trails for non-mechanized use. Witness natural revegetation from Fort Robinson Fire of July 8,1989.308-432-4475 or 308-432-0300. www.fs.usda.gov

Chadron State Park Nebraska's first state park offers miles of hiking and biking trails through beautiful pine covered hills, camping and RV facilities, rental cabins, fishing, paddle boating, archery, horseback riding, jeep tours, sand volleyball court, tennis court, swimming pool, trading post and plenty of peace and quiet for everyone. Groups welcome. Nebraska Park permit required. 308-432-6167. www.outdoornebraska.org/parks/explore.asp

Pine Ridge National Recreation Area Explore 6,600 acres of scenic forests, hills and rolling plains in an area designed to provide a primitive/semi-primitive recreational opportunity in a natural environment managed for non-motorized use. A portion of the 80 mile Pine Ridge Trail System crosses the area which is home to white-tail and mule deer, wild turkeys, mountain lions and golden eagles. Free for day use, small fee for camping from mid-May to mid-November. 308-432-4475 or 308-432-0300.
www.fs.usda.gov

Box Butte State Recreation Area This popular area contains 212 acres available for hunting, fishing, camping and boating. Home to bluegill, channel fish, crappie, largemouth and small mouth bass, pike, walleye, and yellow perch.(308) 665-2903. www.outdoornebraska.org

Walgreen Lake State Recreation Area Fish for bass, crappie, walleye and other panfish in this quiet, 100 acre prairie lake. Primitive camping is available and the fishing pier is wheelchair accessible. www.outdoornebraska.org

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS (WMA)
Northwest Nebraska is home to a number of Wildlife Management Areas-lands managed by the Wildlife Division of the Nebraska Game and Parks department for public access for hunting, fishing and recreational use. The lands are supported by funds from sale of Nebraska hunting and fishing permits, and federal funds from an excise tax on outdoor equipment. Access to these lands is free, and no entry permit is necessary, however, to protect the areas and their many assets, certain regulations apply to public use of all of areas, with specific rules for some areas. Details at
www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/places/wmas asp

GOLF COURSES
Legend Buttes Golf Course The White River winds through this nine hole public golf course located just outside of Crawford. Open year round. Driving range, cart & club rentals, instruction available. 308-665-2431.

Ridge View Country Club This nine hole public golf course is nestled in the rolling plains south west of Chadron, and is the home to the annual Don Beebe Golf Classic Memorial Weekend. Driving range, cart & club rentals, instruction available. 308-432-4468.

Other Attractions

Chadron State College Nestled at the foot of pine-clad buttes and close to the 51,000 acre Pine Ridge District of the Nebraska National Forest, Chadron State College's location provides a great place to live and study. Enrollment includes approximately 2,500 students on campus and an additional 500 students in off-campus locations. The college offers a full range of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science programs (four year degrees) as well as Master of Arts, Master of Science, Master of Business Administration and Specialist in Education. Campus tours are available. 308-432-6000,1 -800-CHADRON or www.csc.edu.

High Plains Herbarium Located at in the Math and Science building at Chadron State College, the High Plains Herbarium contains more than 60,000 specimens of plants, mostly from the northern Great Plains, and includes many ethno-botanical medicinal plants and historic pharmaceuticals. Call 308-432-6163.

Questions?

For information on things to see and do, lodging and special events, call the Chadron Chamber of Commerce at 308-432-4401 or 1-800-603-2937. Stop at our Visitors Information Center at 706 West Third St., Chadron, or visit www.chadron.com, www.discoverdawescounty.com or Dawes County Nebraska on FaceBook

DISCOVER NORTHWEST NEBRASKA
discoverdawescounty.com

Map Legend

- Gravel road
- Ft. Robinson road
- Scenic drive
- Historic trail
- Historic site
- (T) Trailhead
- 16 — 16 Historic markers located throughout Ft. Robinson State Park

Additional information about the cultural and recreational opportunites at Fort Robinson are available at the Fort Office.

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DISCOVER NORTHWEST NEBRASKA
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EXPLORE THE Pine Ridge OF NORTHWEST NEBRASKA

BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLANDS
OGLALA NATIONAL GRASSLANDS
PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION
NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST
MIRAGE FLATS
SOUTH DAKOTA
WYOMING
NEBRASKA

Ardmore
Montrose
Hat Creek
Story
Grandma Davis Draw
Schurr
Turner Peak
Whitman
Edgemont
Warbonnet Crk
Prairie Dog
Pants Butte
Hat Creek
Monroe Canyon
Monroe Crk
Bordac
Gilbert-Baker WMA
Pleasant Ridge
Coffee Park
Canyon
Southbelly Crk
Pants Butte
W Hat Creek
E Hat Creek
Highland
Beans Canyon
Cottonwood
Rim Rock
Little Cottonwood
Boggy Crk
Horn
Toadstool
Dodd
Raben
Lawrence
White River
Whitney Lk
Whitney Lake WMA
Brown Rd
N Shore Dr
WHITNEY
Old Hwy 20
Norman
Haynes
Snus Lake
Eleson
Barber
Dry Creek
Faulk
Bethel
Hartman
Lemmon
East Ash Crk
Deadhorse Crk
Trunk Butte
Rattlesnake Butte
Flanigan Butte
Lookout Point
Outriders
Strong Canyon
Chadron State Park
Flag Butte
Roberts Corral
Coffee Mill
Coffee Mill Butte
Chadron Creek Ranch WMA
Red Cloud
Kay
Table
McGannon
Spiers
Ray
Carlson
Prairie Home
Long
Kudnra
Hough
Autogate
Popper Crk
Squaw Mound
Table Center
Cottonwood School
Rd 13C
County Line
DAWES CO
Walgren Lake
Walgren Lake State Rec Area
HAY SPRINGS
550th Ln
530th Ln
530th Rd
520th Rd
510th Rd
500th Rd
480th Rd
87
Church
N Lane
Egan
The Cliffs
Bordeaux WMA
Spotted Tail
Buttermilk
Airport
Dakota Jct
CHADRON
Stockade
Chadron Crk
Pineview
Big Bordeaux Crk
Barnum
Redfern
Davenport
Beaver Valley
Schlomer
Omesher
Isinglass Buttes
Slim Buttes
White River
Beaver Crk
Lime Kiln Creek
Janis Creek
PINE RIDGE
WHITE CLAY
Hubbard Butte
Craven Creek
450th Ln
310th Trl
373rd
Beaver Wall
Sheridan Gates
Squaw Tit Butte
Bomar Hill
Metcalf WMA
Little Beaver Crk
White Clay Creek
White Clay Crk
Beaver Creek
Ferguson
Big Cottonwood Crk
Lone Tree
Lone Tree Crk
Sugar Loaf
Sugar Loaf Butte
Strawstack Butte
Square Hill
Mike Kern Hill
N Moody
Toadstool
Toadstool Park
Hudson-Meng
Pine Butte
Round Top
Benedict Buttes
Sandcreek
Orella
Stony Hill
Wolf Butte
Twin Butte
McMeekin
Horsehead Crk
Snook
S Wayside
N Wayside
Wayside
Wayside Butte
Stewart
385
2
71
20
29
Crow Creek
Hat Creek
Indian Creek
Bull Creek
McGuen Crk
Whitney Lake
Ft Robinson WMA
Red Cloud Buttes
(See map on back)
Old Smiley Canyon
Soldier Creek
S Fork Soldier Crk
N Fork Soldier Crk
Soldier Creek Nat'l Wilderness
Peterson WMA
Ft Robinson State Park
CRAWFORD
HARRISON
Bighorn WMA
Crow Butte
Little Crow Butte
Crown Butte
Ponderosa WMA
Chimney Butte
Pine Ridge Nat'l Rec Area
West Ash
East Ash
Four Mile
Glendy
Glen
Deep Creek
Andrews
Smith
Deadman
Breakneck
Squaw Creek
Sawlog
Rock Crwn
STOUX CO
BELMONT
E Belmont
W Belmont
Oelkers
Hollibaugh
Table Center
Vantine
Johnson Dr
Corkscrew
Hill
Diehl
Starvation Gulch
Hanley
Soester
Marsland
Box Butte State Rec Area
River
Dunlap Rd
Dunlap
Adams
Arthur
Nioabrara River
Pink School House
Agate National Monument
Carnegie Hill
University Hill
Panhandle
Buckley
N

Outdoor Recreation Site Ammenities

	Trailhead	Improved Campground	Primitive Campground	Picnic Area
Coffee Park				●
Toadstool Park	●		●	●
Hudson-Meng	●			
Soldier Creek	●		●	●
Fort Robinson	●	●	●	●
West Ash	●		●	●
East Ash	●		●	
Roberts Corral	●		●	●
Coffee Mill	●			
Chadron State Park	●	●	●	●
Outriders	●			
Strong Canyon	●		●	●
Spotted Tail	●			
The Cliffs	●		●	●
Red Cloud			●	●
Agate Fossil Beds	●		●	●
Box Butte		●	●	●
Walgren Lake			●	●

0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

Map Legend

- U.S. Highway
- State Highway or other paved road
- Gravel road
- Low maintenance road
- Scenic drive
- Private road
- Railroad
- Historic trail
- County line
- Outdoor recreation site
- Golf course
- Historic marker
- Museum
- Historic community (no services)
- Village (limited or no services)
- Butte or summit
- River
- Creek
- National Forest
- National Grassland
- National Wilderness Area
- National Recreaton Area
- National Monument
- State Wildlife Mgmt Area
- State Park
- State Recreation Area
- Indian Reservation

The Pine Ridge offers many outdoor recreational opportunities such as hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, boating and bird watching. More specific maps are available from the Chadron Chamber of Commerce, Nebraska National Forest and State Game and Parks Commission.

Caution: Seasonal weather conditions or construction/maintenance work may make unpaved county roads difficult to travel or even impassable at times. Always check locally for updated information on road conditions. Dawes County Road Department - 308-432-0483; Sioux County Road Department - 308-668-9453; Sheridan County Road Department - 308-327-5657.