

Scan QR code to register online
(deposit sent to Buchanan
CCB) or fill out the form below



REGISTRATION FORM

Fee includes motorcoach transportation, professional guides, entrance fees, hotel rooms, 2 breakfasts & tips.

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE

Single occupancy fee \$1,050.00

Double occupancy fee \$900.00

Triple occupancy fee \$850.00

Quad occupancy fee \$750.00

Name(s) PLEASE PRINT

Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please circle bus pick up location:

Fontana Park – Hazelton

Vinton Parks & Recreation Center – Vinton

Do you need a handicap accessible room? **YES** **NO**

Can you walk ¼ of a mile? **YES** **NO**

Can you navigate steps? **YES** **NO**

Please make checks payable to Buchanan County Conservation. Kindly send either \$350 deposit per person or the full fee, along with the completed registration form, to Buchanan County Conservation, 1883 125th St, Hazelton, IA 50641, by February 12th, 2026. Deposit is non-refundable after February 12th, 2026

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Thursday March 26th

6:30am Pick up at Fontana Park

7:30am Pick up at Vinton Parks & Recreation Center

12:00pm Lunch & explore Old Market in Omaha, NE

7:00pm Check into Fairfield Inn in North Platte, NE

Friday March 27th

5:15am Prairie Chicken Tour

11:00am Lunch in North Platte, NE

1:00pm Golden Spike Tower

5:00pm Dinner in North Platte, NE

6:30pm Evening Sandhill Crane Tour

10:00pm Head back to hotel

Saturday March 28th

5:15am Sunrise Sandhill Crane Tour

10:00am Hotel check out & head home

Stops along the way: Lunch in Lexington, Crane Trust, & rest stop.

8:00pm Arrive at Vinton Parks & Recreation Center

9:00pm Arrive at Fontana Park

Participants need to be able to navigate steps & walk up to ¼ of a mile

Subject to change at any time

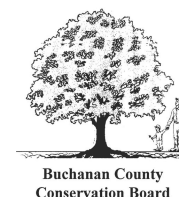


SANDHILL CRANES & PRAIRIE CHICKENS BUS TRIP

NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA

March 26th – 28th, 2026

Deadline to register is February 12th, 2026



This trip is partnership with Benton County Conservation, Bremer County Conservation & Buchanan County Conservation

Each spring, more than 500,000 sandhill cranes gather in the Platte River Valley during their northward bound migration. Cranes have been making this annual migration for thousands of years and fossil beds in several parts of Nebraska contain remains of prehistoric cranes from 10 million years ago.

The Platte is a "staging" area where the cranes stop to rest and replenish energy reserves before continuing on to their nesting grounds in Canada, Alaska, and Siberia. It is the only major staging area on the sandhill cranes' northward migration. Approximately 80 percent of all sandhill cranes come to the Platte every spring. The concentration of cranes here is the greatest of anywhere in the world.

The Platte River region provides the combination of habitat components in close proximity to each other that the sandhill cranes need: crop fields with an abundant supply of food, wetlands and grasslands that provide critical nutrients, and secure roosting sites.



"Nebraska is special to me. I've traveled far and wide, and coming to Nebraska, and seeing and hearing the cranes always restores my soul." — Jane Goodall

CONTACT

Benton County Conservation

Ph: 319-560-9809 / Email: fhunt@bentoncountyparks.com

Bremer County Conservation

Ph: 319-882-4742 / Email: lwilgenbusch@co.bremer.ia.us or
angie.ael@co.bremer.ia.us

Buchanan County Conservation

Ph: 319-636-2671 / Email: MMAas@co.buchanan.ia.us



PRAIRIE CHICKEN & SANDHILL CRANE TOURS NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA

On Friday, we will make an early morning visit to the largest known Prairie Chicken Lek in Nebraska prior to sunrise and remain for about 3 hours enjoying the incredible sights and sounds of these amazing birds as they practice and perform their showy mating rituals. These birds will give it their all, fiercely defending their small, but mighty territory to impress on-coming females.

Friday evening we will head out for the opportunity to view sandhill cranes as they converge onto the river for their night's roost. Saturday morning, we will return to the blind to along the Platte River and watch as the sandhills greet the light of a new day and head out to feed.

All birding tours will be led by guides from Dusty Trails, LLC. Viewing blinds are largely enclosed, but not heated so please dress appropriately as you will be walking to the viewing areas where it may be wet and marshy and will be in the blinds for a couple of hours. Binoculars are also available to use, but supplies are limited. We encourage you to bring your own viewing equipment. *Note: If you plan to do some photography, some photographers who have attended these tours suggest you bring your long lens.*



GOLDEN SPIKE TOWER

Golden Spike Tower overlooks the World's Largest Classification Rail Yard. From the open-air observation deck, hear the sounds of locomotives powering up and down as they enter or leave the diesel shop, horns blowing and the screech of rail cars sliding down the classification hump. One floor higher is a fully enclosed deck with a 360° view of the activity in Bailey Yard with retired railroad employees to explain what is taking place below and their experiences of working for the Union Pacific Railroad.



ALONG THE WAY



On Thursday afternoon We will be visiting The Old Market in Omaha, NE, where we can enjoy lunch, shopping, and various activities the area provides. On our return home on Saturday, we will stop by the Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center to learn about sandhill crane migration, purchase souvenirs, and explore the surroundings.



We will be staying at the Fairfield Inn & Suites North Platte (319 W South River Rd, North Platte, NE 69101). Hot breakfast will be provided Friday & Saturday with places to eat within walking distance.