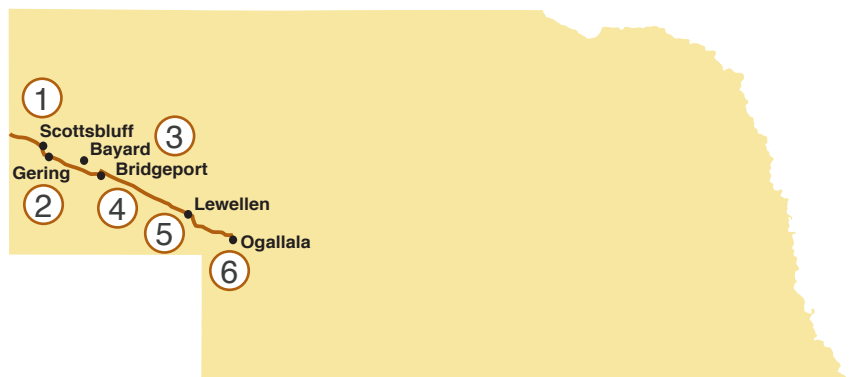


Western Trails Scenic & Historic Byway

This byway follows more than just U.S. Highway 26 and Nebraska Highway 92. It traces the path of emigrants along the Oregon and California Trails and pursues stories of trial and tribulation tied to the western migration—mixed with a bit of Wild West lore.

Historical Happenings

- ① Scotts Bluff National Monument was another large landmark that guided travelers. The bluff is named after Hiram Scott, a fur trading company employee who died there.
- ② West of Gering, Robidoux Pass was the area in the bluffs that appeared lower and less craggy, so travelers including trappers, emigrants, and missionaries would take this path when crossing the rough terrain. Seeing an opportunity, the Robidoux family built a trading post near this crossing.
- ③ Courthouse and Jail Rocks rise above the prairie near Bridgeport. They served as natural landmarks to the emigrants making their way west.



- ④ One of the most famous landmarks of the western migration, Chimney Rock is a sandstone spire outside Bayard. Many pioneers wrote about seeing this formation in their journals.
- ⑤ Ash Hollow, near present-day Lewellen, was a popular stop for travelers along the Oregon Trail. It offered a pure water source, wood, and a grassy area for livestock. Wagon ruts are still visible, and the grave of Rachel Pattison (one of many pioneers who died along the trail) tells the story of her time on the trail. The area is now a state historical park.
- ⑥ Ogallala was situated at the end of the Texas Trail—the route cattle drivers followed when moving their herds from Texas to the railroad in Nebraska. The influx of so many cowboys made Ogallala a “rough and tumble” town, complete with dance hall girls, gambling, and its fair share of main street shoot-outs. The old cemetery, known as Boot Hill, still bears the markers of those who met an unfortunate end there.

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