

Attractions & Museums

Agate Fossil Beds National Monument is located 32 miles north of Mitchell. Fossils from the site, which date from about 20 million years ago, are among some of the best specimens of Miocene mammals. Hikes from one to three miles allow the opportunity to explore the natural history of the Niobrara River Valley and its current and past wildlife.

The Visitors Center features ancient mammal displays from the American Plains plus the unique Cook Collection of American Indian artifacts. Each summer, American Indian artists showcase skills that have been handed down through the generations.

Explore stories of westward expansion, survival, settlement, and agriculture innovation at **Legacy of the Plains Museum**. Through the tales of emigrants, settlers, and a vast array of artifacts, the history and culture of the high plains are presented for generations. From paleo-man, emigrants heading west, ranchers, farmers, townspeople, and businesses all contributed to the growth of agriculture and ranching within the North Platte Valley and the High Plains.

The facility is located on a 110-acre farm and 30,000 sq.ft., main exhibit gallery. The museum consists of interactive and interpretative displays within the main gallery. Outside exhibits are sod and log houses, a farm house that reflects the 1930s and 1950s interior, and agricultural equipment from horse drawn, to steam power, and finally to gas power machines.

Annual events include Harvest Festival the third weekend in September and High Plains Christmas the first Saturday in December. The museum archive includes an extensive library of agricultural related material, North Platte Valley communities records, as well as the Paul & Helen Henderson Oregon Trail Collection, one of the most comprehensive Overland Trails research collections ever compiled.

The Riverside Discovery Center is located in Riverside

Park, W. Beltline Highway, Scottsbluff. This 23-acre AZA accredited zoo exhibits both short-grass prairie native species as well as exotics from the far reaches of the world: zebra, chimpanzees, tigers, lion, addax, etc. In all there are over 140 animals to enjoy, with 13 species being rare and endangered. The shaded grounds contain many “children’s museum without walls” discovery centers: splash pad, dino dig, water table and playground. The children won’t want to miss this! The Heritage Barn is a petting zoo exhibiting heritage animals. It includes the Don Steen Heritage Room which features taxidermy mounts of the ancestors of modern livestock.



Educational opportunities abound with many special events and Discovery Stations at the zoo throughout the year. It’s also a great place to hold your birthday party! Conservation and education located in a fun family center – it’s a must see attraction!

Scotts Bluff National Monument contains 3,003 acres of prairie, bluff and riparian habitats. Its bluffs became famous landmarks for pioneers traveling west to Oregon, California and Utah. The roadbed carved into the earth by their wagons is still visible. Drive the Summit Road to the top of Scotts Bluff to enjoy the gorgeous scenery and breathtaking views of the North Platte Valley. Walk the trails to enjoy the solitude of the prairie and walk in the footsteps of the pioneers.

The Visitor Center tells the story of the westward migration and geology of the area as well as displaying some of the artwork and photographs of William Henry Jackson, who traveled west in 1866 as a young man. During the summer programs are presented to illustrate emigrant life on the trail and special programs are offered.

Legacy of the Plains Museum

