

Registration Form

Your fee includes motorcoach transportation, professional guides, blind and entrance fees, motel rooms, two breakfasts, one lunch and tips.

Please Check One

- ☐ Single Occupancy Fee \$571
- ☐ Double Occupancy Fee \$471
- ☐ Triple Occupancy Fee \$438
- ☐ Quad Occupancy Fee \$421

Please Circle Bus Pick-up

Independence

Hiawatha

Name (s)

Address

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please send this registration form with your check (payable to "**Friends of Fontana Park**") to

Buchanan County Conservation
1883 125th St, Hazelton IA 50641

Please send either a \$100 deposit/person or the full fee. Final payments due by **Feb 21**

Prices are Per Person

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

March 24, Sunday

- 6:30am Pick up in Independence
- 7:30am Pick up in Hiawatha
Henry Doorly Zoo/lunch on own at zoo
- 2:30pm Load Bus to Grand Island
Check into hotel
- 5:30pm Bus leaves for Crane Trust

March 25, Monday

- Breakfast on own at hotel (included)
- TBD View cranes, Archway Museum/lunch on own
- 2:00pm Drive to Ord
- 5:30pm Load Bus for Supper in Ord

March 26, Tuesday

- 6:00am Bus leaves for Outfitters
- 8:30am Hot breakfast at Outfitters (included)
Lunch stop in Sioux City (included)
- 7:00pm Return to Independence
- 8:00pm Return to Hiawatha

Deadline to register is Feb 21

2019

SANDHILL CRANE & PRAIRIE CHICKEN / SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

BUS TOUR



Each spring, more than 500,000 sandhill cranes gather in the Platte River valley during their northward migration. Cranes have been making this migration annually for thousands of years, and fossil beds in several parts of Nebraska contain the 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

Linn County Conservation
Ph: 319-892-6485
www.LinnCountyParks.com



CONTACT

Buchanan County Conservation
Ph: 319-334-3436
www.BuchananCountyParks.com

Sandhill Cranes

GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

Crane Trust, Nature & Visitor Center

The Crane Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and maintenance of critical habitat for whooping cranes, sandhill cranes and other migratory birds along the Big Bend Region of the Platte River Valley. The Platte River, once called a mile wide and a foot deep during settlement in the 1800s, is now greatly changed by damming along the upper reaches of the river. The Crane Trust, along with other conservation organizations, works to remove trees on sandbars and recreate the habitat needed for the cranes to safely roost at night.

Prairie Chicken Lek & Sharp-tailed Grouse

BURWELL, NEBRASKA

Calamus Outfitters

Calamus Outfitters is a family-owned recreation business run by Bruce and Sue Ann Switzer. The Switzer’s ranch is located in the sandhills of north central Nebraska, near the Calamus Reservoir. Audubon Nebraska recognizes this ranch as an Important Bird Area within the Greater Gracie Creek Landscape. With years of experience watching, observing and learning the mating habits of the prairie chickens, the Switzers are well-informed about prairie chicken and grouse lek locations. Late March and early April are the best times to see the male booming sites.

HENRY DOORLY ZOO



Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium provides views of thousands of animals from around the globe, 160 acres of exhibits and gardens including seven acres of indoor exhibits, the Zoo is a perfect place to escape. Explore the natural rainforest environment as you walk through America’s largest indoor rainforest, the Lied Jungle. Inside this exhibit, you will hear waterfalls crashing, see gibbons swinging and feel the tropical environment surround you. Tour the Desert Dome or the newest exhibit, the Asian Highlands. Enjoy lunch overlooking the rainforest.

THE ARCHWAY MUSEUM



Spanning 310 feet over Interstate 80 near Kearney, Nebraska, The Archway presents 170 years of transportation history through detailed displays and harrowing stories you’ll hear as you walk over one of America’s busiest interstate highways.

**Please apprise us of any dietary or mobility concerns. Tour participants will need to be able to negotiate steps and walk at least a 1/4 mile.*

Along the Way