

# Attractions & Museums



Agate Fossil Beds

**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.

The **Farm And Ranch Museum (FARM)** is a 110-acre farm dedicated to preserving and interpreting the agricultural heritage of the High Plains. FARM boasts displays of antique farm equipment from horse-drawn, to steam engines. Indoor displays have been developed to interpret regional agriculture.

**FARM** hosts an educational program for regional 4th grade students called FARMhands-on-history. The Harvest Festival is held the third weekend of September. Everyone enjoys the agricultural displays and the living history farming demonstrations. High Plains Christmas is another fun activity. An extensive library of agricultural books, manuals, pamphlets and archives of local agricultural businesses is a valuable resource for historical researchers.

The **North Platte Valley Museum** depicts westward trail expansion and pioneer settlement. Over two dozen exhibits feature Indian artifacts, a plastic saddle, a 1919 patriot truck, an 1850's crazy quilt, children's centers and authentic sod and log houses. Showcased is the Paul & Helen Henderson Oregon Trail Collection, one of the most comprehensive Overland trails research collections ever compiled.

The **Riverside Discovery Center** is currently in the works. The Center will be located at Riverside Zoo and will

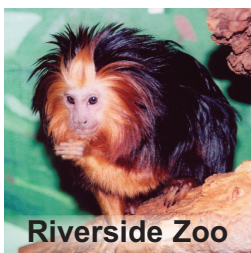
include Wildlife World and a Children's University. This partnership will offer creative hands-on education for all age groups.

**Riverside Zoo** is a 23-acre shaded park featuring a wide variety of native and exotic animals in simulated natural habitats. The *Splash Pad* is a new adventure to enjoy on a warm, sunny day. Visitors also enjoy the walk through an open-air aviary, Rainforest Discovery Center, children's playground and petting zoo. An enriching botanical experience with numerous garden spots bursting with seasonal blooms is around every corner. They host an annual Zoobilee fundraiser, a nighttime Spooktacular in October and a variety of educational programs throughout the year.

**Scotts Bluff National Monument** contains 3,003 acres of prairie and bluff habitat. The Bluff became a famous natural landmark and resting place for pioneers on their way to Oregon and California. The roadbed carved by their wagons is still visible. Drive the summit road that winds its way to the top or hike the over four miles of trails to enjoy the gorgeous scenery and breathtaking views.

The remodeled Visitors Center and Museum traces the history of the emigrants, area geology and displays the water colors of noted artist and photographer William Henry Jackson. They host a summer campfire series and many other programs designed to illustrate emigrant life. They have bluff relay races, the Pony Express re-ride and Christmas on the Prairie just to name a few.

**Wildlife World Wyo-Braska Natural History Museum** is located in a restored Union Pacific Depot. It features a massive display of mounted zoological specimens and an array of fossils. There are over 250 species from seven continents, many of them rare, with exciting graphics and natural habitat dioramas. Featured are the animals along the Oregon Trail and the Blauchiterium, the largest mammal to ever roam the earth and the only authentic replica of its kind. They offer educational displays and guided tours.



Riverside Zoo



Farm And Ranch Museum