Scotts Bluff National Monument was established December 12, 1919. The boundaries encompass 3,003 acres that include tall bluffs, rugged badlands, ancient fossils, portions of the historic Oregon, California and Pony Express Trails, the only vehicle tunnels in the state of Nebraska, hiking trails and wonderful views from the top of the bluff. Discover the geology, history and beauty of the bluffs once thought to be the highest point in Nebraska.
The hiking trails at Scotts Bluff National Monument are open sunrise to sunset year round. The maintained trails on and around Scotts Bluff are easy to follow as most are paved. Hiking on South Bluff is cross-country as there are no designated trails. Pets are allowed on a leash. Climbing on any of the named rocks is dangerous and closed to the public.

### Hiking Trails at the Monument

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Name</th>
<th>Length one-way</th>
<th>Surface</th>
<th>Level of Activity</th>
<th>Special Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saddle Rock Trail</td>
<td>1.67 mi (2.6 km)</td>
<td>Asphalt</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
<td>435 ft (132 m) elevation gain; walk through a short tunnel; views to the east and north</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon Trail</td>
<td>.57 mi (.92 km)</td>
<td>Asphalt, dirt</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Walk the original Oregon, California and Pony Express Trail; visit the covered wagons and William Henry Jackson’s 1866 campsite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie View Trail</td>
<td>1.18 mi (1.89 km)</td>
<td>Asphalt</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Only trail that allows bicycles; connects to the Monument Pathways Trail in town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Overlook</td>
<td>.74 mi (1.19 km)</td>
<td>Asphalt</td>
<td>Easy to moderate</td>
<td>Great views of the river, badlands, city of Scottsbluff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Overlook</td>
<td>.15 mi (.24 km)</td>
<td>Asphalt</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Great views of Mitchell Pass, South Bluff, city of Gering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Historic Sites in the Area

1. Agate Fossil Beds National Monument 52 miles from Scotts Bluff NM
2. Ash Hollow State Park 100 miles
3. Chimney Rock National Historic Site 23 miles
4. Courthouse and Jail Rocks 35 miles
5. Fort John (Helva/Caney) 8 miles
6. Fort Laramie National Historic Site 50 miles
7. Fort Mitchell Historic Marker 4 miles
8. Fort Robinson State Park 75 miles
9. Guernsey Wagon Ruts and Register Cliff 65 miles
10. Horse Creek Treaty Grounds 25 miles
11. Hudson-Meng Research Center 90 miles
12. Lake Minatare State Recreation Area and Lighthouse 17 miles
13. Legacy of the Plains Museum 1 mile
14. Rebecca Winters Grave 5 miles
15. Robidoux Pass, Trading Post and Grave Sites 9 miles
16. Signal Butte 22 miles
17. Toadstool Geologic Park 94 miles
18. Wildcat Hills State Recreation Area 13 miles