

Crane Trust

PHOTO WORKSHOPS AND TOURS
with Cheryl Opperman



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PHOTO WORKSHOPS AND TOURS with Cheryl Opperman

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

3 NIGHTS and 4 DAYS (see tentative itinerary on Page 6)
Immersive experience with in-depth instruction designed for all levels of photographers

PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS

2 NIGHTS and 3 DAYS (see tentative itinerary on Page 7)
Good river and roost access for advanced amateur or professional photographers.
Helpful tips, but no formal instruction.

Cheryl Opperman is a nationally acclaimed nature photographer with more than 30 years of professional experience photographing nature, wildlife, and indigenous cultures worldwide. Crane Trust offers unparalleled opportunities to capture images of the largest gathering of Sandhill Cranes in the world, a herd of American Bison in their natural habitat, and the wonder and beauty of Platte River meadows and prairies. We welcome you to this unique immersion in the spectacular Sandhill Crane migration. You will have an elevated experience while helping to support Crane Trust's mission and conservation work.

Participants will have numerous opportunities to photograph from custom-built riverfront photo blinds, as hundreds of thousands of Sandhill Cranes leave their roost at sunrise and return at sunset. There will also be opportunities to photograph cranes and other wildlife in fields and wet meadows, and to photograph the bison herd and prairie landscapes on Crane Trust property.

CRANE TRUST PROTECTS PLATTE RIVER
HABITAT FOR MIGRATING CRANES



SURROUNDINGS AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Crane Trust's Wild Rose Ranch is located in South Central Nebraska on nearly 6,000 acres of lowland tall grass prairie and wet meadows. This rare ecosystem includes an uninterrupted seven-mile stretch of the Platte River, preserved by the Crane Trust to represent the unique habitat that has been used for millennia by endangered whooping cranes and three subspecies of Sandhill Cranes.



In addition to the Dormitory where you'll be staying, the main ranch facility includes the Crane Trust headquarters, research laboratory, cottages, meeting and dining facilities, and an outdoor deck and observation platform with breathtaking views of the prairies and Platte River. The dormitory rooms provide cozy accommodations in fully furnished rooms with Queen and/or Twin beds. Each room can accommodate 1 or 2 people. Linens and towels are provided. The Dormitory also features a common area, full kitchen, shared gendered bathrooms, and patio space.



Crane Trust is also home to the beautiful Nature & Visitor Center that welcomes travelers and community members year-round.

At the Nature & Visitor Center, you'll find:

- Art and photography in our Hornady Art Gallery
- Unique items in the Crimson Crown Gift Shop
- Interactive displays and informative videos
- Ten miles of nature trails
- Pollinator garden & Picnic area
- 30-foot viewing tower over the river
- Research bison herd





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PREPARING FOR YOUR EXPERIENCE

How to Dress

Average March temperatures in Nebraska range from 20 to 40°F, but can be as cold as 0°F or as warm as 60°F. The weather can also change unexpectedly.

Please check the forecast prior to your arrival and pack appropriately.

As the temperature changes throughout the day, you'll want to shed or add layers as needed. Access to the blinds requires walking half a mile over uneven outdoor terrain in all conditions and in low light. You will need sturdy, warm, comfortable shoes.

It is important to wear camouflage or dark, neutral colored clothing during photo shoots. Bright or light colors can scare the cranes.

Clothing Suggestions

- Various weight clothing for layering: heavy coat, knit cap, gloves, long underwear, warm socks and mild weather options. Avoid cotton outer layers.
- Hiking boots or sturdy shoes (preferably waterproof as trails can be muddy).
- Rain jacket or other waterproof outerwear.

Crane Trust Provides

- Fully furnished private sleeping rooms
- Shared bathrooms
- Fresh linens, bath towels and wash cloths
- All meals and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) plus fresh fruit and snacks*
- Laundry facilities
- Transportation during your experience**

*We try to accommodate most food allergies. You may bring supplemental foods to meet your nutritional needs. Please bring any over-the-counter or prescribed medications. **Round-trip transportation from the point of origin to the Crane Trust is not included.

RECOMMENDED PHOTOGRAPHY GEAR: PACKING LIST

Camera and Lenses

- Camera body
- 2nd camera body as backup (if you have one)
- A variety of lenses: from 24mm to the longest focal length you own
- Teleconverter(s)

Camera Accessories

- Tripod and tripod head (a gimbal head is recommended if you own one)
- Camera and lens plates to fit your tripod mount
- Extra lens caps
- Camera manual (so instructors can assist with your specific camera settings)
- Cable release
- Lens cleaning supplies (cloth, blower, brush)
- Filters (not a necessity, but a polarizer or graduated neutral density may be useful)

Please note: You must be able to carry your own gear to and from the photography blinds. Roller bags must not be used, as the noise will scare the cranes.

Technology

- Laptop with photo processing software
- Plenty of memory cards
- Memory card reader
- External hard drives for storage and backup
- Extra batteries
- All cords and chargers you may need

Other Gear

- Camera backpack (something that is easy to carry your gear into the blind as you walk over uneven terrain)
- Hand warmers
- Thin and/or fingerless gloves (to keep you warm but still operate the camera)
- Headlamp with a red light feature



DIRECTIONS TO CRANE TRUST

The Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center is located on Interstate 80 at the Alda Exit (Exit 305) just west of Grand Island, Nebraska. Closest airports are Grand Island and Kearney, within 40 miles of the Crane Trust. Airports in Lincoln and Omaha are within 150 miles. Please check in at the Nature & Visitor Center when you arrive.

CRANE TRUST
Nature & Visitor Center
9325 S. Alda Road
Wood River, NE 68883
(308) 382-1820

PHOTO WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative and subject to change based on photography opportunities, weather, and instructor judgement.

3-Day PHOTO TOUR schedule is on page 7

	Day 1 Sunset 7:36	Day 2 Sunrise 7:49 / Sunset 7:37	Day 3 Sunrise 7:47 / Sunset 7:38	Day 4 Sunrise 7:45 / Sunset 7:39	Day 5 Sunrise 7:44
5:15 AM	PLEASE NOTE: Schedule is subject to change.	Guests arrive in classroom for breakfast	Guests arrive in classroom for breakfast	Guests arrive in classroom for breakfast	Guests arrive in classroom for breakfast
6:00 AM		Depart for blind	Depart for blind	Depart for blind	Depart for blind
7:00 AM		Morning photo shoot	Morning photo shoot	Morning photo shoot	Morning photo shoot
9:30 AM					Return to dormitory
10:00 AM		Return to dormitory	Return to dormitory	Return to dormitory	Guests load vehicles for departure
10:30 AM		Break	Break	Break	
11:00 AM		Class: Digital Capture Essentials Part 1 – Taught by Cheryl Opperman	Class: Digital Processing – Taught by Cheryl Opperman	Individual Work Sessions, 30 minutes each, with Lead Instructor Free choice time for other participants	
12:00 PM		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
1:00 PM		Class: Digital Capture Essentials Part 2 – Taught by Cheryl Opperman	Individual Work Sessions, 30 minutes each, with Lead Instructor	Break or download and edit photos with individual help from instructors	
2:00 PM		Guests arrive at Crane Trust Nature and Visitor Center		Optional time for other participants to download and edit photos, rest, or explore the Crane Trust property	
2:30 PM	Depart for Wild Rose Ranch & settle into rooms	Break or download and edit photos with individual help from instructors		3:00 Bison Photo Shoot	
3:00 PM	Orientation: Crane Trust and Photo Workshop				
3:30 PM	Class: Camera settings and blind etiquette – Taught by Cheryl Opperman	Class: Crane Biology and Behavior for Photographers – Taught by Cheryl Opperman			
4:00 PM					
4:45 PM	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
5:30 PM	Load Equipment	Load Equipment	Load Equipment	Load Equipment	
6:00 PM	Depart for blind	Depart for blind	Depart for blind	Depart for blind	
6:30 PM	Evening photo shoot	Evening photo shoot	Evening photo shoot	Evening photo Shoot	
9:00 PM	Return to dormitory	Return to dormitory	Return to dormitory	Return to dormitory	
9:30 PM	Break or social time. Snacks and drinks provided.	Break or social time. Snacks and drinks provided.	Break or social time. Snacks and drinks provided.	Break or social time. Snacks and drinks provided.	
10:30 PM					

PHOTO TOUR SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative and subject to change based on photography opportunities, weather, and instructor judgement.

4-Day PHOTO WORKSHOP schedule is on page 6 (previous page)

	Day 1 Sunrise 7:35am / Sunset 7:46pm	Day 2 Sunrise 7:34am / Sunset 7:47pm	Day 3 Sunrise 7:32am / Sunset 7:48pm
5:15 AM		Guests arrive in classroom for breakfast	Guests arrive in classroom for breakfast
6:00 AM		Depart for blind	Depart for blind
7:00 AM		Morning photo shoot	Morning photo shoot
9:30 AM			Return to dormitory
10:00 AM		Return to dormitory	Guests depart
10:30 AM		Free Time	
12:00 PM		Lunch	
1:30 PM		Free Time	
2:00 PM		Guests arrive at Crane Trust Nature and Visitor Center	
2:30 PM		Depart for Wild Rose Ranch	
3:00 PM	Settle into rooms	Bison Photo Shoot	
3:30 PM	Welcome orientation and blind etiquette overview		
4:30 PM			
4:45 PM	Dinner	Dinner	
5:30PM	Load Equipment	Load Equipment	
6:00PM	Depart for blind	Depart for blind	
6:30 PM	Evening photo shoot	Evening photo shoot	
8:30 PM	Return to dormitory	Return to dormitory	
9:00 PM	Break or social time. Snacks and drinks available.	Break or social time. Snacks and drinks available.	
10:00 PM			



If you have any questions, please contact:

Cheryl Opperman

(303) 829-9453

Email: info@cherylopperman.com

We look forward to experiencing the spring crane migration with you!

Crane Trust
9325 S. Alda Rd.
Wood River, NE 68883
cranetrust.org

