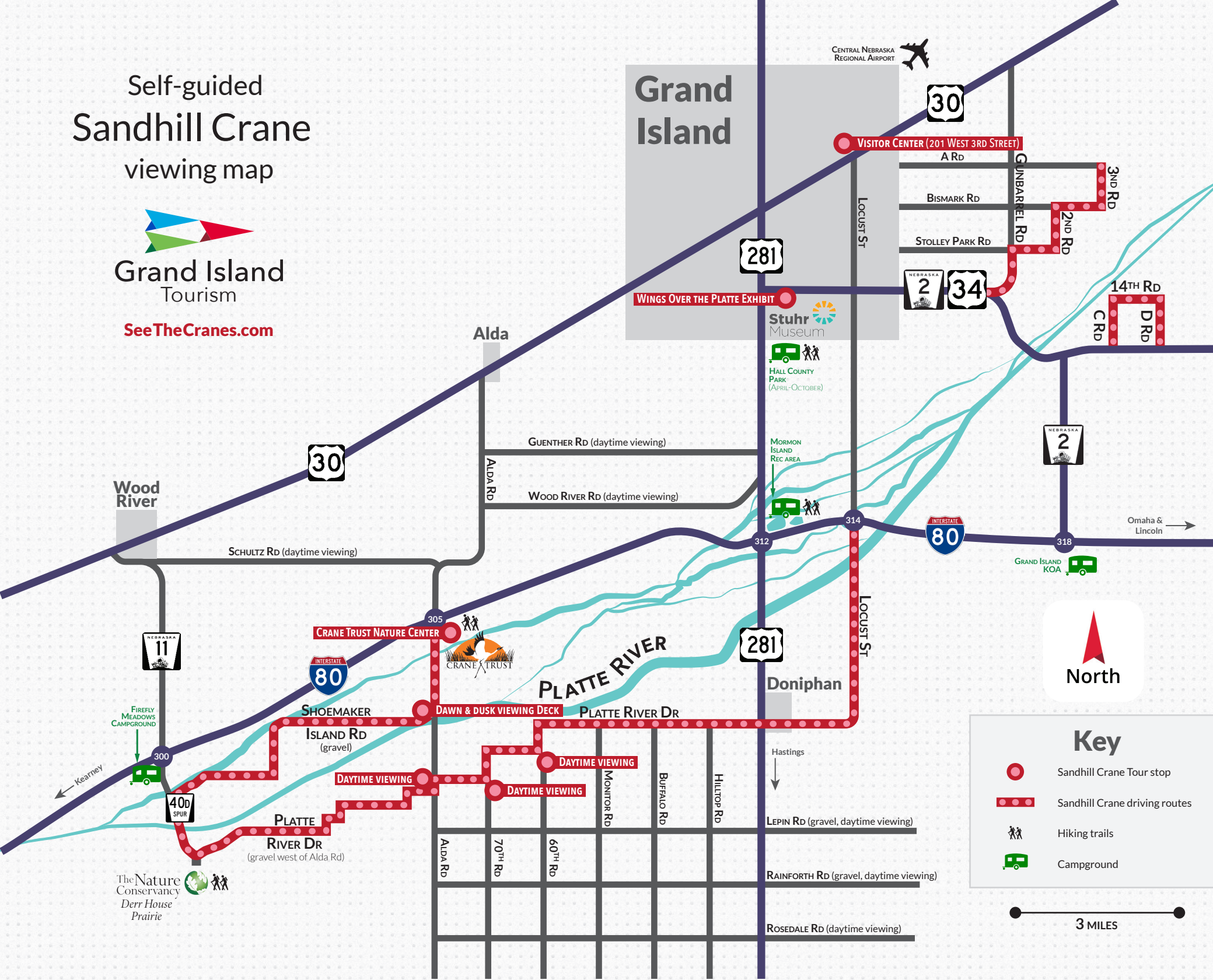


Self-guided Sandhill Crane viewing map

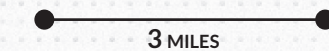


SeeTheCranes.com



Key

- Sandhill Crane Tour stop
- Sandhill Crane driving routes
- Hiking trails
- Campground



Welcome to your self-guided, sandhill crane viewing experience.

There are usually sandhill cranes in the Grand Island area from mid-February through early April. This map will guide you to the most likely places to see them. However, these birds are wild; they don't send us their itineraries. Be patient as you explore the area, and call the Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center at 308-382-1820 for the best current locations to view the cranes.



The Nature Conservancy
Derr House
Prairie

Prepare for your day in the field

DATE



6 weeks in the spring

The first sandhill cranes can be seen as early as mid-February, however **the second half of March is the usual peak of their migration.** Large flocks often linger into the first week of April. Occasionally, you may also see an endangered whooping crane; about 700 whooping cranes exist in the wild.



Round out your trip to Grand Island by visiting Stuhr Museum's Wings over the Platte art exhibit, exploring the restaurants and antique shops in the Railside district, or taking a winter hike at one of the area's prairie preserves.

WHAT TO PACK

- Binoculars or a spotting scope
- Camera
- Birding guide
- Warm clothing you can layer

Don't forget to invite friends and make a hotel reservation!

Each spring, 1,000,000 sandhill cranes converge on the Platte River in central Nebraska as they migrate north to their nesting grounds.

Recently, the Crane Trust documented that a Platte River sandbar on their Hall County, Nebraska, property serves as the largest crane roost in the world during the sandhill cranes' spring migration. Sandhill cranes use the same part of the river to roost on year after year during their mid-migration stop in central Nebraska.

The peak of the gathering occurs during the middle of the month. Towards the end of March, you might also catch a glimpse of endangered whooping cranes or take the opportunity to venture into the Nebraska Sandhills to watch the colorful mating rituals of the prairie chickens.

This one-of-a-kind experience draws visitors – including avid birders, scientists, photographers, and casual tourists – from across the country and across the world. Plan to see the cranes today!

Guided viewing-blind tours

Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center
9325 S Alda Rd • 308-382-1820 • CraneTrust.org

Gideon's Crane Cabin Retreat
308-383-6913 • "Crane Cabin Retreat" on Facebook



Driving Tour

Grand Island, Nebraska
GRAND life

Sandhill Crane Viewing Map



Grand Island
Tourism

SeeTheCranes.com

Visitor Center: 201 West 3rd Street

TIME



Dawn

After roosting on the Platte River overnight, flocks of cranes lift off from the river and head towards nearby cornfields.



Daytime

During the day, cranes feed in the cornfields and marshes along the river. Late in the season, they travel further from the river to find food.



Dusk

After feeding during the day, cranes return to the river to roost for the night. Flocks float down onto the water by the tens-of-thousands.

ETIQUETTE

- Use designated viewing sites to watch the birds, respecting private property. Most land in the Platte River Valley is private.
- Don't attempt to approach the birds.
- Weather conditions can change rapidly on the great plains during late winter and early spring. Plan accordingly by bringing attire that is suitable for cold temperatures.

