

# LOESS HILLS TRIP

DAY 1						
Location	Arrival Time (hh:mm)	Stopover duration (minutes)	Departure Time (hh:mm)	Notes		Cumulative Miles
Platte City	7:30 AM		7:35 AM	Burger King		
Rockport	9:13 AM	5	9:18 AM	Road Cut with Loess Bluff		100
Hamburg	9:42 AM	15	9:57 AM	Caseys - Gas/Rest Rooms		119
Tabor	10:39 AM	30	11:09 AM	Caseys, Todd House Museum (underground RR, \$5 per person)		147
Glenwood	11:26 AM		11:31 AM	Caseys		161
Lunch in CB - Quaker Steak and Lube	12:13 PM	60	1:13 PM	Quaker Steak and Lube 712.322.0101 3320 Mid Americal Drive (Opens 11am)		182
Golden Spike Monument				Photo Op or drive by		185
UP Historical Museum	1:23 PM	45	2:08 PM	712.329.8307 (10-6 on Sat) - Free with donation		187
DEPART CB - After Lunch			2:08 PM	Gas up on way out of town		
Pisgah	3:21 PM	0	3:21 PM	No services		243
Moorhead - Stop for gas/pee	3:31 PM	20	3:51 PM	Loess Hill Hospitality Center 712.886.5441 (1-4pm) loesshillstours.com Melby's Mini-mart		251
Smithland	4:32 PM	0	4:32 PM	Country Store with Gas		284
Holiday Inn Express Sioux City, IA	5:16 PM	45	6:01 PM	4723 Southern Hills Drive, Sioux City, IA 712.274.0100 - 45 minutes to check and		316
Dinner at Four Brothers Bar and Grill, Sioux City, IA	6:11 PM	60	7:11 PM	3322 Singing Hills Blvd, Sioux City, IA 51106 712 226-4444 - made Reservations for 6:20 pm		318

## **The Loess Hills of Iowa**

Loess hills are hills made almost entirely of windblown soils. Toward the end of the last ice age, winds picked up soils that had been ground as fine as flour and formed dunes along the ancient waterway that became today's Missouri River. The process repeated itself during the thousands of years the ice age took to end, enlarging the dunes. Because the prevailing winds were from the northwest, the dunes on the Iowa side of the river were higher than those west of the Missouri.

Today, the definition of a Loess Hill is a hill made of loess that is more than 60 feet in height; using that definition, about 640,000 acres of land in western Iowa constitute the Loess Hills landform.

Although deposits of loess are found across the world, nowhere else but China are those deposits higher than they are in Iowa.

Eventually, topsoils evolved on the dunes and a unique natural community developed. Ice age animals like woolly mammoth, caribou, giant beaver and giant sloth roamed the Loess Hills during the Hills' early years. Humans have lived here off and on for 6,000 years as evidenced by stone tools, spear points, pottery and burial sites.



## **The Todd House - Tabor, Iowa**

When Reverend John Todd started building his home in Tabor 169 years ago he was on a mission. That mission was to work to abolish slavery while spreading the word of God on the frontier that was southwest Iowa in the 1850s. Todd and the other founders of Tabor, all graduates of Oberlin College in Ohio, believed slavery was evil and were willing to make sacrifices to fight it. Within a few short years Tabor became known as a safe haven for runaway slaves, for John Brown and his militia between skirmishes in Bleeding Kansas, and for Free State settlers headed for the Kansas Territory.

Now the modest house is a symbol of the Underground Railroad, one of only four structures remaining in Iowa where escaping slaves could find help on their journey north to freedom. A small group of Oberlin College abolitionists risked their own freedom to help others using Tabor and the Todd house as a center of activities.

“The important thing about Oberlin is it was one of the first colleges or universities in the United States that accepted women and people of color,” says Wilkins. Todd – along with the George Belcher Gaston and Samuel H. Adams – moved to Iowa and built homes with whatever was available to them. In the case of the Todd House, that was a foundation of mud brick framed with oak because there were no pine trees — and trees with the bark still on them used as floor joists.

Those bark-covered supports provided cover for weapons abolitionist John Brown stored in Tabor before his raid on Harper’s Ferry. Brown also brought wounded men to Tabor where they rested and trained in the town square, now a park across the street from Todd house.

The runaways seldom stayed in Tabor for long, often just a matter hours before being helped on to the next safe place. This was because bounty hunters were often close behind and those bounty hunters had the law, the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, on their side. Those in Tabor helping the runaways were in fact breaking the law and building a legacy residents are still proud of today.



## **Mormon Trail Center at Winter Quarters**

Winter Quarters was an encampment formed by approximately 2,500 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as they waited during the winter of 1846–47 for better conditions for their trek westward. It followed a preliminary tent settlement some 3½ miles west at Cutler's Park. Members of the LDS faith built more than 800 cabins at the Winter Quarters settlement. Located in present-day North Omaha overlooking the Missouri River, the settlement remained populated until 1848.

### **History**

Wintering Saints had been driven from their homes in Nauvoo, Illinois by mobs. Forced to leave on relatively short notice, they were unable to bring many useful supplies. Influential non-member Thomas L. Kane, seeking to convince the LDS leadership to establish a volunteer military group (later known as the Mormon Battalion), received permission from the U.S. federal government for the group to encamp in Omaha Tribe lands, including the site of Cutler's Park. Conditions at the settlement remained primitive the first month, with pioneers living in tents while the men put up hay, found water and managed the cattle.

Due to arguments among the Oto and Omaha tribes over use of the land, the Latter-day Saints moved their camp three miles east to a site overlooking the Missouri River.[1] There they built cabins and sod houses for the winter. One group of cabins became known as Kimball Row. It consisted of thirteen adjacent cabins, with the homes of church leaders Heber C. Kimball and Newel K. Whitney at either end. The Latter-day Saints actively traded with American Indian and trading settlements in northern Missouri and Iowa, exchanging household goods and small amounts of cash for foodstuffs, such as hogs, grain and vegetables, and supplies for the emigration effort. Young LDS men also produced handcrafted items such as willow baskets and washboards for sale. Church funds also allowed the community to build a much needed water-powered gristmill.

Even with trade, diet in the camp was mainly corn bread, salt bacon and a little milk, with occasional fresh game or domestic meat. Scurvy, known as "blackleg" during this period, became a major problem.

Missouri potatoes and horseradish found at old Fort Atkinson helped ease the level of disease, but all residents lacked fresh vegetables in their diet. Tuberculosis (known as consumption), malaria, and unidentified fevers and chills also plagued the temporary settlement.

Brigham Young supervised construction of the Florence Mill. Today it is reportedly the only surviving building in the area to have been built by the LDS camp. The settlers needed a mill to grind corn, wheat, and rye to create cornmeal and flour products. Constructed next to Turkey Creek, later called Mill Creek, which flowed into the Missouri River, the original structure was started in the fall of 1846. It was completed by spring of 1847 at the cost of \$3000. Brigham Young sold this mill to John Neff, who left it when he also moved to Salt Lake City. Later settlers renovated and used the mill for years. Evidence of the original construction techniques has been found in the surviving Florence Mill.

Today, the area that was once Winter Quarters is part of the community of Florence, located in North Omaha. The pioneer community is remembered with several attractions, including the Mormon Pioneer Cemetery, Cutler's Park, Mormon Trail Center and the Mormon Pioneer Memorial Bridge. The Winter Quarters Nebraska Temple was dedicated there in April 2001.



## **Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge**

The Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge is a 3,000-foot footbridge across the Missouri River between Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Omaha, Nebraska. It opened on September 28, 2008.

Interest in a landmark bridge across the Missouri River arose after Omaha and Council Bluffs began replacing their older crossings with girder bridges which do not have towers (most notably the Ak-Sar-Ben Bridge). The bridge is named after former Nebraska Senator Bob Kerrey, who secured \$18 million of federal funding for the bridge in 2000.

The bridge was redesigned in 2004 after the lowest bid for the project was \$44 million. In May 2006, a final cable-stayed bridge design by Kansas City engineering and architectural firm HNTB was selected for the bridge. The \$22 million bid included two 200-foot towers and a clearance of 52 feet above the river. Groundbreaking for construction of the bridge occurred on October 26, 2006.

The bridge is north of the Interstate 480 (I-480) girder bridge and connects the Port of Omaha's Miller Landing to One Renaissance Center in the former Dodge Park Playland in Council Bluffs.

The bridge is the first ever pedestrian bridge to connect two states, with plaques highlighting the point over the Missouri River where the state lines meet. This allows those walking the bridge to literally have one foot in Nebraska and one foot in Iowa!

DAY 2					
Location	Arrival Time (hh:mm)	Stopover duration (minutes)	Departure Time (hh:mm)	Notes	Cumulative Miles
Holiday Inn Express Sioux City, IA	8:00 AM	0	8:00 AM		318
Sergeant Floyd Monument	8:09 AM	20	8:29 AM	No Fee	322
Missouri Valley	10:42 AM		10:42 AM	Caseys (in town) <b>LINCOLN HIGHWAY</b>	412
Mormon Center	11:10 AM	45	11:55 AM	Free 3215 State Street, Omaha, NE	434
Lunch at The Session Room	12:12 PM	60	1:12 PM	<b>LUNCH</b>	442
Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge	1:18 PM	45	2:03 PM		444
Sugar Makery - GLENWOOD	2:31 PM	30	3:01 PM	<b>ICE CREAM</b> Caseys at Glenwood	462
Lambert Ave - Class B road	3:10 PM		3:10 PM	<b>Road cuts</b>	
Tabor	3:47 PM	20	4:07 PM	<b>Casey's - GAS AND REST ROOMS</b>	491
Hamburg	4:41 PM	0	4:41 PM	Caseys	519
Platte City	6:19 PM		6:19 PM		628