



DAY TRIP TO MONOWI

From O'Neill · Boyd County, Nebraska



RAILROAD AND
ROAD



Photo: Andrew Filer from Seattle (ex-Minneapolis), Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0

POPULATION ONE

An incorporated village with one resident, who runs the Monowi Tavern and Rudy's Library. Tavern open in visit videos from spring 2026; hours not published.

Monowi is under an hour from O'Neill and makes a half-day trip built around lunch at the Monowi Tavern. Far & Wide reported in December 2025 that the tavern "remains open for business and welcomes visitors." No hours are published, and the owner is the village's only resident, so be ready to find the door shut and plan the drive so a closed tavern doesn't spoil the day.

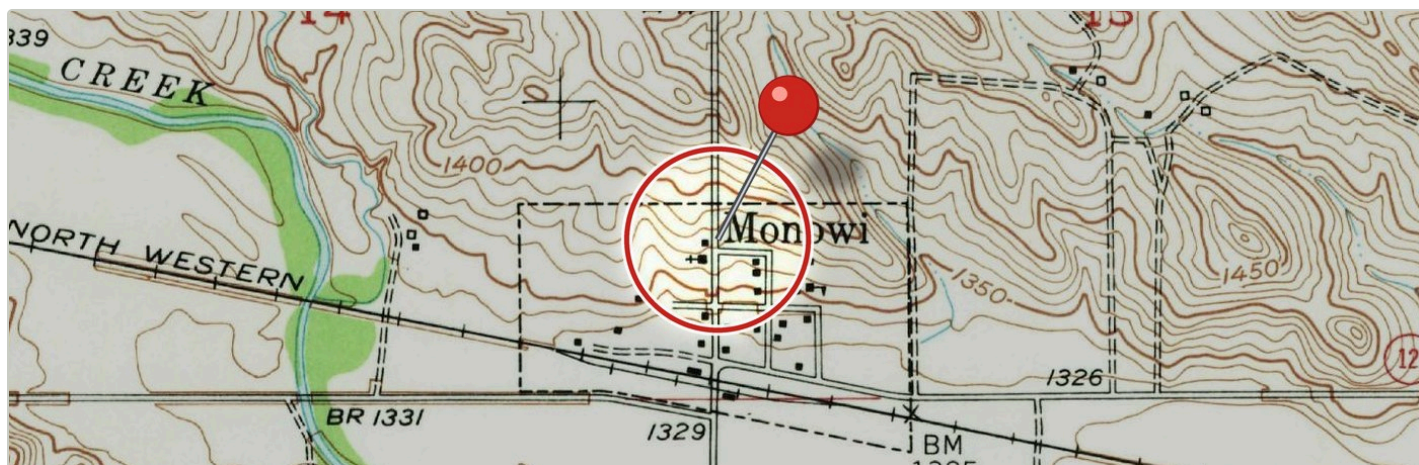
A SAMPLE DAY

- ☐ 10:45 a.m. Leave O'Neill north on US 281, then turn east on NE 12, a little under an hour.
- ☐ 11:45 a.m. Park on the street and photograph the town sign.
- ☐ **Noon** Lunch at the Monowi Tavern. Sign the guest book, as visitors do.
- ☐ 1 p.m. Look in at Rudy's Library, then walk the gravel streets toward the grain elevator.
- ☐ 1:30 p.m. Head back to O'Neill.

Coming from Omaha? It's about 4 hours each way on I-29 and NE 12, too far for a comfortable day trip there and back.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The town sign.** The shot every visitor takes, by Far & Wide's account.
- **The grain elevator.** Shoot down a gravel street with the elevator at the end of it.
- **Rudy's Library.** A small metal building holding about 5,000 of Rudy Eiler's books. Far & Wide says they're borrowed on an honor system.



USGS topographic map, 1950 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	44 mi, about 54 min each way from downtown O'Neill. From Omaha: 205 mi, about 3 h 56 min.
OPEN	The village streets are public. The tavern publishes no hours. Guinness (May 2025) says Elsie Eiler works 12 hours a day, six days a week, and doesn't say which day she's closed.
ADMISSION	None to walk the streets.
FOOD AND DRINK	The tavern is the only business. Far & Wide (December 2025) says Eiler cooks simple meals and pours drinks. Guinness gave prices of \$2 for a beer and \$3.50 for a burger in 2024; expect them to have changed.
TIME ON SITE	No source gives one. The village is a few gravel streets, so an hour covers lunch and a walk.
RESTROOMS	No source mentions public restrooms. There are no other services in the village.
PRIVATE PROPERTY	Eiler's house is a private home. Stay on the streets and in the tavern.
PHOTOGRAPHY	No rules are published. Far & Wide says visitors take photos with the town sign. Ask before photographing inside the tavern.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 42.83083, -98.32944 • 42°49'51"N
98°19'46"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/nebraska/monowi/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.