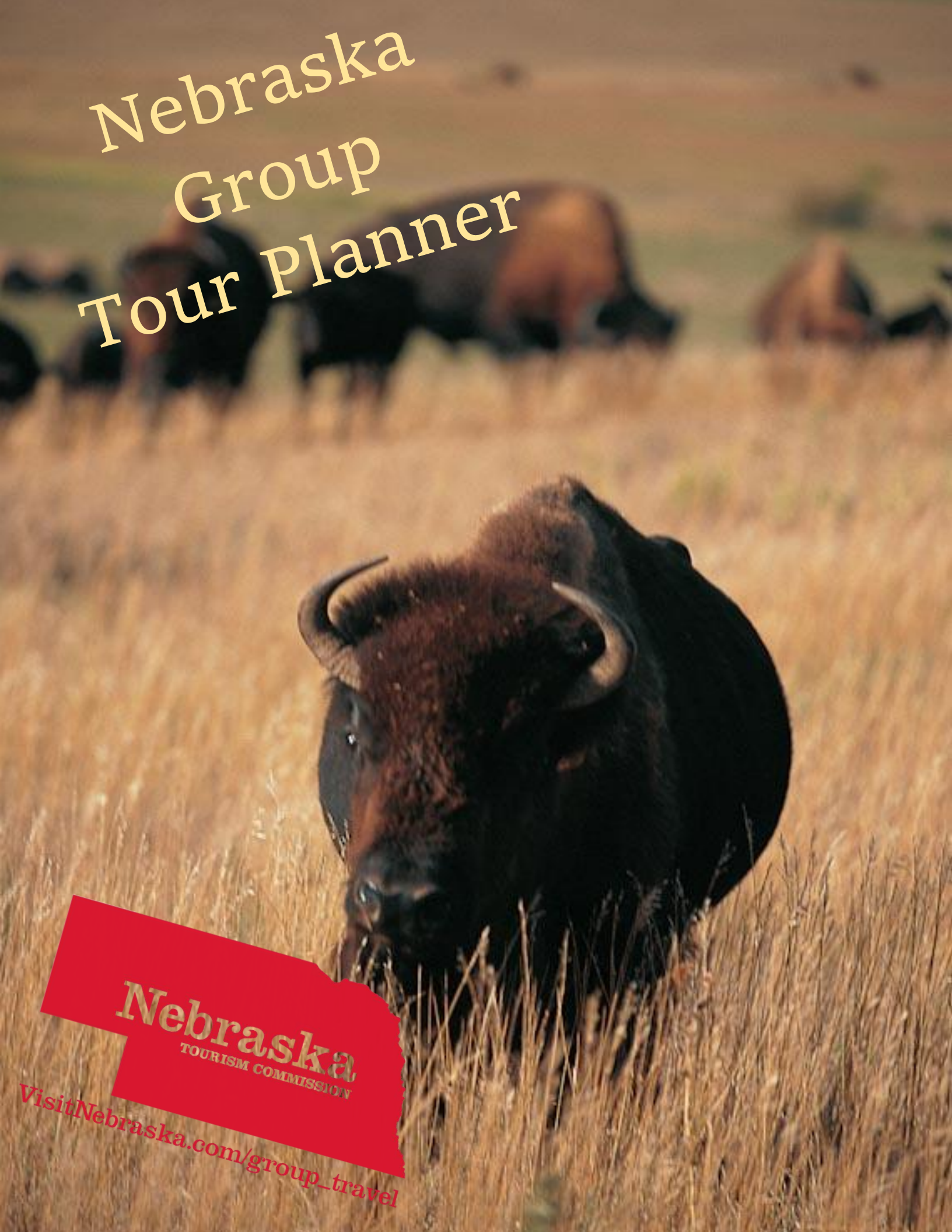




Nebraska Group Tour Planner

Nebraska
TOURISM COMMISSION

VisitNebraska.com/group_travel

Nebraska, your next group destination

Groups who have explored Nebraska have returned home with stories about a land of amazing contrasts, friendly residents, exciting destinations, and a place where losing oneself in the moment has never been more enjoyable. Getting away from it all and truly relaxing is a normal way-of-life in Nebraska and is in fact actually encouraged for peace of mind and increased happiness.

Good reasons to bring your group to Nebraska

Far from being “flat and boring with nothing exciting to do,” Nebraska offers thousands of group friendly destinations, attractions, events, and activities within its 77,000 square-miles of the central United States’ Great Plains Region. Here are a few examples to get your ideas flowing for new itineraries for your clients. As you look through this group travel planner, if you need more information or assistance, please contact the Group Travel Manager with the Nebraska Tourism Commission or visit our group travel website: http://visitnebraska.com/group_travel

Sandhill Crane Migration

Marvel at the amazing spectacle of 500,000 Sandhill cranes as they migrate through Nebraska’s Central Flyway each spring

Calamus Outfitters

Lose yourself in the silent solitude of the Sandhills on a private guided Sandhills ranch ecotour or tanking down the Calamus River

Kreycik Elk and Buffalo Tours

Hand feed bison from inside a covered wagon at Kreycik Elk and Buffalo Tours

Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center

Enjoy a bird’s eye view high above Baily Yard, the world’s largest railroad classification yard

Bryson’s Airboat Tours

Feed your adventurous side while speeding down the Platte River

Ohiya Casino & Resort

Win big at Nebraska’s first casino, located on the Santee Sioux Reservation

WJ Ranch

Watch exciting horsemanship demonstrations and enjoy a mouthwatering cowboy chuckwagon dinner

Crystal Palace Review & Shoot Out

Root for your favorite cowboy and cheer on your favorite dance hall girl at this true Old West experience

Scotts Bluff National Monument

Follow the footsteps of early Native Americans, fur traders, and weary pioneers at Scotts Bluff National Monument

Arbor Day Farm

Learn more about environmental stewardship and bring home your own seedling at Arbor Day Farm

Elkhorn Valley Museum

Meet a young Johnny Carson who will recount hilarious stories about fame and his life in Hollywood

Micheal Collins, CTIS
Micheal.Collins@Nebraska.gov
402-471-3795

Table of Contents

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Where is Nebraska?	1
Nebraska at a Glance	2
Transportation	4
Average Annual Nebraska Temperatures	5
Driving Distances and Times	6
Mileage Chart from Omaha and Scottsbluff to Selected Cities	7
Nebraska Chambers of Commerce/CVBs	8
2019 NEBRASKA GROUP FAM TOUR ITINERARIES	
Buffalo Bill's Rails & Trails West	12
Uniquely Northeast Nebraska	14
SAMPLE GROUP ITINERARIES	
Journey Through Nebraska	18
The Great Platte River Road	23
Nebraska: Breadbasket to the World	26
Northeast Nebraska's Hidden Gems	30
Land of the Pioneers	33
TOURISM ATTRACTION AND BUSINESS CONTACT INFORMATION	37

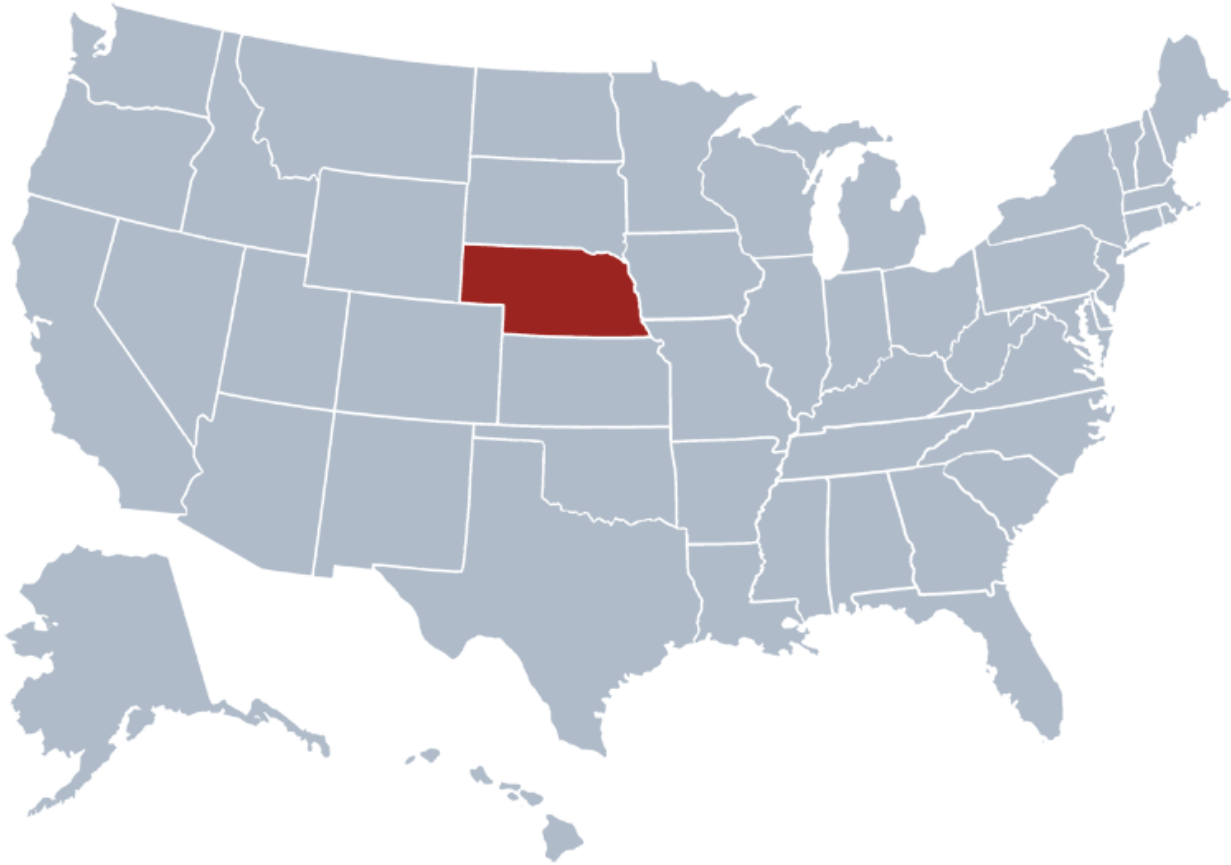
Cover photo: Kreycik Riverview Elk Ranch, Niobrara

General Information



Sandhill Crane Migration, Central Nebraska

Where is Nebraska?



LOCATION

Nebraska is located in the central part of the United States in the Great Plains region. It is bordered by South Dakota on the north, Iowa and Missouri on the east, Kansas on the south, and Colorado and Wyoming on the west. Nebraska is located within a 3- to 8-hour drive from other surrounding major cities, including Denver, Chicago, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Des Moines, Salt Lake City, Oklahoma City, St. Louis, Sioux Falls, Branson, Cheyenne, Rapid City, and Kansas City.

Nebraska at a Glance



NEBRASKA TOPOGRAPHY

Eastern Nebraska is covered with rugged bluffs, rolling hills, picturesque valleys and lush vegetation. The Great Plains stretch westward across 75 percent of the state and include rock formations, eroded hills and deep canyons.

The Sandhills, North America's largest grass-stabilized sand dune formation, cover sections of western and central Nebraska and include the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey (the world's largest hand-planted forest).

The High Plains are northwest, southwest, and west of the Sandhills. Within this 12,000 sq. mi. (31,080 sq. km) area lie the scenic and rugged Wildcat Hills, the Pine Ridge, and the North Platte River Valley. A small portion of South Dakota's Badlands extends into northwest Nebraska.

ELEVATION

At an elevation of 5,424 ft. (1,653 m), Nebraska's highest point is Panorama Point in Kimball County. Its lowest point is 840 ft. (256 m) in southeast Nebraska along the Missouri River. The state's average elevation is 2,600 ft. (792 m).

LAND AREA

Nebraska is 77,358 sq. mi. (200,356 sq. km) in area and the 16th largest state in the U.S. It measures 459 miles (739 kilometers) across at its widest point, following a diagonal from southeast to northwest.

TIME ZONES

Nebraska spans two time zones. The eastern two-thirds of the state is in the Central Time Zone and the western third is in the Mountain Time Zone. When traveling on Interstate 80, the time change occurs between the Sutherland and Paxton exits.

POPULATION

In 2017, Nebraska had an estimated population of 1,920,076 residents, making it the 37th largest state in the U.S., population wise.

STATEHOOD

Nebraska became the 37th U.S. state on March 1, 1867.

NEBRASKA STATE CAPITAL

Founded in 1856 as the village of Lancaster, Lincoln became the state capital upon Nebraska's admission to the Union on March 1, 1867.



STATE GOVERNMENT

Nebraska is the only state with a single house Legislature, the Unicameral. U.S. Senator George W. Norris from McCook promoted the conversion of all state legislatures to the unicameral system. However, it was implemented only in Nebraska in 1934.

The Unicameral is different in that when candidates run for office, they do not run on party tickets (at least in theory).

FIVE LARGEST CITIES

Nebraska is predominately a rural state, with the majority of its communities having populations of less than 5,000. The state's smallest incorporated town is Monowi (pop. 1) in north central Nebraska.

The five largest cities by population are Omaha (pop: 466,893), Lincoln (pop: 284,736), Bellevue (pop: 53,424), Grand Island (pop: 51,390), and Kearney (pop: 33,835).

STATE NAME

In 1895, Nebraska's original state name was the Tree Planters' State because its claim to tree-planting fame includes the founding of Arbor Day in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton, the Timber Culture Act of U.S. Senator Phineas Hitchcock (1873) and the millions of trees planted by early settlers.

The official state name was changed to the Cornhusker State in 1945, a reference to the method of harvesting or "husking" corn by hand, which was common before the invention of husking machinery.

PRESIDENTIAL BIRTHPLACE

The 38th President of the United States, Gerald R. Ford, was born in Omaha on July 14, 1913.

SEASONS

Nebraska offers a full four-season climate. The normal average daily temperatures range from -20°F (-7°C) in the winter to more than 75°F (24°C) in the summer. Annual precipitation ranges from more than 30" (762 mm) in the southeast to less than 17" (432 mm) in western Nebraska.

Transportation

CHARTER COMPANIES

Ameristar Transportation Group

www.ameristartours.com
Scottsbluff
308-635-1725
866-567-6027

Arrow Stagelines

ww.arrowstagelines.com
Corporate Office (Norfolk)
402-371-3850
800-672-8302

Grand Island Office

308-382-3036

Lincoln Office

402-475-9229

Omaha Office

402-731-1900
800-731-0727

First Holiday Tour & Travel Express

www.firstholidaytours.com
Grand Island
308-384-1800
800-652-1950

Navigator Motorcoaches

www.navigatorbus.com
Norfolk
402-371-1202
800-634-8696

Windstar Lines

www.gowindstar.com
Lincoln
402-467-2900

GROUP OPERATORS

Allied Tour & Travel

www.alliedtt.com
Norfolk
402-371-3840
800-672-1009

Elite Tours

www.elitetours.us
Omaha
800-488-2114

Fun Tours

www.funtoursne.com
Lincoln
800-742-7717

Moostash Joe Tours

www.mjtours.com
Fremont
800-806-7944

Travel with Barb

www.travelwithbarb.com
Omaha
402-614-9793

AIRLINES AND AIRPORTS

Omaha

Air Canada, Alaska Airlines,
Allegiant Air, American, Delta,
Frontier, Onejet, Southwest,
United

Lincoln

Delta, United

North Platte

Great Lakes Airlines

Central Nebraska/Grand Island

Allegiant, American

Western Nebraska/Scottsbluff

Great Lakes Airlines

Average Annual Nebraska Temperatures

Nebraska offers a full four-season climate. The normal average daily temperatures range from -20°F (-7°C) in the winter to more than 75°F (24°C) in the summer. Annual precipitation ranges from more than 30" (762mm) in the southeast to less than 17" (432mm) in western Nebraska.

Month	Western	North Central	Northeast	Central	East Central	Southwest	South Central	Southeast
January	24°F -4°C	22°F -6°C	20°F -7°C	22°F -6°C	22°F -6°C	25°F -4°C	25°F -4°C	24°F -6°C
February	29°F -2°C	27°F -3°C	26°F -3°C	28°F -2°C	28°F -2°C	31°F 0°C	31°F 0°C	30°F -1°C
March	35°F 2°C	36°F 2°C	37°F 3°C	38°F 3°C	37°F 3°C	39°F 4°C	40°F 4°C	41°F 5°C
April	45°F 7°C	47°F 8°C	49°F 9°C	48°F 9°C	51°F 11°C	49°F 9°C	51°F 11°C	52°F 11°C
May	56°F 13°C	58°F 14°C	60°F 16°C	59°F 15°C	62°F 17°C	59°F 15°C	61°F 16°C	62°F 17°C
June	66°F 19°C	68°F 20°C	70°F 21°C	69°F 21°C	72°F 22°C	69°F 21°C	71°F 22°C	72°F 22°C
July	73°F 23°C	73°F 23°C	75°F 24°C	74°F 23°C	76°F 24°C	75°F 24°C	76°F 24°C	77°F 25°C
August	71°F 22°C	71°F 22°C	72°F 22°C	72°F 22°C	74°F 23°C	73°F 23°C	74°F 23°C	75°F 24°C
September	61°F 16°C	61°F 16°C	63°F 17°C	63°F 17°C	65°F 18°C	66°F 19°C	65°F 18°C	66°F 19°C
October	49°F 9°C	49°F 9°C	51°F 11°C	51°F 11°C	53°F 12°C	51°F 11°C	56°F 13°C	54°F 12°C
November	35°F 2°C	34°F 1°C	35°F 2°C	35°F 2°C	37°F 3°C	37°F 3°C	37°F 3°C	39°F 4°C
December	27°F -3°C	24°F -4°C	23°F -5°C	25°F -4°C	26°F -3°C	28°F -2°C	28°F -2°C	28°F -2°C



Driving Distances and Drive Times

The speed limit for Nebraska highways ranges from 55-65 mph (90-100 km/h). The speed limit for Interstate 80 ranges from 60-65 mph (100-105 km/h) in Lincoln and Omaha; it is 75 mph (120 km/h) in the rest of the state.

IN-STATE MILEAGE CHART FROM OMAHA AND SCOTTSBLUFF TO SELECTED CITIES

Omaha to:	Miles	Kilometers	Approximate Drive Time (hr:min)	Scottsbluff to:	Miles	Kilometers	Approximate Drive Time (hr:min)
Alliance	423	680	6:40	Alliance	54	87	1:00
Beatrice	100	161	1:45	Beatrice	455	733	7:00
Chadron	436	702	7:30	Chadron	106	171	1:45
Columbus	87	140	1:40	Columbus	402	647	6:15
Grand Island	153	346	2:20	Grand Island	338	544	5:00
Hastings	161	259	2:30	Hastings	346	557	5:15
Kearney	186	299	2:45	Kearney	292	470	4:20
Lincoln	57	92	1:00	Lincoln	421	678	6:00
McCook	289	465	4:20	McCook	262	422	4:00
Nebraska City	51	82	1:00	Nebraska City	467	752	7:00
Norfolk	113	182	2:10	Norfolk	418	673	6:50
North Platte	280	451	4:00	North Platte	195	314	3:00
Scottsbluff	475	764	7:00	Scottsbluff	-	-	-
Ogallala	330	531	4:40	Ogallala	145	233	2:20
Omaha	-	-	-	Omaha	475	764	7:00
South Sioux City	96	154	1:30	South Sioux City	455	732	7:45
Valentine	298	480	5:15	Valentine	221	356	3:45

Mileage Chart from Omaha and Scottsbluff to Selected Cities

Omaha to:	Miles	Kilometers	Scottsbluff to:	Miles	Kilometers
Albuquerque, N.M.	873	1405	Albuquerque, N.M.	656	1056
Atlanta, Ga.	989	1592	Atlanta, Ga.	1424	2292
Baltimore, Md.	1156	1860	Baltimore, Md.	1624	2614
Boston, Mass.	1437	2313	Boston, Mass.	1915	3082
Calgary, Alb.	1375	2212	Calgary, Alb.	994	1600
Cheyenne, Wyo.	498	801	Cheyenne, Wyo.	109	175
Chicago Ill.	469	755	Chicago Ill.	946	1522
Dallas, Texas	722	1162	Dallas, Texas	969	1559
Denver, Colo.	540	869	Denver, Colo.	208	335
Des Moines, Iowa	135	217	Des Moines, Iowa	613	987
Detroit, Mich.	734	1181	Detroit, Mich.	1204	1938
Fargo, N.D.	421	678	Fargo, N.D.	767	1234
Halifax, N.S.	2074	3338	Halifax, N.S.	2584	4159
Kansas City, Mo.	184	296	Kansas City, Mo.	618	995
Las Vegas, Nev.	1285	2068	Las Vegas, Nev.	941	1514
Los Angeles, Calif.	1555	2503	Los Angeles, Calif.	1210	1947
Memphis, Tenn.	642	1033	Memphis, Tenn.	1070	1722
Miami, Fla.	1647	2651	Miami, Fla.	2059	3314
Minneapolis, Minn.	379	610	Minneapolis, Minn.	799	1286
Montréal, Que.	1301	2094	Montréal, Que.	1771	2850
New Orleans, La.	1038	1670	New Orleans, La.	1467	2361
New York City, N.Y.	1243	2000	New York City, N.Y.	1721	2770
Oklahoma City, Okla.	520	837	Oklahoma City, Okla.	767	1234
Omaha, Neb.	-	-	Omaha, Neb.	481	774
Philadelphia, Pa.	1212	1951	Philadelphia, Pa.	1682	2707
Phoenix, Ariz.	1290	2076	Phoenix, Ariz.	1026	1651
Portland, Ore.	1659	2670	Portland, Ore.	1270	2043
Québec City, Que.	1459	2348	Québec City, Que.	1928	3103
Rapid City, S.D.	525	845	Rapid City, S.D.	194	312
Seattle, Wash.	1662	2675	Seattle, Wash.	1270	2044
St. Joseph, Mo.	132	212	St. Joseph, Mo.	559	900
St. Louis, Mo.	436	702	St. Louis, Mo.	863	1389
Salt Lake City, Utah	934	1503	Salt Lake City, Utah	548	882
San Francisco, Calif.	1671	2689	San Francisco, Calif.	1282	2063
Scottsbluff, Neb.	481	774	Scottsbluff, Neb.	-	-
Sioux City, Iowa	97	156	Sioux City, Iowa	575	925
Toronto, Ont.	972	1564	Toronto, Ont.	1450	2334
Vancouver, B.C.	1847	2972	Vancouver, B.C.	1404	2260
Washington, D.C.	1154	1857	Washington, D.C.	1632	2626
Winnipeg, Manitoba	638	1028	Winnipeg, Manitoba	984	1584

Nebraska Chambers of Commerce/CVBs



Alliance

www.visitalliance.com

Beatrice

www.visitbeatrice.com

Broken Bow

www.brokenbow-ne.com

Brownville

www.brownvilleculturalcenter.com

Chadron/Northwest Nebraska

www.discovernwnebraska.com

Cass County

www.visitcasscounty.com

Columbus

www.visitcolumbusne.com

Fremont

www.visitfremontne.org

Gering

www.visitgering.com

Grand Island

www.visitgrandisland.com

Hastings

www.visithastingsnebraska.com



Kearney

www.visitkearney.org

Kimball County

www.visitkimball.com

Knox County

www.knoxcountynebraska.com

Lincoln

www.lincoln.org

McCook

www.visitmccook.com

Nebraska City

www.gonebraskacity.com

Norfolk

www.visitnorfolkne.com

North Platte

www.visitnorthplatte.com

Ogallala

www.explorekeithcounty.com

Omaha

www.visitomaha.com

Sarpy County

www.gosarpy.com



Scotts Bluff County

www.visitscottsbluff.com

Seward

www.cultivatesewardcounty.com

Sidney

<https://visitsidneyne.com>



South Sioux City

www.visitsouthsiouxcity.com

York

www.yorkgroups.org



Nebraska Group Operator FAM Tours

Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium, Omaha

Join the Nebraska Tourism Commission and its group industry partners across the state on two excellent group operator FAM tours in 2019. You'll explore and experience many of the group opportunities available in western and northeastern Nebraska, and hopefully find some great destinations for your next itineraries. Tours start with dinner and entertainment Monday evening, followed by three full days of touring.

For more information about the FAM tours and to sign up, contact Micheal Collins, Group Tour Manager with the Nebraska Tourism Commission, at Micheal.collins@nebraska.gov or 402-471-3795.

WESTERN NEBRASKA BUFFALO BILL'S RAILS & TRAILS WEST APRIL 29-MAY 3, 2019

To experience western Nebraska is to experience the Old West. This is a land filled with history and culture. From the Native American tribes who first settled this wild region, fur traders and trappers looking for fortune, early pioneers searching for a better way of life out west, and farmers and ranchers who carved out an existence in this wild and rough landscape. Hear their exciting stories and tales as we explore and experience western Nebraska.

MONDAY, APRIL 29 North Platte



Upon arrival in North Platte, our first stop will be at the one-of-a-kind **Fort Cody**. Next, we'll Ride with the Wild Bunch and meet Buffalo Bill and his wife Louise for a tour of their mansion at **Buffalo Bill State Historic Park** before hopping onto a horse-drawn carriage to enjoy an authentic **Cowboy Cookout**. Be sure to watch out for bandits along the way. Stroll through salvaged and repurposed historic grain bins to find that perfect antique treasure at **Grain Bin Antique Town**.

Overnight in North Platte

TUESDAY, APRIL 30 North Platte • Ogallala • Bayard

Enjoy breakfast overlooking the world's largest railroad classification yard from atop the observation deck at the **Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center**. Experience a Nebraska unique outdoor activity, tanking down the North Platte River at **Dusty Trails**. Experience firsthand what it takes to run and operate a Nebraska working farm on the **Miller Farm Agricultural Tour**. Lunch is a true Old West experience at **Front Street** in Ogallala, the town that was declared "too tough for Texans." Afterward, see how the upper class here lived on a tour of **Mansion on the Hill**. Hear stories of the early pioneers as they neared **Chimney Rock** on their journey to a new life in the west.

Overnight is in Chadron

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1
Chadron • Crawford

Taste delicious homemade fare for breakfast at **Bean Broker** before heading to the **Museum of the Fur Trade**, the only museum in the country dedicated to preserving the nation's fur-trading industry. Explore the history and culture of the High Plains region, as well as the interesting life and literature of Nebraska author Mari Sandoz, author of "Old Jules" and "Crazy Horse" at the **Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center**. Step back in time at **Fort Robinson State Historic Park** where today you can enjoy historic tours, jeep and stagecoach rides, and the chance to view bison and purebred Texas longhorn herds. Explore authentic Miocene fossils and James Cook's many American Indian artifacts given to him by Oglala Lakota Red Cloud at **Agate Fossil Beds National Monument**.

Start the evening's culinary experiences at **Flyover Brewery** followed by dinner at **Tangled Tumbleweed**, an excellent food and wine bar offering a variety of tapas style dishes that are freshly prepared on-site.

Overnight is in Gering

THURSDAY, MAY 2
Gering • Kimball • Potter • Sidney

For breakfast step back into the 1950's at **Cozad's Ford Garage**, a restored warehouse filled with vintage cars, a Coca-Cola shop, diner, and historic movie theatre. Take in the stunning view of the North Platte River Valley from atop the 800-foot **Scotts Bluff National Monument**, a welcome stop for Native Americans, fur traders and weary pioneers. Relive the timeless stories of Nebraska's High Plains at the **Legacy of the Plains Museum** while learning more about early agricultural methods on its 80-acre working farm. Enjoy an excellent farm-to-table lunch prepared by **BeeHaven Farm Roadside Market** before heading out for a personal and informative tour of a **short grass prairie**.



cars, a Coca-Cola shop, diner, and historic movie theatre. Take in the stunning view of the North Platte River Valley from atop the 800-foot **Scotts Bluff National Monument**, a welcome stop for Native Americans, fur traders and weary pioneers. Relive the timeless stories of Nebraska's High Plains at the **Legacy of the Plains Museum** while learning more about early agricultural methods on its 80-acre working farm. Enjoy an excellent farm-to-table lunch prepared by **BeeHaven Farm Roadside Market** before heading out for a personal and informative tour of a **short grass prairie**.

Next stop is Potter where we'll take a moment to enjoy a famous Tin Roof Sundae at **Potter Sundry** before trying **Duck Pin Bowling**. Afterward spend a ghostly evening exploring some of Sidney's most colorful stories and characters on a **ghost tour of Boot Hill Cemetery**

Overnight is in Sidney

FRIDAY, MAY 3
Sidney

Start out the morning with a cowboy sized breakfast at **Dude's Steakhouse**, one of Sidney's oldest establishments before heading back to North Platte.

Uniquely Northeast Nebraska

August 19-23, 2019

Northeast Nebraska lies between two great rivers, the Missouri River and the Platte River, which have helped shape the culture and landscape of this interesting part of Nebraska. On this itinerary, we'll explore and learn more about the region's rich and diverse Native American history, dine on amazing ethnic and locally prepared meals, experience everyday life as a cowboy on a real working ranch, and spend down the Platte River on an airboat. We'll even get the chance to handfeed bison, something most people can't say they've ever done.

MONDAY, AUGUST 19

Fremont

We start our northeast Nebraska excursion in the afternoon by getting our adrenalin going while speeding down the Platte River with **Bryson's Airboat Tours** in Fremont. Dinner that evening will be at **J's Steakhouse**, one of eastern Nebraska's premier restaurants.

Overnight is in Fremont

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

Fort Calhoun • Tekamah • West Point • Bancroft Winnebago • South Sioux City

Our first stop this morning is **Fort Atkinson State Historic Park** in Fort Calhoun, the site of Lewis and Clark's first council with Native Americans on their journey up the Missouri River, followed by a delicious visit to **Master's Hand Candles** in Tekamah. Our next stop is an in-depth look into Nebraska's agricultural industry at **Harry Knobbe Feedyard & Livestock Sales** before heading to Bancroft to study the life and works of the author of *Black Elk Speaks* at the **John G. Neihardt State Historical Site**. Then we head to the **Winnebago Indian Reservation** where we'll learn more about the Winnebago Indian Tribe's art, history, and culture.



Nebraska Airboating, Fremont

Overnight is in South Sioux City

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

South Sioux City • Fordyce • Santee Sioux Reservation • Niobrara • Norfolk

First we'll visit an exact replica of the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall** with its names of the many fallen soldiers before heading to **WJ Ranch** near Fordyce to experience everyday life on a working ranch. Our lunch stop is the **Ohiya Casino & Resort** on the Santee Sioux Reservation where we'll find more than 400 state-of-the-art machines, an excellent restaurant, and first class lodging accommodations. Our Native American experience continues at the **Ponca Tribal Museum & Educational Trail** where we'll meet Tribal members who will tell us more about one of Nebraska's four recognized American Indian tribes. This is

followed by a highlight of our tour, the unique opportunity to hand feed bison from inside a covered wagon and pet elk at **Kreycik Riverview Elk Ranch**. Our last stop today is dinner in Norfolk at Black Cow Fat Pig.

Overnight is in Norfolk

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

Norfolk • Stanton • Monroe • Genoa • Columbus

Today we'll "meet" Johnny Carson at the **Elkhorn Valley Museum & Research Center**. The museum includes an interactive Carson exhibit complete with a home theatre to watch selected "Tonight Show" episodes and monologues. Before departing Norfolk we'll connect with your inner artist by touring the **Norfolk Arts Center**. Now it's time to spend some time reflecting and reconnecting with nature while learning about the many different herbs and how to use them in everyday life at **Red Road Herbs** near Stanton before heading to lunch at **The Uptown Brewery** where we'll enjoy dishes prepared with fresh, locally-raised organic products washed down by a satisfying Nebraska microbrew.

Come face-to-face with animals from around the world and Nebraska at the family-owned and operated **Horn T Zoo**. The **Genoa Indian School**, in operation from 1884 to 1934, was one of the nation's 16 Indian Boarding Schools established by the federal government. Hear the stories of the many American Indian students who called the school "home."



Overnight is in Columbus.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

Columbus • Schuyler

Before departing Columbus, we'll make a stop to witness the story of the landing craft that helped the Allies win WWII at the life-sized replica of the Higgins landing craft that helped the Allies win WW2 at the **Andrew Jackson Higgins National Memorial**. Our last stop in Columbus is **Glur's Tavern**, the oldest continuously operated tavern west of the Missouri River and once a popular stop for Buffalo Bill Cody on several of his visits to Columbus. Our final stop on our northeast Nebraska FAM tour is **St. Benedict Center** near Schuyler where we'll view beautiful works of art from around the world and enjoy an excellent lunch before returning to Fremont to prepare for our departure.



Sample Itineraries

Kahill's Chophouse, South Sioux City



DAY 1

Omaha • Bellevue

First stop in Omaha is the **Durham Museum** to explore the history and settlement of Nebraska's largest city. Located in the former Union Station, this top museum offers the chance to walk through authentic train cars on display on the downstairs station platform. Lunch is a traditional Greek meal at **St. John Greek Orthodox Church** followed by lessons in Greek dancing and culture. Afterward, dessert is a delicious pastry at the **Lithuanian Bakery**. An experienced guide at **Father Flanagan's Boys Town** in west Omaha will give an insider's view of life in the Village and recount the many inspiring stories of Father Flanagan and his vision to help wayward boys. Tonight's dinner destination is a traditional Polish dinner and entertainment at the **Polish Heritage Center** in Papillion.

Overnight is in Sarpy County

DAY 2

Bellevue • Nebraska City • Lincoln

The **Fontenelle Forest Nature Center** in Bellevue is a 1,400-acre conservation area overlooking the Missouri River. It also is the home to Nebraska's only **Wild Raptor Recovery Program**, which houses injured birds of prey that cannot survive outside the facility. An experienced guide will talk about the birds and their habitats. South of Omaha is Nebraska City, the Home of Arbor Day and **Arbor Day Farm** and **Arbor Lodge State Historical Park**. While at this working farm orchard and forest an experienced Nature Interpreter provides tours through the 260-acre National Historic Landmark, concluding with a visit to the 50-foot-high Tree Adventure for an amazing birds-eye view of the farm. Lunch is in the **Timber Dining Room**, located in the impressive **Lied Lodge & Conference Center**, one of the best examples in the world of environmental stewardship in building design and use.

Next is Lincoln, Nebraska's capital city and a guided tour of the impressive **Nebraska State Capitol**. At 15 stories and 400 feet tall, it is the second-tallest statehouse in the country and offers a spectacular view of the city from the observation floor. The **Larsen Tractor Test Museum** is the only tractor testing museum and tractor test laboratory in the world. This unique museum displays more than 25 tractors highlighting

the advancements in tractor testing technology, which established power and performance standards and helped solve agricultural problems worldwide. The **International Quilt Study Center** houses the world's largest publicly held quilt collection. A guided tour includes its high-tech storage facility, quilt exhibitions, and a "behind the scenes" view of quilts hundreds of years old. Dinner tonight begins with a private guided tour of the infamous **Robber's Cave** followed by a wonderful dinner at **Blue Blood Brewing**.

Overnight is in Lincoln

DAY 3

Lincoln • York • Henderson • Grand Island



Chances "R," York

The 135,000 square-foot, three-floor **Museum of American Speed** presents a chronology of automotive racing and speed equipment while preserving, interpreting, and displaying items significant in racing and automotive history. Lunch is in York at **Chances "R,"** one of the city's most popular group dining destinations. Explore the ancient worlds of Mesopotamia, Rome, and other great civilizations at the **Clayton Museum of Ancient History**. An accurate reproduction of the Western Wall in Jerusalem is where groups can write a prayer and leave in it the wall.

Costumed storytellers at **Mennonite Heritage Park** enlighten groups about the Henderson Mennonites. Through living history stories they recount how this group of Germans from Russia immigrated to Nebraska and their connection to Amish and Old-Mennonites in Pennsylvania. Grand Island is home to the **Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer**. Noted as one of the top ten living history museums in the country, the museum complex transports groups to the early pioneer and settlement days of Nebraska. Don't miss Fonner Rotunda, which houses one of the finest collections of cowboy and Native American art and artifacts in the state. Dinner tonight is at **Chocolate Bar** in downtown Grand Island, serving delicious homemade fare using the freshest ingredients.

Overnight is in Grand Island

DAY 4

Grand Island • Kearney

The 25,000 square-foot **Raising Nebraska** exhibit connects consumers with farmers who raise their food. It explains the steps from "farm to fork" using a virtual combine harvest experience, full-sized pivot irrigation system, grain bin video theater, a 50-foot-long interactive floor map of Nebraska, and an interactive dinner table. Kearney's **Classic Car Collection** is an impressive museum that houses more than 140 vintage automobiles from the early 1900's to the 1980's and has been called the "best public car attraction between Chicago and Denver!" Lunch is in downtown Kearney at the **The Alley Rose** for a variety of delicious offerings within a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere. The **Archway** is an impressive interactive museum commemorating the nation's westward expansion. At a height of 310 feet, the Archway is the only tourist attraction in the country to span a federal interstate highway.

Overnight is in North Platte

DAY 5

North Platte • Ogallala

Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center North Platte



Begin the day in North Platte with a guided tour of the 95-foot tall, 8-story **Golden Spike Tower and Visitor Center**. Located at Union Pacific's Bailey Yard-the world's largest railroad classification yard-the tower gives groups a bird's eye, 360-degree of the action below. Former railroad employees explain to groups how the railroad classification yard works and recount stories of when they worked on the railroad. Meet Colonel William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and his wife at their mansion in **Buffalo Bill State Historical Park**. They'll give a guided tour of the house and grounds, as well as tell a few closely kept secrets

about each other.

Take a wagon ride from the park to the **Lincoln County Historical Museum** for a **Dutch oven lunch** and a guided tour of the facility. Watch out for masked robbers who have their eyes on the money on the coach. They'll try to steal it. The museum tells the history of one of North Platte's most inspiring stories, the **North Platte Canteen** during World War II. From December 25, 1941 to August 1945, volunteers from 125 communities met American troop trains in North Platte to give them baked goods, candies, birthday cakes, and words of encouragement during their brief stop in town.

Fort Cody Trading Post is one of the state's largest and most eclectic gift shops. Explore the Old West Museum in the back of the store and don't miss the 20,000-piece, hand-carved animated miniature version of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Dinner tonight is at **Front Street and Cowboy Museum** in Ogallala, the "town too tough for Texas." Mouthwatering steaks and the Crystal Palace Revue are on the menu for the evening.

Overnight is in Ogallala

DAY 6

Ogallala • Bayard • Gering

The **Petrified Wood and Art Gallery** is a unique gallery specializing in ancient woods, fossils and Native American artifacts. Many of the gallery's works of art have been created using petrified wood. **Chimney Rock National Historic Site** near Bayard was the most recognized landmark along the Overland Trails that passed through Nebraska. Today, the visitor center chronicles their many fascinating stories and tales.

Lunch is an **Old West Oregon Trail** experience near Gering followed by a guided tour of **Scotts Bluff National Monument**. This prominent natural landmark for American Indians, fur traders, and Oregon and Mormon trail pioneers used it as guide on their trek westward. And at 800 feet above the North Platte



Legacy of the Plains, Gering

River, a drive to the summit offers a tremendous view of the entire valley and the wagon ruts that are still visible at the base.

A wagon ride can take groups from the National Monument to the adjacent **Legacy of the Plains Museum**. Exhibits retell the lives and stories of the people who explored and settled the High Plains of Nebraska. Dinner this evening at **Tangled Tumbleweed**, an excellent food and wine bar offering a variety of tapas style dishes that are freshly prepared on-site.

Overnight is in Gering

DAY 7

Crawford • Chadron • Cody • Valentine

Upon entering the majestic Pine Ridge Region of northwest Nebraska, there is a dramatic change in the landscape. This area is filled with scenic buttes and bluffs covered by thick stands of pine trees, and in the middle of this region is **Fort Robinson State Historic Park**, which was operated as a fort from the early days of the Old West until after World War II. It was the site of the 1879 Cheyenne Outbreak and the death of famed Sioux Chief Crazy Horse. While at the park, groups can enjoy a horse-drawn tour of the park or a Jeep tour of the surrounding buttes.



Fort Robinson State Historic Park, Crawford

The one-of-a-kind **Museum of the Fur Trade** east of Chadron is dedicated to preserving the nation's lucrative fur-trading industry. Also on museum grounds is the Bordeaux Trading Post (built 1837) which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. While there, don't miss the items on display from the 2015 Academy Award winning movie, *The Revenant* starring Leonardo DiCaprio. **George Paul Vinegar** in the village of Cody makes all its handcrafted fruit and wine vinegars the old-fashioned way. Groups can taste test a variety of vinegars and decide on their favorite. Dinner tonight is in Valentine at **Peppermill Restaurant**, one of this outdoor haven's most elegant restaurants.

Overnight is in Valentine

DAY 8

Niobrara • Norfolk

Lunch is en route to Niobrara where groups will experience and up-close encounter with wildlife, particularly bison and elk. While at **Kreycik Riverview Elk Ranch** groups can spend the afternoon in a covered wagon hand-feeding bison corn as they clamor to the wagon. This unique experience is one that'll not be forgotten anytime soon. Dinner tonight is in Norfolk, the "Home of Johnny Carson."

Overnight is in Norfolk

DAY 9

Norfolk • Stanton • Bancroft • Fort Calhoun • Omaha

The **Elkhorn Valley Museum & Research Center**'s exhibits include one of Johnny Carson. On display is an impressive collection of his personal items, including videotapes, vintage photographs and his six Emmy Awards. An interactive home theater shows selected *Tonight Show* episodes and monologues. Groups can reconnect with nature at **Red Road Herbs** near Stanton and learn about herbs and how to use them in their everyday lives. More than 100 herbs grow in cultivated gardens in a cozy woodland setting. Purchase handmade herbal products in the gift shop. The **John G. Neihardt Center** in Bancroft highlights the life and works of John G. Neihardt, the author of *Black Elk Speaks*.

Fort Atkinson State Historical Park in Fort Calhoun was the site of the first council between Lewis and Clark and the Missouri and Otoe tribes. Today an informative visitor center chronicles this historic meeting. Dinner plans will transport groups back to Omaha and 1879 for a visit to the historic **General Crook House**. Groups meet General George and Mary Crook who show them around their new Italianate-style home followed by a delicious 3-course dinner, complete with crystal glassware, china dishes, and real silverware.



THE GREAT PLATTE RIVER ROAD

DAY 1

Bellevue • Papillion

Groups are able to once again tour **Offutt Air Force Base** in Bellevue, headquarters of the U. S. Strategic Command, Air Force Weather Agency, and the 55th Wing of the Air Combat Command. Groups can choose from a variety of interesting tours of the base. The **Fontenelle Forest Nature Center** in Bellevue is a 1,400-acre conservation area overlooking the Missouri River. It also is the home to Nebraska's only **Wild Raptor Recovery Program**, which houses injured birds of prey that cannot survive outside the facility. An experienced guide will talk about the birds and their habitats. Tonight's dinner destination is a traditional Polish dinner and entertainment at the **Polish Heritage Center** in Papillion.

Overnight is in Sarpy County

DAY 2

Omaha • Lincoln

Located on the banks of the Missouri River in downtown Omaha, groups can visit the **National Park Service Visitor Center** where Meriwether Lewis will meet them and tell about his journey up the Missouri River with William Clark. Afterward, an informative **guided city tour of Omaha** gives groups a well-rounded view of Nebraska's largest city. The **Durham Museum** lets groups explore the history and settlement of Nebraska's largest city. Located in the former Union Station, this top museum offers the chance to walk through authentic train cars on display on the downstairs station platform. **St. John Greek Orthodox Church** is a great lunch stop to enjoy a traditional Greek meal prepared by members of the church. Afterward, groups are encouraged to try their hand at Greek dancing and can tour this magnificent building. An experienced guide at **Father Flanagan's Boys Town** in west Omaha will give an insider's view of life in the Village and recount the many inspiring stories of Father Flanagan and his vision to help wayward boys.

One of Lincoln's most interesting restaurants is **Blue Blood Brewing Company** where groups can take a private guided tour of **Robber's Cave** beneath the restaurant.

Overnight is in Lincoln



Robber's Cave
Lincoln

DAY 3

Lincoln • Grand Island



Nebraska State Capitol, Lincoln

At 15 stories and 400 feet tall, the **Nebraska State Capitol** in Lincoln is the second-tallest statehouse in the country and offers a spectacular view of the city from the 14th floor observation level. Groups can enjoy a guided tour of the building and gain a better understanding of how the nation's only one house legislature, the Unicameral, operates. The **Larsen Tractor Test Museum** is the only tractor testing museum and tractor test laboratory in the world. This unique museum displays more than 25 tractors highlighting the advancements in tractor testing technology, which established power and performance standards and helped solve agricultural problems worldwide.

The **International Quilt Study Center** houses the world's largest publicly held quilt collection. A guided tour includes its high-tech storage facility, quilt exhibitions, and a "behind the scenes" view of quilts hundreds of years old. **Runza Restaurant** is a Nebraska tradition where diners can enjoy a unique sandwich introduced by German from Russia settlers to the area. The Runza is a combination of ground beef, cabbage and spices baked in a fresh bun. In downtown Grand Island groups can tour the 1937 art-deco **Grand Theatre** and watch a presentation about the Sandhill cranes given by an experienced guide. The 25,000 square-foot **Raising Nebraska** exhibit connects consumers with farmers who raise their food. It explains the steps from "farm to fork" using a virtual combine harvest experience, full-sized pivot irrigation system, grain bin video theater, a 50-foot-long interactive floor map of Nebraska, and an interactive dinner table. Dinner tonight is at **Chocolate Bar** in downtown Grand Island, serving delicious homemade fare using the freshest ingredients.

Overnight is in Grand Island

DAY 4

Alda • Kearney • York • Nebraska City

What Else?

Rowe Sanctuary near Kearney is another excellent viewing spot to see the Sandhill cranes, offering sunrise tours, sunset tours, and a variety of other activities throughout the year.

Groups can experience a pre-dawn excursion to the **Crane Trust Nature Center** for an orientation and guided sunrise crane viewing tour in a blind along the Platte River. Once in the blind, groups are able to view these majestic birds, and other animals, up-close and in their natural habitat. This truly is one of the most impressive and spiritual experiences in the world.

The **Archway** in Kearney is an impressive interactive museum commemorating the nation's westward expansion. At a height of 310 feet, it also is the only tourist attraction in the country to span a federal interstate highway. A great stop for lunch is **The Alley Rose** in downtown Kearney. This inviting restaurant is popular with locals and offers a variety of delicious options within a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere.

Classic Car Collection is an impressive museum that houses more than 140 vintage automobiles from the early 1900's to the 1980's and has been called the "best public car attraction between Chicago and

Denver!” **Chances “R”** in York is one of the city’s most popular group tour destinations, serving up tasty and filling homemade meals. End the day in Nebraska City at **Lied Lodge & Conference Center**, one of the best examples of environmental stewardship in the country.

Overnight is in Nebraska City

DAY 5

Nebraska City

Located on the banks of the Missouri River, Nebraska City is the official Home of Arbor Day where groups can explore the 260-acre Arbor Day Farm. An experienced Nature Interpreter provides an informative tour of the farm, concluding with a visit to the 50-foot-high **Tree Adventure** and an amazing view of the farm. All groups receive a tree seedling at the **Lied Greenhouse**.

Arbor Lodge State Historical Park is the beautiful estate of J. Sterling Morton, Founder of Arbor Day. Built in 1855, this four-room frame house was remodeled over the years to become the magnificent 52-room mansion it is today. Costumed guides walk groups through the rooms filled with authentic furnishings and displays that capture the life and times of this visionary.



Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City



DAY 1

Omaha • La Vista • Waverly

Omaha's agricultural background is evident from the number of **farm-to-table restaurants** that are located throughout the city. Omaha is on the forefront of the fresh food movement where chefs use fresh locally produced ingredients for their culinary dishes. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, **Historic Florence Mill** in north Omaha began as the gristmill for **Mormon Winter Quarters** in 1846 built under the supervision of Brigham Young. Today, the mill and grain elevator are a cultural attraction housing a museum, art gallery and farmers market.

Groups can receive an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the North American headquarters for **CLASS**, a German combine manufacturer, where hundreds of LEXION combines are assembled each year in this state-of-the-art facility. Dinner tonight is a farm-to-table meal at **Prairie Plate Restaurant** at **Lakehouse Farm** near Waverly. Dine on delicious dishes prepared using seasonal, locally grown ingredients.

Overnight is in Lincoln

DAY 2

Lincoln • Firth • Nebraska City

At 15 stories and 400 feet tall, the **Nebraska State Capitol** in Lincoln is the second-tallest statehouse in the country and offers a spectacular view of the city from the observation level. Located on the University of Nebraska Ag Campus, the **Larsen Tractor Test Museum** is the only tractor testing museum and tractor test laboratory in the world. This unique museum displays more than 25 tractors highlighting the advancements in tractor testing technology, which established power and performance standards and helped solve agricultural problems worldwide. The **UNL Dairy Store** offers up tours and tasty frozen treats to enjoy on the coach.

Next is Nebraska City, the Home of Arbor Day, for a visit to Arbor Day Farm. Groups can explore this working farm orchard and forest where an experienced Nature Interpreter guides groups through this

260-acre National Historic Landmark, which concludes with a visit to the 50-foot-high **Tree Adventure** for an amazing view of the farm. Dinner this evening is in the impressive **Timber Dining Room** overlooking the orchards and Arbor Lodge. Groups will find excellent service and amenities at the **Lied Lodge & Conference Center**, one of the best examples of environmental stewardship in the country.

Overnight is in Nebraska City

DAY 3

Pawnee City • Beatrice • Wymore • York Henderson • Grand Island

A number of Amish families have settled in southeast Nebraska near Pawnee City. Groups can explore



Amish Country and learn more about the Amish way-of-life and shop for homemade Amish goods. Demonstrations and presentations are available upon request. Step back to a time when the Homestead Act of 1862 enticed millions of people to move to the frontier and cultivate this often harsh landscape. **Homestead National Monument of America** near Beatrice and the Homestead Heritage Center offer exceptional exhibits, living history demonstrations, hiking trails through virgin prairie grasses, events to help tell the stories of the early pioneers and homesteaders.

South of Lincoln, near Firth, **Prairieland Dairy** offers tours of their sustainable and environmentally friendly dairy farm. **Wessels Living History Farm** in York lets groups experience first-hand how farm life and agriculture have changed from the 1920s to modern day farming techniques and technologies. Costumed storytellers at **Mennonite Heritage Park** enlighten groups about the Henderson Mennonites. Through living history stories they recount how this group of Germans from Russia immigrated to Nebraska and their connection to Amish and Old-Mennonites in Pennsylvania.

Dinner this evening is at **The Chocolate Bar** in downtown Grand Island which offers an assortment of desserts, chocolate, homemade sandwiches, soups, and drinks.

Overnight is in Grand Island



DAY 4

Grand Island • Hastings • Kearney • Elm Creek • North Platte

Grand Island is home to the **Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer**. Noted as one of the top ten living history museums in the country, the museum complex transports groups to the early pioneer and settlement days of Nebraska. Don't miss Fonner Rotunda, which houses one of the finest collections of cowboy and Native American art and artifacts in the state.

The 25,000 square-foot **Raising Nebraska** exhibit connects consumers with farmers who raise their food. It explains the steps from "farm to fork" using a virtual combine harvest experience, full-sized pivot irrigation system, grain bin video theater, a 50-foot-long interactive floor map of Nebraska, and an interactive dinner table.

Prairie Loft near Hastings is a great destination where groups can gain a deeper understanding of agriculture and how it connects people to the land and their food. Also in Hasting, the **Back Alley Bakery** which serves delicious meals using natural, unprocessed "artisan breads" baked fresh daily. Afterward, groups can learn more about the bakery and enjoy a live demonstration of their bread making process. Every guest leaves the bakery with a loaf of freshly baked bread.

The **Archway** is an impressive interactive museum commemorating the nation's westward expansion. At a height of 310 feet, the Archway is the only tourist attraction in the country to span a federal interstate highway. The 40-acre **Nebraska Wild Horse and Burro Center** near Elk Creek houses up to 500 wild horses and burros that are adopted by people across the country. Dinner this evening is at **Feather River Vineyard** where an expert chef prepare a delicious meal in front of groups. They also can request a wine expert will demonstrate the fine art of pairing wines with food to enhance their flavors.



Overnight is in North Platte

DAY 5

North Platte

Located at Union Pacific's Bailey Yard-the world's largest railroad classification yard-**Golden Spike Tower and Visitor Center** is a 95-foot tall, 8-story tower that gives groups a bird's eye, 360-degree of the action below. Former railroad employees explain to groups how the railroad classification yard works and recount stories of when they worked on the railroad. **Miller Farm Agricultural Tour** lets groups experience firsthand what it takes to run and operate a Nebraska working farm in a fun, safe, and interactive atmosphere. Our farmer guides will talk about irrigated and dry land corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle and the equipment that they use.

Dusty Trails is one of North Platte's best outdoor recreational destinations where groups can watch horse training demonstrations, take a ride on horseback along the banks of the North Platte River, and tube or tank down the river. Groups can meet Colonel William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and his wife at their mansion

in **Buffalo Bill State Historical Park**. They'll give a guided tour of the house and grounds, as well as tell a few closely kept secrets about each other.

Take a wagon ride from the park to the **Lincoln County Historical Museum** for a **Dutch oven lunch** and a guided tour of the facility. Watch out for masked robbers who have their eyes on the money on the coach. They'll try to steal it. The museum tells the history of one of North Platte's most inspiring stories, the **North Platte Canteen** during World War II. From December 25, 1941 to August 1945, volunteers from 125 communities met American troop trains in North Platte to give them baked goods, candies, birthday cakes, and words of encouragement during their brief stop in town.

Fort Cody Trading Post is one of the state's largest and most eclectic gift shops. Explore the Old West Museum in the back of the store and don't miss the 20,000-piece, hand-carved animated miniature version of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.



DAY ONE

Omaha

Featured on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-in, and Dives," family-owned and operated **Big Mama's Kitchen & Catering** serves mouthwatering soul food and traditional American cuisine, such as oven-fried chicken and sweet potato pie ice cream. Located on the banks of the Missouri River in downtown Omaha, groups can visit the **National Park Service Visitor Center** where Meriwether Lewis will meet them and tell about his journey up the Missouri River with William Clark.



Afterward, an informative **guided city tour of Omaha** gives groups a well-rounded view of Nebraska's largest city. Dinner this evening will be aboard **The River City Star**, which offers groups a memorable experience enjoying the beauty and serenity of the Missouri River on a 1940s era paddlewheel style riverboat. The lower deck is fully enclosed with viewing windows, table seating and a full bar while the canopy covered upper deck provides scenic views of Omaha.

Overnight is in Omaha

DAY TWO

Bellevue • Plattsmouth • Ashland • Fremont

Groups are able to once again tour **Offutt Air Force Base** in Bellevue, headquarters of the U. S. Strategic Command, Air Force Weather Agency, and the 55th Wing of the Air Combat Command. Groups can choose from a variety of interesting tours of the base. The **Museum of Shadows** in Plattsmouth has been voted one of the most haunted museums in the world. It houses more than 1,300 verified haunted artifacts from around the world. During tours, visitors have said they've experienced seeing a full figure apparition, disembodied voices, items moving on their own, and children laughing. Lunch is at a unique restaurant that serves both German and Thai cuisine, **Sisters Café** in historic downtown Plattsmouth.

After touring Offutt Air Force Base, a visit to **Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum** in Ashland is a must. This 300,000 square foot Smithsonian Affiliate Museum houses an impressive collection of military aircraft and space artifacts, including one of the largest collections of Cold War aircraft and artifacts in the United States. Many of the museum's aircraft have been restored in its on-site restoration facility. Groups can get close enough to touch most of these iconic aircraft. The Museum is home to an SR-71 "Blackbird," nine bombers including a B-36J "Peacemaker", B-17 "Flying Fortress" and a B-1A "Lancer," missiles, and spacecraft such as the Apollo Command Space Module, and a collection of Astronaut Clayton Anderson artifacts, Nebraska's own astronaut.



Get ready for some outdoor fun and excitement speeding down the Platte River, wind blowing through your hair on a private **guided airboat tour** outside Fremont. Afterward, a mouthwatering U.S.D.A. Choice Nebraska steak and other fun "Urban" fare are on the menu at **J's Steakhouse**.

Overnight is in Fremont

DAY THREE

Stanton • Norfolk • Verdigre • Niobrara • Santee Sioux Reservation

Groups can reconnect with nature at **Red Road Herbs** near Stanton and learn about herbs and how to use them in their everyday lives. More than 100 herbs grow in cultivated gardens in a cozy woodland setting. Purchase handmade herbal products in the gift shop. The **Elkhorn Valley Museum & Research Center's** exhibits include one of Johnny Carson. On display is an impressive collection of his personal items, including videotapes, vintage photographs and his six Emmy Awards. An interactive home theater shows selected *Tonight Show* episodes and monologues.

Black Cow Fat Pig is one of Norfolk's best restaurants, and its impressive menu has something for everyone to enjoy. Many Nebraskans are of Czech descent and still keep their culture and history alive, especially with food. A quick stop in **Verdigre** to enjoy a delicious Czech pastry called a kolach is perfect for a ride through northeast Nebraska.

While at **Kreycik Riverview Elk Ranch** south of Niobrara groups can experience an up-close encounter with wildlife, particularly bison and elk as they hand-feed bison clamoring to the wagon. This unique experience is one that'll not be forgotten anytime soon. The **Ohiya Casino & Resort** on the Santee Sioux Reservation offers 400 state-of-the-art machines, an excellent restaurant, and first class lodging.

Overnight is at Ohiya Casino & Resort on the Santee Sioux Reservation

DAY FOUR

Fordyce

WJ Ranch near Fordyce gives groups the opportunity to live the life of a true western cowboy. Horsemanship demonstrations, everyday ranch tasks, and a ride in a horse drawn buggy and a 1924 Model T Ford truck are some of the many interactive experiences groups enjoy. Before departure, feast on a mouth-watering steak during a chuck wagon cowboy lunch at the ranch.

WJ Ranch, Fordyce





DAY ONE

BELLEVUE • PLATTSMOUTH • NEBRASKA CITY

The **Fontenelle Forest Nature Center** in Bellevue is a 1,400-acre conservation area overlooking the Missouri River. It also is the home to Nebraska's only **Wild Raptor Recovery Program**, which houses injured birds of prey that cannot survive outside the facility. Groups are able to once again tour **Offutt Air Force Base** in Bellevue, headquarters of the U. S. Strategic Command, Air Force Weather Agency, and the 55th Wing of the Air Combat Command. Groups can choose from a variety of interesting tours of the base. **Sisters Café** in historic downtown Plattsmouth serves both German and Thai dishes and is an excellent stop for lunch.

The **Museum of Shadows** in Plattsmouth has been voted one of the most haunted museums in the world. It houses more than 1,300 verified haunted artifacts from around the world. During tours, visitors have

said they've experienced seeing a full figure apparition, disembodied voices, items moving on their own, and children laughing. Located on the banks of the Missouri River, Nebraska City is the official Home of Arbor Day where groups can explore the 260-acre Arbor Day Farm.



An experienced Nature Interpreter provides an informative tour of the farm, concluding with a visit to the 50-foot-high **Tree Adventure** and an amazing view of the farm. All groups receive a tree seedling at the **Lied Greenhouse**.

Overnight is in Nebraska City

DAY TWO

NEBRASKA CITY • BROWNVILLE • PAWNEE CITY • WYMORE • BEATRICE

Arbor Lodge State Historical Park is the beautiful estate of J. Sterling Morton, Founder of Arbor Day. Built in 1855, this four-room frame house was remodeled over the years to become the magnificent 52-room mansion it is today. Costumed guides walk groups through the rooms filled with authentic furnishings and displays that capture the life and times of this visionary.

Founded in 1854, Brownville is a charming history town full of group possibilities, including historical museums, bookstores, art galleries, riverboat cruises, concert and theatrical performances, and a winery located in a more than 100 year old barn. While there, groups can enjoy a tasty lunch and sightseeing cruise down the Missouri River aboard the **Spirit of Brownville** riverboat.

A number of Amish families have settled in southeast Nebraska near Pawnee City. Groups can explore **Amish Country** and learn more about the Amish way-of-life and shop for homemade Amish goods. Demonstrations and presentations are available upon request. The **Welsh Heritage Center** in Wymore tells the story of the Welsh who settled in this area of southeast Nebraska. Groups are invited to take part in a traditional Welsh tea served by people in traditional Welsh costumes.

Overnight is in Beatrice

DAY THREE

BEATRICE • WILBER • LINCOLN

Step back to a time when the Homestead Act of 1862 enticed millions of people to move to the frontier and cultivate this often harsh landscape. **Homestead National Monument of America** near Beatrice and the Homestead Heritage Center offer exceptional exhibits, living history demonstrations, hiking trails through virgin prairie grasses, events to help tell the stories of the early pioneers and homesteaders. Known as the “Czech Capital of Nebraska and the USA,” **Wilber** is a unique ethnic community southwest of Lincoln where the first thing that greets groups is how Czech the town is. Groups can partake in a traditional Czech lunch served by people in traditional Czech outfits and upon leaving take along a delicious Czech pastry known as a kolach.

At 15 stories and 400 feet tall, the **Nebraska State Capitol** in Lincoln is the second-tallest statehouse in the country and offers a spectacular view of the city from the 14th floor observation level. Groups can enjoy a guided tour of the building and gain a better understanding of how the nation’s only one house legislature, the Unicameral, operates. Delicious dishes made with all fresh ingredients and washed down with an assortment of craft beers are available at **Blue Blood Brewing Company** in Lincoln. However, the cool part is that the brewery and taproom sits atop **Robber’s Cave**, a 5,000-square-foot maze of sandstone cave tunnels created by Lincoln’s first brewery, Pioneer Brewing Company, in 1869.



Historic Haymarket District, Lincoln

Either before or after dinner, groups can take a private guided tour of the cave. Great restaurants, specialty shops, art galleries, and a host of other exciting destinations are located within restored turn-of-the-century warehouses in Lincoln's **Historic Haymarket District**, which has become one of the city's most vibrant tourist destinations. Groups can spend time getting to know this area on a guided walking tour led by a guide who knows all the stories and hidden secrets of the Haymarket.

Overnight is in Lincoln

DAY FOUR

LINCOLN • WAVERLY • ASHLAND

The **Larsen Tractor Test Museum** is the only tractor testing museum and tractor test laboratory in the world. This unique museum displays more than 25 tractors highlighting the advancements in tractor testing technology, which established power and performance standards and helped solve agricultural problems worldwide. The **International Quilt Study Center** houses the world's largest publicly held quilt collection. A guided tour includes its high-tech storage facility, quilt exhibitions, and a "behind the scenes" view of quilts hundreds of years old.



"From the farm, through our kitchen, to your table." Enjoy a dining experience like no other at **Prairie Plate Restaurant** at Lakeside Farm in Waverly. The region and the season provide the foundation and ingredients for a weekly changing farm-to-table menu and produce is sourced primarily from the co-located Certified Organic Farm (Lakehouse Farm). Cooking classes, farm tours, integrated dining experiences also are available for groups.

Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum in Ashland is a must. This 300,000 square foot Smithsonian Affiliate Museum houses an impressive collection of military aircraft and space artifacts, including one of the largest collections of Cold War aircraft and artifacts in the United States. Many of the museum's aircraft have been restored in its on-site restoration facility. Groups can get close enough to touch most of these iconic aircraft. The Museum is home to an SR-71 "Blackbird," nine bombers including a B-36J "Peacemaker", B-17 "Flying Fortress" and a B-1A "Lancer," missiles, and spacecraft such as the Apollo Command Space Module, and a collection of Astronaut Clayton Anderson artifacts, Nebraska's own astronaut.



Tourism Attraction and Business Contact Information

ALLIANCE

Carhenge
www.carhenge.com

Dobby Lee's Frontier Town
www.dobbysfrontiertown.com

Knight Museum & Sandhills Center
www.knightmuseum.com

ASHLAND

Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum
<https://sacmuseum.org>

BANCROFT

John G. Neihardt State Historic Site
www.neihardtcenter.org

BAYARD

Chimney Rock National Historic Site
www.nps.gov

BEATRICE

Homestead National Monument of America
www.nps.gov

BELLEVUE

Fontenelle Forest Nature Center
www.fontenelleforest.org

Offutt Air Force Base
www.gosarpy.com

BLAIR

DeSoto Chute National Wildlife Refuge
www.fws.gov/refuge/desoto

BROWNVILLE

Flatwater Folk Art Museum
www.brownvilleculturalcenter.com

Spirit of Brownville
www.spiritofbrownville.com

BURWELL

Calamus Outfitters
www.calamusoutfitters.com

Sandstone Grill
www.sandstonegrill.com

CEDAR BLUFFS

River Life Airboat Tours
www.riverlifetours.com

CHADRON

Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center
www.csc.edu.sandoz

Museum of the Fur Trade
www.furtrade.org

CODY

George Paul Vinegar
www.georgepaulvinegar.com

COLUMBUS

Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial
www.higginsmemorial.com

Dusters
www.dustersrestaurant.com

Glur's Tavern
www.visitcolumbusne.com

CRAWFORD

Fort Robinson State Park
www.outdoornebraska.gov/fortrobinson

FORDYCE

WJ Ranch
www.schiferlswjranch.com

FORT CALHOUN

Fort Atkinson State Historical Park
www.outdoornebraska.gov/fortatkinson

FREMONT

Bryson's Airboat Tours
www.brysonsairboattours.com

Louis E. May Museum
www.maymuseum.com

GENOA

Genoa Indian School
www.megavision.net/genoamuseum/sites

GERING

Cozad's Ford Garage
www.visitgering.com

Legacy of the Plains
www.legacyoftheplains.org

Scotts Bluff National Monument
www.nps.gov/scbl/index.htm

GRAND ISLAND

Chocolate Bar
www.thechocolatebargi.com

Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center
www.cranetrust.org

Grand Theatre
www.visitgrandisland.com

Raising Nebraska
www.raisingnebraska.net

Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer
www.stuhrmuseum.org

GREENWOOD

Baker's Candies
www.bakerscandies.com

HASTINGS

Back Alley Bakery
www.backalleybakery.com

Hastings Museum
www.hastingsmuseum.org

Prairie Loft
www.prairieloft.org

HENDERSON

Mennonite Heritage Park
www.hendersonheritage.wordpress.com

KEARNEY

Archway
www.archway.org

Classic Car Collection
www.ccckearney.com

Nebraska Wild Horse and Burro Facility
www.visitkearney.com

Rowe Sanctuary
www.rowe.audubon.org

The Alley Rose
www.alleyrose.com

KIMBALL

BeeHaven Farm Roadside Market
www.visitkimball.com

Monkey Ranch Buffalo Tours
www.visitkimball.com

LA VISTA

CLAAS North American Headquarters
www.claasofamerica.com

LEWELLEN

Ash Hollow State Historical Park
308-778-5651

The Most Unlikely Place
www.themostunlikelyplace.com

LINCOLN

Blue Blood Brewing Company
www.bluebloodbrewing.com

International Quilt Study Center
www.quiltstudy.org

Lakehouse Farm & Prairie Plate
www.lakehousefarm.com

Larsen Tractor Test Museum
www.tractormuseum.unl.edu

Museum of American Speed
www.museumofamericanspeed.com

Nebraska State Capitol
www.capitol.nebraska.gov

Prairieland Dairy
www.prairielanddairy.com

UNL Dairy Store
www.dairystore.unl.edu

MCCOOK

www.prairiechickendancetours.com

MONROE

Horn T Zoo
402-276-0435

NEBRASKA CITY

Arbor Day Farm
www.arbordayfarm.org

Arbor Lodge State Historical Park
www.arbordayfarm.org

Lied Lodge & Conference Center
www.liedlodge.org

Missouri River Lewis and Clark Visitor Center
www.lewisandclarkvisitorcenter.org

NIOBRARA

Kreycik Riverview Elk Ranch
www.nebraskaelktours.com

NORFOLK

Elkhorn Valley Museum & Research Center
www.elkhornvalleymuseum.org

Norfolk Arts Center
www.norfolkartscenter.org

NORTH PLATTE

Buffalo Bill State Historical Park
www.outdoornebraska.gov/buffalobillranch

Dusty Trails
www.dustytrails.biz

Feather River Vineyard
www.feather-river.com

Fort Cody Trading Post
www.fortcody.com

Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center
www.goldenspiketower.com

Grain Bin Antique Town
www.grainbinantiquetown.com

Lincoln County Historical Museum
308-534-5640

Miller Farm & Agricultural Tour
www.visitnorthplatte.com

OGALLALA

Front Street and Cowboy Museum
www.ogallalafrontstreet.com

Mansion on the Hill
www.visitogallala.com

Meadowlark Hill Lilac Collection
www.visitogallala.com

Petrified Wood Gallery
www.petrifiedwoodgallery.com

OMAHA

Big Mama's Kitchen & Catering
www.bigmamaskitchen.com

Durham Museum
www.durhammuseum.org

Father Flanagan's Boys Town
www.boystown.org

General Crook House
www.douglascohistory.org

Historic Florence Mill
www.theflorencemill.org

Lithuanian Bakery
www.lithuanianbakery.biz

**Mormon Trail Center at Historic Winter
Quarters**
www.visitomaha.com

National Park Service Visitor Center
www.visitomaha.com

Old Market
www.oldmarket.com

St. John Creek Orthodox Church
www.stjohnsgreekorthodox.org

PAPILLION
Polish Heritage Center
www.gosarpy.com

PAWNEE CITY
Amish Country
www.pawneecountynebraska.com

PLATTSMOUTH
Museum of Shadows
www.museumofshadows.com

RED CLOUD
Red Cloud Opera House
www.willacather.org

Willa Cather State Historic Site
www.nebraskahistory.org/sites/cather

ROYAL
Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park
www.ashfall.unl.edu

SANTEE SIOUX RESERVATION
Ohiya Casino & Resort
www.ohiyacasino.com

SIDNEY
Camp Lookout
www.sidneycheyennecountytourism.com

Fort Sidney Museum
www.sidneycheyennecountytourism.com

Potter Sundry
308-879-4548

SOUTH SIOUX CITY
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall
www.southsiouxchamber.org

STANTON
The Uptown Brewery
402-439-5100

Red Road Herbs
www.redroadherbs.com

WILBER
Czech Culture
www.nebraskaczechsofwilber.com

Wilber Hotel
www.nebraskaczechsofwilber.com/hotel-wilber

WINNEBAGO RESERVATION
Angela DeCora Memorial Museum
www.winnebagotribe.com

Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Memorial Hospital
www.nebraskahistory.org

WYMORE
Welsh Heritage Center
www.welsheritageproject.org

YORK
Chances "R"
www.chancesyork.com

Clayton Museum of Ancient History
www.claytonmuseumofancienthistory.org

Wessels Living History Farm
www.livinghistoryfarm.org



VisitNebraska.com/group_travel

Micheal Collins, CTIS
Group Tour Manager
Nebraska Tourism Commission
402-471-3795
Micheal.Collins@Nebraska.gov

National Group Affiliations

