



Nebraska's Missouri River Valley & Capital City

Forming Nebraska's eastern border, the Missouri River is one of the nation's great rivers and has helped shape and grow the Great Plains region over the years. On this itinerary, we'll follow this mighty river from Brownville to Nebraska City, through Omaha and the Winnebago Nation before finishing near the Siouxland region of South Sioux City. We'll enjoy delicious homemade fare, unique cultural immersions, top notch entertainment, an insightful look into our nation's national security, and examples of responsible environmental stewardship.

Day One

Brownville • Nebraska City

We start our Missouri River Valley tour with an unforgettable experience aboard the **Spirit of Brownville** riverboat for lunch and an authentic river country encounter up the "Mighty Missouri" before heading to **Whiskey Run Creek Winery & Distillery** for a winetasting in a 110-year old barn. They also recently started producing distilled spirits so make sure to try a sampling. Now it's time to depart Brownville and head north to Nebraska City, the official Home of Arbor Day. Our dinner location is **Prairie City Chophouse** where we'll enjoy a traditional family steakhouse and made-from-scratch meals before heading to **Lied Lodge & Conference Center**, a world leader in environmental building design, for the night.

Day Two

Nebraska City • Plattsmouth

We'll breakfast this morning at the **Timber Dining Room** before starting our tour of historic Nebraska City, the official Home of Arbor Day. We'll spend time at **Arbor Day Farm**, a working farm orchard and forest. An experienced Nature Interpreter will guide us through this 260-acre National Historic Landmark, which concludes with a visit to the 50-foot-high Tree Adventure treehouse for an amazing view of the farm. All visitors receive a tree seedling at the Lied Greenhouse.

For lunch we'll head to **Porter's** to grab a bite of delicious fall-off-the-bone barbecue made right there on the farm. Don't forget to end the meal with a slice of apple pie or an apple cider slushy. Afterward, we'll explore **Arbor Lodge State Historical Park**, the beautiful estate of J. Sterling Morton, Founder of Arbor Day. Built in 1855, this four-room frame house

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was remodeled over the years to become the magnificent 52-room mansion it is today. Walk through the rooms filled with authentic furnishings and displays that capture the life and times of this visionary.

Our last stop in Nebraska City is **Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard**, the best destination for fresh, locally grown produce and other homegrown Nebraska products. Dinner tonight takes us to Papillion, south of Omaha where we'll enjoy a traditional Polish dinner and entertainment at the **Polish Heritage Center**.

Day Three

Bellevue • Omaha

After breakfast at our hotel, our first stop today is a visit to Bellevue and the headquarters of the U. S. Strategic Command, Air Force Weather Agency, and the 55th Wing of the Air Combat Command at **Offutt Air Force Base**. For lunch we head to **St. John Greek Orthodox Church** for a traditional Greek meal followed by lessons in Greek dancing and culture. *Yasou!* After lunch we head to downtown Omaha to explore the 92,000 square-foot **Hot Shops Art Center** featuring more than 80 artists, from glass blowing and pottery to bronze casting and blacksmithing. We'll stay downtown where we'll relax and enjoy a delicious lunch in the **Old Market**, a turn-of-the-century marketplace of brick streets and buildings with a variety of quaint restaurants and shops. Afterward we'll have the chance to explore this bustling part of Nebraska's largest city.

Day Four

Omaha • Lincoln

We'll start the day with a delicious Lithuanian torte or specialty bread at the **Lithuanian Bakery** where the owners also will tell us the story of how their parents decided to call Omaha home in the 1960s. Next we'll continue to west Omaha and **Father Flanagan's Boys Town** where an experienced guide 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. Next we'll visit the **Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum** near Ashland. This 3,000 sq. ft. museum features aircraft from various world conflicts, and an onsite restoration hanger gives a glimpse into how these magnificent machines are being restored. Before lunch at the **SAC Lunch Café**, take a turn in the museum's FS-VC "dual system" flight simulator where we'll be immersed into the realism of flight through state-of-the-art motion control and high-performance visuals and sounds.

Now it's time to head to Nebraska's capital city, Lincoln, where we'll begin our tour at 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 deck. Our next stop is the **International Quilt Study Center**, which houses the world's largest publicly held quilt collection. We'll tour its high-tech storage facility and quilt exhibitions before going "behind the scenes" to view quilts that are hundreds of years old. Our final destination for the day is Lincoln, Nebraska's capital city where we'll end with a wonderful meal and entertainment at **Screamers Dining & Cabaret**. After dinner, we'll have a chance to explore the **Historic Haymarket District**, a lively section of downtown full of unique shops, bars, restaurants, and other entertainment.

Day Five

Fort Calhoun • Tekamah • Winnebago Nation • South Sioux City

Our first stop today is at **Fort Atkinson State Historic Park** in Fort Calhoun. This was the first U.S. fort west of the Missouri River and played a major role in the nation's western expansion and fur trade. It also is noted to be the site of the first council between the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the Otoe-Missouri Tribe. The "First Council Sculpture" commemorates this historic event. Next we venture to Tekamah for lunch and a tasty visit to **Master's Hand Candle Company & Gift Shop**. Known locally as "every woman's dream store," this unique gift shop has everything from jewelry, candles, home décor, and chocolates. Make sure to check out the work of art restroom.

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Now it's time to enter the Winnebago Nation, one of Nebraska's four Native American tribes, where we'll visit the **Angel DeCora Museum & Research Center** to learn more about the tribe and its history and culture in Nebraska. Upon arrival in South Sioux City, the Gateway to Northeast Nebraska, we make a stop at the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall** in Freedom Park to remember our nation's fallen soldiers. South Sioux City offers a variety of dining and entertainment options for the evening.

For more information about this itinerary and other exciting group tour opportunities, contact Micheal Collins, Group Tour Manager, with the Nebraska Tourism Commission at micheal.collins@nebraska.gov or 402-471-3795.

Day 1

Spirit of Brownville (Lunch)
Whiskey Run Creek Winery & Distillery
Prairie City Chophouse (Dinner)
Lied Lodge & Conference Center

Day 2

Timber Dining Room (Breakfast)
Arbor Day Farm
Porter's (Lunch)
Arbor Lodge State Historical Park
Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard
Polish Heritage Center (Dinner)

Day 3

Breakfast in Sarpy County
Offutt Air Force Base
St. John Greek Orthodox Church (Lunch)
Hot Shops Art Center
Old Market (Dinner)

Day 4

Lithuanian Bakery (Breakfast)
Father Flanagan's Boys Town
Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum (Lunch)
Nebraska State Capitol
International Quilt Study Center
Screamers Dining & Cabaret (Dinner)
Historic Haymarket District

Day 5

Breakfast in Omaha
Fort Atkinson State Historic Park
Master's Hand Candle Company & Gift Shop (Lunch)
Angel DeCora Museum & Research Center
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall
Dinner in South Sioux City



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