

New Nebraska Group Tour Sample Itineraries

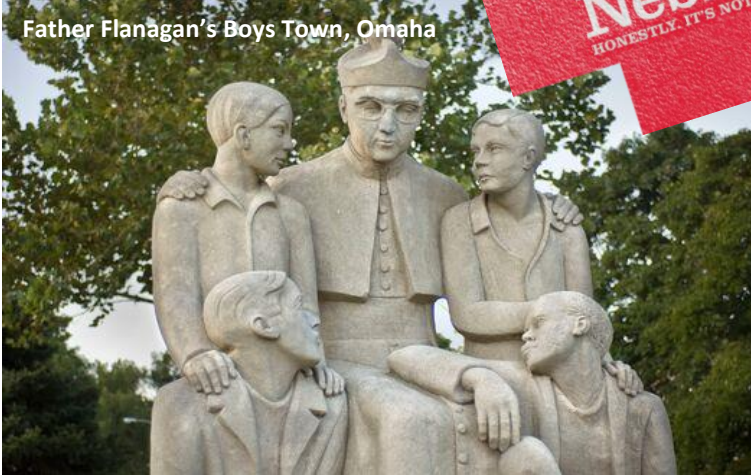
Sandhill Crane Migration, Central Flyway



Scotts Bluff National Monument, Gering



Father Flanagan's Boys Town, Omaha



Johnny Carson Mural, Norfolk



Buffet, Birds, and Beef: The Great Platte River Road.....	1
Buffalo, Bones, and Books: Traveling the Fossil Freeway.....	5
Spiritual Escapes.....	9
Nebraska Six Degrees of Separation.....	13

www.visitnebraska.com/group_travel

The Nebraska Tourism Commission and its group partners have created four new sample tour itineraries for you to offer your clients. These itineraries include a wide variety of fun filled and exciting tour opportunities that are sure to delight your clients and give them experiences they'll never forget. We'll visit the hometowns of famous Nebraskans, learn where our beef comes from, view up-close one of the most impressive wildlife migrations in the world, dig through fossils from the last Ice Age, experience the Old West cowboy culture, and explore some of Nebraska's spiritual destinations.

For more information about these and other group sample itineraries, contact Micheal Collins, CTIS at 402-471-3795 or micheal.collins@nebraska.gov. You also can find additional group related information on the Nebraska Tourism Commission's group website, www.visitnebraska.com/group_travel.

Buffett, Birds, and Beef: The Great Platte River Road

We start our tour in Omaha, Nebraska's largest city and home to Warren Buffett (the Oracle of Omaha), where we'll visit many of this business magnate, investor, and philanthropist's favorite points of interest and hangouts. The birding part of our tour takes us to Lincoln and then the Central Flyway where we come face-to-face with more than 600,000 sandhill cranes who roost in this part of the Platte River during their annual spring migration. A guided sunset tour and sunrise tour give us two different perspectives of these unique birds, also known as living dinosaurs.

We spend time in southwest Nebraska where we watch up-close as male prairie chickens compete for dominance and mating rights with female hens on a *lek* in the open prairie. Their unique booming call and stomping makes it worth getting up before sunrise to see. As far as the beef portion of the tour goes, we venture to North Platte to learn where our beef comes from and how it's processed, followed by a full meal consisting of five cuts of delicious Nebraska beef.

Best Tour Time: Spring (mid-February to end of April) to view the Sandhill crane migration and prairie chicken mating season. Otherwise, spring, summer, and fall.

Note: At the end of the tour, groups that flew into Nebraska may depart from Denver International Airport instead of returning to Omaha. This itinerary also can easily be done in reverse for groups arriving from the west.

Travel Day to Nebraska
Overnight: Omaha

Dinner (The Omaha metropolitan area offers a wide variety of unique, specialty, "mom and pop," group friendly, and ethnic cuisines and restaurants for dinner.)



Day 1
Omaha • Bellevue
Overnight: Omaha

Warren Buffett Driving Tour (Breakfast at Warren Buffett's favorite McDonald's followed by driving tour with step on guide highlighting some of his favorite locations.)

Lunch (The Omaha metropolitan area offers a wide variety of unique, specialty, "mom and pop," group friendly, and ethnic cuisines and restaurants for lunch.)

Fontenelle Forest Nature Center (Learn about the facility's dedication to help injured birds of prey through their Raptor Rescue Program and the Raptor Woodland Refuge where owls, hawks, falcons, and other species that no longer can survive in the wild live within "homes" designed to fit their natural habitats.)

eCreamery (Experience gourmet ice cream at its best in Omaha's historic Dundee neighborhood. Featured on the show *Shark Tank*, the mouth-watering ice cream has also been listed as one of Oprah's favorite things. Warren Buffet took Paul McCartney there when the music legend visited Omaha. Try butter brickle, Warren's favorite flavor.)

Gorat's Steakhouse (Dinner at one of Warren Buffett's favorite restaurants has been an Omaha tradition for more than 70 years and has hosted celebrities and dignitaries from around the world.)

Day 2

Omaha • Lincoln

Overnight: Lincoln

Lithuanian Bakery & Café (Breakfast at this successful bakery that serves eclectic breads and tortes based on "Old Country" recipes. Groups can eat while listening to the story of the family and how they immigrated to Nebraska.)

Nebraska Furniture Mart (Explore North America's largest furnishing store and afterward spend some time shopping.)

Dairy Queen (Lunch today is at another one of Warren Buffett's favorite places to relax and eat.)

The Rose Theatre (The theatre has been at the heart of Omaha's dramatic and arts scene since 1948 and its purpose is to enrich the lives of children and their families through live theatre and the arts.)

Omaha Community Playhouse (Tour the largest community theater in the country and learn all about the process of putting on a large stage production including set and costume design.)

The Green Gateau (An up-scale neighborhood restaurant in the heart of downtown Lincoln combines French-influenced American contemporary cuisine in a cozy, European country inn setting.)

Day 3

Lincoln • Grand Island

Overnight: Grand Island

Breakfast (This morning's breakfast could be at the hotel prior to departure.)

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center (This 850-acre tallgrass prairie nature preserve southwest of Lincoln is home to more than 220 bird species, 30 mammal species, 350 plants, and 50 butterfly species.)

Lazlo's Brewery & Grill (Nebraska's first brewpub in Lincoln's Historic Haymarket District is the lunch stop today.)

1937 Art-Deco Grand Theatre (View an introductory program about the sandhill cranes given by an experienced guide.)

Dinner (Grand Island offers a variety of quick dining options for groups to fill them up prior to an evening sandhill crane viewing experience.)

Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center (Begin our evening sandhill crane viewing adventure along the Platte River with an up-close VIP experience.)

Day 4
Grand Island • Kearney
Overnight: Kearney

The Chocolate Bar (Breakfast in a trendy café with a big city ambiance in downtown Grand Island.)

Studio K Gallery (Groups can get in touch with their inner artists and create their own unique sandhill crane painting experience.)

Raising Nebraska (This 25,000 square foot interactive museum at Fonner Park connects consumers with farmers who raise their food by explaining the steps from “farm to fork.” Experience a virtual combine harvest experience, full-sized pivot irrigation system, a 50-foot-long interactive floor map of Nebraska, and an interactive dinner table.)

Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer (Declared one of the top ten living history museums in the country, the Stuhr transports groups back to the early pioneer and settlement days of Nebraska. The Fonner Rotunda houses one of the state’s finest collections of cowboy and Native American art and artifacts.)

“Wings Over the Platte” (During the sandhill crane migration season, this exhibit at the Stuhr Museum displays artwork by artists from across the country highlighting the annual spring migration. A “must-see” for any bird lover for the past 30 years.)

The Archway (Explore this impressive interactive museum commemorating the nation’s westward expansion. On a side note, at a height of 310 feet, this is the only tourist attraction in the country to span a federal interstate highway.)

Alley Rose (Dinner is at one of Kearney’s best restaurants that serves a variety of locally prepared signature dishes.)

Day 5
Kearney • North Platte
Overnight: McCook

Rowe Sanctuary (Depart for an early morning, pre-dawn guided sunrise sandhill crane viewing on the banks of Platte River where we watch as thousands of cranes start their morning routine getting ready to head into the fields around the area to forage. A “to-go” breakfast is picked up at the hotel and eaten along the route.)

Buffalo Bill State Historical Park (Visit the home of Colonel William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody and meet him and his wife for a tour of their place to hear about their interesting adventures, lives, and feats.)

Lincoln County Historical Museum (Hop aboard a wagon ride from the park to the museum for a deliciously prepared Dutch oven lunch and a guided tour of the facility. Explore the recreated town and learn more about the story of the famous North Platte Canteen during World War II.)

Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center (Take in a bird’s eye view of the world’s largest railroad classification yard from atop the 7th floor open air observation deck or the 8th floor enclosed deck.)

“Here’s the Beef” (West Central Research and Extension Office educators and chef from a local restaurant explain the steps needed to raise and process beef from pasture to the table. Dinner will be a full meal including five cuts of beef.)

Note: A step-on guide could board the motorcoach in North Platte and ride to McCook to give the orientation required to view the prairie chicken mating dance the following morning. This presentation will give groups additional information about what to expect on this portion of the itinerary and teach them proper bird watching etiquette so everyone can enjoy a fun and safe time.

Day 6
McCook

Prairie Chicken Dance (An early morning, pre-dawn tour to a *lek* on the open prairie to view the amusing mating rituals of male prairie chickens sparring for dominance and mating rights by stomping the ground, jumping, and sounding their trademark booming call. Breakfast is in McCook upon return to town.)

Driving Times and Mileage



Omaha-Lincoln

Drive time: 1hr
60 miles

Lincoln-Grand Island

Drive time: 1hr 30min
93 miles

Grand Island-Kearney

Drive time: 50min
42 miles

Kearney-North Platte

Drive time: 1hr 30min
100 miles

North Platte-McCook

Drive time: 1hr 10min
68 miles

McCook-Omaha Eppley Airfield

Drive Time: 4hr 30min
294 miles

McCook-Denver International Airport

Drive Time: 4hr
256 miles



Buffalo, Bones, and Books: Traveling the Fossil Freeway



The Fossil Freeway is an enjoyable and scenic drive between Denver and Colorado's Front Range to South Dakota's Black Hills through western Nebraska. While exploring this one-of-a-kind highway corridor connecting the region's rich fossil history, we hand-feed bison and learn more about these sentinels of the Great Plains, explore a natural shortgrass prairie setting, and take in a stunning view of the Oregon Trail and North Platte River Valley from an elevation of more than 800 feet.

Our trip also takes us to a remote part of the state, the windswept High Plains region and Oglala National Grasslands of northwest Nebraska where we explore

one of the world's most significant Miocene Epoch mammal fossil sites and gain a greater understanding of the area's Native American culture and livelihood. And we hear the many stories and tales of early pioneer and settler life in this often-hostile landscape where hearty adventurers, fur trappers, and others carved out a living.

Best Tour Time: spring, summer, fall

Note: The Fossil Freeway through western Nebraska serves as an alternate travel route for groups arriving in Denver and heading to South Dakota's Black Hills. It also fits well into a multi-state itinerary of Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Colorado.

Day 1

Kimball County • Potter

Overnight: Kimball

Lunch (Kimball offers a variety of dining options for lunch.)

EJE Ranch (Learn about the High Plains Region's short grass prairie on this working ranch and the unique opportunity of venturing into the prairie to learn more about this fragile ecosystem first hand.)

Potter Community Theatre (After a tour of the theatre, the Potter Melodrama actors entertains groups with a lively performance during a catered dinner.)

Day 2

Kimball County • Bayard • Scotts Bluff County

Overnight: Gering

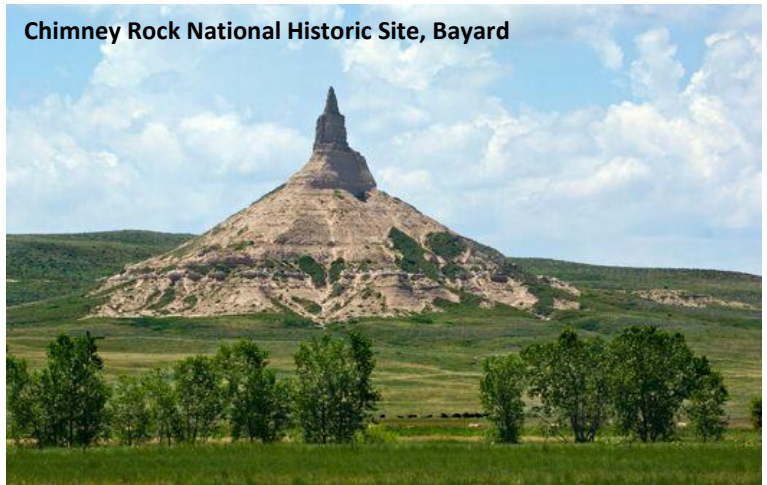
Breakfast (This morning's breakfast could be at the hotel prior to departure.)

Rocky Hollow Buffalo Company (This working ranch raises grass fed bison and gives groups the unique opportunity to hand feed them hay biscuits and learn more about how these majestic animals exist and thrive in western Nebraska's High Plains region.)

Laura Lee's Double L Country Store and Café (Lunch at this quaint restaurant/gift shop where fresh ingredients, mouthwatering pies, and excellent daily specials make this hilltop spot a "must stop at.")

Chimney Rock National Historic Site Visitor Center (Chimney Rock was the most recognized landmark along the Oregon Trail and early pioneers saw this towering feature for days on the open horizon. The renovated visitor center highlights the fascinating stories from these pioneers and others as they continued their westward migration.)

Oregon Trail Cookout (Dinner tonight is a delicious open-air Old West experience at Five Rocks Amphitheatre.)



Chimney Rock National Historic Site, Bayard

Day 3
Scotts Bluff County
Overnight: Gering

Breakfast (This morning's breakfast could be at the hotel prior to departure.)

Scotts Bluff National Monument (This natural formation was a prominent landmark for American Indians, fur traders, and Oregon and Mormon trail pioneers who used it as a guide westward. At 800 feet above the North Platte River, a drive to the summit gives a tremendous view of the entire valley and the wagon ruts that are still visible at the base. A gift shop and museum in the visitor center show the historical importance of the trail and the area's colorful history.)

Legacy of the Plains (Lunch is a farm-to-table affair where we also will learn about the lives and stories of the people who explored and settled the High Plains of Nebraska. The museum focuses on the archeology of Native American and Westward Expansions, the lives of pioneering settlers, the establishment of irrigation, the development of rural communities, the diversity of culture on the High Plains, and the innovative technologies and cultural practices of raising animals and crops in the semi-arid environment.)

Wildcat Hills Nature Center (Learn more about the unique flora and fauna of the beautiful and rugged Wildcat Hills south of town.)

Dinner (Scottsbluff and Gering offer a wide variety of ethnic cuisines and restaurants for dinner.)

Day 4
Northwest Nebraska
Overnight: Chadron

Breakfast (This morning's breakfast could be at the hotel prior to departure.)

Agate Fossil Beds National Monument (This internationally recognized fossil site displays mammal bones from the Miocene Epoch. A modern visitor facility features exhibits highlighting the fossils found on the neighboring Agate Springs Ranch and the impressive collection of Native American artifacts gifted to James Cook by Red Cloud and others. Groups can take a behind-the-scenes peek at valuable artifacts not normally on display.)

Fort Robinson State Historic Park (This huge state parks offers groups a wide variety of fun activities, including historic tours, jeep and stagecoach rides, scenic overviews, living history activities, and opportunities to view bison and purebred Texas longhorn herds. The park offers an excellent restaurant for lunch or other dining options are available.)

Hudson-Meng Education & Research Center (Located on the Oglala National Grassland, this one-of-a-kind destination houses one of the most important paleo-archeological discoveries in North America, a Paleo-Indian bone bed from the last Ice Age when hundreds of *Bison antiquus*, an extinct form of the modern bison, died here.)

High Plains Homestead (Authentic recreation of an Old West cow town complete with unique lodging experiences, horse corrals, and fossil collecting located on the Nebraska Badlands and near Toadstool Geologic Park. Toadstool Geologic Park is similar to South Dakota's famous Badlands and is worth a stop on any tour itinerary of northwest Nebraska.)

The Broken Spur (Excellent dining options and good times in a historic building in downtown Crawford surrounded by the rugged and beautiful Pine Ridge.)

Day 5 Northwest Nebraska

Bean Broker Coffee House & Pub (Breakfast is a delicious start to the day in this renovated bank building.)

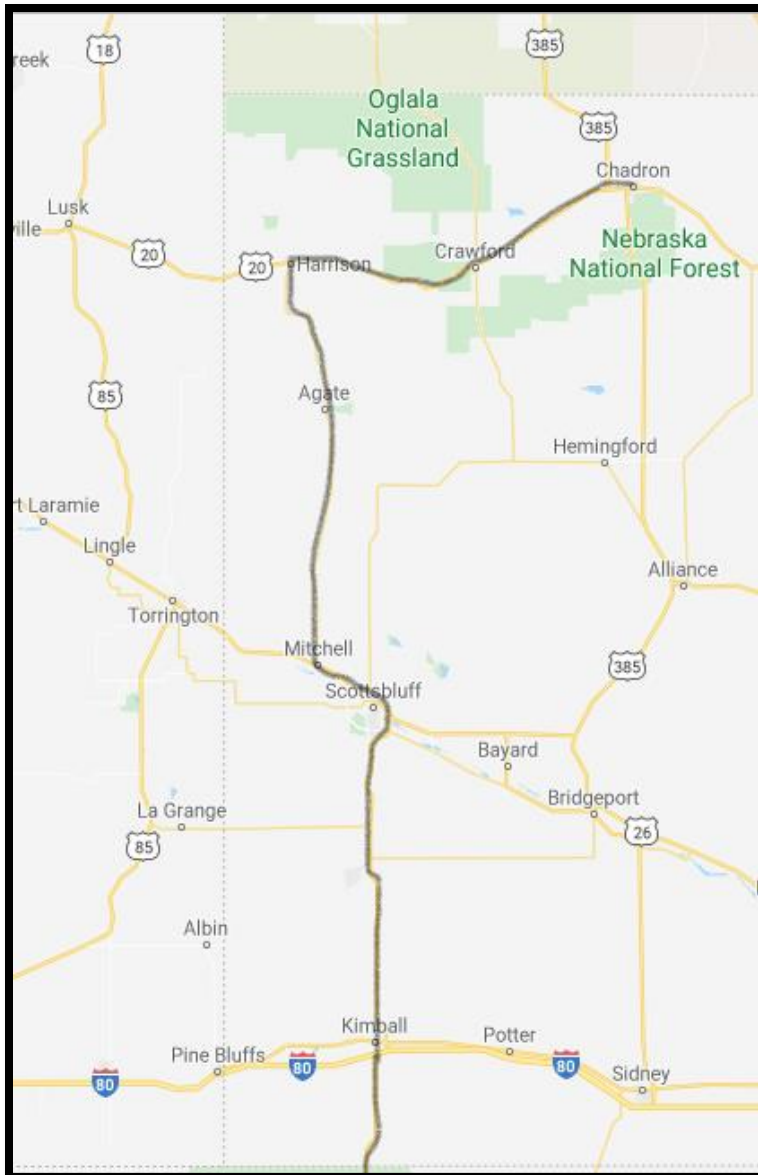
Museum of the Fur Trade (The only museum in the nation dedicated to preserving our fur-trading industry where groups can explore the **Bordeaux Trading Post** (built 1837) and items from the 2015 Academy Award winning movie, *The Revenant* starring Leonardo DiCaprio.)

Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center (Explore history and culture of the High Plains region and the interesting life and literature of Nebraska author Mari Sandoz, author of "Old Jules" "Cheyenne Autumn," and "Crazy Horse.")

Eleanor Barbour Cook Museum of Geology (Located on the Chadron State College campus, rocks, minerals, and fossils from Nebraska, the surrounding region, and around the world are in displays, including the Ohme collection highlighting agates, jade, and petrified wood.)



Driving Times and Mileage



Denver, Colorado-Kimball, Nebraska

Drive time: 2hr 45min

165 miles

Chadron, Nebraska-Rapid City, South Dakota

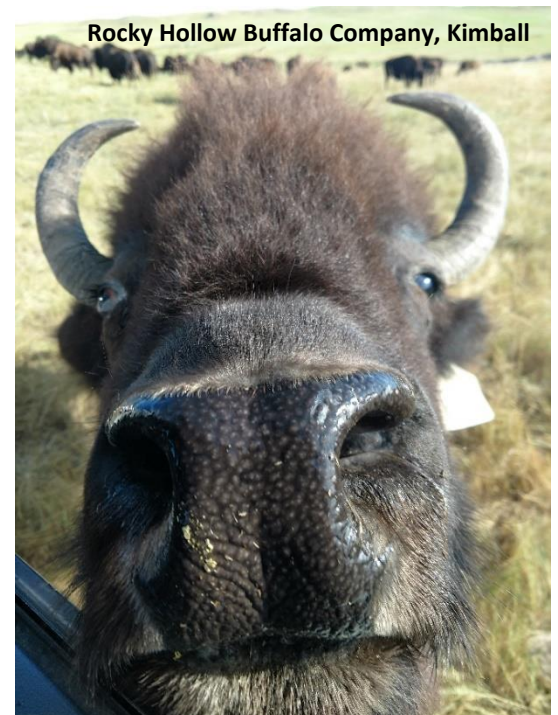
Drive time: 1hr 40min

102 miles

Kimball-Chadron

Drive time: 2hr 50min

162 miles



Rocky Hollow Buffalo Company, Kimball

Spiritual Escapes

Nebraska has a long history of religious and spiritual devotion among its residents and has always enjoyed a sort of tolerance of different belief systems and rituals. This tour itinerary takes us on a journey to many of eastern Nebraska's religious and spiritual destinations in a fun and educational way meant to inspire and encourage reflection and peace.

We explore the tenants and guiding principles found in many of today's religions, such as Catholicism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Reform Judaism, Islam, and Mormonism. We visit a Seventh Day Adventist Church's impressive stained-glass collection, follow along the Stations of the Cross, go behind the scenes to view centuries old quilts, and try our hand at Greek dancing. We can place prayers in a reproduction of Jerusalem's Western Wall and learn how the Mennonite community carved out a living in Nebraska's Great Plains landscape. A relaxing airboat ride down the Platte River reminds us that we are all one with nature.

Best Tour Time: spring, summer, fall

Note: VisitOmaha also offers a spiritual, faith-based tour within the city which would be a good complement to this itinerary. Contact information for VisitOmaha is included at the end of this booklet.

Travel Day to Nebraska
Papillion
Overnight: Omaha

Polish Heritage Society of Nebraska (A traditional Polish dinner followed by presentations highlighting Polish culture, religion, and language.)

Day 1
Omaha
Overnight: Omaha

Lithuanian Bakery & Café (Breakfast at this successful bakery that serves eclectic breads and tortes base on "Old Country" recipes. Groups can eat while listening to the story of the family and how they immigrated to Nebraska.)

Mormon Trail Center at Historic Winter Quarters (Tour of the visitor center and museum to learn more about the Mormon experience in Nebraska.)

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church (Tour of Omaha's only Greek Orthodox Byzantine-style church followed by a traditional Greek lunch and entertainment, and lessons in Greek dancing.)

Joslyn Art Museum (A premier art center featuring artwork from ancient times to the present in nearly twenty galleries. A granite reflecting pool, unique landscaping and sculptures are located in the outdoor gardens.)

St. Cecilia's Cathedral (The Mother Church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Omaha and a great example of the Spanish Renaissance Revival style of architecture. Also, site of a still unsolved robbery; *The Virgin Immaculata* cut from its frame in 2007.)

Brother Sebastian's Steak House & Winery (Dinner in cozy Old-World comfort of an early California style monastery complete with friendly "monks" serving.)



Day 2
Omaha
Overnight: Omaha

Bagel Bin (Breakfast in Omaha's only kosher bakery serving a variety of bagels, breads, and other baked goods.)

Riekes Museum (Photographs and exhibits depicting the history and culture of the Jewish people of Nebraska and Western Iowa. The museum includes re-creation of a neighborhood "shul" and timeline history of area synagogues.)

Hindu Temple (Enjoy a private tour of this elaborate temple dedicated to Omaha's Hindu faith.)

Boys Town (Tour the campus and learn how Father Flanagan worked to create a safe haven for wayward boys, and also now girls, on the outskirts of Omaha. Lunch will be at the Visitors Center Café, which also is where new boys and girls become citizens of the Village of Boys Town.)

Tri-Faith Initiative (This unique interfaith project brings together three Abrahamic faith groups, Jewish, Christian, and Islamic onto one campus to promote faith and goodwill.)

German American Society (Groups will enjoy a traditional German dinner, culture, and entertainment.)



Day 3

Bellevue • Gretna • Ashland • Greenwood • Lincoln
Overnight: Lincoln

Breakfast (This morning's breakfast could be at the hotel prior to departure.)

Offutt Air Force Base (The base is host to the U.S. Strategic Command and home of the 55th Wing. Groups can select from a variety of tour options on the installation.)

Holy Family Shrine (This one-of-a-kind glass structure consists of a chapel and visitor center designed to help visitors strengthen their faith through prayer and reflection. The Way of the Cross leads visitors to the chapel and features a 40-foot-tall Crucifix.)

Cloisters on the Platte (This Jesuit retreat features the 2,500-foot-long Stations of the Cross, comprised of 14 sculpture stations representing Christ's trail through his burial.)

Carol Joy Holling Retreat & Conference Center (Lunch at this Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries facility.)

Bakers Candies (Home to Nebraska's famous chocolate meltaways and a sweet stop for a little shopping.)

International Quilt Study Center (Discover the many stories and religious contexts woven into quilts at the world's largest publicly-held quilt collection. The behind-the-scenes tour takes visitors face to face with quilts that are hundreds of years old.)

The Nebraska Club (Dine on world-class cuisine and craft cocktails in Lincoln's premier private dining club overlooking the city from atop the 20th floor of the US Bank Building.)

Day 4
Lincoln • Henderson • York
Overnight: Lincoln

The Mill Coffee & Tea (Locally owned coffee shop and roaster and a great place for breakfast.)

Union College Seventh Day Adventist Church (Tour the church and view its impressive collection of stained-glass pieces.)

Art Glass Creative Studio (Groups can make their own stained-glass pieces of art.)

College View Neighborhood (Lunch at a restaurant near Union College or southwest Lincoln area.)

Vibrational Sound Association (Groups can learn how to meditate and increase healing through a therapeutic singing bowl vibration demonstration.)

Henderson Mennonite Heritage Park (This 8 ½-acre historical site tells the story of the first 35 Mennonite families that settled this area in 1874. Groups can enjoy traditional Mennonite desserts while listening to interactive stories highlighting the Mennonite culture, their pacifism and conscientious objector status, and how men and women were treated within the group.)

Clayton Museum of Ancient History (Go back in time and experience life in the ancient world of Mesopotamia and the Roman Empire, and leave a prayer in an accurate reproduction of the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Sacred texts from early printed Bibles and hand copied texts from St. John also are on display.)

Wessels Living History Farm (Catered dinner served in the lower level of the church and a musical treat as the 1914 George Kilgen tracker organ is played.)

Day 5
Lincoln • Seward • Schuyler • Cedar Bluffs

Breakfast (This morning's breakfast could be at the hotel prior to departure.)

Linh Quang Buddhist Center (Explore this Vietnamese Buddhist Temple dedicated to sharing Buddhism around the world.)

Saint Gregory the Great Seminary (Visit a Roman Catholic college seminary where young men are prepared for the priesthood.)

Café on the Square (Lunch in this popular locally owned restaurant across from the county courthouse.)

The Center for Liturgical Art (Located on the Concordia University campus, the center is dedicated to sharing the importance of ecclesiastical art and its impact on modern Christians.)

Saint Benedict Center (New interactive displays highlight the stunning hand-written *Saint John's Bible*, the work of Missionary Benedictines around the world, and their Benedictine way of life. The seven volumes of *The Saint John's Bible*, the first hand-written bible commissioned by a Benedictine monastery in 500 years will be on permanent display in the center's fine-art Heritage Edition.)

River Life Airboat Tours (Skim across the shallow Platte River while communing with nature and taking in your scenic surroundings.)

Driving Times and Mileage



Omaha-Lincoln

Drive time: 1hr
60 miles

Lincoln-York

Drive time: 50min
51 miles

Lincoln-Seward

Drive time: 30min
25 miles

Seward-Schuyler

Drive time: 46min
42 miles

Schuyler-Cedar Bluffs

Drive time: 35min
29 miles

Cedar Bluffs-Omaha

Drive time: 55min
43 miles

Saint Benedict Center, Schuyler



Clayton Museum of Ancient History, York

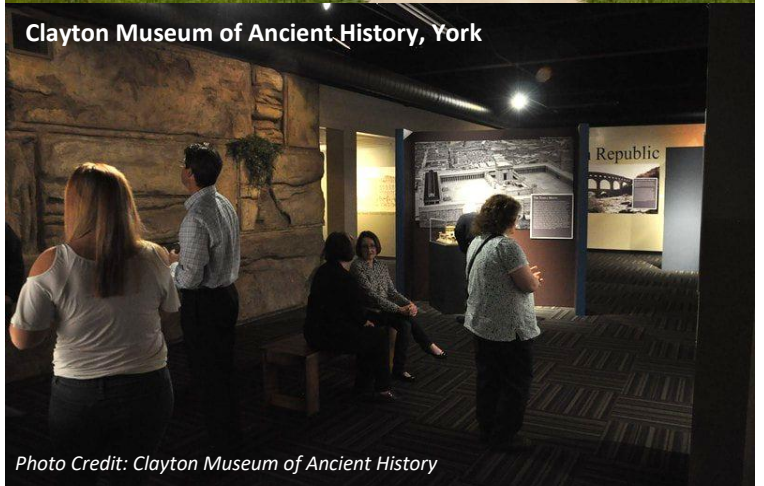


Photo Credit: Clayton Museum of Ancient History

Nebraska's Six Degrees of Separation

They say we're only separated from each other by six handshakes so let's see how connected you might be to some of these famous Nebraskans, both past and present. Included on this tour are some of eastern Nebraska's greatest business leaders, entrepreneurs, authors, politicians/filmmakers, entertainers/and visionaries, and on this tour, you'll discover how their actions helped to guide and shape our state.

Explore Warren Buffett's stomping grounds around Omaha. Learn how Johnny Carson's Nebraska upbringing helped make him into a world-renowned celebrity. Walk in the footsteps of Tom Osborne at UNL Memorial Stadium where he made decisions that took the state's football team, the Cornhuskers, to multiple championships. Then tour the home of J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day one of the state's biggest visionaries who preached about the importance and sustainability of responsible environmental stewardship.

Best Tour Time: spring, summer, fall

Travel Day to Nebraska

Overnight: Omaha

Big Mama's Kitchen and Catering (Dinner at this locally owned restaurant featured on "Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives" followed by presentation on what it was like being on the Food Network show.)

Day 1

Omaha

Overnight: Omaha

Warren Buffett Driving Tour (Breakfast at Warren Buffett's favorite McDonald's followed by driving tour with step on guide highlighting some of his favorite locations.)

Dundee Neighborhood (Lunch at a restaurant in Warren Buffet's neighborhood.)

Omaha Community Playhouse (Behind the scenes tour of the playhouse, meet a couple performers who will talk about what it's like being an actor and give the group inside secrets and stories.)

Nebraska Furniture Mart (Explore North America's largest furnishing store and afterward spend some time shopping.)

Gorat's Steakhouse (Dinner at Warren Buffett's favorite steakhouse, an Omaha tradition for more than 70 years.)



Day 2

Omaha • Ashland • Bancroft • Norfolk • Stanton

Overnight: Norfolk

Father Flanagan's Boys Town (Breakfast on site followed by a step-on guided tour of the campus.)

Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum (Guided tour of the facility followed by the opportunity to meet Clayton Anderson and talk to him about his life as an astronaut. Lunch could be at the museum or, if time permits, at a nearby restaurant like **Parker's Smokehouse** for a family style meal.)

John G. Neihardt State Historic Site (Facility tour and an entertaining presenter to talk about Neihardt's life and read excerpts from his novels, such as *Black Elk Speaks*. His outdoor study will be open so groups can walk inside.)

Johnny Carson's Boyhood Home (The owner will be on site to talk about the house and the renovations he's done. He has some videos featuring Johnny Carson to show groups. A pre-dinner cocktail hour happens downstairs.)

The Uptown Brewery (Dinner in one of the principal filming locations for the 2012 Alexander Payne film, "Nebraska." Locals who were on set during the movie could talk about their experiences and any behind the scenes facts and trivia they'd like to share with the group.)

Day 3

Norfolk • Lincoln • Elmwood

Overnight: Lincoln

Breakfast (This morning's breakfast could be at the hotel prior to departure.)

Johnny Carson Exhibit at Elkhorn Valley Museum (Groups will explore the museum's Johnny Carson exhibit and meet a young version of the entertainer who will talk about his life and growing up.)

Bess Streeter Aldrich House and Museum (Bess Streeter Aldrich will be on site to give groups a guided tour and talk about her life and writings.)

Historic Haymarket District (Lunch at one of this historic district's restaurants followed by a walking tour of the Haymarket. Groups could be offered the option of walking to the stadium or climbing back onto the motorcoach.)

UNL Memorial Stadium (Behind the scenes peek inside Memorial Stadium and other areas within the Hawks Championship Center and Osborne Athletic Complex.)

Billy's Restaurant (Dinner at a favorite local restaurant for Nebraska politicians.)

Day 4

Lincoln • Burchard • Nebraska City

Overnight: Nebraska City

Breakfast (This morning's breakfast could be at the hotel prior to departure.)

Nebraska Governor's Mansion (Guided tour of the governor's residence. The Nebraska State Capitol is across the street which would be a good additional stop, time permitting.)

Harold Lloyd Birthplace (Visit the silent film star's home and watch one of his movies inside the house.)

Lunch (Southeast Nebraska offers a variety of excellent "mom and pop" type restaurants for groups.)

Arbor Lodge State Historic Park (Tour of Arbor Lodge given by costumed guides or spend an enjoyable time solving an interactive murder mystery at the mansion.)

Timbers Restaurant (Dinner is a complete dining experience in one of Nebraska City's finest restaurants serving excellent dishes prepared using fresh ingredients straight from the farm to the table.)

Day 5 Nebraska City

Breakfast (This morning's breakfast could be at the hotel prior to departure.)

Arbor Day Farm (This world-famous farm offers a variety of exciting activities for groups, including wine tastings, gnome hunts, guide farm tours, and a Discovery Ride through the farm's orchards and forest.)

Driving Times and Mileage



Omaha-Ashland

Drive time: 30min
30 miles

Ashland-Bancroft

Drive time: 1hr 30min
86 miles

Bancroft-Norfolk

Drive time: 50min
45 miles

Norfolk-Lincoln

Drive time: 2hr
125 miles

Lincoln-Burchard

Drive time: 1hr 15min
70 miles

Burchard-Nebraska City

Drive time: 1hr
63 miles

Nebraska City-Omaha

Drive time: 50min
44 miles

Don't "reinvent the wheel." As you plan your Nebraska tour itinerary, contact the group tour manager for the Nebraska Tourism Commission, Micheal Collins, or any of the local DMO representatives listed below. We can assist you with general information about tour destinations, group rates at attractions, restaurants, and accommodations, as well as give you personalized service and attention to make planning your tour easy and fun. Contact Micheal Collins (CTIS), group tour manager, at micheal.collins@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3795 (direct), or 888-444-1867 (toll free).

Buffett, Birds, and Beef: The Great Platte River Road

Grand Island Tourism

Brad Mellema
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308-382-4400
www.visitgrandisland.com/meetings/tours

Kearney Visitors Bureau

Roger Jasnoch
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308-237-3161
www.visitkearney.org

Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau

Kelsey Meyer
kmeyer@lincoln.org
402-436-2310
www.lincoln.org/visit/tour

McCook/Red Willow County Visitors Bureau

Carol Schlagel
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308-345-1200
www.visitmccook.com

North Platte/Lincoln County Visitors Bureau

Amanda Connick
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308-221-6864
www.visitnorthplatte.com/group-tours

Sarpy County Tourism (Bellevue)

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402-332-5771
www.gosarpy.com/group-tours

Visit Omaha

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www.visitomaha.com/meetings/group-tour-planners

Buffalo, Bones, and Books: Traveling the Fossil Freeway

Chimney Rock National Historic Site (Bayard)

Sandy Reddish
sandra.reddish@nebraska.gov
308-641-5875
www.history.nebraska.gov/rock

Discover Northwest Nebraska

Kerri Remp
director@discovernwnebraska.com
308-432-3006
www.discovernwnebraska.com

Gering Convention & Visitors Bureau

Karla Niedan-Strecks
karla@visitgering.com
308-436-6886
www.visitgering.com

Kimball Area Tourism

Jessica Rocha
visit@kimballne.org
308-241-0573
www.visitkimball.com/tours

Scotts Bluff County Tourism (Scottsbluff)

Brenda Leisy
bleisy@scottsbluffcounty.org
308-633-1808
www.visitscottsbluff.com

Spiritual Escapes

Cass County Tourism (Ashland, Greenwood)

Carl Reichart
director@visitcasscounty.com
402-296-5999
www.visitcasscounty.com

Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau

Kelsey Meyer
kmeyer@lincoln.org
402-436-2310
www.lincoln.org/visit/tour

River Life Airboat Tours (Cedar Bluffs)

Kyle Kern
kyle@riverlifeours.com
402-699-4489
www.riverlifetours.com

Saint Benedict Center (Schuyler)

Fr. Thomas Leitner
frthomas@stbenedictcenter.com
402-352-8819
www.stbenedictcenter.com

Sarpy County Tourism (Bellevue, Gretna, Papillion)

Fred Uhe
fred@sarpy.com
402-332-5771
www.gosarpy.com/group-tours

Seward County Tourism

Clark Kolterman or Pat Coldiron
sewcham@sewardne.com
402-643-4189
www.sewardnebraskatourism.org

Visit Omaha

Jessica Settje
jsettje@visitomaha.com
402-444-1760
www.visitomaha.com/meetings/group-tour-planners

York County Tourism (Henderson, York)

Bob Sautter
yorkcountyvisitors@gmail.com
402-362-4575
www.yorkvisitors.org

Nebraska's Six Degrees of Separation

Cass County Tourism (Ashland, Elmwood)

Carl Reichart
director@visitcasscounty.com
402-296-5999
www.visitcasscounty.com

Harold Lloyd Birthplace (Burchard)

402-865-4665
www.pawneecountyhistory.com/lloyd

John G. Neihardt Center (Bancroft)

neihardt@gpcom.net
402-648-3388
www.neihardtcenter.org

Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau

Kelsey Meyer
kmeyer@lincoln.org
402-436-2310
www.lincoln.org/visit/tour

Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce

Amy Allgood
amya@nebraskacity.com
402-873-6654
www.gonebraskacity.com

Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau (Norfolk, Stanton)

Traci Jeffrey
info@visitnorfolkne.com
402-371-2932
www.visitnorfolkne.com/home/group-tours

Visit Omaha

Jessica Settje
jsettje@visitomaha.com
402-444-1760
www.visitomaha.com/meetings/group-tour-planners

You also can find additional tour ideas and more group information about Nebraska on the Nebraska Tourism Commission's group tour website: www.visitnebraska.com/group_travel.



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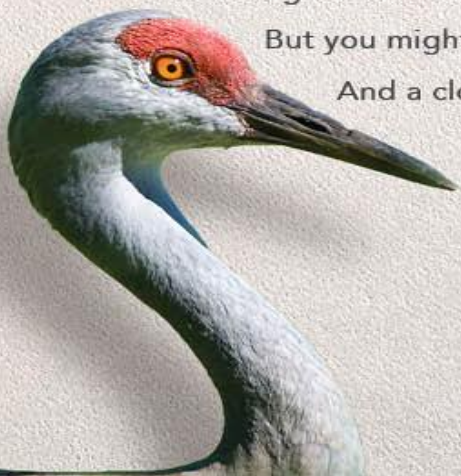
MICHEAL COLLINS, CTIS
GROUP TRAVEL MANAGER
402-471-3795
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And a closer look at one very interesting place.



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