

2021 NEBRASKA **NOT-AT-ALL WHAT YOU THOUGHT** GROUP TOUR PLANNER



Nebraska, your next group destination!

[VisitNebraska.com/group_travel](https://www.visitnebraska.com/group_travel)

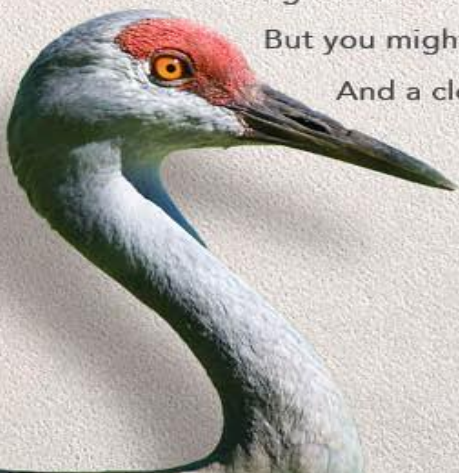
NOTHING BUT FLY-OVER COUNTRY.



Some people regard Nebraska as a place you cross on the way to a more interesting place. But over half a million sandhill cranes might disagree. Every March, they land here for a closer look at things. And flocks of humans swoop in to witness the awesomeness of a crane migration. There are those who will always think our state is strictly for the birds.

But you might disagree, so go to **VisitNebraska.com** for a free Travel Guide.

And a closer look at one very interesting place.



Nebraska
HONESTLY. IT'S NOT FOR EVERYONE.

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: 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

Rocky Hollow Buffalo Company

Explore a working buffalo ranch to learn more about these sentinels of the Great Plains and feed them grass pellets from your hand

Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center

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

International Quilt Study Center

Go behind the scenes to learn how the center cares for and conserves the largest quilt collection in the world

Ohiya Casino & Resort

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

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

Homestead National Monument of America

“Free land!” was the cry. Learn more about the Homestead Act and how it transformed the settlement of the great American West

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 to plant

Elkhorn Valley Museum

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

The Archway

Follow the path of western migration through Nebraska at the only tourism attraction in the nation to span a federal interstate highway

Offutt Air Force Base

Salute our soldiers and learn about military life at the Headquarters of the U.S. Strategic Air Command and the 55th Wing of the Air Combat Command

Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer

Be transported back to the early pioneer and settlement days on Nebraska in one of the top ten living history museums in the country

General Crook House at Fort Omaha

Meet General Crook and his wife for a delicious three-course dinner and a tour of their new Italianate-style home

Chimney Rock National Historic Site

Hear the stories of the early pioneers as they trekked westward along the Overland Trails through Nebraska

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VisitNebraska.com/group_travel

Where do you want to go?

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*Cover photo: Western Nebraska Balloon Fest, Scottsbluff
Photo courtesy of Nebraska Game & Parks Commission*

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT **NEBRASKA**



Sandhill Crane Migration, Central Nebraska

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)
- 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

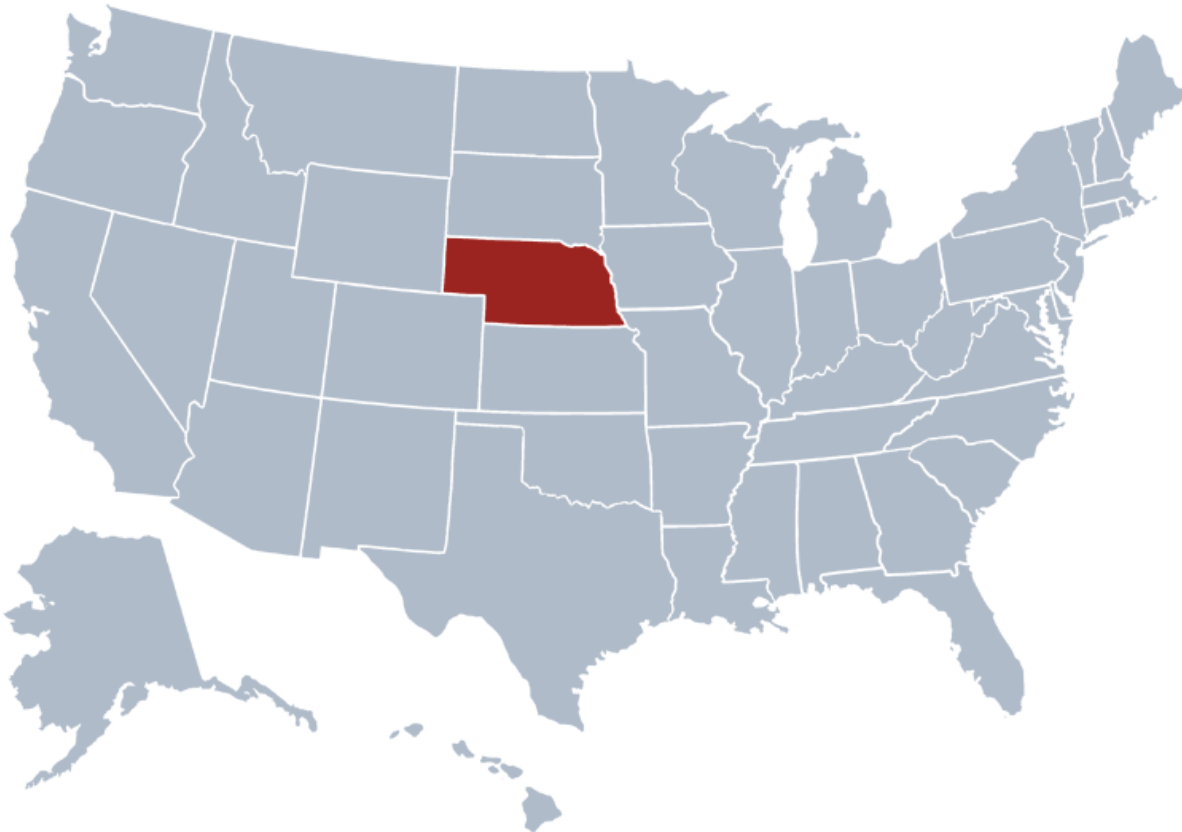
Nebraska offers a full four-season climate. The normal average daily temperatures range from -20°F (-7°C) in the winter to more than 75°F (24°C) in the summer. Annual precipitation ranges from more than 30" (762 mm) in the southeast to less than 17" (432 mm) in western Nebraska.

LOCATION

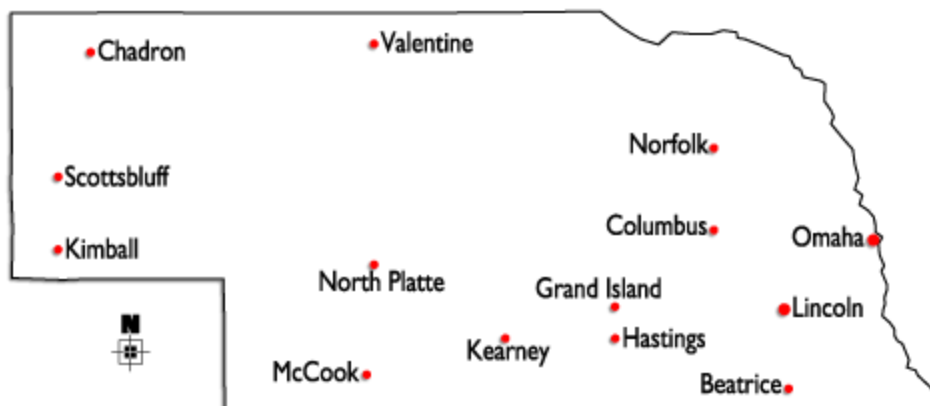
Nebraska is located in the central part of the United States in the Great Plains region. It is bordered by South Dakota on the north, Iowa and Missouri on the east,

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



Transportation

CHARTER COMPANIES

Ameristar Transportation Group

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

Arrow Stagelines

www.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

Grand Island

Central Nebraska Regional Airport

<https://flygrandisland.com>
Allegiant, American

Kearney Regional Airport

<https://flykearney.com>
United

Lincoln Airport

www.lincolnairport.com
Delta, United

North Platte Regional Airport

www.northplatteairport.com
United

Omaha

Eppley Airfield

www.flyoma.com
Air Canada, Alaska Airlines,
Allegiant Air, American, Delta,
Frontier, Southwest, United

Scottsbluff

Western Nebraska Regional Airport

<https://flyscottsbluff.com>
United



In-State Driving Distances and 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

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 DMO Contact Information

Alliance

www.visitalliance.com

Beatrice

www.visitbeatrice.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>

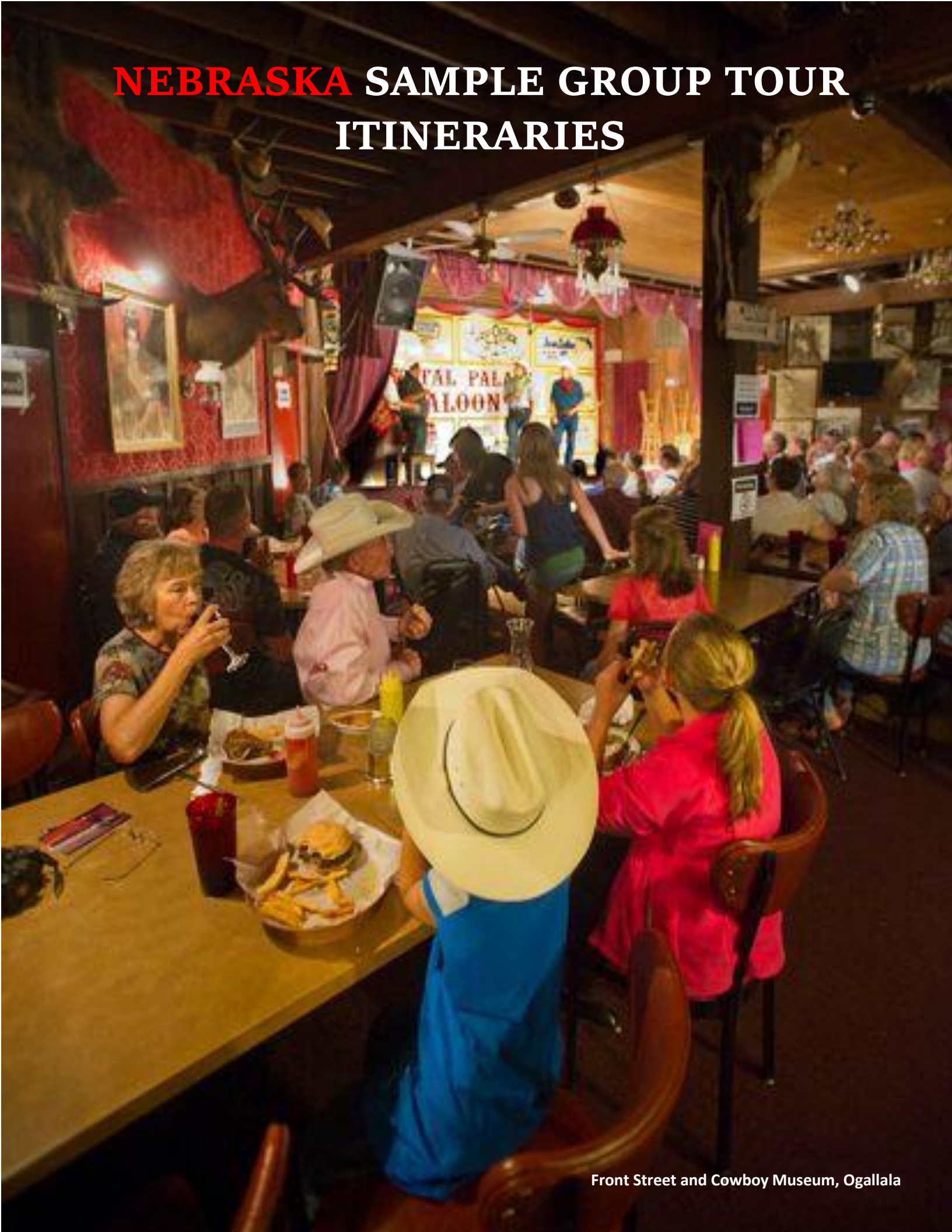
South Sioux City

www.visitsouthsiouxcity.com

York

www.yorkgroups.org

NEBRASKA SAMPLE GROUP TOUR ITINERARIES



BUFFALO BILL'S RAILS & TRAILS WEST

SAMPLE TOUR ITINERARY

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.

Travel Day to Nebraska

Overnight: North Platte

Day 1

North Platte

Overnight: North Platte

Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center

Enjoy a catered breakfast while taking 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.

Dusty Trails

Experience a truly Nebraskan activity, leisurely floating down the North Platte River in a horse watering tank. Chairs and coolers can be placed in the tanks for an even more enjoyable time.



Buffalo Bill State Historic Park, North Platte

Buffalo Bill State Historical Park

Tour the home of Colonel William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and his wife and hear more about their lives and their interesting adventures.

Lincoln County Historical Museum

Hop aboard a wagon from the park to the museum for a deliciously prepared Dutch oven lunch and a guided tour of the museum grounds, including an authentic recreated Old West town and learn more about the story of the famous World War II North Platte Canteen.

"Here's the Beef" Tour

Listen to educators from the West Central Research and Extension Office and a local chef as they 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.

Day 2

North Platte • Ogallala • Sidney

Overnight: Sidney

Grain Bin Antique Town

Stroll through salvaged and repurposed historic grain bins searching for that perfect antique treasure.

Fort Cody Trading Post

Explore one of Nebraska's most eclectic gift and souvenir shops, watch a working 20,000-piece miniature replica of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, and tour Old West exhibits in the newly-renovated museum.

Front Street and Cowboy Museum

Enjoy an authentic western style lunch in this recreation of a 1880s Old West main street in downtown Ogallala, also known as the town "too tough for Texans. The Crystal Palace Revue is a rootin' tootin' western shootout complete with cowboys and showgirls and takes place from June to mid-August.

Petrified Wood and Art Gallery

Explore Native American artifacts and delicate works of art and carvings formed from pieces of ancient petrified wood from around the world.

Boot Hill Cemetery

Recount the stories of outlaws, gamblers, and desperados who met their final resting place, buried with their boots on.

Mansion on the Hill

See how Ogallala's upper class residents lived in this fully furnished Victorian-style mansion.

Camp Lookout

Visit the oldest building in Sidney, initially built as housing for soldiers in 1867 to protect railroad workers on the Union Pacific railroad from attacks by the Sioux and Cheyenne. Re-enactors entertain groups with stories of the building and its many colorful inhabitants over the years.

Sidney's Boot Hill Cemetery

Enjoy an evening grave dousing before heading to dinner in one of Sidney's many excellent dining venues.

Day 3

Potter • Kimball • Gering

Overnight: Gering

Potter Community Theatre

Enjoy a wonderful catered breakfast where the Potter Melodrama has been providing entertainment with a variety of productions for the past 30 years.

Collective Gathering

Shop this quaint local business specializing in unique and hard-to-find antiques.



Duckpin Bowling, Potter

Potter's Historic Duckpin Bowling Alley

Step back in time to the 1920s in this restored three-lane bowling alley. It's definitely a one-of-a-kind bowling experience.

Potter Sundry

No trip to Potter is complete without a famous Tin Roof Sundae (vanilla ice cream, chocolate syrup, chocolate ice cream, marshmallow cream, and nuts).

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.

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.



Rocky Hollow Buffalo Company, Kimball

Five Rocks Amphitheatre

Enjoy an authentic Old West dinner along the Mormon and Oregon Trails where we'll enjoy an Old West dinner at Five Rocks Amphitheatre.

Day 4

Gering • Bayard

Overnight: Gering

Scotts Bluff National Monument

Visit this imposing natural formation that also was a prominent landmark for American Indians, fur traders, and Oregon and Mormon trail pioneers. At 800 feet above the North Platte River, a drive to the summit offers a tremendous view of the entire valley and the wagon ruts still visible at the base.

Wildcat Hills Nature Center

Enjoy lunch amidst the unique flora and fauna of the beautiful and rugged Wildcat Hills region.

Chimney Rock National Historic Site

Chimney Rock was the most recognized landmark along the Overland Trails. Today the newly renovated visitor center highlights the fascinating stories of the early westward migrating pioneers and other explorers and inhabitants.

Legacy of the Plains

Learn about the lives and stories of the people who explored and settled the High Plains of Nebraska. Exhibits focus on the archeology of Native American and Westward expansions, the lives of pioneering settlers, the establishment of irrigation, the diversity of cultures on the High Plains, and the innovative technologies and cultural practices of raising animals and crops in a semi-arid environment.

Day 5

Northwest Nebraska

Overnight: Fort Robinson State Historic Park

Agate Fossil Beds National Monument

Located in remote northwest Nebraska, explore this internationally recognized fossil site where mammal bones from the Miocene Epoch are on display, as well as an impressive collection of artifacts gifted to James Cook by leaders of great Native American nations like Red Cloud and American Horse. Also take in a behind-the-scenes peek at valuable artifacts that normally are not on display.

Hudson-Meng Education & Research Center

Head out onto the vast High Plains of the Oglala National Grassland and this one-of-a-kind destination housing one of the most important paleo-archeological discoveries in North America where the bones of hundreds of *Bison antiquus* (an

extinct form of the modern bison) died after the last Ice Age. Watch as modern archeologists conduct research and uncover these bones for better study.

Toadstool Geologic Park

Explore this Badlands “moonscape” and learn more about this area’s fascinating geology. The park is noted for its unusual geological formations, some in the shape of toadstools, and scientifically valuable fossils of animals that passed through this area as far back as 30 million years ago.

Day 6 Northwest Nebraska

Fort Robinson State Historic Park

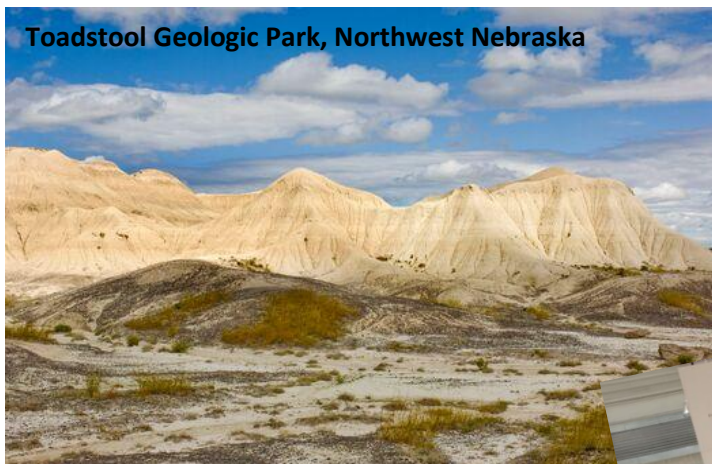
After breakfast, enjoy historic tours, jeep and stagecoach rides, and the chance to view bison and purebred Texas longhorn herds. First used as a fort from the early days of the Old West until after World War II, the fort was the site of the 1879 Cheyenne Outbreak and the death of famed Sioux Chief Crazy Horse.

Museum of the Fur Trade

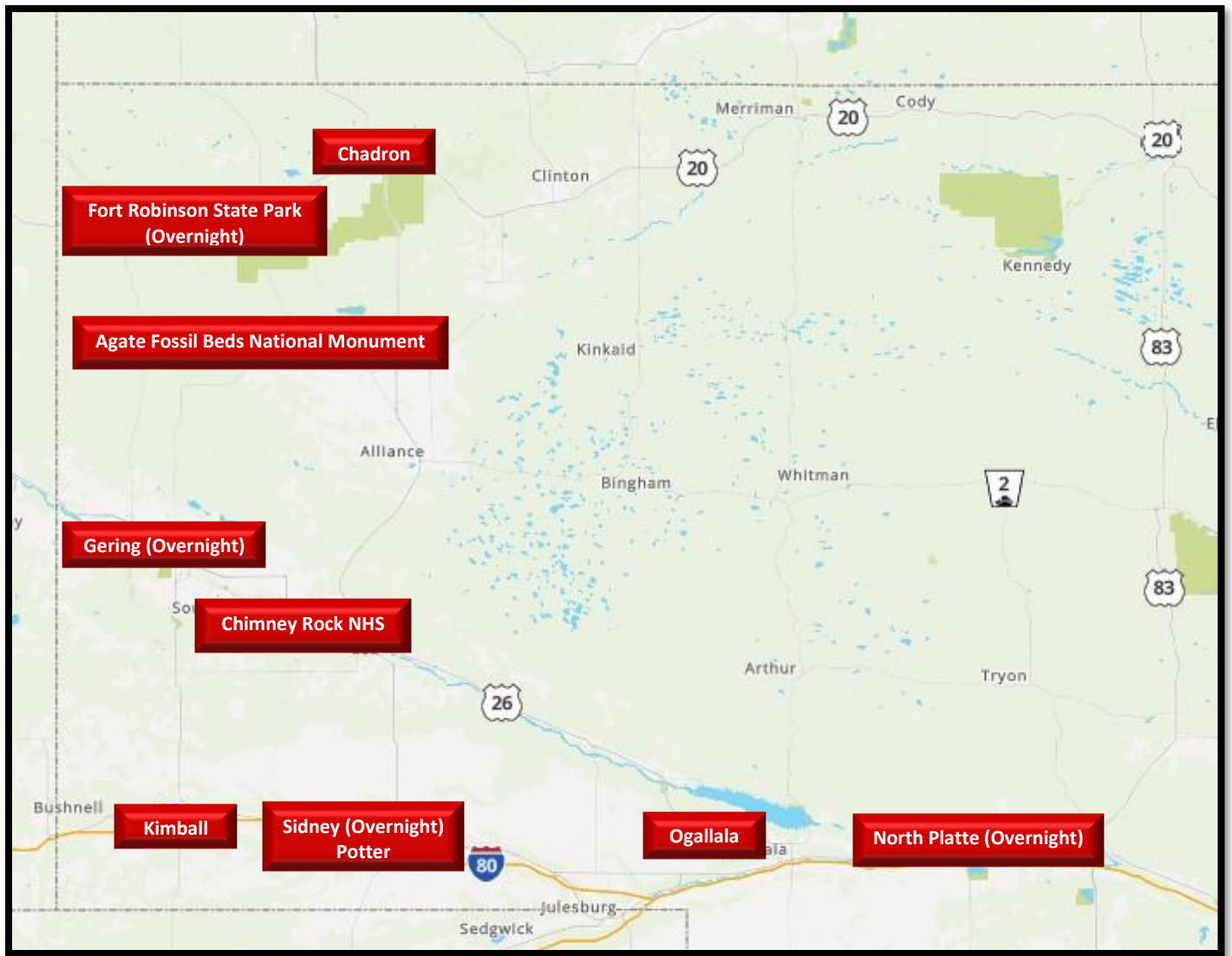
Visit the only museum in the country dedicated to preserving the nation’s fur-trading industry and explore the onsite Bordeaux Trading Post (built 1837), which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Items from the 2015 Academy Award winning movie, *The Revenant* starring Leonardo DiCaprio, will be on display.

Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center

Learn more about the history and culture of the High Plains region and the interesting life and literature of Nebraska author Mari Sandoz, author of “Old Jules” and “Crazy Horse.”



Tour Route Map



Driving Times and Distance (Drive times are approximate.)

Location	Drive Time	Distance
North Platte-Ogallala	55 min.	53 miles
Ogallala-Sidney	1 hr. 10 min.	72 miles
Sidney-Potter	25 min.	19 miles
Potter-Kimball	25 min.	21 miles
Kimball-Gering	45 min.	42 miles
Gering-Agate Fossil Beds	55 min.	49 miles
Agate Fossil Beds-Fort Robinson	50 min.	48 miles
Fort Robinson-Chadron	30 min.	25 miles

BUFFALO, BONES AND BOOKS: TRAVELING THE FOSSIL FREEWAY

SAMPLE TOUR ITINERARY

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.

Day 1

Kimball County • Potter

Overnight: Kimball

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.

1960 era Atlas E Missile Silo

This 29,500 square foot living space, located on 18 acres southwest of Kimball, is a converted underground missile silo.

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

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.

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, Bayard



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.

Day 3

Scotts Bluff County

Overnight: Gering

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.

Day 4

Northwest Nebraska

Overnight: Chadron



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.

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

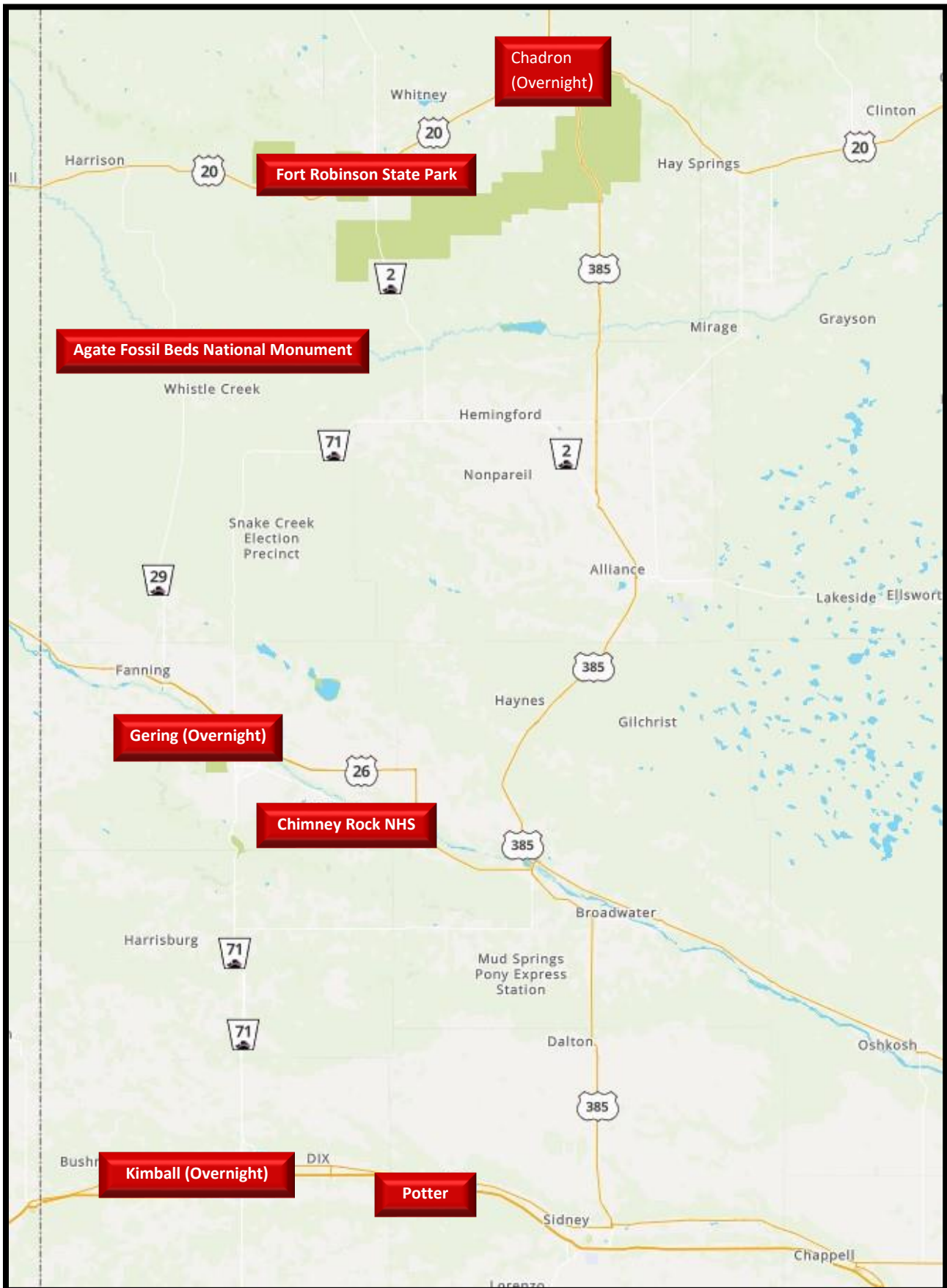
Explore history and culture of the High Plains region and the interesting life and literature of Nebraska author Mari Sandoz, author of "Old Jules" "Cheyenne Autumn," and "Crazy Horse."

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. Note: Close for renovations until January 2022.)



Tour Route Map



Driving Times and Distance
(Drive times are approximate.)

Location	Drive Time	Distance
Kimball-Gering	45 min.	42 miles
Gering-Agate Fossil Beds	55 min.	49 miles
Agate Fossil Beds-Chadron	1 hr. 15 min.	73 miles



BUFFETT, BIRDS AND BEEF: THE GREAT PLATTE RIVER ROAD

SAMPLE TOUR ITINERARY

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.

Travel Day to Nebraska

Overnight: Omaha

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.

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 Warrant 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

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.

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 Art 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.

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 down 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.



Tour Route Map



Driving Times and Distance (Drive times are approximate.)

Location	Drive Time	Distance
Omaha-Lincoln	1 hr.	60 miles
Lincoln-Grand Island	1 hr. 30 min.	93 miles
Grand Island-Kearney	50 min.	42 miles
Kearney-North Platte	1 hr. 30 min.	100 miles
North Platte-McCook	1 hr. 10 min.	68 miles



COSMOPOLITAN TO COWBOYS: OMAHA TO KIMBALL

SAMPLE TOUR ITINERARY

On this itinerary, we'll follow the path of the great American west along one of the nation's busiest migration and transportation routes, the Great Platte River Road. Today, Interstate 80 follows this route, taking us through diverse landscapes and terrains. The cosmopolitan urban centers of Omaha and Lincoln in eastern Nebraska, the fertile farmlands and migratory birding paths of central Nebraska and the Central Flyway, and the wide-open and sprawling vistas of western Nebraska make up this exciting land of contrasts.

Travel Day to Nebraska

Overnight: Omaha

Day 1

Omaha

Overnight: Omaha

Omaha Guided City Tour

Explore this exciting city on a guided citywide tour of Omaha.

Durham Museum

Located in the former Union Station, explore the history and settlement of Nebraska's largest city at one of the city's top museums. Make sure to head downstairs to the platform for the chance to walk through authentic train cars.

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.

Lithuanian Bakery & Café

This successful bakery 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.

Father Flanagan's 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.

General Crook House at Fort Omaha

Travel back in time to 1879 where General Crook and his wife Mary welcome visitors to a delicious 3-course dinner at their new Italianate-style home.

Day 2

Omaha • Bellevue • Lincoln

Overnight: Lincoln



Durham Museum, Omaha

Mormon Trail Center at Historic Winter Quarters

Stop in north Omaha to learn more about the great Mormon Migration to the west through a number of interactive exhibits and displays and the adjacent Mormon Pioneer Cemetery dating from 1846-1848.

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.

Nebraska State Capitol

Tour Nebraska's unique state capitol building, which at 15 stories and 400 feet tall is the second-tallest statehouse in the country and offers a spectacular view of the city from its 14th floor observation level.)

Larsen Tractor Test Museum

Walk through the only tractor testing museum and tractor test laboratory in the world. On display are more than 25 tractors highlighting the advancements in tractor testing technology, which established power and performance standards and solved agricultural problems around the world.

UNL Dairy Store

Time for a tour of the cheese making facility before enjoying a tasty afternoon ice cream treat.

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.

Screamers Dining & Cabaret

Dine on deliciously prepared meals while being entertained by some of the best local performers in Lincoln at this unique Haymarket establishment.



Day 3

Lincoln • York County

Overnight: Grand Island

Museum of American Speed

This 135,000 sq. ft. museum presents a chronology of automotive racing and speed equipment development while preserving, interpreting, and displaying items significant in racing and automotive history.)

Chances "R"

Dine on delicious homemade fare at one of York's most popular group dining destinations.

Clayton Museum of Ancient History

Step back in time to the ancient world of Mesopotamia, Rome, and other great civilizations. Spend a few moments reflecting in front of an accurate reproduction of the Western Wall in Jerusalem where groups also can write a prayer and leave in it the wall.

Mennonite Heritage Park

Listen to costumed storytellers tell about stories about the Henderson Mennonites and explain how this group is connected to the Amish and Old-Mennonites in Pennsylvania and how these Germans from Russia immigrated to Nebraska.

Day 4
Grand Island • Kearney
Overnight: Kearney

Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer

Noted as one of the top ten living history museums in the country, the museum complex transports visitors back to the early pioneer and settlement days of Nebraska. Explore Fonner Rotunda which boasts one of the state's finest collections of cowboy and Native American art and artifacts.

Raising Nebraska

Explore this interactive 25,000 sq. ft. museum that 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, grain bin video theater, a 50-foot-long interactive floor map of Nebraska, and an interactive dinner table.

Rowe Sanctuary

Learn more about the majestic Sandhill cranes, and other migratory birds, during their migration each spring through Nebraska's Central Flyway.

Archway

Wander through this three-floor 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.

Alley Rose

Dine on a variety of delicious offerings within a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere "On the Bricks" in downtown Kearney.



Day 5
North Platte • Ogallala
Overnight: Ogallala

Golden Spike Tower and Visitor Center

Start off the morning with breakfast and a bird's eye, 360-degree view of Union Pacific Railroad's Bailey Yard-the world's largest railroad classification yard-from atop the 95-foot tall, 8-story. Historical and regional railroad memorabilia can be purchased in the gift shop.

Buffalo Bill State Historical Park

Tour the home of Colonel William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and his wife and hear more about their lives and their interesting adventures.

Lincoln County Historical Museum

Hop aboard a wagon from the park to the museum for a deliciously prepared Dutch oven lunch and a guided tour of the museum grounds, including an authentic recreated Old West town and learn more about the story of the famous World War II North Platte Canteen.

Fort Cody Trading Post

Visit 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.

Front Street and Cowboy Museum

Enjoy an authentic western style lunch in this recreation of a 1880s Old West main street in downtown Ogallala, also known as the town “too tough for Texans. The Crystal Palace Revue is a rootin’ tootin’ western shootout complete with cowboys and showgirls and takes place from June to mid-August.

Day 6

Ogallala • Sidney • Kimball

Petrified Wood and Art Gallery

Explore Native American artifacts and delicate works of art and carvings formed from pieces of ancient petrified wood from around the world.

Camp Lookout

Visit the oldest building in Sidney, initially built as housing for soldiers in 1867 to protect railroad workers on the Union Pacific railroad from attacks by the Sioux and Cheyenne. Re-enactors entertain groups with stories of the building and its many colorful inhabitants over the years.

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.

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.



Tour Route Map (Nebraska Interstate 80)
 (Top: Eastern/Central Nebraska, Bottom: Western Nebraska)



Driving Times and Distance
 (Drive times are approximate.)

Location	Drive Time	Distance
Omaha-Lincoln	1 hr.	60 miles
Lincoln-York	55 min.	51 miles
York-Grand Island	55 min.	49 miles
Grand Island-Kearney	50 min.	42 miles
Kearney-North Platte	1 hr. 30 min.	99 miles
North Platte-Ogallala	55 min.	54 miles
Ogallala-Sidney	1 hr. 15 min.	72 miles
Sidney-Kimball	40 min.	39 miles

EASTERN NEBRASKA AND THE CENTRAL FLYWAY

SAMPLE TOUR ITINERARY

This itinerary takes us on a journey from the bright lights and big cities of eastern Nebraska to the rich, rolling farmland of Nebraska's Central Flyway where more than 500,000 Sandhill cranes migrate through each spring on their journey back to their breeding and nesting grounds up north. We'll explore how our nation grew and expanded westward, learn about new agricultural techniques and advances that help to feed the world, and explore ways to protect and preserve our planet's natural environment.

DAY 1

Bellevue • Papillion

Overnight: La Vista

Offutt Air Force Base

Visit the headquarters of the U. S. Strategic Command, Air Force Weather Agency, and the 55th Wing of the Air Combat Command. Note: Additional security and screening procedures required for access to the base.)

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.)

Polish Heritage Center

Explore Poland while enjoying a traditional Polish dinner and entertainment.



DAY 2

Omaha

Overnight: Lincoln

National Park Service Visitor Center

Meet Meriwether Lewis and listen to his account of his journey up the Missouri River with William Clark before embarking on an exciting guided city tour of Omaha.

Durham Museum

Explore the history and settlement of Nebraska's largest city at one of the city's top museums. Also be sure to head downstairs to the platform for the chance to walk through authentic train cars.

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

Tour Omaha's only Greek Orthodox Byzantine-style church followed by a traditional Greek lunch and entertainment, and lessons in Greek dancing.

Lithuanian Bakery & Café

Visit this amazing bakery that serves eclectic breads and tortes based on “Old Country” recipes while listening to stories of the family and how they immigrated to Nebraska.

Father Flanagan’s 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.

Screamers Dining & Cabaret

Dine on deliciously prepared meals while being entertained by some of the best local performers in Lincoln at this unique Haymarket establishment.

DAY 3

Lincoln • Grand Island

Overnight: Grand Island

Nebraska State Capitol

At 15 stories and 400 feet tall, this is the second-tallest statehouse in the country and offers a spectacular view of the city from the 14th floor observation deck.

Larsen Tractor Test Museum

This unique museum is the only tractor testing museum and tractor test laboratory in the world. Its exhibits include more than 25 tractors highlighting the advancements in tractor testing technology, which established power and performance standards and solved agricultural problems worldwide.

International Quilt Study Center

Visit the world’s largest publicly held quilt collection, and tour its high-tech storage facility and quilt exhibitions before going “behind the scenes” to view quilts hundreds of years old.



Larsen Tractor Test Museum, Lincoln

Runza Restaurant

Enjoy a Nebraska tradition for lunch. Introduced by German from Russia settlers, the Runza sandwich is a unique combination of ground beef, cabbage, and spices baked in a fresh bun.

UNL Dairy Store

Stop for a tasty post-lunch or afternoon ice cream treat and learn how the on-site plant produces delicious ice creams, cheeses, and meats.

1937 Art-deco Grand Theatre

Take in an informational and interesting introductory program about the Sandhill cranes and their annual migration in Nebraska’s Central Flyway.

Raising Nebraska

Explore this interactive 25,000 sq. ft. museum that 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, grain bin video theater, a 50-foot-long interactive floor map of Nebraska, and an interactive dinner table.

Tommy Gunz Bistro

Dinner includes tasty hand-prepared entrees within a prohibition era speakeasy experience.

DAY 4

Grand Island • Kearney • York

Overnight: Nebraska City

Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center

Start the day with a pre-dawn excursion for an orientation and guided sunrise crane viewing tour in a blind along the Platte River to view the majestic Sandhill cranes up-close and in their natural habitat. This truly is one of the most impressive and spiritual experiences out there.

Archway

Explore this impressive interactive museum that commemorates 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.



Sandhill Crane Spring Migration, Central Flyway

Alley Rose

Dine on a variety of delicious lunch offerings within a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere.

Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer

Noted as one of the top ten living history museums in the country, the museum complex transports us 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.

Chances "R"

Dinner tonight is at one of York's most popular group tour destinations.

Lied Lodge & Conference Center

Overnight in Nebraska in one of the best examples of environmental stewardship in building design and use in the world.

DAY 5

Nebraska City

Timber Dining Room

Feast on an excellent breakfast before venturing out to explore Nebraska City, the official Home of Arbor Day.

Arbor Day Farm

While at this 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.

Arbor Lodge State Historical Park

Explore 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. Walk through the rooms filled with authentic furnishings and displays that capture the life and times of this visionary.

Valentino's Grand Italian Buffet

Before our departure, we'll enjoy lunch at a Nebraska original and one-of-a-kind, No trip to Nebraska is complete with having at least one slice of Valentino's pizza, which has been around since 1957.

Tour Route Map



Driving Times and Distance (Drive time are approximate.)

Location	Drive Time	Distance
Omaha-Lincoln	1 hr.	59 miles
Lincoln-Grand Island	1 hr. 30 min.	93 miles
Grand Island-Kearney	50 min.	42 miles
Kearney-York	1 hr. 25 min.	86 miles
York-Nebraska City	1 hr. 40 min.	100 miles

THE WORLD'S BREADBASKET: AN AGRICULTURAL TOUR THROUGH NEBRASKA

SAMPLE TOUR ITINERARY

Even though Nebraska boasts two major urban metropolitan areas, it remains a true agricultural and rural state. Center-pivot irrigation was invented in Nebraska, and this unique type of irrigation system provides the much-needed moisture to the state's hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland, helping to make Nebraska the Breadbasket to the world. Nebraska's agricultural roots run deep and on this itinerary, we'll cross the state from Omaha to Kimball, visiting many of its agricultural businesses, attractions, and farm-to-table restaurants.

DAY 1

Omaha • Waverly

Overnight: Lincoln

Farm to Table Lunch

Omaha is on the forefront of the fresh food movement where chefs use fresh locally produced ingredients for their culinary dishes.

Florence Mill

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the mill began as the gristmill for Mormon Winter Quarters in 1846 built under the supervision of Brigham Young. Today, it and grain elevator are a cultural attraction housing a museum, art gallery, and farmers market.

CLAAS

Enjoy an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the North American headquarters for CLAAS of America, a German combine manufacturer, where hundreds of LEXION combines are assembled each year in this state-of-the-art facility.

Lakehouse Farm

Tour this sustainable farm near Lincoln then enjoy a delicious dinner prepared using season and locally grown ingredients at Prairie Plate Restaurant.

DAY 2

Lincoln • Nebraska City

Overnight: Lincoln

Arbor Day Farm

Explore this 260-acre working farm orchard and forest, which also is a National Historic Landmark with an experienced nature interpreter. Visit the 50-foot-high Tree Adventure treehouse for an amazing view of the farm and take home a tree seedling from the Lied Greenhouse.

Arbor Lodge State Historical Park

Wander the rooms of 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. The mansion's rooms are filled with authentic furnishings and displays that capture the life and times of this great Nebraska visionary.



Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard

This working orchard and vineyard is the best destination for fresh, locally grown produce and other homegrown Nebraska products.

Nebraska State Capitol

At 15 stories and 400 feet tall, this is the second-tallest statehouse in the country and offers a spectacular view of the city from the 14th floor observation deck.

DAY 3

Lincoln • York County

Overnight: Grand Island

Larsen Tractor Test Museum

This unique museum is the only tractor testing museum and tractor test laboratory in the world. Its exhibits include more than 25 tractors highlighting the advancements in tractor testing technology, which established power and performance standards and solved agricultural problems worldwide.

International Quilt Study Center

Visit the world's largest publicly held quilt collection, and tour its high-tech storage facility and quilt exhibitions before going "behind the scenes" to view quilts hundreds of years old.

UNL Dairy Store

Stop for a tasty post-lunch or afternoon ice cream treat and learn how the on-site plant produces delicious ice creams, cheeses, and meats.

Wessels Living History Farm

Learn first-hand how farm life and agriculture have changed from the 1920s to modern day farming techniques and technologies at this interactive and educational working farm.

Mennonite Heritage Park

Listen to costumed storytellers tell about stories about the Henderson Mennonites and explain how this group is connected to the Amish and Old-Mennonites in Pennsylvania and how these Germans from Russia immigrated to Nebraska.

DAY 4

Grand Island • Hastings • Kearney

Overnight: North Platte

Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer

Noted as one of the top ten living history museums in the country, the museum complex transports visitors back to the early pioneer and settlement days of Nebraska. Explore Fonner Rotunda which boasts one of the state's finest collections of cowboy and Native American art and artifacts.

Raising Nebraska

Explore this interactive 25,000 sq. ft. museum that 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, grain bin video theater, a 50-foot-long interactive floor map of Nebraska, and an interactive dinner table.



Wessels Living History Farm, York

Prairie Loft Center for Outdoor and Agricultural Learning

At this unique interactive agricultural center, gain a deeper understanding of agriculture and how it connects people to the land and their food.

Archway

Wander through this three-floor 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.

DAY 5

North Platte

Overnight: North Platte

Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center

Enjoy a catered breakfast while taking 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.

Buffalo Bill State Historical Park

Tour the home of Colonel William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and his wife and hear more about their lives and their interesting adventures.

Lincoln County Historical Museum

Hop aboard a wagon from the park to the museum for a deliciously prepared Dutch oven lunch and a guided tour of the museum grounds, including an authentic recreated Old West town and learn more about the story of the famous World War II North Platte Canteen.

"Here's the Beef" Tour

Listen to educators from the West Central Research and Extension Office and a local chef as they 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.

DAY 6

Ogallala • Potter

Overnight: Kimball

Note: Groups enter Mountain Time Zone (lose one hour) between North Platte and Ogallala.

Lake McConaughy Visitors Center and Water Interpretive Center

Perched on a bluff near Lake McConaughy, the state's largest lake, the visitor center features interactive educational exhibits on the Platte River and High Plains Aquifer, and shows how important water conservation and stewardship are to helping Nebraska become an agricultural center.

Front Street and Cowboy Museum

Explore this authentic recreation of an Old West 1880s Main Street in Ogallala, the "town too tough for Texas." The Crystal Palace Revue is a rootin' tootin' western shootout complete with cowboys and showgirls and takes place from June to mid-August.

Petrified Wood and Art Gallery

Explore Native American artifacts and delicate works of art and carvings formed from pieces of ancient petrified wood from around the world.

Mansion on the Hill

See how Ogallala's upper class residents lived in this fully furnished Victorian-style mansion. A catered meal on site is possible.

Potter Sundry

No trip to Potter is complete without a famous Tin Roof Sundae (vanilla ice cream, chocolate syrup, chocolate ice cream, marshmallow cream, and nuts).

Potter's Historic Duckpin Bowling Alley

Step back in time to the 1920s in this restored three-lane bowling alley. It's definitely a one-of-a-kind bowling experience.

DAY 7

Kimball • Gering

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.

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.

Double L Country Store and Café

This quaint restaurant/gift shop where fresh ingredients, mouthwatering pies, excellent daily specials, and great gift ideas make this hilltop spot a "must stop at."

Legacy of the Plains

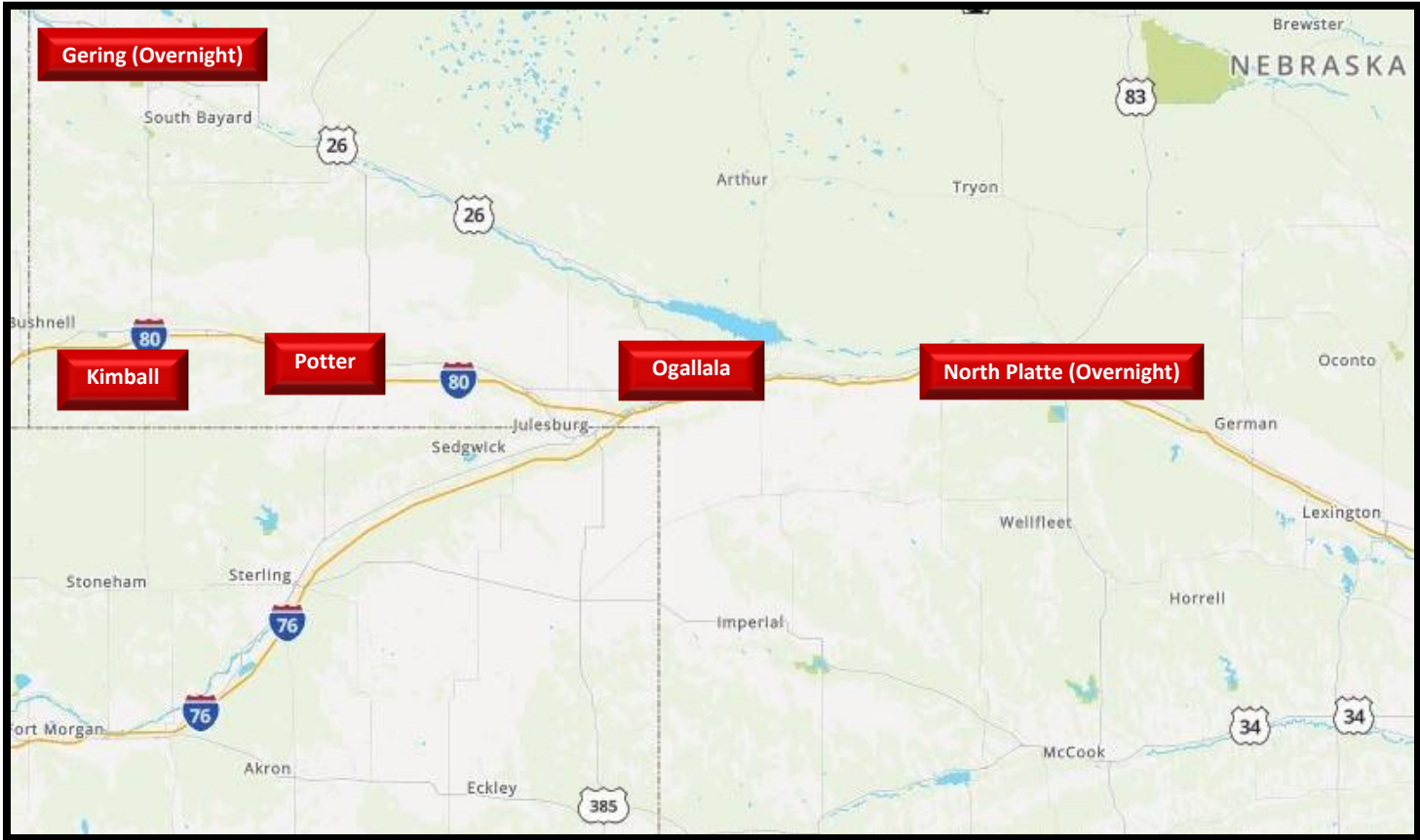
Learn about the lives and stories of the people who explored and settled the High Plains of Nebraska. Exhibits focus on the archeology of Native American and Westward expansions, the lives of pioneering settlers, the establishment of irrigation, the diversity of cultures on the High Plains, and the innovative technologies and cultural practices of raising animals and crops in a semi-arid environment.



Tour Route Map (East/Central)



Tour Route Map (West)



Driving Times and Distance
(Drive times are approximate.)

Location	Drive Time	Distance
Omaha-Lincoln	1 hr.	60 miles
Lincoln-Nebraska City	1 hr.	53 miles
Lincoln-York	50 min.	51 miles
York-Grand Island	53 min.	50 miles
Grand Island-Hastings	30 min.	25 miles
Hastings-Kearney	58 min.	58 miles
Kearney-North Platte	1 hr. 35 min.	99 miles
North Platte-Ogallala	55 min.	54 miles
Ogallala-Potter	1 hr. 20 min.	89 miles
Potter-Kimball	25 min.	21 miles
Kimball-Gering	42 min.	41 miles

Florence Mill, Omaha



Raising Nebraska, Grand Island

EASTERN NEBRASKA ENCOUNTERS

SAMPLE TOUR ITINERARY

Explore eastern Nebraska's many unique attractions, destinations, and communities. Outdoor adventures, innovative agricultural technology, Native American history and culture, creative works of art, and amazing food are part of all the many opportunities that make up this exciting land west of the mighty Missouri River.

Travel Day to Omaha

Fremont

Overnight: Omaha

Bryson's Airboat Tours

Speeding down the Platte River in an airboat in Fremont is an awesome way to start your eastern Nebraska encounters experience.

DAY 1

Omaha

Overnight: Omaha

Omaha Guided City Tour

Explore this exciting city on a guided citywide tour of Omaha.

Durham Museum

Located in the former Union Station, this top museum offers highlights the history and development of Nebraska's largest city. Make sure to visit the authentic train cars on display on the downstairs station platform.

Historic Old Market District

Wind down the day in this turn-of-the-century marketplace of brick streets and buildings with a variety of quaint restaurants and shops.

Lauritzen Gardens

This exceptional living museum features four seasonal horticultural displays of beautiful indoor floral exhibits, outdoor display plantings and natural plant communities. Wander through 100 acres of gardens, including a rose garden, Victorian garden, children's garden, model railroad garden, and the Marjorie K. Daugherty Conservatory. Seasonal narrated tram tours of the gardens also are available.

Father Flanagan's Boys Town

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.



DAY 2

Tekamah • Bancroft • Stanton • Norfolk

Overnight: Norfolk

Master's Hand Candle Company & Gift Shop

Known locally as “every woman’s dream store,” this unique gift shop has everything from excellent lunches, jewelry, candles, home décor, and chocolates to hands-on learning classes where you can make your own candle or flower arrangement to take home. Make sure to check out the “work of art” restroom.

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.

Red Road Herbs

Reconnect with and learn all about herbs and how to use them in our everyday lives. More than 100 herbs grow in cultivated gardens in this cozy woodland setting. Hands-on learning experiences about herbs and how to use them can be included.

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.

Black Cow Fat Pig

Dine in one of the premier steakhouses in northeast Nebraska.

DAY 3

Norfolk • Columbus • Genoa • York

Overnight: Lincoln

Elkhorn Valley Museum & Research Center

Meet a young Johnny Carson who will show you the exhibit dedicated to his long television career. 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.

Larson Dairy Farm

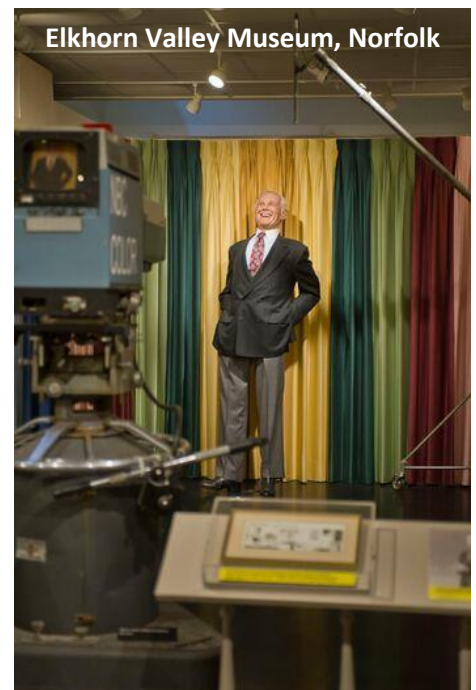
Learn more about modern, innovative farming technology at this fully automated dairy farm, one of three robotic dairies in Nebraska.

Daniels Produce

Visit this 600 acre family owned and operated produce grower, packer, and shipper working farm.

Genoa Indian School

In operation from 1884 to 1934, this was one of the nation's 16 Indian Boarding Schools established by the federal government. Gain a deeper understanding of what everyday life was like at the school for its students.



Wessel's Living History Farm

Learn first-hand how farm life and agriculture have changed from the 1920s to modern day farming techniques and technologies.

Clayton Museum of Ancient History

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.

DAY 4

Lincoln • Beatrice

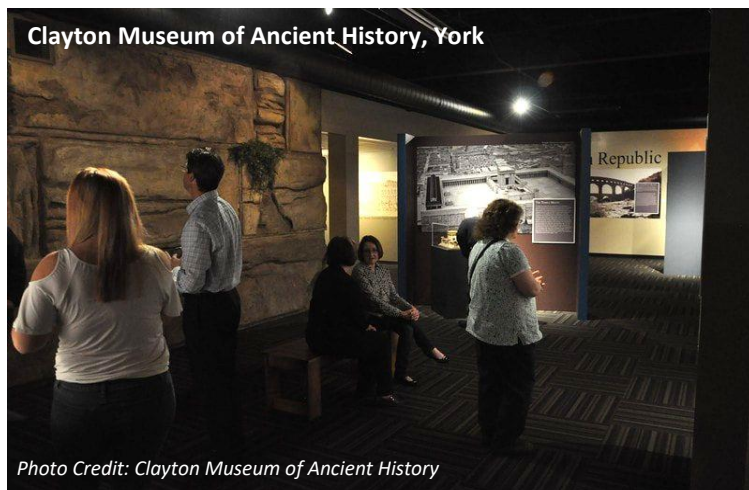
Overnight: Lincoln

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 14th floor observation deck.

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.



Museum of American Speed

This 135,000 sq. ft. museum presents a chronology of automotive racing and speed equipment development while preserving, interpreting, and displaying items significant in racing and automotive history.

Homestead National Monument of America

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. Explore the Homestead Heritage Center, hiking trails through virgin prairie grasses, and living history demonstrations.

DAY 5

Lincoln • Nebraska City

Overnight: Lincoln

International Quilt Study Center

Explore this wonderful museums that houses the world's largest publicly held quilt collection. Tour its high-tech storage facility and quilt exhibitions before going "behind the scenes" to view quilts that are hundreds of years old.

Arbor Day Farm

Explore this 260-acre working farm orchard and forest, which also is a National Historic Landmark with an experienced nature interpreter. Visit the 50-foot-high Tree Adventure treehouse for an amazing view of the farm and take home a tree seedling from the Lied Greenhouse.

Arbor Lodge State Historical Park

Wander the rooms of 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. The mansion's rooms are filled with authentic furnishings and displays that capture the life and times of this great Nebraska visionary.

Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard

This working orchard and vineyard is the best destination for fresh, locally grown produce and other homegrown Nebraska products.

DAY 6

Greenwood • Ashland • Bellevue

Overnight: Omaha (optional)

Baker's Candies

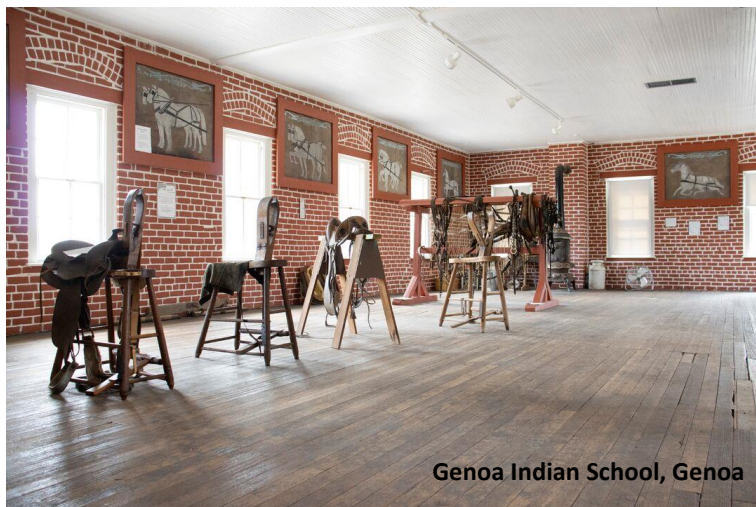
Explore the official home of a Nebraska tradition, the world-class chocolate melt-a-ways.

Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum

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. After lunch take a turn in the museum's FS-VC "dual system" flight simulator and be immersed into the realism of flight through state-of-the-art motion control and high-performance visuals and sounds.

Offutt Air Force Base

Visit the headquarters of the U. S. Strategic Command, Air Force Weather Agency, and the 55th Wing of the Air Combat Command. Note: Additional security and screening procedures required for access to the base.)

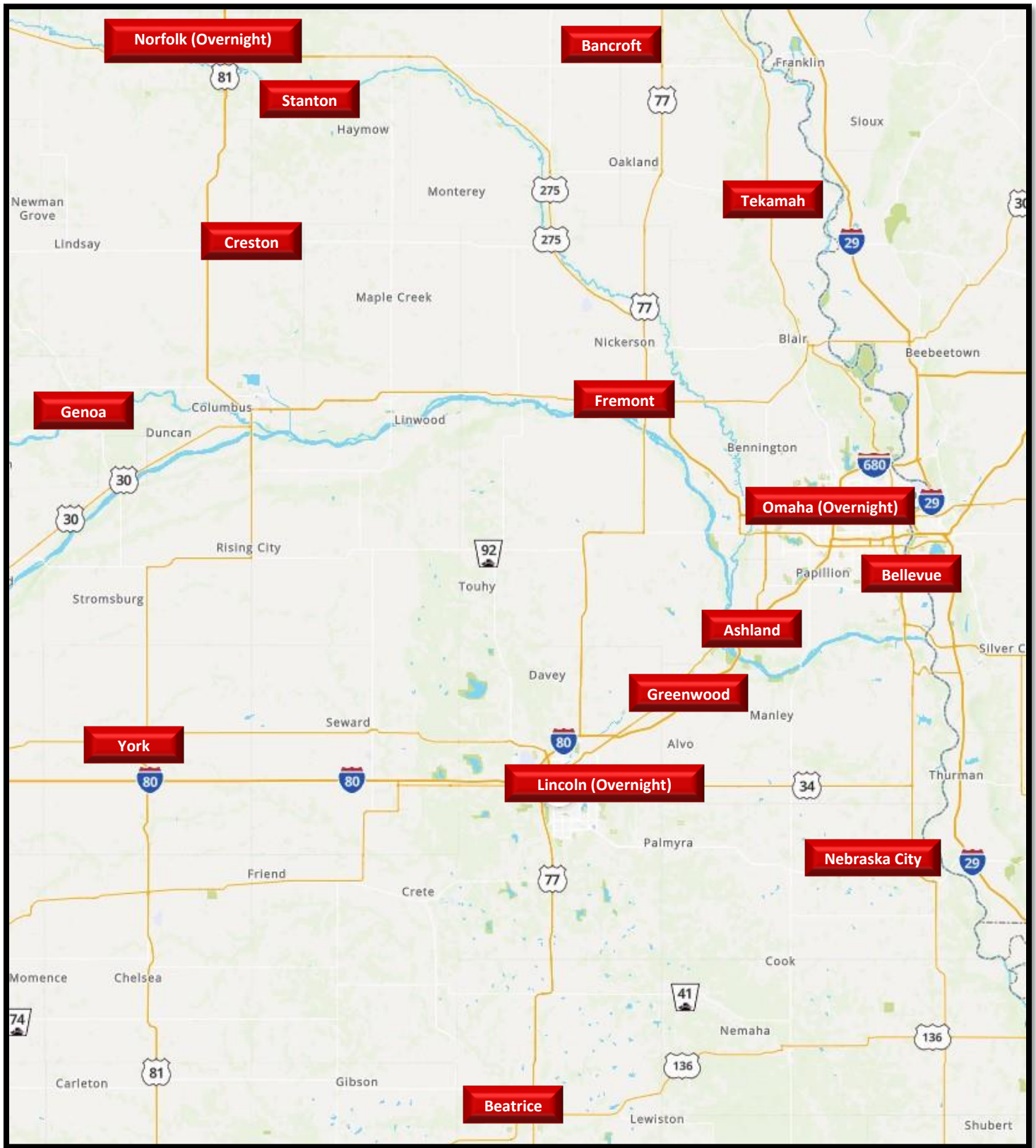


Genoa Indian School, Genoa



Homestead National Monument, Beatrice

Tour Route Map



Driving Times and Distance
(Drive times are approximate.)

Location	Drive Time	Distance
Omaha-Fremont	45 min.	37 miles
Omaha-Tekamah	1 hr.	44 miles
Tekamah-Bancroft	35 min.	33 miles
Bancroft-Norfolk	50 min.	46 miles
Norfolk-Genoa	1 hr.	60 miles
Genoa-York	50 min.	45 miles
York-Lincoln	50 min.	51 miles
Lincoln-Nebraska City	1 hr.	54 miles
Lincoln-Beatrice	45 min.	42 miles
Lincoln-Bellevue	1 hr.	57 miles

Lauritzen Gardens, Omaha



Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum, Ashland



WESTWARD HO! FOLLOW THE OVERLAND TRAILS THROUGH NEBRASKA

SAMPLE TOUR ITINERARY

In the 1800's, the journey to a new life in the west was a long and arduous one. Fortunately, today we can cover the same territory quickly and easily in a modern motorcoach. On this itinerary, we'll follow the footsteps of early explorers and pioneers as we go on our own journey across this great state following the Mormon, Oregon, and California Trails, and the Pony Express.

Travel Day to Nebraska

Overnight: Omaha

DAY 1

Omaha

Overnight: Omaha

Omaha Guided City Tour

Explore this exciting city on a guided citywide tour of Omaha.

Durham Museum

Located in the former Union Station, this top museum offers highlights the history and development of Nebraska's largest city. Make sure to visit the authentic train cars on display on the downstairs station platform.

Historic Old Market District

Enjoy a delicious lunch in one of the Old Market's many excellent restaurants before exploring this turn-of-the-century marketplace of brick streets and buildings full of quaint shops and boutiques.

Mormon Trail Center at Historic Winter Quarters

Learn more about the great Mormon Migration to the west through a number of interactive exhibits and displays before heading out to the adjacent Mormon Pioneer Cemetery dating from 1846-1848.

Father Flanagan's Boys Town

Let an experienced guide 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.

DAY 2

Lincoln

Overnight: Lincoln

Museum of American Speed

This 135,000 sq. ft. museum presents a chronology of automotive racing and speed equipment development while preserving, interpreting, and displaying items significant in racing and automotive history.

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 14th floor observation deck.

International Quilt Study Center

Explore this wonderful museums that houses the world's largest publicly held quilt collection. Tour its high-tech storage facility and quilt exhibitions before going "behind the scenes" to view quilts that are hundreds of years old.

Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum

Visit 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 solved agricultural problems worldwide.

UNL Dairy Store

Stop for a tasty post-lunch or afternoon ice cream treat and learn how the on-site plant produces delicious ice creams, cheeses, and meats.

Historic Haymarket District

Be entertained and dine on delicious fare in Lincoln's Historic Haymarket District before exploring this unique district's many eclectic shops and boutiques.

DAY 3

Beatrice • Wymore • Fairbury • Red Cloud

Overnight: Hastings

Welsh Heritage Center

This nice interpretive center highlights the stories of the Welsh settlers who called southeast Nebraska home. Groups also can enjoy a traditional Welsh tea or breakfast.

Homestead National Monument of America

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. Explore the Homestead Heritage Center, hiking trails through virgin prairie grasses, and living history demonstrations.

Rock Creek Station State Historical Park

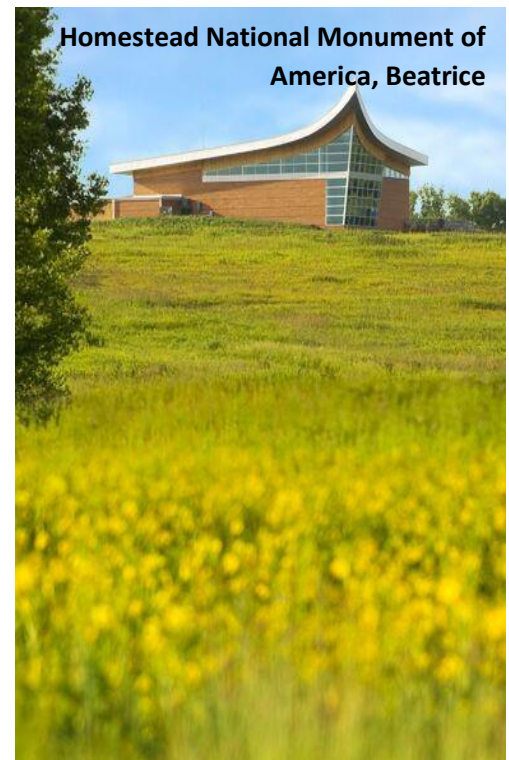
The Oregon Trail entered Nebraska in southeast Nebraska and this state historical park is one of the best sites to view original wagon ruts of the Oregon and California trails. This also is where "Wild" Bill Hickok gained notoriety for killing his first victims.

Willa Cather Childhood Home and Historic Sites

Tour Pulitzer Prize-winning author Willa Cather's childhood home and seven renovated buildings that were important to her life and books highlighting life and culture of southcentral Nebraska.

National Willa Cather Center

This restored 1885 historic building in downtown Red Cloud houses a bookstore, art gallery, theatre, and Willa Cather memorabilia.



DAY 4
Hastings • Grand Island • Kearney

Overnight: North Platte

Note: Tour groups that come to Nebraska's Central Flyway in the spring (mid-February to mid-March) can add an early morning or evening Sandhill crane migration viewing, one of the world's most spectacular animal migrations at **Rowe Sanctuary and Iain Nicolson Audubon Center** (Kearney) and **Crane Trust Nature and Visitor Center** (Grand Island) to their itinerary. **Dusty Trails** (North Platte) also offers guided Sandhill crane viewing tours during the day.

Hastings Museum

Home to one of the best natural history collections in the state, the museum's includes the one-of-a-kind *Kool-Aid: Discover the Dream* interactive exhibit that highlights the story of the birth of one of America's favorite soft drinks. Lifelike murals and replicas, a fiber-optic river of Kool-Aid, interactive kiosks and the original Kool-Aid Man costume tell the story. No visit to the museum is complete without taking in an amazing show in the planetarium.

Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer

Noted as one of the top ten living history museums in the country, this museum complex transports you 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.

Raising Nebraska

Explore this interactive 25,000 sq. ft. museum that 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, grain bin video theater, a 50-foot-long interactive floor map of Nebraska, and an interactive dinner table.

Archway

This impressive, three-story, interactive museum commemorates the nation's westward expansion and is the only tourist attraction in the nation located over a federal interstate highway.

DAY 5
North Platte • Ogallala

Overnight: Ogallala

Note: Groups enter the Mountain Time Zone between North Platte and Ogallala (lose one hour).

Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center

Enjoy a catered breakfast while taking 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.

Buffalo Bill State Historical Park

Tour the home of Colonel William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and his wife and hear more about their lives and their interesting adventures.

Lincoln County Historical Museum

Hop aboard a wagon from the park to the museum for a deliciously prepared Dutch oven lunch and a guided tour of the museum grounds, including an authentic recreated Old West town and learn more about the story of the famous World War II North Platte Canteen.



Fort Cody Trading Post

Explore one of Nebraska's most eclectic gift and souvenir shops, watch a working 20,000-piece miniature replica of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, and tour Old West exhibits in the newly-renovated museum.

Front Street and Cowboy Museum

Enjoy an authentic western style lunch in this recreation of a 1880s Old West main street in downtown Ogallala, also known as the town "too tough for Texans. The Crystal Palace Revue is a rootin' tootin' western shootout complete with cowboys and showgirls and takes place from June to mid-August.

Petrified Wood and Art Gallery

Explore Native American artifacts and delicate works of art and carvings formed from pieces of ancient petrified wood from around the world.

DAY 6

Ogallala • Lewellen • Bayard • Gering

Overnight: Gering

Ash Hollow State Historical Park

Explore Ash Hollow Cave and learn about the area's history, archaeology, paleontology and Native Americans at the visitor center. Afterward, view original pioneer wagon ruts still visible today.

The Most Unlikely Place

Enjoy a delicious lunch prepared with locally produced ingredients while admiring the many gorgeous pastels, watercolors, glass etchings, and wood sculptures that were created by local and regional artists.

Chimney Rock National Historic Site Bayard



Chimney Rock National Historic Site

Chimney Rock was the most recognized landmark along the Overland Trails. Today the newly renovated visitor center highlights the fascinating stories of the early westward migrating pioneers and other explorers and inhabitants.

Scotts Bluff National Monument

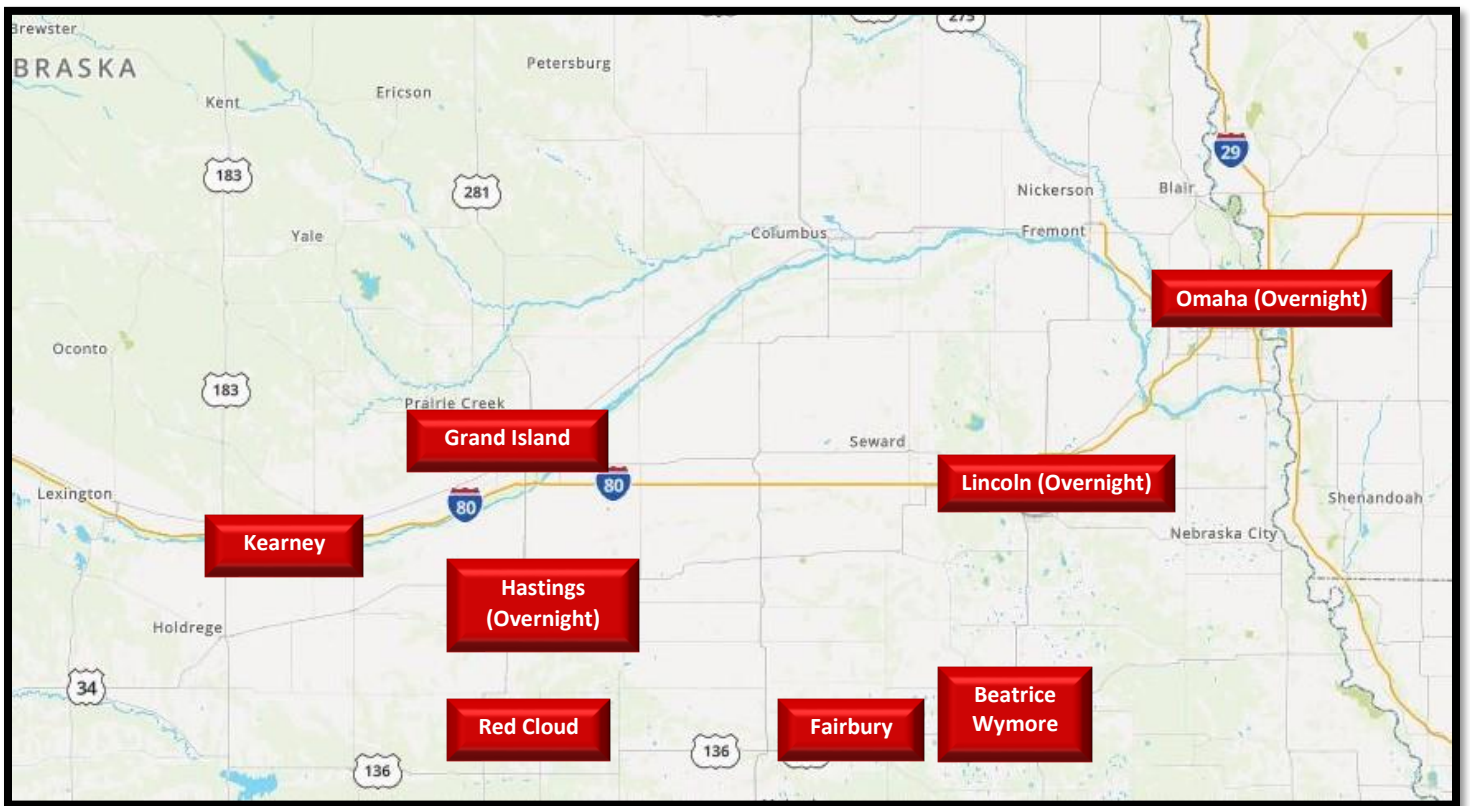
Visit this imposing natural formation that also was a prominent landmark for American Indians, fur traders, and Oregon and Mormon trail pioneers. At 800 feet above the North Platte River, a drive to the summit offers a tremendous view of the entire valley and the wagon ruts still visible at the base.

Legacy of the Plains

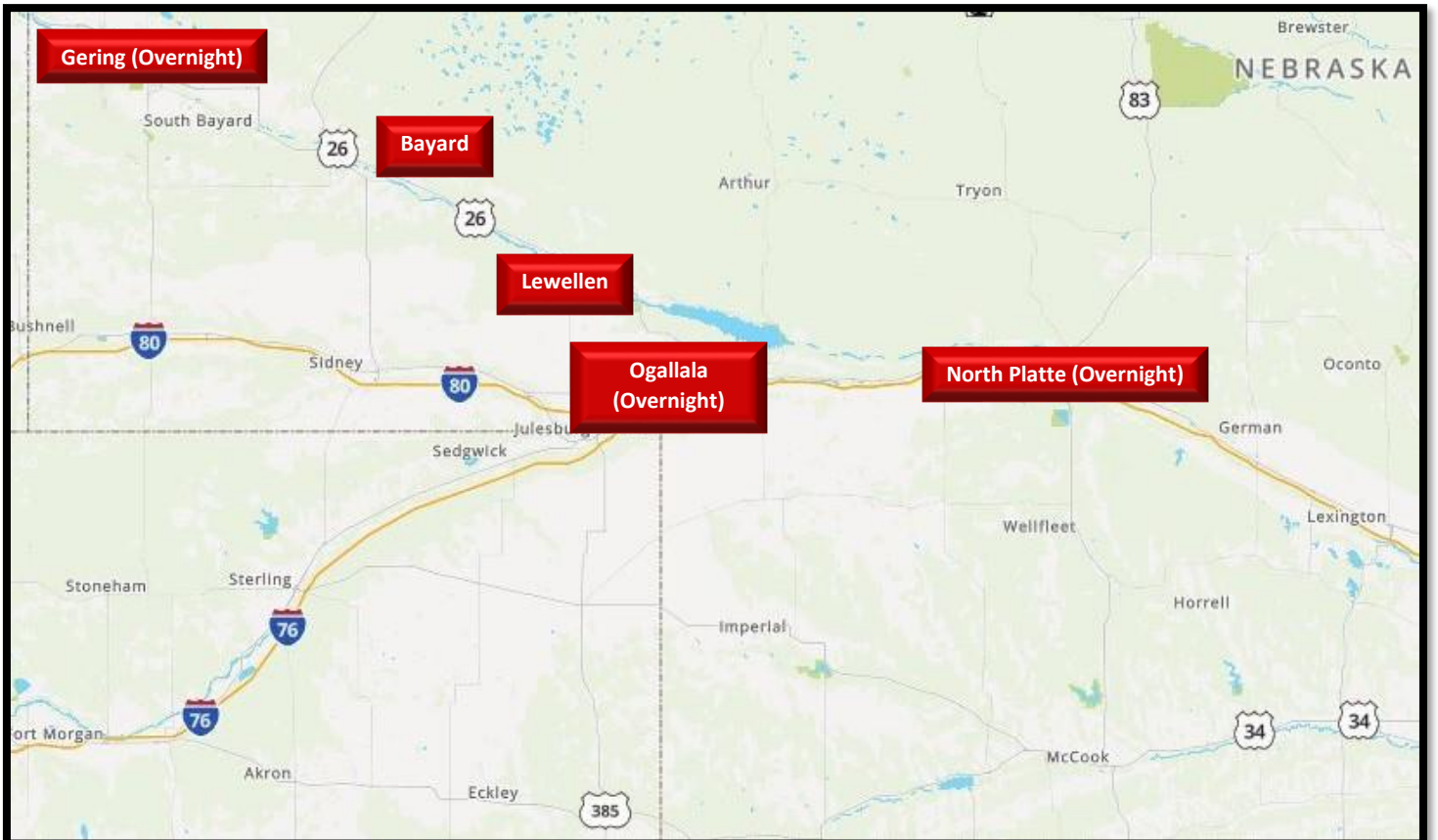
Learn about the lives and stories of the people who explored and settled the High Plains of Nebraska. Exhibits focus on the archeology of Native American and Westward expansions, the lives of pioneering settlers, the establishment of irrigation, the diversity of cultures on the High Plains, and the innovative technologies and cultural practices of raising animals and crops in a semi-arid environment.

Note: The Oregon and Mormon Trails continued into Wyoming, which would be a great add-on to this Nebraska sample tour itinerary.

Tour Route Map (East/Central)

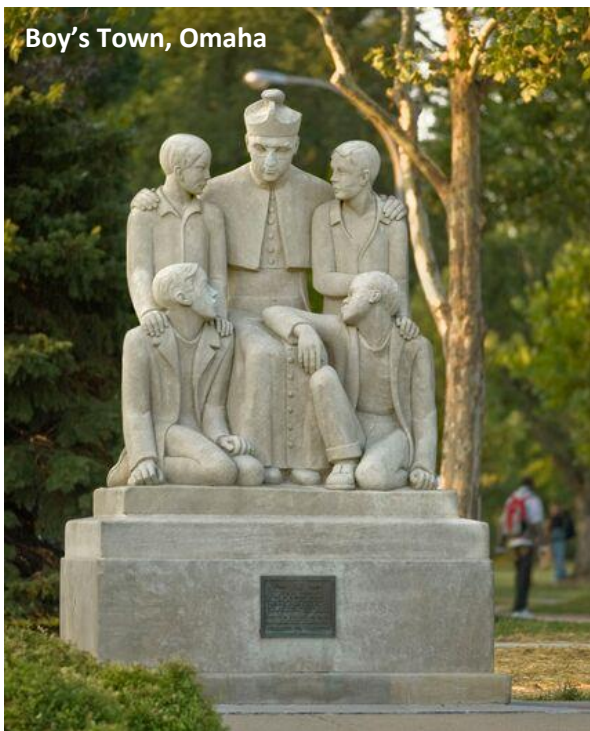


Tour Route Map (West)



Driving Times and Distance
(Drive times are approximate.)

Location	Drive Time	Distance
Omaha-Lincoln	1 hr.	60 miles
Lincoln-Beatrice	50 min.	42 miles
Beatrice-Wymore	15 min.	14 miles
Wymore-Fairbury	40 min.	35 miles
Fairbury-Red Cloud	1 hr. 15 min.	75 miles
Red Cloud-Hastings	45 min.	41 miles
Hastings-Grand Island	30 min.	25 miles
Grand Island-Kearney	50 min.	42 miles
Kearney-North Platte	1 hr. 35 min.	99 miles
North Platte-Ogallala	55 min.	54 miles
Ogallala-Lewellen	32 min.	31 miles
Lewellen-Bayard	1 hr. 15 min.	72 miles
Bayard-Gering	25 min.	22 miles



NEBRASKA'S MISSOURI RIVER VALLEY & CAPITAL CITY

SAMPLE TOUR ITINERARY

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 1

Brownville • Nebraska City

Overnight: Nebraska City

Spirit of Brownville

Start this tour with lunch and an unforgettable experience aboard a historic riverboat cruising down the scenic Missouri River. Once back on shore, explore Brownville's charming historic downtown's eclectic shops.

Whiskey Run Creek Vineyard & Winery

Stop for a tasting of delicious Nebraska wines and distilled spirits within a cozy 110-year old barn setting.

Prairie City Chophouse

Enjoy a traditional family steakhouse and tasty made-from-scratch dishes in this Nebraska City favorite.



Day 2

Nebraska City • Papillion

Overnight: Omaha

Arbor Day Farm

Explore this 260-acre working farm orchard and forest, which also is a National Historic Landmark with an experienced nature interpreter. Visit the 50-foot-high Tree Adventure treehouse for an amazing view of the farm and take home a tree seedling from the Lied Greenhouse.

Arbor Lodge State Historical Park

Wander the rooms of 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. The mansion's rooms are filled with authentic furnishings and displays that capture the life and times of this great Nebraska visionary.

Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard

This working orchard and vineyard is the best destination for fresh, locally grown produce and other homegrown Nebraska products.

Polish Heritage Center

Enjoy a traditional Polish dinner and entertainment.

Day 3
Bellevue • Omaha
Overnight: Omaha

Offutt Air Force Base

Visit Bellevue and the headquarters of the U. S. Strategic Command, Air Force Weather Agency, and the 55th Wing of the Air Combat Command.

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.

St. John Greek Orthodox Church

Feast on a traditional Greek lunch followed by lessons in Greek dancing and culture. *Yasou!*

Hot Shops Art Center

Located in downtown Omaha, this 92,000 square-foot hands-on art centers features more than 80 artists, from glass blowing and pottery to bronze casting and blacksmithing.



Historic Old Market District

Wind down the day in this turn-of-the-century marketplace of brick streets and buildings with a variety of quaint restaurants and shops.

Day 4
Omaha • Lincoln
Overnight: Omaha

Lithuanian Bakery

Start the morning with a delicious Lithuanian torte or specialty bread while the bakery's owner recount the story of how their parents decided to call Omaha home in the 1960s.

Father Flanagan's Boys Town

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.

Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum

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. After lunch take a turn in the museum's FS-VC "dual system" flight simulator and be immersed into the realism of flight through state-of-the-art motion control and high-performance visuals and sounds.

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 14th floor observation deck.

International Quilt Study Center

Explore this wonderful museums that houses the world's largest publicly held quilt collection. Tour its high-tech storage facility and quilt exhibitions before going "behind the scenes" to view quilts that are hundreds of years old.

Screamers Dining & Cabaret

Be entertained while dining on delicious fare in Lincoln's Historic Haymarket District. Afterward, explore the district's lively section of downtown full of unique shops, bars, restaurants, and other entertainment.

Day 5

Fort Calhoun • Tekamah • Winnebago Nation • South Sioux City

Fort Atkinson State Historical Park

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.

Master's Hand Candle Company & Gift Shop

Known locally as "every woman's dream store," this unique gift shop has everything from excellent lunches, jewelry, candles, home décor, and chocolates to hands-on learning classes where you can make your own candle or flower arrangement to take home. Make sure to check out the "work of art" restroom.



Fort Atkinson State Historical Park, Fort Calhoun

Angel DeCora Museum & Research Center

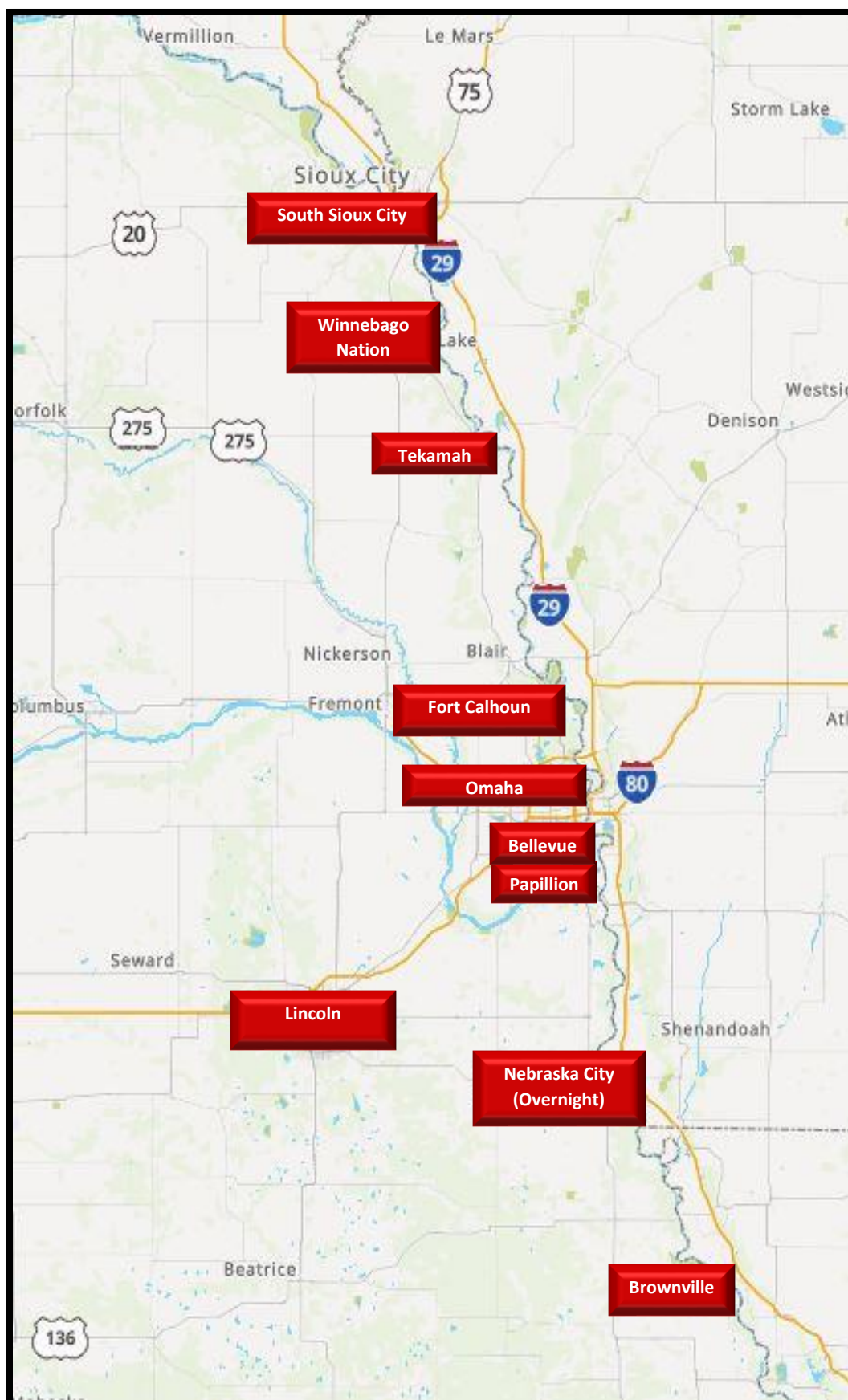
Located on the Little Priest Tribal College campus on the Winnebago Nation, this interesting museum displays artifacts and exhibits of the Winnebago Nation, one of Nebraska's four Native American tribes.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall

Located in South Sioux City, the Gateway to Northeast Nebraska, Freedom Park pays tribute to our nation's fallen soldiers.

The Siouxland (northeast Nebraska, northwest Iowa, and southeast South Dakota) offers a variety of quality group tour options that could be added to this sample itinerary.

Tour Route Map



Driving Times and Distance
(Drive time are approximate.)

Location	Drive Time	Distance
Nebraska City-Omaha	45 min.	45 miles
Omaha-Lincoln	1 hr.	60 miles
Omaha-Fort Calhoun	30 min.	16 miles
Fort Calhoun-Tekamah	35 min.	27 miles
Tekamah-Winnebago	40 min.	36 miles
Winnebago-South Sioux City	20 min.	18 miles



NEBRASKA'S SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

SAMPLE TOUR ITINERARY

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.

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.

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

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

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 Home

Visit the silent film star's home and watch one of his movies inside the house.

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.



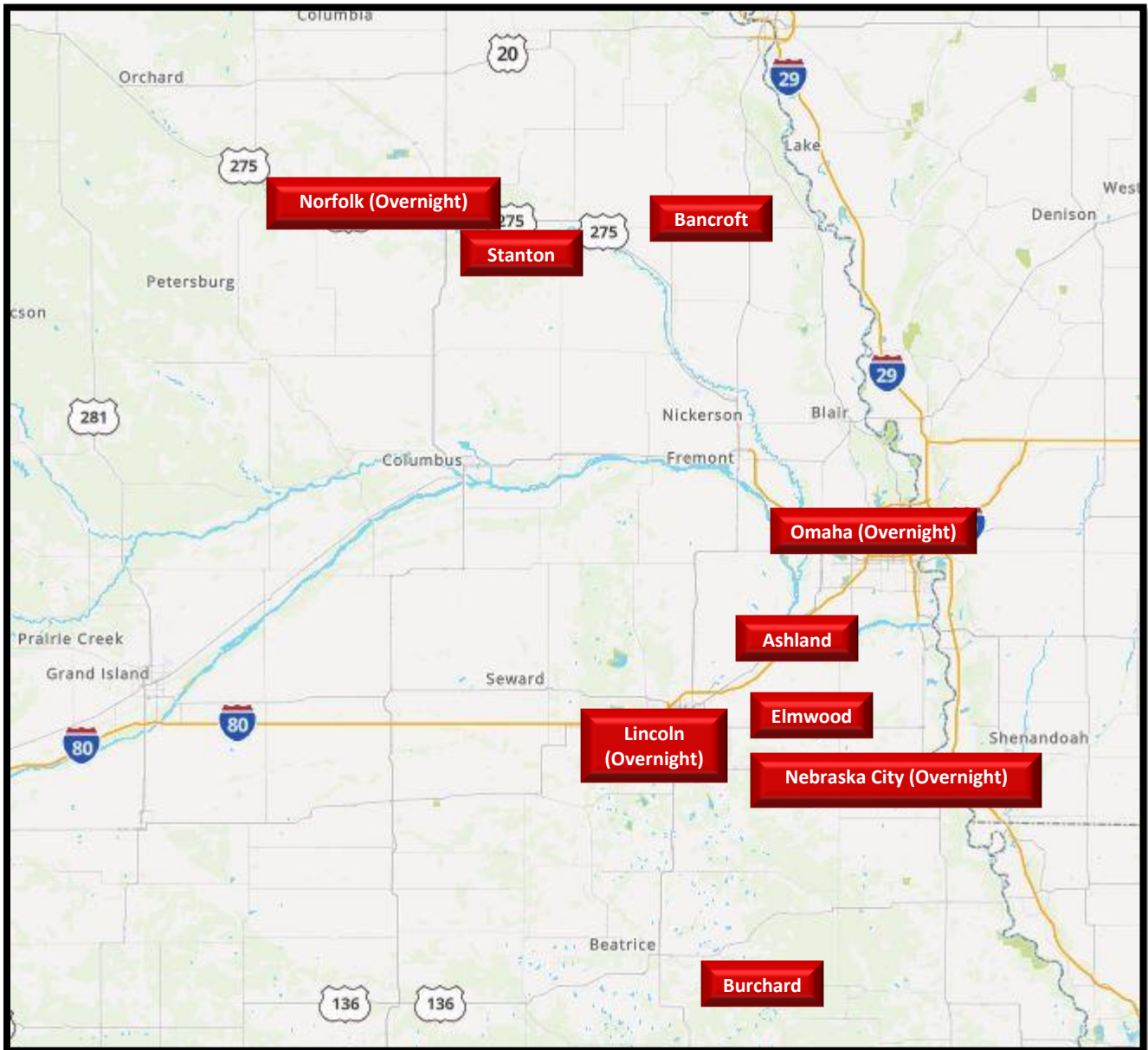
Day 5 Nebraska City

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.



Tour Route Map



Driving Times and Distance (Drive time are approximate.)

Location	Drive Time	Distance
Omaha-Ashland	30 min.	31 miles
Ashland-Bancroft	1 hr. 30 min.	86 miles
Bancroft-Norfolk	50 min.	45 miles
Norfolk-Lincoln	2 hrs.	122 miles
Lincoln-Burchard	1 hr. 15 min.	70 miles
Burchard-Nebraska City	1 hr. 5 min.	63 miles

SPIRITUAL ESCAPES

SAMPLE TOUR ITINERARY

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.

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.

Father Flanagan's 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

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.



Holy Family Shrine, Gretna

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.

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 • Fremont

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.)

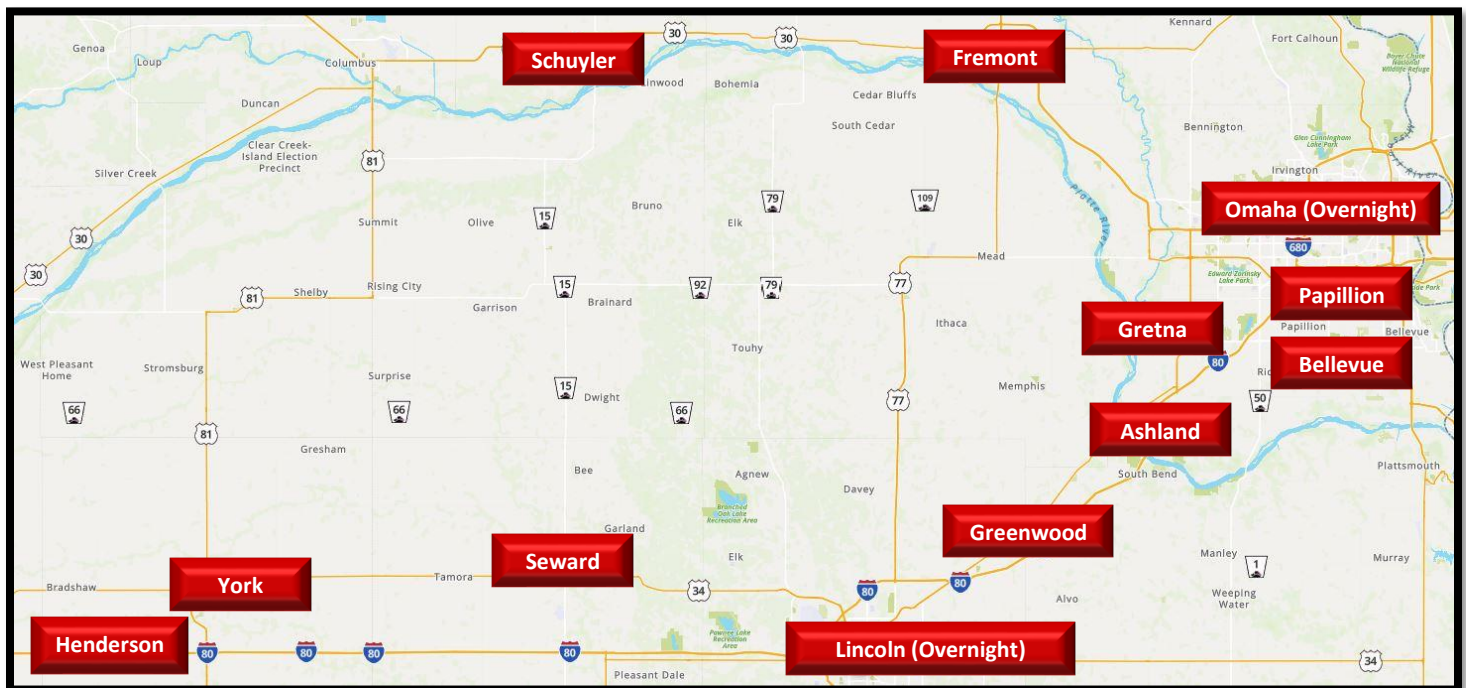
Saint Benedict Center

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.

Bryson's Airboat Tours

Skim across the shallow Platte River while communing with nature and taking in your scenic surroundings.

Tour Route Map



Driving Times and Distance (Drive time are approximate.)

Location	Drive Time	Distance
Omaha-Bellevue	20 min.	11 miles
Omaha-Lincoln	1 hr.	60 miles
Lincoln-York	50 min.	51 miles
Lincoln-Seward	30 min.	25 miles
Seward-Schuyler	46 min.	42 miles
Schuyler-Fremont	40 min.	32 miles

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Don't "reinvent the wheel." Let me help you plan your next exciting and fun filled Nebraska group tour itinerary!

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