



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.

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.

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 Mileage (Drive time are approximate.)

Omaha-Lincoln

Drive time: 1 hr.

59 miles

42 miles

Kearney-York

Drive time: 1 hr. 25 min.

86 miles

Lincoln-Grand Island

Drive time: 1 hr. 30 min.

93 miles

York-Nebraska City

Drive time: 1 hr. 40 min.

100 miles

Grand Island-Kearney

Drive time: 50 min.

Let us help you plan your next exciting Nebraska group tour itinerary. We can assist you with general information about tour destinations, group rates at attractions, restaurants, and accommodations, as well as give you personalized service and attention to make planning your tour easy and fun.

Bellevue, Papillion

Fred Uhe
fred@sarpy.com

Grand Island

Brad Mellema
director@visitgrandisland.com

Omaha

Jessica Settje
jsettje@visitomaha.com

Kearney

Roger Jasnoch
rjasnoch@visitkearney.org

Lincoln

Kelsey Meyer
kmeyer@lincoln.org

Nebraska City

Amy Allgood
amya@nebraskacity.com

York

Bob Sautter
yorkcountyvisitors@gmail.com

Nebraska Tourism Group Tour Manager

Micheal Collins (CTIS)
Email: micheal.collins@nebraska.gov
Office: 402-471-3795
Cell: 402-432-1384



For additional Nebraska group tour information
visitnebraska.com/group_travel