



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.

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.)

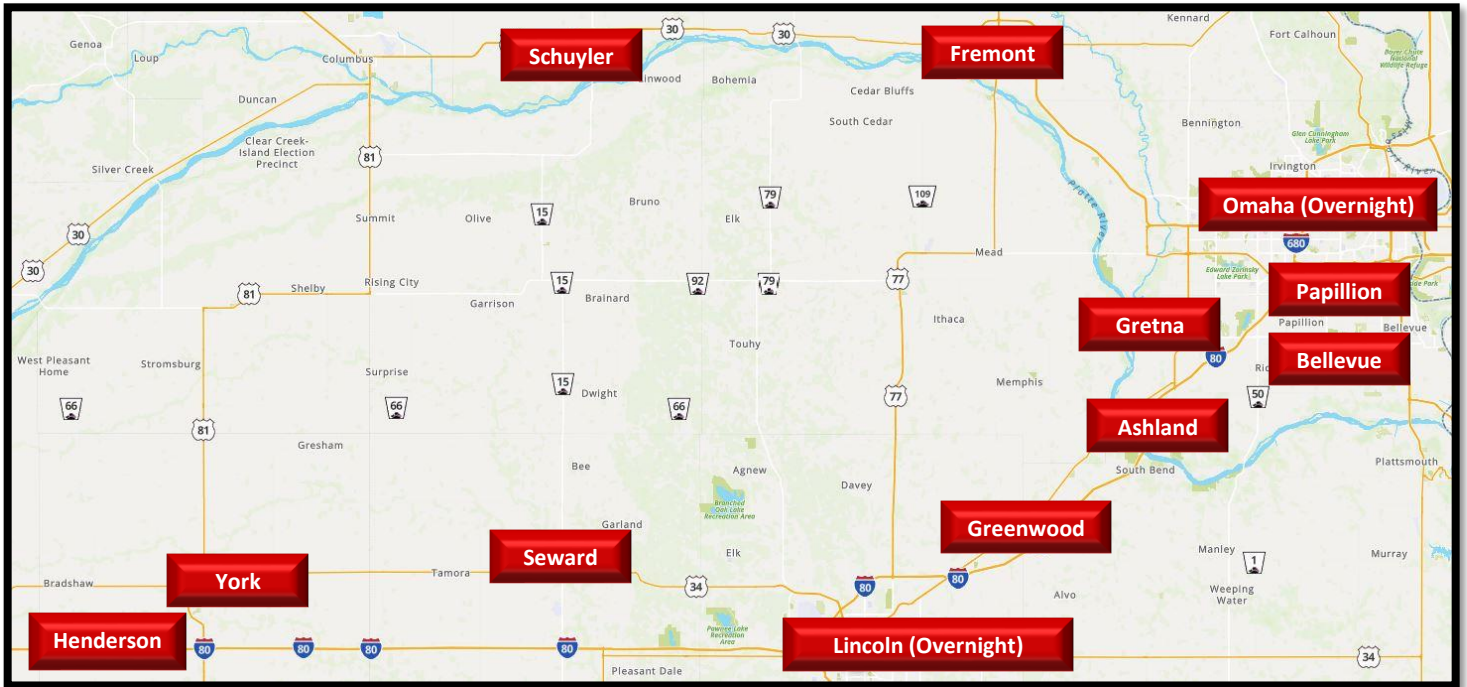
Saint Benedict Center

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 Mileage (Drive time are approximate.)

Omaha-Bellevue

Drive time: 20 min.
11 miles

Omaha-Lincoln

Drive time: 1 hr.
60 miles

Lincoln-York

Drive time: 50 min.
51 miles

Lincoln-Seward

Drive time: 30 min.
25 miles

Seward-Schuyler

Drive time: 46 min.
42 miles

Schuyler-Fremont

Drive time: 40 min.
32 miles

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.

Papillion, Bellevue, Gretna

Fred Uhe
fred@sarpy.com

Seward

Pat Coldiron
patcoldiron@hotmail.com

Omaha

Jessica Settje
jsettje@visitomaha.com

Schuyler

Fr. Thomas Leitner
frthomas@stbenedictcenter.com

Ashland, Greenwood

Carl Reichart
director@visitcasscounty.com

Fremont

Shannon Mullen
director@visitfremontne.org

Lincoln

Kelsey Meyer
kmeyer@lincoln.org

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
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