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](image)

**Driving Times and Mileage**
(Drive times are approximate.)

- **Omaha-Bellevue**
  Drive time: 20 min.
  11 miles

- **Omaha-Lincoln**
  Drive time: 1 hr.
  60 miles

- **Lincoln-Seward**
  Drive time: 30 min.
  25 miles

- **Lincoln-York**
  Drive time: 50 min.
  51 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.

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