

2022 NEBRASKA NOT-AT-ALL WHAT YOU THOUGHT GROUP TOUR PLANNER

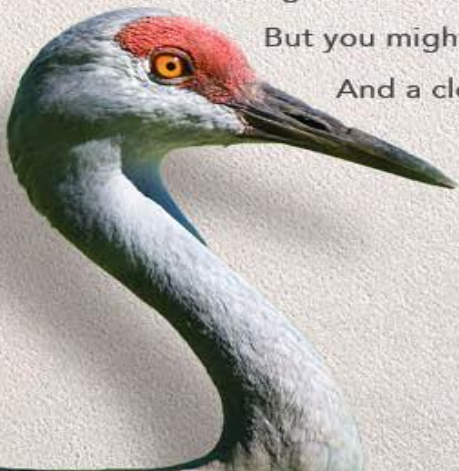


Nebraska, your next group destination!

[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.



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 Historical Park

“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

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

Chimney Rock National Historic Site

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

Micheal Collins, CTIS

Micheal.Collins@Nebraska.gov

402-471-3795

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.

STATEHOOD

Nebraska became the 37th U.S. state on March 1, 1867.

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.

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.



Transportation

CHARTER COMPANIES

Ameristar Transportation Group

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

Arrow Stagelines

ww.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.mjttours.com
Fremont
800-806-7944

Travel Cat Tours

www.travelcattours
Omaha
531-777-2124

Travel with Barb

www.travelwithbarb.com
Omaha
402-614-9793

AIRLINES AND AIRPORTS

Grand Island Central Nebraska Regional Airport

https://flygrandisland.com

Kearney Regional Airport

https://flykearney.com

Lincoln Airport

www.lincolnairport.com

North Platte Regional Airport

www.northplatteairport.com

Omaha Eppley Airfield

www.flyoma.com

Scottsbluff Western Nebraska Regional Airport

https://flyscottsbluff.com



Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City

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

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.

Day 1

North Platte

Overnight: North Platte

Spend your first day exploring North Platte, the home of Buffalo Bill with a catered breakfast at **Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center**. Afterward, 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. Next head to **Dusty Trails** to experience a truly Nebraskan activity as you leisurely float 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.



Now it's off to **Buffalo Bill State Historical Park** to tour the home of Colonel William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and his wife and hear more about their lives and their interesting adventures. Hop aboard a wagon for a ride to the adjacent **Lincoln County Historical Museum** and a deliciously prepared Dutch oven lunch and 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. The day's last stop is at **West Central Research and Extension Office** where a local chef will 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

After breakfast, take a stroll through salvaged and repurposed historic grain bins searching for that perfect antique treasure at **Grain Bin Antique Town**. Then head to **Fort Cody Trading Post**, 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 before departing North Platte to head west to Ogallala, once known as the "town too tough for Texans." Your first stop is an authentic western style lunch at **Front Street and Cowboy Museum**, a recreation of an 1880s Old West main street. The **Crystal Palace Revue** is a rootin' tootin' western shootout, complete with cowboys and showgirls, takes place from June to mid-August.

Across the street is **Petrified Wood and Art Gallery** where you can explore Native American artifacts and delicate works of art and carvings formed from pieces of ancient petrified wood from around the world.

Recount the stories of outlaws, gamblers, and desperados who met their final resting place, buried with their boots on at **Boot Hill Cemetery** before touring **Mansion on the Hill** for a glimpse into how Ogallala's upper class residents lived in this fully furnished Victorian-style mansion. Further west is **Camp Lookout**, 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, today re-enactors entertain you with stories of the building and its many colorful inhabitants over the years. Before heading to dinner at one of Sidney's many excellent dining venues, try your hand at grave dousing at **Sidney's Boot Hill Cemetery**.



Day 3
Potter • Kimball • Gering
Overnight: Gering

After breakfast in Sidney, head to nearby Potter to connect with your inner artist at **Potter Art Loft**, a quaint community art studio. Other destinations in downtown Potter include **Collective Gathering**, a local business specializing in unique and hard-to-find antiques and **Potter's Historic Duckpin Bowling Alley** where you can step back in time to the 1920s in this restored three-lane bowling alley. It's a one-of-a-kind bowling experience. No trip to Potter is complete with a stop at **Potter Sundry** for one of its famous Tin Roof Sundaes (vanilla ice cream, chocolate syrup, chocolate ice cream, marshmallow cream, and nuts).

Your time in western Nebraska takes you to Kimball and the **EJE Ranch** to 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 firsthand. Next head north to **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. Tonight's dinner is an authentic wagon train dinner at **Five Rocks Amphitheatre** along the Mormon and Oregon Trails.



Day 4

Gering • Bayard

Overnight: Gering

Start the morning at **Scotts Bluff National Monument** near Gering. This imposing natural formation 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. Next enjoy lunch amidst the unique flora and fauna of the beautiful and rugged Wildcat Hills region at **Wildcat Hills Nature Center**. Take a short detour to Bayard to **Chimney Rock National Historic Site**.

Chimney Rock was the most recognized landmark along the Overland Trails and today a newly renovated visitor center highlights the fascinating stories of the early westward migrating pioneers and other explorers and inhabitants. Round out your time in Gering 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.

Day 5

Northwest Nebraska

Overnight: Fort Robinson State Historic Park

After breakfast, get ready to venture into the remote landscape of northwest Nebraska. **Agate Fossil Beds National Monument** near Harrison is an 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. Now it's time to head out onto the vast High Plains of the Oglala National Grassland and **Hudson-Meng Education & Research Center**. This one-of-a-kind destination houses 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. Your time outdoors continues at

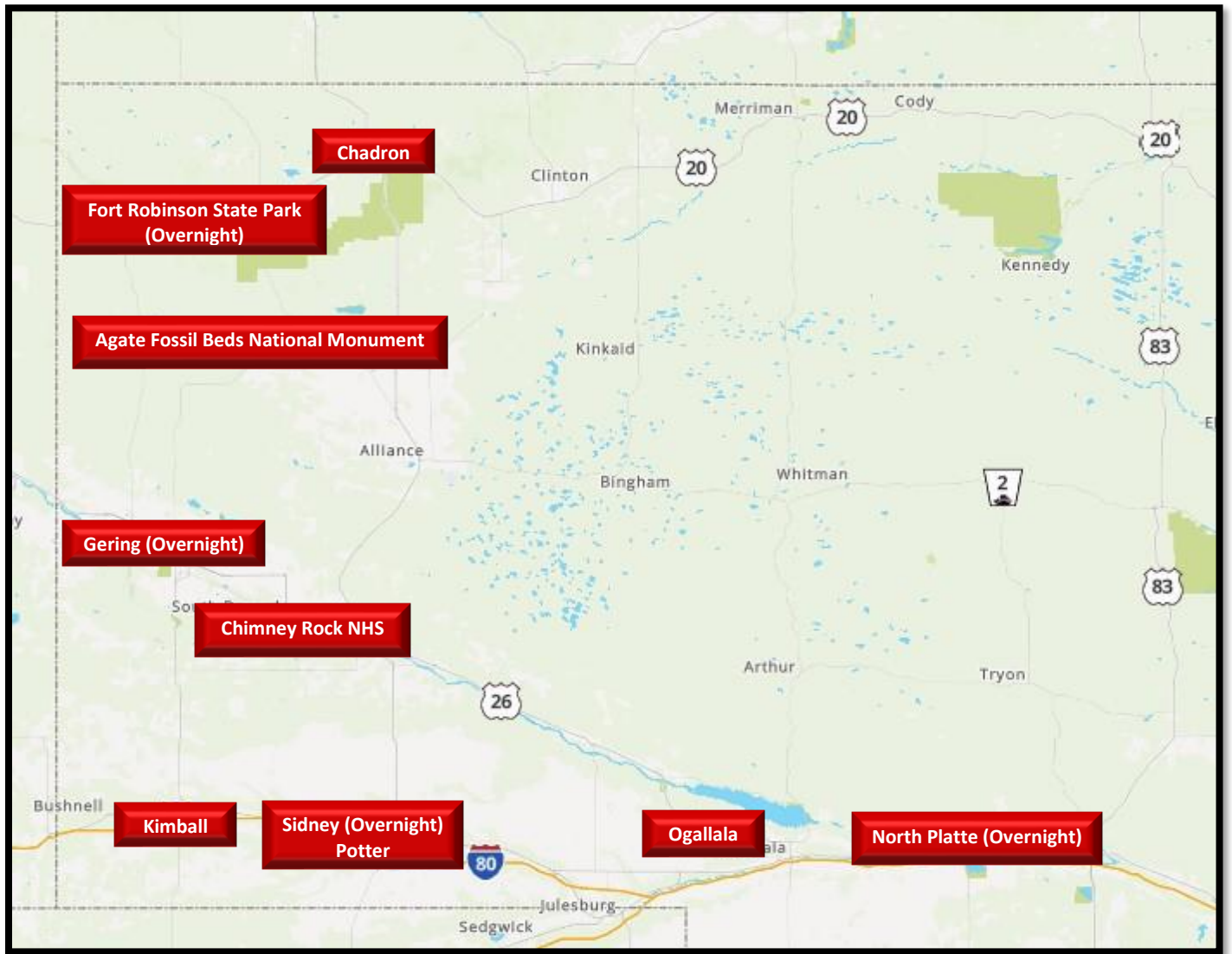
Toadstool Geologic Park where you can explore this Badlands “moonscape” and learn more about this area’s fascinating geology. The park is noted for its unusual geological formations, some in the shape of toadstools, and scientifically valuable fossils of animals that passed through this area as far back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

Day 6 Northwest Nebraska

After breakfast, enjoy historic tours, jeep and stagecoach rides, and the chance to view bison and purebred Texas longhorn herds at **Fort Robinson State Historic Park**. 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. It’s now time to head east to Chadron to visit the **Museum of the Fur Trade**, the only museum in the country dedicated to preserving the nation’s fur-trading industry. 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. Your final stop in northwest Nebraska is **Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center** where you can 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



BUFFALO, BONES AND BOOKS: TRAVELING THE FOSSIL FREEWAY

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

Our trip also takes us to a remote part of the state, the windswept High Plains region and Oglala National Grasslands of northwest Nebraska where we explore one of the world's most significant Miocene Epoch mammal fossil sites and gain a greater understanding of the area's Native American culture and livelihood. And we hear the many stories and tales of early pioneer and settler life in this often-hostile landscape where hearty adventurers, fur trappers, and others carved out a living.

Day 1

Kimball County

Overnight: Kimball

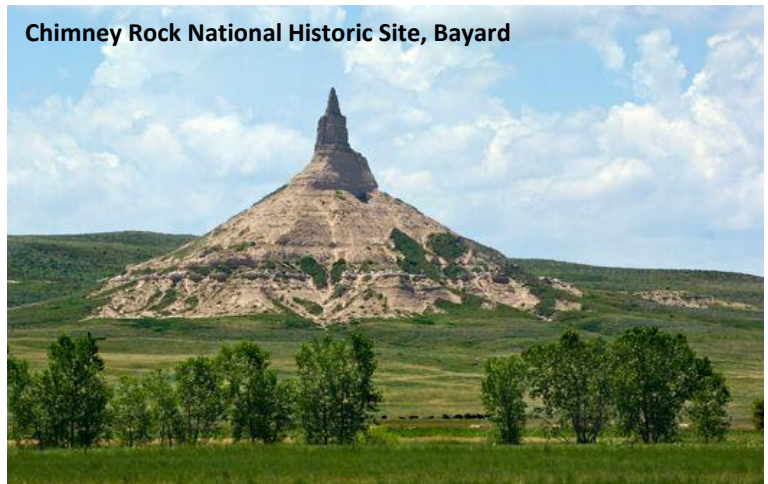
Start out your tour in western Nebraska at **EJE Ranch** and learn more about the High Plains Region's short grass prairie on this working ranch and have the unique opportunity to venture into the prairie to learn more about this fragile ecosystem firsthand. The next stop is a unique living arrangement. A **1960 era Atlas E Missile Silo** has been converted into a 29,500 square foot living space, located on 18 acres southwest of Kimball. The owners of this decommissioned underground missile silo will tell you how they made such a huge space livable year-round.

Day 2

Kimball County • Bayard • Scotts Bluff County

Overnight: Gering

Start your morning off with the bison at **Rocky Hollow Buffalo Company**. This working ranch raises grass fed bison and gives a 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. Lunch is at **Double L Country Store and Café**, a quaint restaurant/gift shop where fresh ingredients, mouthwatering pies, and excellent daily specials make this hilltop spot a "must stop at." Take a short detour to Bayard to **Chimney Rock National Historic Site**. Chimney Rock was the most recognized landmark along the Overland



Trails and today a newly renovated visitor center highlights the fascinating stories of the early westward migrating pioneers and other explorers and inhabitants. Tonight's dinner is an authentic wagon train dinner at **Five Rocks Amphitheatre** along the Mormon and Oregon Trails.

Day 3
Scotts Bluff County
Overnight: Gering

Start the morning at **Scotts Bluff National Monument** near Gering. This imposing natural formation 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. Lunch is a farm-to-table affair at **Legacy of the Plains** where you can 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. Next visit the **Wildcat Hills Nature Center** south of Gering to explore the unique flora and fauna of the beautiful and rugged Wildcat Hills.

Day 4
Northwest Nebraska
Overnight: Chadron

After breakfast, get ready to venture into the remote landscape of northwest Nebraska. **Agate Fossil Beds National Monument** near Harrison is an 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.



It's now time to head to Crawford and historic tours, jeep and stagecoach rides, and the chance to view bison and purebred Texas longhorn herds at **Fort Robinson State Historic Park**. 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. Next head deep into the vast High Plains of the Oglala National Grassland and **Hudson-Meng Education & Research Center**. This one-of-a-kind destination houses 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 undercover these bones for better study.

Day 5 Northwest Nebraska

Start your morning off right with tasty treats, full breakfast menu, and wonderful coffee drinks at **Bean Broker Coffee House & Pub**, located in a renovated bank building. It's now time to head east of town **Museum of the Fur Trade**, the only museum in the country dedicated to preserving the nation's fur-trading industry. 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.

Your final stop in northwest Nebraska is **Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center** where you can 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." Your final stop in northwest Nebraska is the **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.



Fort Robinson State Historic Park, Northwest Nebraska

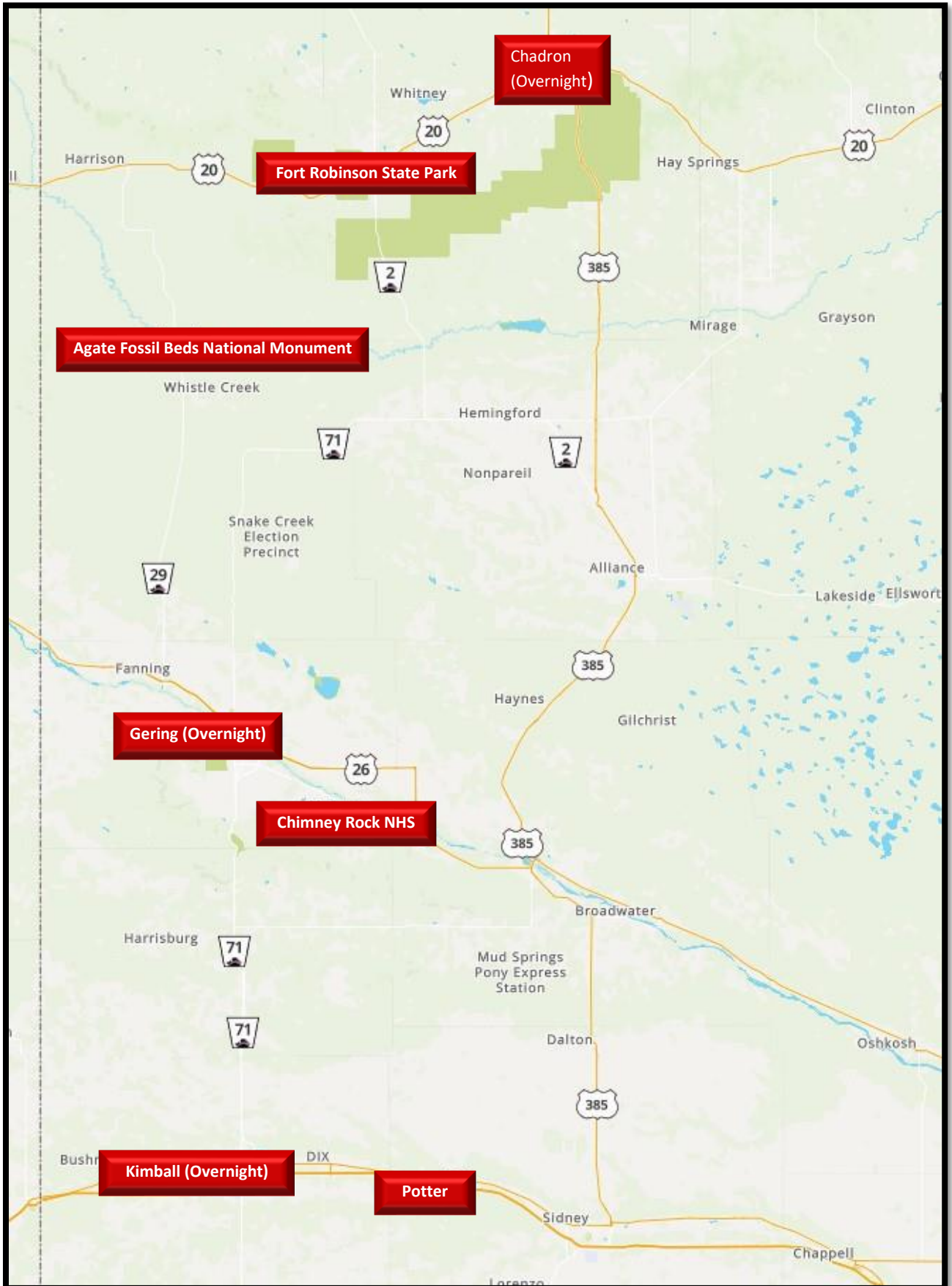


Hudson-Meng Education & Research Center
Northwest Nebraska



Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, Chadron

Tour Route Map



BUFFETT, BIRDS AND BEEF: THE GREAT PLATTE RIVER ROAD

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

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

Day 1

Omaha • Bellevue

Overnight: Omaha

Breakfast this morning will be at Warren Buffett's favorite McDonald's followed by a **Warren Buffett Driving Tour** where an experienced step on guide will highlight some of his favorite locations throughout Omaha. Next you head south of Omaha to Bellevue and the **Fontenelle Forest Nature Center** to learn about the facility's dedication to help injured birds of prey through their Raptor Rescue Program and the Raptor Woodland Refuge. Here owls, hawks, falcons, and other species that no longer can survive in the wild live within "homes" designed to fit their natural habitats.



It's back to Omaha to experience flavorful gourmet ice cream at its best at **eCreamery** 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. Dinner tonight is **Gorat's Steakhouse**, one of Warren Buffett's favorite restaurants that 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

Start the day off with eclectic breads and tortes based on "Old Country" recipes at **Lithuanian Bakery & Café** in Omaha while listening to the story of the family and how they immigrated to Nebraska. Next, it's time to explore **Nebraska Furniture Mart**, North America's largest furnishing store to hear their unique story followed by some time to shop before heading to lunch at **Dairy Queen**, another one of Warrant Buffett's favorite places

to relax and eat. Your last two stops before departing Omaha are **The Rose Theatre** and **Omaha Community Playhouse**. Rose 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 is the largest community theater in the country and while there you will learn all about the process of putting on a large stage production including set and costume design. Now it is time to depart Omaha and head to Lincoln for dinner at **The Green Gateau**. This 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

After breakfast, your day’s first stop is **Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center**, an 850-acre tallgrass prairie nature preserve near Denton, southwest of Lincoln. It is home to more than 220 bird species, 30 mammal species, 350 plants, and 50 butterfly species. Afterward, head back to Lincoln and its **Historic Haymarket District** for a delicious lunch at **Lazlo’s Brewery & Grill**, Nebraska’s first brewpub. Do not forget to save some time for a little shopping before heading west to Grand Island’s **1937 Art-Deco Grand Theatre** where you can view an introductory program about the sandhill cranes given by an experienced guide. Once you become more familiar with these majestic birds, your next stop will be an evening sandhill crane viewing adventure along the Platte River with an up-close VIP experience at **Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center**.

Day 4

Grand Island • Kearney

Overnight: Kearney

Breakfast this morning is at **The Chocolate Bar**, a trendy café with a big city ambiance in downtown Grand Island before heading to **Studio K Art Gallery** to get in touch with your inner artist and create your own unique sandhill crane painting experience. Grand Island offers more with an informative and interesting visit at **Raising Nebraska** at Fonner Park. This 25,000 square foot interactive museum 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. Now it is time to go back into the past at **Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer**. Declared one of the top ten living history museums in the country, the Stuhr 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. While there, do not miss the **“Wings over the Platte”** exhibit. During the sandhill crane migration season, this exhibit displays artwork by artists from across the country highlighting the

annual spring migration and is a “must-see” for any bird lover.

Now it is time to head further west to Kearney and the **Archway** to 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. Tonight's dinner location is **Alley Rose** in downtown Kearney to feast on one of its delicious locally prepared signature dishes.

Day 5
Kearney • North Platte
Overnight: McCook

You will depart Kearney before the sunrise to enjoy a pre-dawn guided sunrise sandhill crane viewing on the banks of Platte River at **Rowe Sanctuary**. 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.* Now it is time to depart Kearney and head to North Platte where your first stop will be at **Buffalo Bill State Historical Park** to 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. Afterward, hop aboard a wagon ride to the **Lincoln County Historical 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.



Next 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 at **Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center** before heading to West Central Research and Extension Office. Here educators and a chef from a local restaurant explain the steps needed to raise and process beef from pasture to the table during their **"Here's the Beef"** tour. Dinner will be a full meal including five cuts of beef.

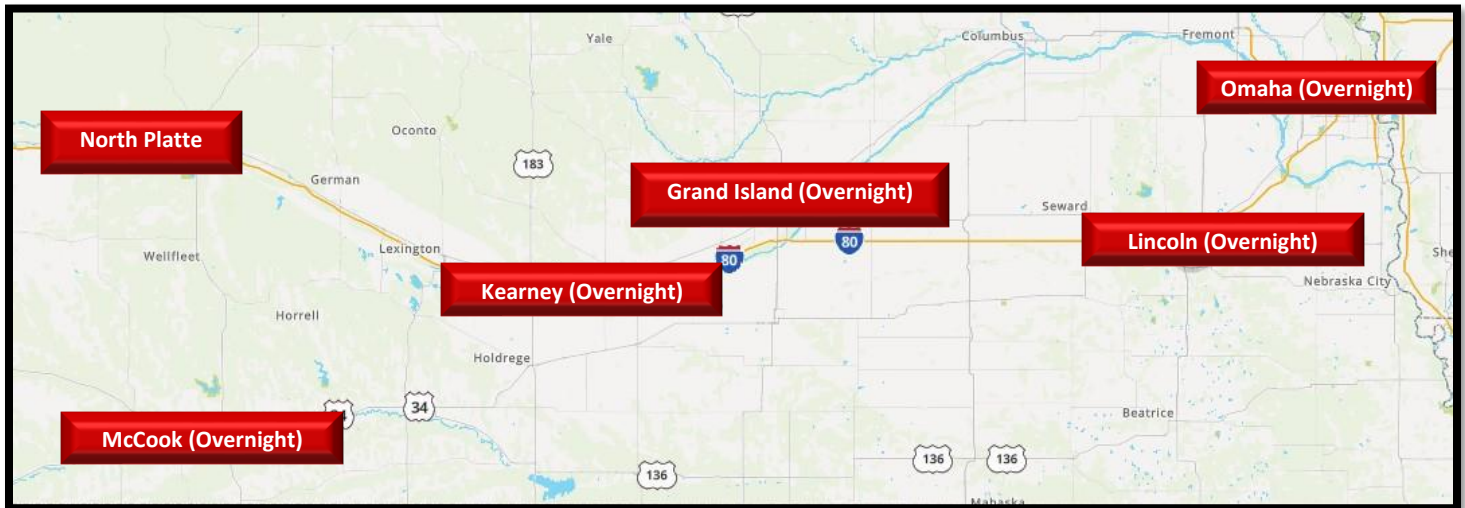
***Note:** A step-on guide could board the motorcoach in North Platte and ride down to McCook to give the orientation required to view the prairie chicken mating dance the following morning. This presentation will give groups additional information about what to expect on this portion of the itinerary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

Day 6 McCook

Rise early for a 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 during their annual **Prairie Chicken Dance**. Breakfast is in McCook upon return to town.



Tour Route Map



COSMOPOLITAN TO COWBOYS: OMAHA TO KIMBALL

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.

Day 1

Omaha

Overnight: Omaha



Durham Museum, Omaha

Time to explore Omaha on a **Guided City Tour** where you will visit many of Nebraska's largest city's hot spots and noteworthy locations. Next, it's off to the **Durham Museum** near the Historic Old Market District. Located in the former Union Station, explore the history and settlement of Omaha before heading downstairs to the platform for the chance to walk through authentic train cars. Afterward, take a tour of **St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church**, Omaha's only Greek Orthodox Byzantine-style church followed by a traditional Greek lunch and entertainment, and lessons in Greek dancing. Continue your European

foodie tour with eclectic breads and tortes based on "Old Country" recipes at **Lithuanian Bakery & Café** in Omaha while listening to the story of the family and how they immigrated to Nebraska. **Father Flanagan's Boys Town** in west Omaha is an exceptional heartwarming story of how Father Flanagan worked to create a haven for wayward boys, and now girls, on the outskirts of Omaha. Your final stop for the day is **General Crook House at Fort Omaha** where you will travel back in time to 1879 to meet General Crook and his wife Mary for a tour and a delicious 3-course dinner at their new Italianate-style home.

Day 2

Omaha • Bellevue • Lincoln

Overnight: Lincoln

Your first stop this morning after breakfast is in north Omaha at **Mormon Trail Center at Historic Winter Quarters** 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. Afterward, head to Bellevue and **Fontenelle Forest Nature Center** to 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. It is now time to depart Omaha for Lincoln and a tour of the **Nebraska State Capitol**, 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. Next, time to head to **Larsen Tractor Test Museum** on the University of Nebraska East

Campus to visit 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.

Before your next destination, stop at the **UNL Dairy Store** for a tour of the chees making facility before enjoying a tasty after lunch ice cream treat. Continue your campus tour at the **International Quilt Study Center** where you will 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. Dinner tonight is a popular entertainment restaurant in the Historic Haymarket District where you will dine on deliciously prepared meals while being entered by some of the best local performers in Lincoln at **Screamers Dining & Cabaret**.

Day 3

Lincoln • York County

Overnight: Grand Island



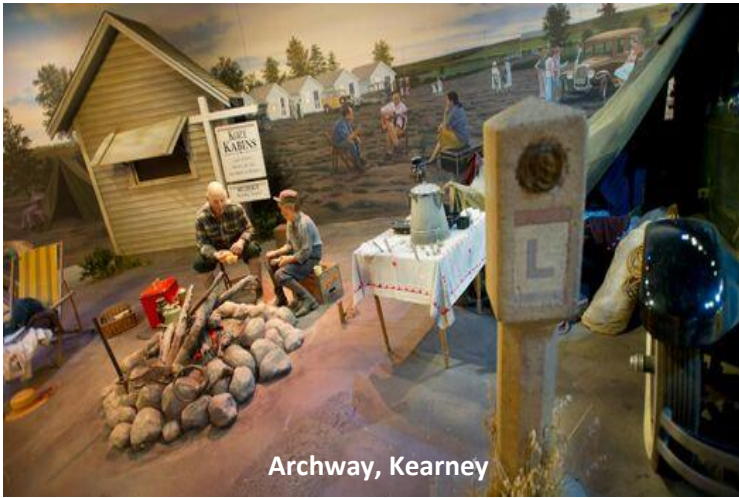
Your last stop in Lincoln is **Museum of American Speed**, a 135,000 sq. ft. museum highlighting the chronology of automotive racing and speed equipment development while preserving, interpreting, and displaying items significant in racing and automotive history. Now head west to York and **Chances "R"** to dine on delicious homemade fare at one of York’s most popular group dining destinations before stepping back in time at **Clayton Museum of Ancient History**. This unique museum highlights the ancient world of Mesopotamia, Rome, and other great civilizations where you also can spend a few moments reflecting in front of an accurate reproduction of the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Do not forget to write your prayer and leave in it the wall. Next stop is **Mennonite Heritage Park** where you can listen to costumed storytellers recount stories about the Henderson Mennonites, explain how this group is connected to the Amish and Old-Mennonites in Pennsylvania, and why these Germans from Russia immigrated to Nebraska.

Day 4

Grand Island • Kearney

Overnight: Kearney

Start your morning off at one of the top ten living history museums in the country **Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer**. This impressive 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. Next stop is **Raising Nebraska** at Fonner Park where you can 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. Now it is off to Kearney and **Rowe Sanctuary** to learn more about the majestic Sandhill cranes, and other migratory birds, during their migration each spring through Nebraska’s Central Flyway before exploring the **Archway** and wander through this three-floor interactive museum commemorating the nation’s westward expansion. At a



Archway, Kearney

height of 310 feet, the Archway is the only tourist attraction in the country to span a federal interstate highway. Dinner tonight is at **Alley Rose**, one downtown Kearney's best restaurants where you can dine on a variety of delicious offerings within a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere "On the Bricks."

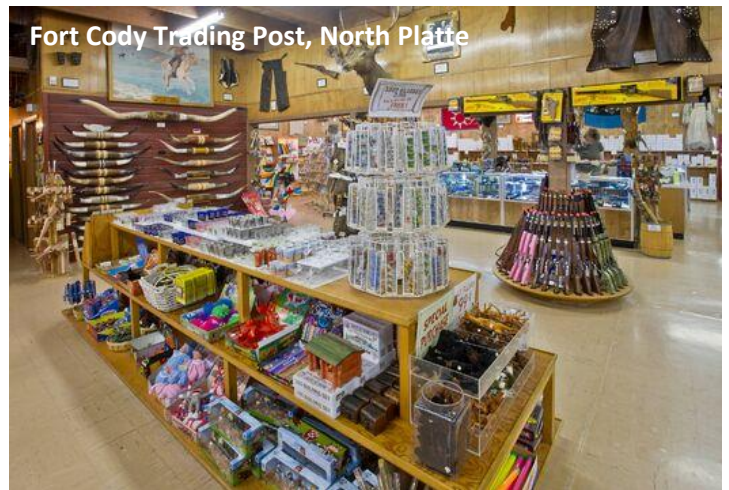
Day 5
North Platte
 Overnight: Ogallala

Start off the morning with breakfast and a bird's eye at **Golden Spike Tower and Visitor Center** with

a 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. Next, spend some time with Colonel William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and his wife and hear more about their lives and their interesting adventures at **Buffalo Bill State Historical Park** before hopping aboard a wagon for an outdoor ride to the **Lincoln County Historical Museum** and a deliciously prepared Dutch oven lunch and guided tour of the museum grounds. Exhibits include an authentic recreated Old West town and the heartwarming story of the famous World War II North Platte Canteen. No trip to North Platte is complete without a stop at **Fort Cody Trading Post**, one of Nebraska'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. It is now time to depart North Platte and head to Ogallala, also known as the town "too tough for Texans."

Day 6
Ogallala • Sidney • Potter • Kimball

First stop this morning after breakfast is the unique **Petrified Wood and Art Gallery** where you can explore Native American artifacts and delicate works of art and carvings formed from pieces of ancient petrified wood from around the world. Afterward, enjoy an authentic western style lunch at **Front Street and Cowboy Museum**, which is a recreation of an 1880s Old West main street. The Crystal Palace Revue is a rootin' tootin' western shootout, complete with cowboys and showgirls that takes place from June to mid-August. Your western experience isn't near complete without a visit to **Camp Lookout**, 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, today re-enactors entertain groups with stories of the building and its many colorful inhabitants over the years. Try your hand at grave dousing in the nearby **Boot Hill Cemetery**. The story of this cemetery is both heartbreaking and fascinating.



Fort Cody Trading Post, North Platte

Next, you will visit small town Potter, an up-and-coming group tour destination. If you are feeling sporty, try your hand at a unique form of bowling at **Potter Duckpin Bowling Alley**. Also, while in town explore **A Collective Gathering**, a quaint antique shop in town, and **Chuckaboo Station**, a coffee shop/tap house that also sells hand poured all natural candles (check out their line of serial killer candles). Your final two destinations in Nebraska are **EJE Ranch** to learn about the High Plains Region’s short grass prairie on this working ranch and have the unique opportunity of venturing into the prairie to learn more about this fragile ecosystem firsthand, and **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)



THE WORLD'S BREADBASKET: AN AGRICULTURAL TOUR THROUGH NEBRASKA

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 will 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

Begin the day visiting **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. Next, head to **Father Flanagan's Boys Town** in west Omaha to learn more about this exceptional heartwarming story of how Father Flanagan worked to create a haven for wayward boys, and now girls, when he purchased Overlook Farm in 1921. Now it is time to head west along Interstate 80 no **CLAAS** between Omaha and Lincoln for 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. Dinner is in Waverly, outside Lincoln, at **Lakehouse Farm**. After a tour of this sustainable farm, you can enjoy a delicious dinner prepared using season and locally grown ingredients at **Prairie Plate Restaurant**.

DAY 2

Nebraska City

Overnight: Lincoln

Spend today exploring Nebraska City, the Home of Arbor Day, a short drive east of Lincoln along the banks of the Missouri River. Your first stop is **Arbor Day Farm** where you will 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.

Next, spend some time at **Arbor Lodge State Historical Park** where you can 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. Round out your trip in Nebraska City at **Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard**. This working orchard and vineyard is the best destination for fresh, locally grown produce and other homegrown Nebraska products. You can enjoy



dinner in Nebraska City or return to Lincoln for a delicious meal in one of the capitol city's excellent restaurants.

DAY 3

Lincoln • York County

Overnight: Grand Island

After breakfast, you will head to the **Nebraska State Capitol**, 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. Next, time to head to **Larsen Tractor Test Museum** on the University of Nebraska East Campus to visit 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. After lunch, continue your campus tour at the **International Quilt Study Center** where you will 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.



Wessels Living History Farm, York

It is now time to head west to York and **Wessels Living History Farm** to 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** in nearby Henderson is the ideal destination to hear costumed storytellers recount stories about the Henderson Mennonites and explain how this group is connected to the Amish and Old-Mennonites in Pennsylvania, and why these Germans from Russia immigrated to Nebraska.

DAY 4

Grand Island • Hastings • Kearney

Overnight: North Platte

Start off the day after breakfast by stepping back into the past at **Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer**. Declared one of the top ten living history museums in the country, the Stuhr 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. Next it is time to wander through **Raising Nebraska**, an 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.

You continue your agricultural tour of Nebraska at **Prairie Loft Center for Outdoor and Agricultural Learning** near Hastings. At this unique interactive agricultural center, you can gain a deeper understanding of agriculture and how it connects people to the land and their food. Afterward, head west to Kearney to tour the unique **Archway** and 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

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 at **Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center** before heading to **Buffalo Bill State Historical Park** to tour the home of Colonel William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and his wife and hear more about their lives and interesting adventures. Next, it is time to hop aboard a wagon for an outdoor ride to the **Lincoln County Historical Museum** and a deliciously prepared Dutch oven lunch and guided tour of the museum grounds. Exhibits include an authentic recreated Old West town and the heartwarming story of the famous World War II North Platte Canteen. Dinner tonight will be at the West Central Research and Extension Office. Here educators and a chef from a local restaurant explain the steps needed to raise and process beef from pasture to the table during their "**Here's the Beef**" tour. Afterward, feast on a delicious Nebraska beef dinner prepared on site.

DAY 6

Ogallala • Sidney • Potter

Overnight: Kimball

This morning, you head west and enter Mountain Time Zone where you will lose one hour as you make your way to **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. Afterward, head into downtown Ogallala, once known as the "town too tough for Texans." Your first stop is an authentic western style lunch at **Front Street and Cowboy Museum**, a recreation of an 1880s Old West main street. The **Crystal Palace Revue** is a rootin' tootin' western shootout, complete with cowboys and showgirls, takes place from June to mid-August. Across the street is **Petrified Wood and Art Gallery** where you can explore Native American artifacts and delicate works of art and carvings formed from pieces of ancient petrified wood from around the world.

Further west is **Camp Lookout**, 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, today re-enactors entertain you with stories of the building and its many colorful inhabitants over the years. Next try your hand at grave dousing at **Sidney's Boot Hill Cemetery** before heading to nearby Potter to connect with your inner artist at **Potter Art Loft**, a quaint community art studio. Other destinations in downtown Potter include **Collective Gathering**, a local business specializing in unique and hard-to-



find antiques and **Potter's Historic Duckpin Bowling Alley** where you can step back in time to the 1920s in this restored three-lane bowling alley. It's a one-of-a-kind bowling experience. No trip to Potter is complete with

a stop at **Potter Sundry** for one of its famous Tin Roof Sundaes (vanilla ice cream, chocolate syrup, chocolate ice cream, marshmallow cream, and nuts).

DAY 7 Kimball • Gering

After breakfast in Kimball, your first stop will be at **EJE Ranch** to 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 firsthand. Next head north to **Rocky Hollow Buffalo Company** along the Fossil Freeway. 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.

Lunch today is at **Double L Country Store and Café** where fresh ingredients, mouthwatering pies, excellent daily specials, and great gift ideas make this hilltop spot a "must stop at." Your last stop on Nebraska's agricultural tour is Gering and **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.

Florence Mill, Omaha

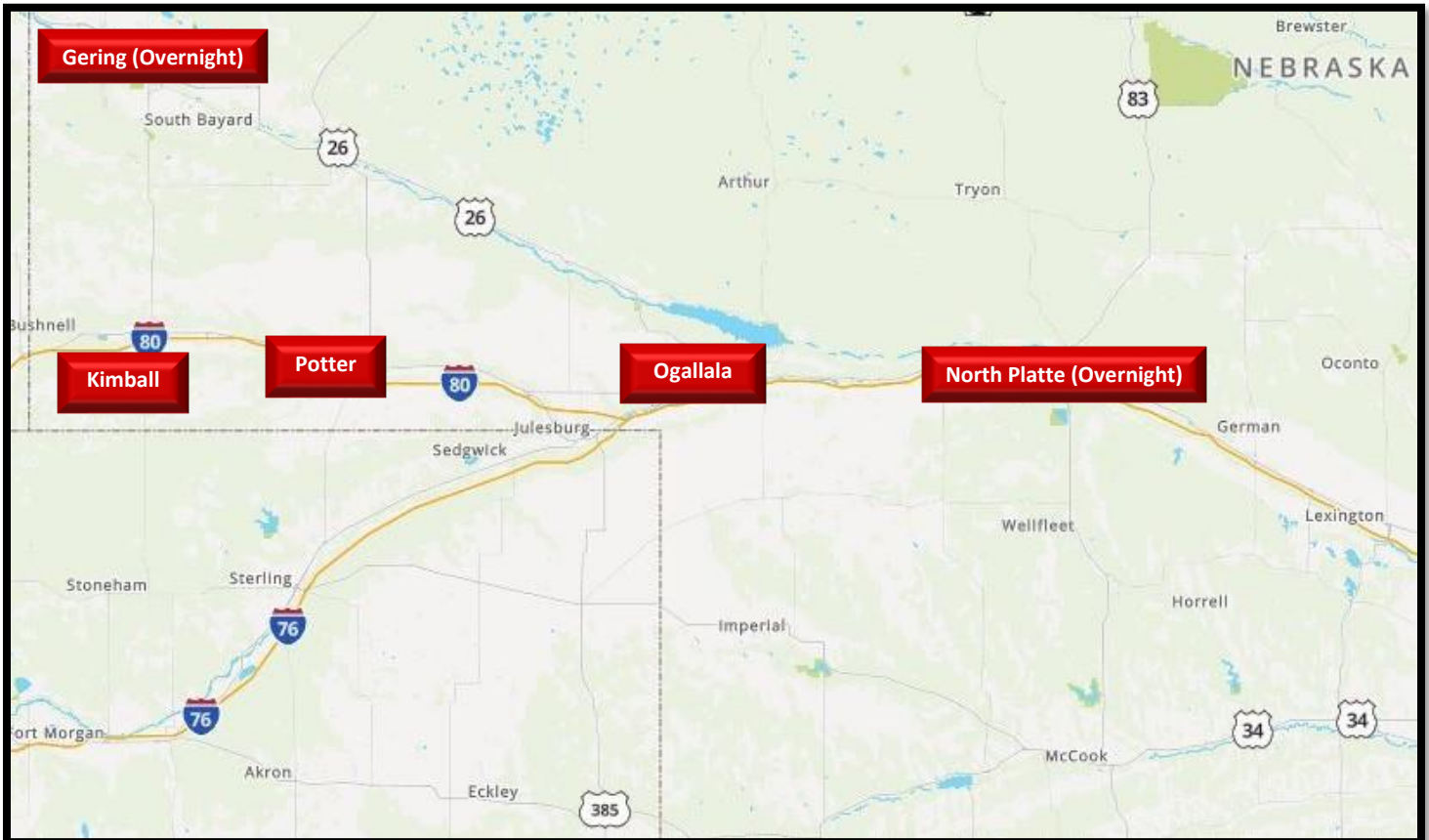


Raising Nebraska, Grand Island

Tour Route Map (East/Central)



Tour Route Map (West)



EASTERN NEBRASKA ENCOUNTERS

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.

DAY 1

Omaha

Overnight: Omaha

Time to explore Omaha on a **Guided City Tour** where you will visit many of Nebraska's largest city's hot spots and noteworthy locations. Next, it's off to the **Durham Museum** near the Historic Old Market District. Located in the former Union Station, explore the history and settlement of Omaha before heading downstairs to the platform for the chance to walk through authentic train cars. Afterward, enjoy wind down and enjoy lunch in the **Historic Old Market District**, a turn-of-the-century marketplace of brick streets and buildings with a variety of quaint restaurants and shops. After lunch, it is time to venture to **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. The next stop is **Father Flanagan's Boys Town** in west Omaha is an exceptional heartwarming story of how Father Flanagan worked to create a haven for wayward boys, and now girls, on the outskirts of Omaha.

DAY 2

Tekamah • Bancroft • Stanton • Norfolk

Overnight: Norfolk

After breakfast in Omaha, it is time to head north to Tekamah along the Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway to **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. Next, it is time to head to Bancroft to tour **John G. Neihardt State Historic Site**. Learn more about Neihardt's life and read excerpts from his novels, such as *Black Elk Speaks* and tour his outdoor study.

Now we head to nearby Stanton to reconnect with and learn all about herbs and how to use them in our everyday lives at **Red Road Herbs**. 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. Norfolk is the next stop where we will visit **Johnny Carson's Boyhood Home** where the property owner will be on site to talk about the house and the renovations that have been done. He has some videos featuring Johnny Carson to



show groups and a pre-dinner cocktail hour happens downstairs. **Black Cow Fat Pig**, one of the premier steakhouses in northeast Nebraska is one the menu for tonight's dinner.

DAY 3

Norfolk • Columbus • Genoa • York

Overnight: Lincoln

Today's first stop this morning is the **Elkhorn Valley Museum & Research Center** where we will explore the impressive Johnny Carson and learn more about 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 also shows selected *Tonight Show* episodes and monologues. It is now time to explore Nebraska's agricultural side at **Larson Dairy Farm** near Creston where you will learn more about modern, innovative farming technology at this fully automated dairy farm, one of three robotic dairies in Nebraska, followed by a visit to the 600-acre family owned and operated produce grower, packer, and shipper working farm, **Daniels Produce**. The **Genoa Indian School** in Genoa was in operation from 1884 to 1934 and was one of the nation's 16 Indian Boarding Schools established by the federal government. While there, you will gain a deeper understanding of what everyday life was like at the school for its students.

York and **Wessel's Living History Farm** is our next stop this afternoon where we will experience first-hand how farm life and agriculture have changed from the 1920s to modern day farming techniques and technologies. Before returning to Lincoln, our last stop in York is the unique **Clayton Museum of Ancient History** where you can visit 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.

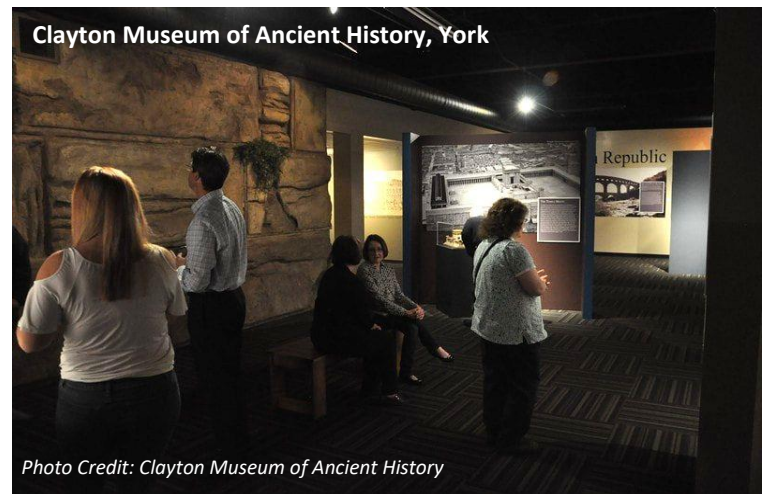


Photo Credit: Clayton Museum of Ancient History

DAY 4

Lincoln

Overnight: Lincoln

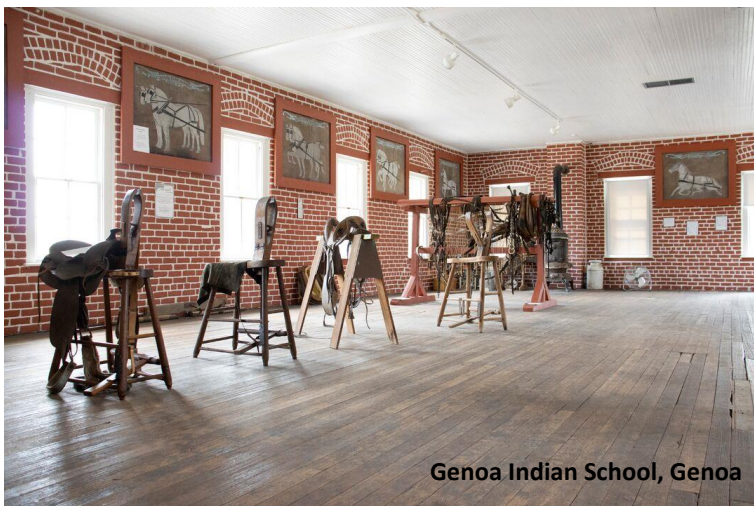
At 15 stories and 400 feet tall, Lincoln's **Nebraska State Capitol** is the second-tallest statehouse in the country and offers a spectacular view of the city from the 14th floor observation deck. Afterward, it is time to visit the **Nebraska Governor's Mansion** before heading to the impressive **Museum 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. After lunch in **Lincoln's Historic Haymarket**, it is time to wander through the **International Quilt Study Center**, which houses the world's largest publicly held quilt collection. You can tour its high-tech storage facility and quilt exhibitions before going "behind the scenes" to view quilts that are hundreds of years old.

DAY 5
Beatrice • Nebraska City
Overnight: Lincoln

Step back this morning to a time when the Homestead Act of 1862 enticed millions of people to move to the frontier and cultivate this often-harsh landscape. **Homestead National Historical Park** in Beatrice is a testament to the pioneer spirit that helped settle the West. While there, explore the Homestead Heritage Center, hiking trails through virgin prairie grasses, and living history demonstrations. Now we are off to Nebraska City, the Home of Arbor Day, along the banks of the Missouri River. First stop will be **Arbor Day Farm** where you can 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. Next, wander the rooms of the beautiful estate of J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day, **Arbor Lodge State Historical Park**. 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. Our last stop in Nebraska City is **Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard**, a working orchard and vineyard and the best destination for fresh, locally grown produce and other homegrown Nebraska products.

DAY 6
Greenwood • Ashland • Bellevue
Overnight: Omaha (optional)

After breakfast, we head to Greenwood to “get our chocolate on” at **Baker’s Candies**, the official home of a Nebraska tradition, the world-class chocolate melt-a-ways. Our last two stops today are military related. The **Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum** in Ashland is a This 300,000 sq. ft. museum featuring aircraft from various world conflicts, and an onsite restoration hanger to give 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. Finally, it is time to head to Bellevue to visit **Offutt Air Force Base**, also known as 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.

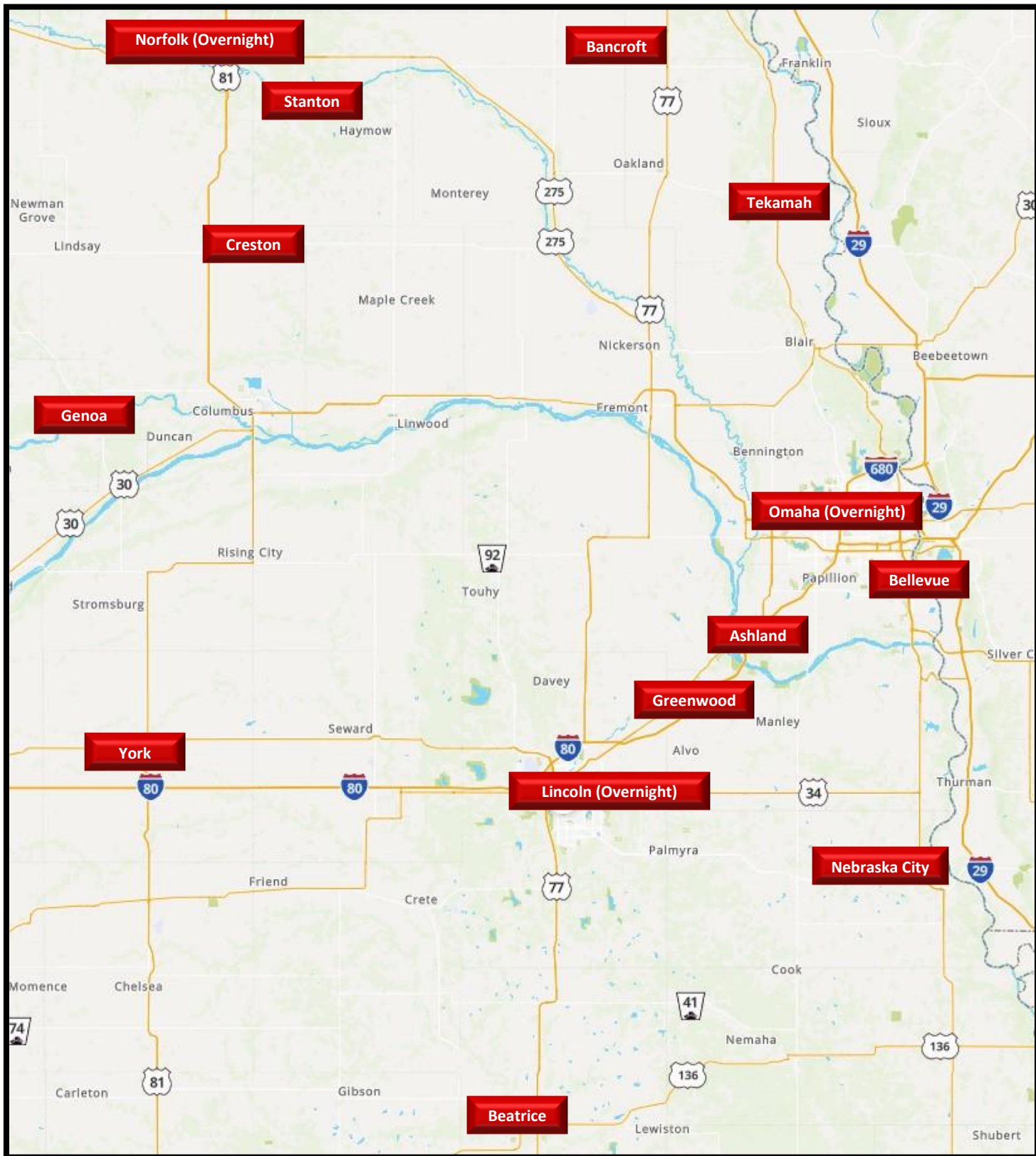


Genoa Indian School, Genoa



Homestead National Historical Park, Beatrice

Tour Route Map



NEBRASKA'S MISSOURI RIVER VALLEY & CAPITAL CITY

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

The day begins at the **Flatwater Folk-Art Museum** in Brownville. This amazing art collection celebrates the human spirit and traditions through handcrafted works of art. Now it is time to celebrate Nebraska wine at **Whiskey Run Creek Vineyard & Winery** where we stop for a tasting of delicious wines and distilled spirits within a cozy 110-year old barn setting. Dinner and entertainment will be aboard the **Spirit of Brownville** for an unforgettable experience aboard a historic riverboat cruising down the scenic Missouri River.



Spirit of Brownville Riverboat, Brownville

Day 2

Nebraska City • Papillion

Overnight: Omaha

Spend today exploring Nebraska City, the Home of Arbor Day, along the banks of the Missouri River. Your first stop is **Arbor Day Farm** where you will 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. Next, spend some time at **Arbor Lodge State Historical Park** where you can 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.

Round out your trip in Nebraska City at **Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard**. This working orchard and vineyard is the best destination for fresh, locally grown produce and other homegrown Nebraska products. Dinner tonight gives you a chance to enjoy traditional Polish food and entertainment at **Polish Heritage Center** in Papillion.

Day 3
Bellevue • Omaha
Overnight: Omaha



Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, Bellevue

Your first stop this morning is at **Offutt Air Force Base** in Bellevue, 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.* Next stop, also in Bellevue, is **Fontenelle Forest Nature Center** to learn about the facility's dedication to help injured birds of prey through their Raptor Rescue Program and the Raptor Woodland Refuge. Here owls, hawks, falcons, and other species that no longer can survive in the wild live within "homes" designed to fit their natural habitats.

Afterward, take a tour of **St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church**, Omaha's only Greek Orthodox Byzantine-style church followed by a traditional Greek lunch and entertainment, and lessons in Greek dancing. Now it is time to reach our inner artist at **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. Afterward, enjoy wind down and enjoy lunch in the **Historic Old Market District**, a turn-of-the-century marketplace of brick streets and buildings with a variety of quaint restaurants and shops.

Day 4
Omaha • Lincoln
Overnight: Omaha

Continue your European foodie tour with eclectic breads and tortes based on "Old Country" recipes at **Lithuanian Bakery & Café** in Omaha while listening to the story of the family and how they immigrated to Nebraska. **Father Flanagan's Boys Town** in west Omaha is an exceptional heartwarming story of how Father Flanagan worked to create a haven for wayward boys, and now girls, on the outskirts of Omaha. The **Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum** in Ashland is a This 300,000 sq. ft. museum featuring aircraft from various world conflicts, and an onsite restoration hanger to give 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.

Get ready for a cool view from atop the **Nebraska State Capitol**, 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. Continue your campus tour at the **International Quilt Study Center** where you will 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. Now it is onward to Lincoln

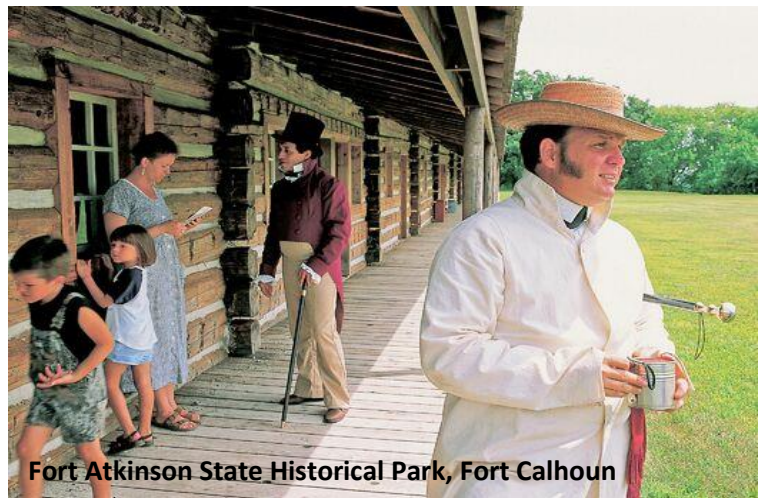
for dinner at **Screamers Dining & Cabaret** where you will dine on deliciously prepared meals while being entertained by some of the best local performers in Lincoln at this unique Haymarket establishment.

Day 5

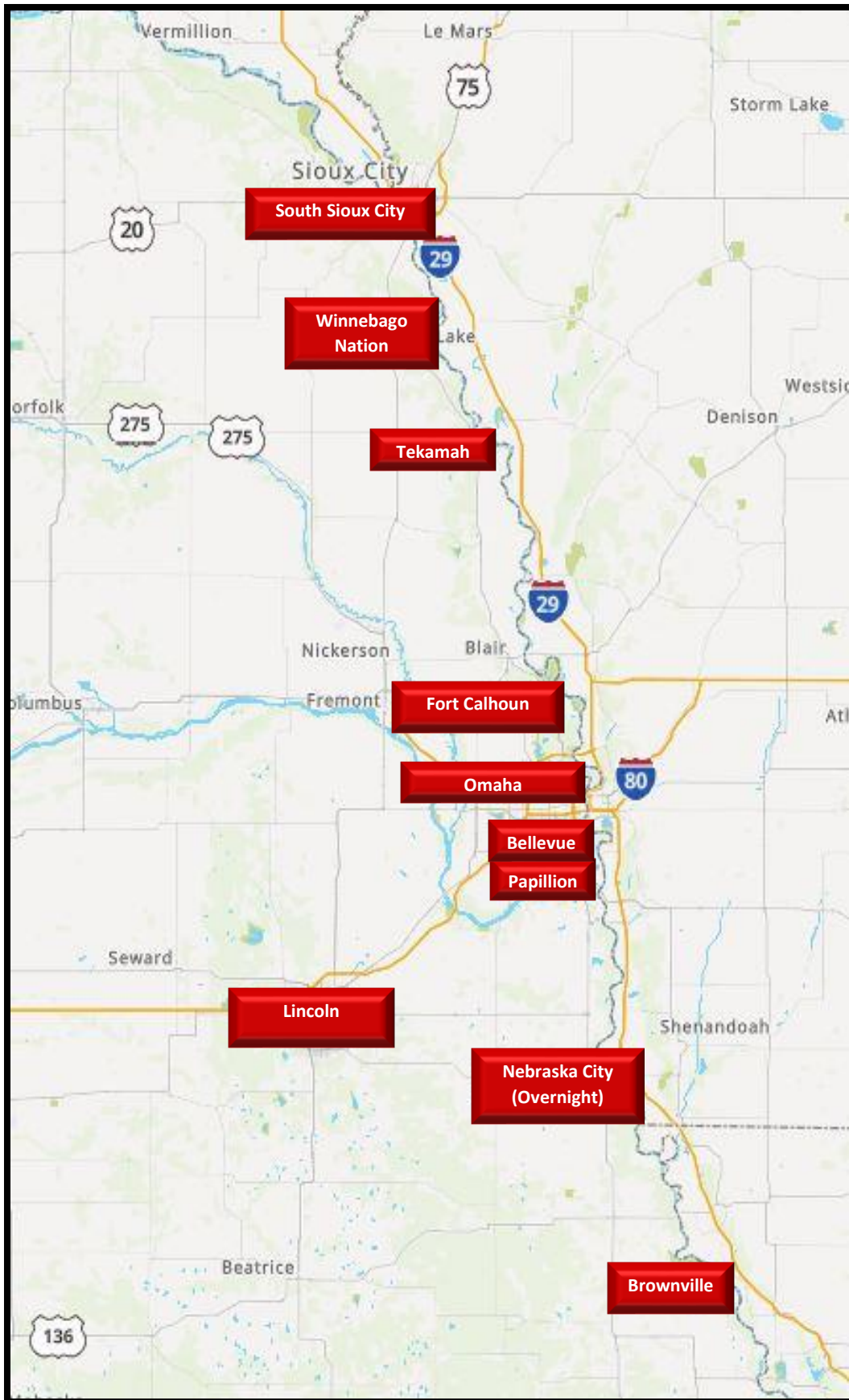
Fort Calhoun • Tekamah • Winnebago Nation • South Sioux City

Start out the day in Fort Calhoun at **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. Next, we head to Tecumseh and **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. Our next stop takes us to the Winnebago Nation. Located on the Little Priest Tribal College campus, **Angel DeCora Museum & Research Center** is an interesting museum displaying artifacts and exhibits of the Winnebago Nation, one of Nebraska's four Native American tribes. Finally, we head to South Sioux City and Freedom Park to pay tribute to our nation's fallen soldiers at the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall**.

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



NEBRASKA'S SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

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

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

Arrive a day early for dinner at **Big Mama's Kitchen and Catering**. Featured on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives," this is one of the best locally owned restaurants in Omaha serving soul food and traditional American cuisine.

Day 1

Omaha

Overnight: Omaha

Breakfast this morning will be at Warren Buffett's favorite McDonald's followed by a **Warren Buffett Driving Tour** where an experienced step on guide will highlight some of his favorite locations throughout Omaha. The next stop is **Omaha Community Playhouse**, the largest community theater in the country where we will about the process of putting on a large stage production including set and costume design. Next stop is exploring **Nebraska Furniture Mart**, North America's largest furnishing store to hear their unique story followed by some time to shop. Dinner tonight is at **Gorat's Steakhouse**, one of Warren Buffett's favorite restaurants that has been an Omaha tradition for more than 70 years and has hosted celebrities and dignitaries from around the world.

Day 2

Omaha • Ashland • Bancroft • Norfolk • Stanton

Overnight: Norfolk

Start the morning off at **Father Flanagan's Boys Town** with breakfast followed by a guided tour of the campus to hear the amazing stories of how Father Flanagan helped wayward youth find a new purpose in life in west Omaha. Next, we head to Ashland to tour the **Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum** to learn more about local astronaut hero Clayton Anderson. Lunch could be at the museum or, if time permits, at a nearby restaurant like Parker's Smokehouse for a family style meal. After lunch it is time to head to Bancroft to **John G. Neihardt State Historic Site** for a tour of the visitor center to learn more about Neihardt's life and his many works, including *Black Elk Speaks*. His outdoor study will be open so groups can walk inside.

Nearby Norfolk houses **Johnny Carson's Boyhood Home** where 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. Dinner tonight is at **The Uptown Brewery**, which was 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



After breakfast, it is time to venture the **Elkhorn Valley Museum** where you can explore the museum's Johnny Carson exhibit and meet a young version of the entertainer who will talk about his life and growing up. Elmwood, east of Lincoln, is home to the **Bess Streeter Aldrich House and Museum** where groups can enjoy a guided tour of her house to learn about her life and writings. Afterward, we head to Lincoln for lunch in the **Historic Haymarket District** followed by a walking tour of the Haymarket. Groups could be offered the option of walking to the next stop, UNL Memorial Stadium or climbing back onto the motorcoach. Once at the stadium, we will

get a behind the scenes peek inside this facility, and other areas within the Hawks Championship Center and Osborne Athletic Complex. Dinner tonight is at **Billy's Restaurant**, a local favorite for Nebraska politicians.

Day 4

Lincoln • Nebraska City

Overnight: Nebraska City

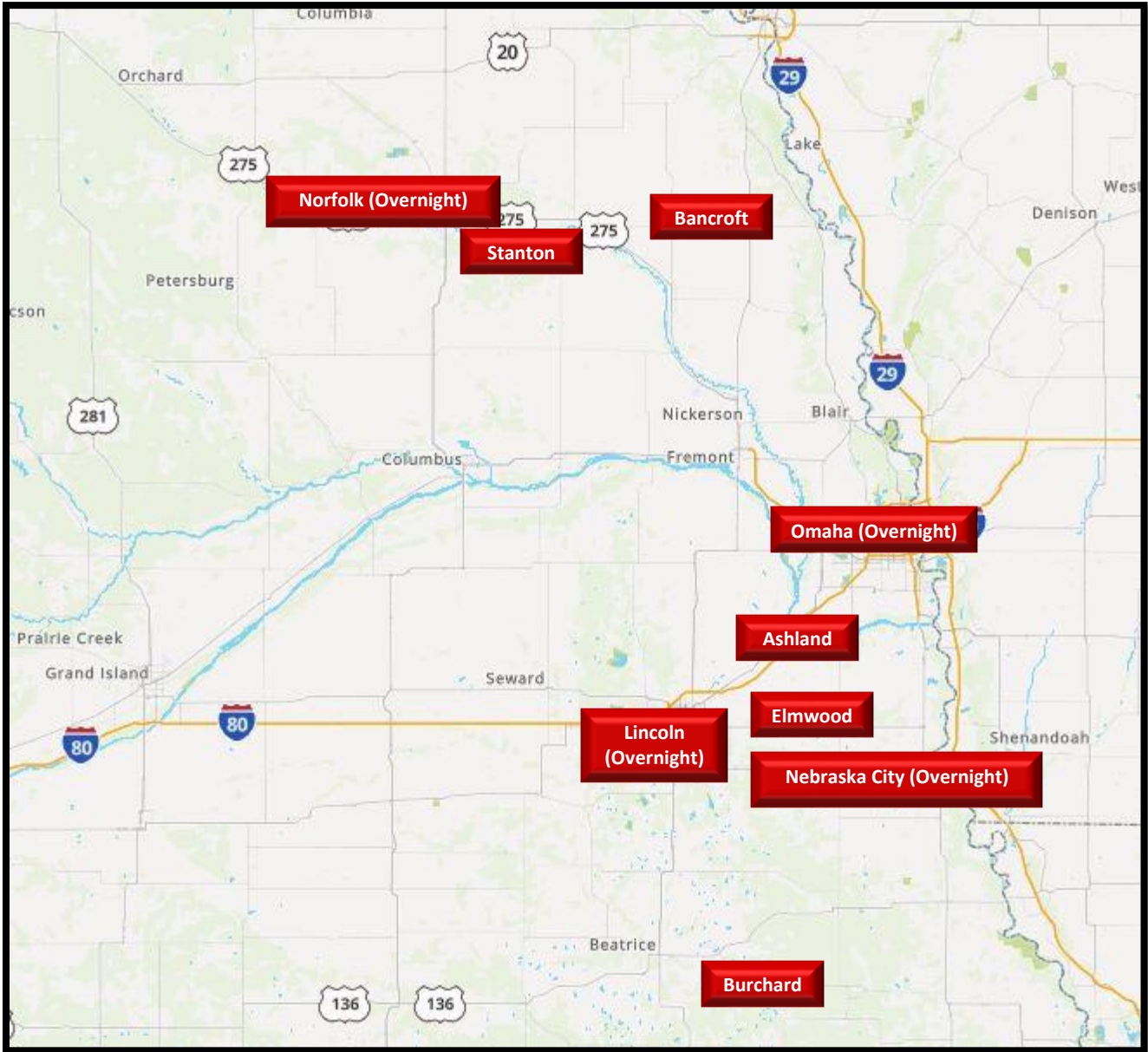
First stop is a guided tour of the **Nebraska Governor's Mansion** followed by a tour of the Nebraska State Capitol across the street. At 15 stories and 400 feet tall it is the second-tallest statehouse in the country and offers a spectacular view of the city from its 14th floor observation level. Afterward, we head to Nebraska City, the Home of Arbor Day, along the banks of the Missouri River.

Your first stop is **Arbor Day Farm** where you will 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. Next, spend some time at **Arbor Lodge State Historical Park** where you can 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.

Tour Route Map



SPIRITUAL ESCAPES

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

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

Arrive in Nebraska a day early for a traditional Polish dinner followed by presentations highlighting Polish culture, religion, and language at **Polish Heritage Society of Nebraska** in Papillion.

Day 1

Omaha

Overnight: Omaha

Breakfast this morning is at **Lithuanian Bakery & Café** in Omaha where you can feast on 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. Next, it is time to head to north Omaha to tour **Mormon Trail Center at Historic Winter Quarters**. You can wander through the visitor center and museum to learn more about the Mormon experience in Nebraska and their western migration to the Promised Land. Next, travel to Europe to tour Omaha's only Greek Orthodox Byzantine-style church followed by a traditional Greek lunch and entertainment, and lessons in Greek dancing at **St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church**. Continue your spiritual journey in Omaha at **Joslyn Art Museum**. This premier art center features artwork from ancient times to the present in nearly twenty galleries. A granite reflecting pool, unique landscaping, and sculptures are in the outdoor gardens. We cannot forget a tour of **St. Cecilia's Cathedral**. The Mother Church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Omaha is a great example of the Spanish Renaissance Revival style of architecture. The church also is site of a still unsolved robbery; *The Virgin Immaculata* that was cut from its frame in 2007. Dinner tonight is in cozy Old-World comfort of an early California style monastery complete with friendly "monks" serving you at **Brother Sebastian's Steak House & Winery**.

Day 2

Omaha

Overnight: Omaha

Start the day off with fresh bagels, breads, and other baked goods at **Bagel Bin**, Omaha's only kosher bakery before heading to **Riekes Museum** to view in-depth 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. Our next stop takes us to Omaha's **Hindu Temple** for a private tour of this elaborate temple dedicated to the city's Hindu faith. Now we head to west Omaha and **Father**

Flanagan's Boys Town to 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. The **Tri-Faith Initiative** is a unique interfaith project that brings together three Abrahamic faith groups, Jewish, Christian, and Islamic onto one campus to promote faith, goodwill, and a better understanding of each other. We end our day in Germany at **German American Society** to enjoy a traditional German dinner, culture, and entertainment.

Day 3

Bellevue • Gretna • Ashland • Greenwood • Lincoln

Overnight: Lincoln

After breakfast, we visit **Offutt Air Force Base** in Bellevue, south of Omaha, to explore the home of the U.S. Strategic Command and 55th Wing. Groups can select from a variety of tour options on the installation. Now we head west to **Holy Family Shrine** near Gretna. 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. One of the state's newest spiritual destinations is **Cloisters on the Platte**, a Jesuit retreat featuring the 2,500-foot-long Stations of the Cross, comprised of 14 sculpture stations representing Christ's trail through his burial. Lunch today will be a delicious meal while surrounded by wooded nature at **Carol Joy Holling Retreat & Conference Center** near Ashland followed by tasty treats at **Bakers Candies**, home to Nebraska's famous chocolate meltaways, in Greenwood. The first stop in Lincoln before dinner is the **International Quilt Study Center** where we will 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.



Holy Family Shrine, Gretna

Day 4

Lincoln • Henderson • York

Overnight: Lincoln

Start the morning out right at one of Lincoln's best locally owned coffee shops and roasters, **The Mill Coffee & Tea** before touring **Union College Seventh Day Adventist Church** and its impressive collection of stained-glass pieces. Afterward, make your own stained-glass piece of art at **Art Glass Creative Studio** before lunch. Next, spend some silent moments meditating and increasing healing through a therapeutic singing bowl vibration demonstration at **Vibrational Sound Association**. Now it is time to head west to York to 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 at **Clayton Museum of Ancient History**. Sacred texts from early printed Bibles and hand copied texts from St. John also are on display. **Henderson Mennonite Heritage Park** in Henderson is an 8 ½-acre historical site that recounts the story of the first 35 Mennonite families that settled this area in 1874. Enjoy traditional Mennonite desserts while listening to interactive stories highlighting the Mennonite

Mennonite Heritage Park, Henderson



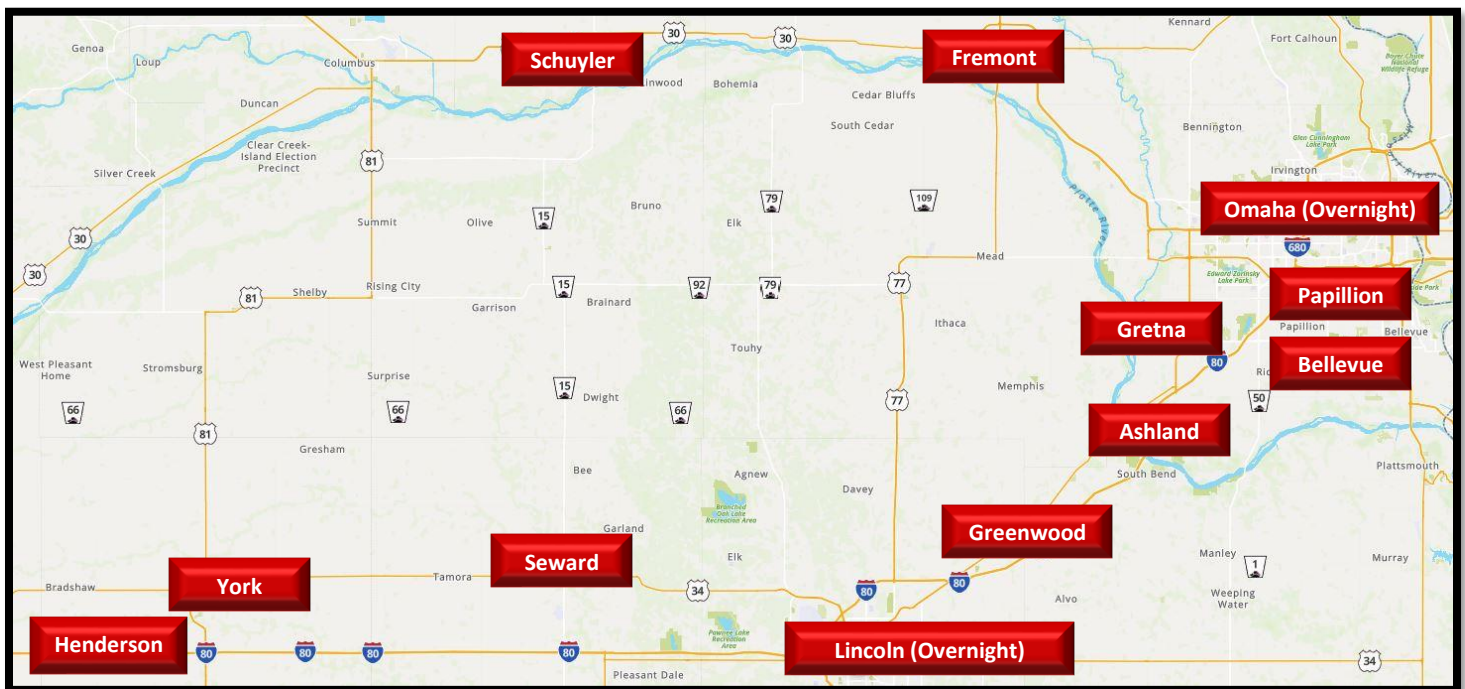
culture, their pacifism and conscientious objector status, and how men and women were treated within the group. Next we head back to York for a catered dinner served in the lower level of the church followed by a musical treat as the 1914 George Kilgen tracker organ is played at **Wessels Living History Farm**.

Day 5

Lincoln • Seward • Schuyler • Fremont

After breakfast we will explore this Vietnamese Buddhist Temple dedicated to sharing Buddhism around the world, **Linh Quang Buddhist Center** in Lincoln before heading to Seward to tour **Saint Gregory the Great Seminary**, a Roman Catholic college seminary where young men are prepared for the priesthood. Enjoy a delicious lunch at **Café on the Square** in Seward, a popular locally owned restaurant across from the county courthouse before heading to **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. Next we head to Fremont and **Saint Benedict Center** where 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. Our last visit today is at **River Life Airboat Tours** south of Fremont where we can skim across the shallow Platte River while communing with nature and taking in our scenic surroundings.

Tour Route Map



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

Nebraska Tourism Group Tour Manager

Micheal Collins (CTIS)

Email: micheal.collins@nebraska.gov

Office: 402-471-3795

Cell: 402-432-1384



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