

Lincoln: The State Capital

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Day 1

Lincoln

After breakfast, our first stop in Lincoln, Nebraska's capital city, is the iconic **Nebraska State Capitol**. At 15 stories and 400 feet tall, this is the second-tallest statehouse in the country and offers a spectacular view of the city from its 14th-floor observation level. After lunch, we make our way 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.

While on campus, we will make a short stop at the **UNL Dairy Store** for a tour of the cheese-making facility and a tasty afternoon ice cream treat. After lunch, our next destination is the **International Quilt Study Center & Museum**, 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. Tonight's dinner and entertainment is **Screamer's Dining & Cabaret**, where we will dine on delicious homemade fare while the restaurant's talented staff entertain us with songs and laughter. *Overnight: Lincoln*

Day 2

Lincoln, Seward, York County

Our first stop today in Lincoln is the **Museum of American Speed**, a 135,000-square-foot museum that highlights the chronology of automotive racing and speed equipment development while preserving, interpreting, and displaying items significant in racing and automotive history. Now it is time to head for a delicious catered lunch and a tasting of Nebraska wines at **Junto Wine**, located in the Garland Hills, west of Lincoln. After lunch, we continue our trek west to Seward to explore the **Nebraska National Guard Museum** to learn more about the military history and heritage of the Nebraska National Guard in peacetime and war.

Next stop is **Mennonite Heritage Park** in Henderson, where costumed storytellers recount stories about the 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. We return to York, where we will step back into the Ancient World at the **Clayton Museum of Ancient History**. This unique museum highlights the ancient world of Mesopotamia, Rome and other great civilizations. You can also 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 it in the wall. Our last stop before returning to Lincoln is **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. Tonight's dinner is at **Chances "R" Restaurant and Lounge**, one of York's most popular group dining. *Overnight: Lincoln*

Day 3

Beatrice, Brownville, Nebraska City

This morning, we take a short drive south of Lincoln and return 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, we explore the Homestead Heritage Center, hiking trails through virgin prairie grasses, and living history demonstrations. We now head to the banks of the Missouri River to explore the historic village of Brownville with a stop at the **Flatwater Folk Art Museum**. This amazing art collection celebrates the human spirit and traditions through handcrafted works of art.

Next, we will enjoy a delicious lunch and an unforgettable experience aboard a historic riverboat cruising down the scenic Missouri River aboard the **Spirit of Brownville** before tasting Nebraska wines and distilled spirits within a cozy 110-year-old barn setting at **Whiskey Run Creek Winery & Distillery**.

Our next stop is Nebraska City, the Home of Arbor Day. Here, we'll visit **Arbor Lodge State Historical Park**, 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. Then, we'll explore **Arbor Day Farm**, a 260-acre working farm orchard and forest, which also is a National Historic Landmark, with an experienced nature interpreter. We can 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. Before departing, we enjoy an amazing dinner at Timbers at **Lied Lodge & Conference Center**.

Overnight: Lincoln

Day 4

Greenwood, Ashland, Bellevue, Papillion

This morning, we make our way to Nebraska's largest candy outlet. **Baker's Candies** in Greenwood is home to the famous chocolate meltaways, decadent fudge, gourmet confections, and other sweet treats available directly from the factory. Afterward, it is off to Ashland and **Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum**. This 300,000-square-foot museum features aircraft from various world conflicts, an impressive array of aircraft that helped preserve peace during the Cold War, an onsite restoration hanger, and several spacecraft exhibits highlighting our nation's missions to space.

After lunch, we head to Bellevue and the **Fontenelle Forest** to learn about the facility's dedication to helping injured birds of prey through their Raptor Rescue Program and the Raptor Woodland Refuge. Here owls, hawks, falcons, and other species that can no longer survive in the wild live within "homes" designed to fit their natural habitats. At the next stop, we visit the **Czech and Slovak Educational Centre & Cultural Museum**, where we can browse exceptional varieties of Bohemian glass, hand-decorated eggs, glass Christmas tree ornaments, and more from the Old Country. We round out our day exploring Eastern Europe with traditional Polish food and entertainment at the **Polish Heritage Society of Nebraska**. *Na zdrowie! (Cheers!) Overnight: Lincoln*

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