

Nebraska's Missouri River Valley & Capital City

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Day 1

Brownville

We start our day late in the morning with lunch in **Historic Downtown Brownville** at **The Lyceum**, a classic local restaurant serving wonderful locally sourced dishes, before heading to **Flatwater Folk Art Museum's** amazing art collection celebrating the human spirit and traditions through handcrafted works of art. Our next stop is a celebration and tasting of Nebraska wines and distilled spirits within a cozy 110-year-old barn setting at **Whiskey Run Creek Vineyard & Winery** before boarding the **Spirit of Brownville** for dinner and an unforgettable experience aboard a historic riverboat cruising down the scenic Missouri River. *Overnight: Nebraska City*

Day 2

Nebraska City, Papillion

Our second day is an exploration of Nebraska City, the Home of Arbor Day, where our first stop is **Arbor Lodge State Historical Park**. Here, we 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.

Our next stop in town is **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. We round out our time 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. Next, we head to the **Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Visitor Center** overlooking the Missouri River to learn more about the 300-plus flora, fauna, and scientific discoveries Lewis and Clark made on their historic Corps of Discovery Journey. On our way to Omaha, we make a dinner stop at the **Polish Heritage Society of Nebraska** for traditional Polish food and entertainment. *Na zdrowie! (Cheers!) Overnight: Omaha*

Day 3

Bellevue, Omaha

After breakfast, we head south to Bellevue to browse exceptional varieties of Bohemian glass, hand-decorated eggs, glass Christmas tree ornaments, and more from the Old Country at the **Czech and Slovak Educational Centre & Cultural Museum**. Then, it is off to **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.

We return to Omaha, Greek Omaha, that is, for a tour of **St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church**, Omaha's only Greek Orthodox Byzantine-style church, followed by a traditional Greek lunch, entertainment and lessons in Greek dancing. Next stop is the 92,000-square-foot **Hot Shops Art Center**. This unique living art museum is home to more than 70 artists in residence, specializing in a wide variety of artistic media, from glass blowing and pottery to bronze casting and blacksmithing. Now, we head to **Durham Museum** in the former Union Station to explore the history and settlement of

Omaha. Make sure to head to the platform downstairs for the chance to walk through authentic train cars and other exhibits. For dinner tonight, we explore Germany and experience the German concept of *Gemütlichkeit* (coziness) at the **German American Society**. Delicious comfort food followed by traditional German entertainment is on the menu. *Willkommen in Deutschland! Overnight: Omaha*

Day 4

Omaha, Ashland, Greenwood, Lincoln

This morning, our first stop is **Father Flanagan's Boys Town**. Founded in 1917, this is an exceptionally heartwarming story of how Father Flanagan worked to create a haven for wayward boys and now girls on the outskirts of Omaha. Next, we head west 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. Now, we are off 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.

Next stop is Lincoln, Nebraska's capital city, which no tour would be complete without a visit to 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 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: Omaha*

Day 5

Omaha, Tekamah, Winnebago Nation, South Sioux City

Our first Omaha stop today is to see how the city's upper crust lived with a tour through the 35-room Scottish Baronial **Joslyn Castle**, the stately home of George and Sarah Joslyn, located in Omaha's Gold Coast Historic District. Afterward, we drive north along the Lewis and Clark Scenic Byway for a wonderful lunch and to discover the delicious world of chocolates, baked goods, scented candles, and so much more at **Master's Hand Candles & Gift Shop** in Tekamah. Make sure to check out the "work of art" restroom.

After lunch, we make our way to the Winnebago Nation and **Angel DeCora Museum & Research Center**. Located on the Little Priest Tribal College campus, this interesting museum displays artifacts and exhibits of the Winnebago Nation, one of Nebraska's four Native American tribes. Next, we head to the 55-acre **Siouxland Freedom Park** on the banks of the Missouri River, where we will view an exact half-scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. At 250 feet long, "The Wall" features the names of more than 58,000 fallen service members from that war. In 2023, the 3,700-square-foot interpretive center opened and is home to interactive displays, memorabilia and exhibits showcasing the words from Siouxland Veterans from all conflicts of war where United States soldiers fought.

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MICHEAL COLLINS, CTIS
GROUP TRAVEL MANAGER
402-432-1384
micheal.collins@nebraska.gov
www.visitnebraska.com/group_travel

