

Omaha: Nebraska's City Centers

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Day 1

Omaha

Our first activity this morning is an **Omaha Guided City Tour**, where we will visit many of Nebraska's largest city's hot spots and noteworthy locations. Afterward, we make our way to **St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church**, Omaha's only Greek Orthodox Byzantine-style church, for a tour, a traditional Greek lunch and lessons in Greek dancing. *Opa!* Now we head to see how Omaha'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.

Our next stop is **Father Flanagan's Boys Town** in west Omaha to learn more about this exceptionally heartwarming story of how Father Flanagan worked to create a haven for wayward boys and now girls when he purchased Overlook Farm in 1921. 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 2

Omaha, Bellevue, Papillion

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. After lunch in the historic **Old Market**, we head south of Omaha 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.

Our next two stops in Sarpy County take us to Eastern Europe. First, we head 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** before feasting on traditional Polish dishes and enjoying entertainment at the **Polish Heritage Society of Nebraska** for lunch. *Na zdrowie! (Cheers!) Overnight: Omaha*

Day 3

Nebraska City, Nehawka

Our first stop today in Nebraska City, the Home of Arbor Day, is **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. Now it is time to 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. Lunch will be a made-from-scratch treat at Timbers at **Lied Lodge & Conference Center**.

Our final stop in Nebraska City is **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. Our final stop in town is the **Kregel Windmill Factory Museum**, the last intact, historic windmill factory in the United States. The factory provides a unique look back at early 20th-century American manufacturing and looks the same today as it did in 1939, as if the workers merely stepped out to the sideways for their sack lunches. Tonight's dinner at **Slattery Vintage Estates** gives an escape from the city and features a tasting room with more than 70 varieties of Nebraska wine and beer, along with an outdoor kitchen featuring authentic wood-fired pizzas. *Overnight: Omaha*

Day 4

Ashland, Greenwood, Lincoln, South Bend

Today's first stop is at the **Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum**, a 300,000-square-foot museum that 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, where we will enjoy lunch in the **Historic Haymarket District**, a vibrant section of downtown full of unique shops, bistros, boutiques, and pubs. Afterward, no tour to Lincoln 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 **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. 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. On the way back to Omaha, we stop for dinner in South Bend at **Round the Bend Steakhouse** for a mouthwatering steak at one of Nebraska's premier steakhouses.

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