

BUFFETT, BIRDS, AND BEEF THE GREAT PLATTE RIVER ROAD



The best time of year for this itinerary is between mid-February and mid-April.

Day 1 Travel Day

Overnight: Omaha

Day 2 Omaha, Bellevue

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. After lunch, we head south 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 is now 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. *Overnight: Omaha*

Day 3 Omaha, Lincoln

Start the day off with eclectic breads and tortes based on "Old Country" recipes at **Lithuanian Bakery & Café** while listening to the story of the family and how they immigrated to Nebraska. Next, it is 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**.



Credit: Omaha 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. *Overnight: Lincoln*

Day 4 Lincoln, Grand Island

After breakfast, our 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. Our last stop 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. Afterward, it is time to head west to Grand Island where we will check into our hotel to freshen up before dinner in town followed by evening sandhill crane viewing adventure along the Platte River at **Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center**. *Overnight: Grand Island*

Day 5 Grand Island, Holdrege

Breakfast this morning is at **The Chocolate Bar**, a trendy café with a big city ambiance in downtown Grand Island before heading to **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 for lunch and 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, this amazing museum transports us back to the early pioneer and settlement days of Nebraska.



We take a short drive south to Holdrege to tour **Phelps County Feeders** where we will learn more about what all it takes to care for and feed cattle at this family-owned feedlot. Next, we take a tour of **Nebraska Star Beef** to learn how they market, sell, and ship their product from central Nebraska to all over the world. Tonight's dinner is a culinary treat at **The Speakeasy** where we will feast on some of the most mouthwatering steaks you will ever enjoy. *Overnight: Kearney*

Day 6 Kearney, North Platte

Our day starts with an early morning guided tour to view the fascinating prairie chicken mating dance with **Prairie Wind Birding Tours** and enjoy the sights and sounds as the males boom and dance to woo the females in the lek. Before departing Kearney, we make a stop at **The Archway**, an impressive interactive museum that commemorates the nation's westward expansion through interactive exhibits and self-guided audio tours. 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. Lunch will be a catered affair at The Archway. Upon arrival in North Platte our first stop is an Old West shoot-out called "Ride with the Wild Bunch" at **Buffalo Bill State Historical Park**. There we will meet Colonel William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and his wife to hear about their lives and their interesting adventures.

Afterward, hop aboard a horse drawn wagon to nearby **Lincoln County Historical Museum** for a tour of the museum, including an authentic recreated Old West town and artifacts highlighting the story of the famous World War II North Platte Canteen. Now we head to the **Golden Spike Tower** for a private tour and bird's eye view of the world's largest railroad classification yard from the 7th floor open air observation deck or the 8th floor enclosed deck. Dinner tonight will be served aloft overlooking the Yard. *Overnight: North Platte*

Day 7 North Platte

After breakfast, we climb aboard Union Pacific's steam locomotive at **Cody Park Railroad Museum** where we also can see UP's #6922, the largest diesel locomotive ever made, peek inside the historic Hershey Depot, and climb aboard a mail car and caboose to view historic railroad memorabilia. Next, we head to **Fort Cody Trading Post**, one of Nebraska's most eclectic gift and souvenir



shops. Do not miss the working 20,000-piece miniature replica of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and tour Old West exhibits in the newly renovated museum. Afterward, we head out into the fields with **Dusty Trails** for an afternoon sandhill crane viewing tour during the most active time of day for these birds where we can witness some of their unique courtship behaviors.

Note: Groups that flew into Omaha to start this itinerary can return to Omaha and depart from there or continue from North Platte to depart from Denver International Airport. Drive time from North Platte to DIA: 3 hrs. 40 mins.

For more information about this and other Nebraska sample group itineraries:

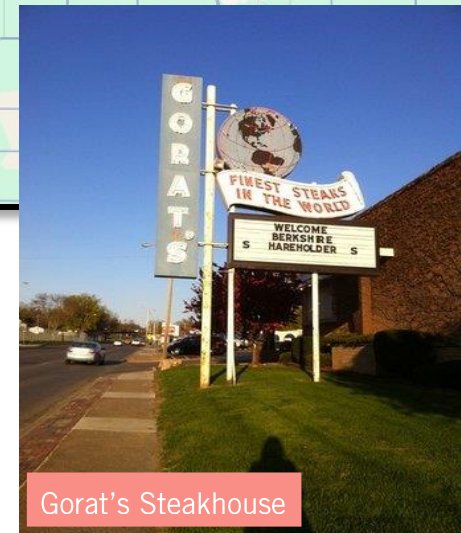
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The Archway



Gorat's Steakhouse