

NEBRASKA'S MISSOURI RIVER TOWNS & CAPITAL CITY



Day 1 Travel Day

Overnight: Nebraska City (or Brownville, depending on the size of the group)

Day 2 Brownville

We start off in Brownville with a private visit at the **Flatwater Folk Art Museum** to explore its amazing art collection celebrating the human spirit and traditions through handcrafted works of art. Afterward, we head for lunch at **The Lyceum**, a classic local restaurant serving wonderful locally sourced dishes before walking down to **Environs Art Studio & Gallery** to release our inner artists by creating our own artistic pieces to take home. Next, we enjoy a celebration and tasting of Nebraska wines and distilled spirits within a cozy 110-year-old barn setting at **Whiskey Run Creek Vineyard & Winery** followed by a tasty frozen treat at **Gospel Coffee & Ice Cream**. We round out our time in town by boarding the **Spirit of Brownville** for dinner and an unforgettable experience aboard a historic riverboat cruising down the scenic Missouri River.

Overnight: Nebraska City



Spirit of Brownville

Day 3 Nebraska City, Papillion

Our second day is an exploration of Nebraska City, the Home of Arbor Day, where our first stop appropriately enough is **Arbor Day Farm**, a 260-acre working farm orchard and forest, which also is a National Historic Landmark. An experienced nature interpreter will help us explore the campus, including the 50-foot-high Tree Adventure treehouse for an amazing view of the farm. Upon leaving, we can take home our own tree seedling from the Lied Greenhouse. Next 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.

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 Interpretive Trail & Visitor Center** overlooking the Missouri River to learn



Kimmel Orchard

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 **Polish Heritage Society of Nebraska** for traditional Polish food and entertainment. *Na zdrowie! (Cheers!)*

Overnight: Omaha

Day 4 Bellevue, Omaha

After breakfast, we head south to Bellevue to **Offutt Air Force Base** in Bellevue. While there we can tour the Air Traffic Control Tower to witness how the controllers manage the airspace around Offutt and work with Eppley Airfield. We also can visit the 557th Weather Wing. Offutt is home

to the only weather wing in the U.S. Air Force and visitors will learn how these specialists develop weather forecasts for the Air Force and Army. *Note: additional visitor security information is required to visit the air force base.* Afterward we head to **Fontenelle Forest Nature Center** to learn about the facility's dedication to help injured birds of prey at 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. A behind the scenes tour shows how these birds are fed and learn how staff use them to educate the public about their habits and 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 and 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*



Durham Museum

Day 5 Omaha, Ashland, Lincoln

After breakfast at **Lithuanian Bakery and Café**, our first stop is **St. Cecilia's Cathedral** for a guided tour of this Spanish-style 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. Now we head west to **Boys Town**. Founded in 1917, this is the 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 & 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 direct from the factory.

We round out our day in Lincoln, Nebraska's capital city, where our first stop is at one of the city's most interesting and fascinating places, **Robber's Cave** where we learn more about the cave's storied past and colorful characters from an experienced guide. Afterward, we head to the **Historic Haymarket District** for dinner and entertainment at **Screamer's Dining & Cabaret** where we dine on delicious homemade fare while the restaurant's talented staff entertain us with songs and laughter. *Overnight: Lincoln*



Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum

Day 6 Lincoln

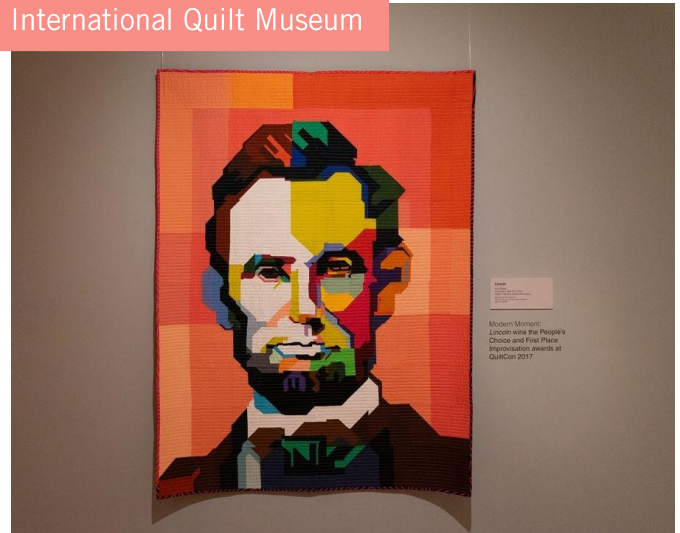
Our first stop this morning is the 135,000-square-foot **Museum of American Speed**. This amazing three-story museum highlights the chronology of automotive racing and speed equipment development while preserving, interpreting, and displaying items significant in racing and automotive history. No tour 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 head to the Home of the Huskers for a behind-the-scenes tour of **UNL Memorial Stadium**, a must do for any Husker fan. Our last stop in Lincoln before departure is the **International Quilt 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.

Nebraska State Capitol Building



International Quilt Museum



Lewis & Clark Visitor Center



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

MICHEAL COLLINS, CTIS
Group tour manager
402-432-1384
micheal.collins@nebraska.gov
www.visitnebraska.com/group_travel



NEBRASKA'S MISSOURI RIVER TOWNS & CAPITAL CITY



Baker's Candies