

NEBRASKA SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION



Day 1 Travel Day

Dinner tonight in Omaha is at **Big Mama's Kitchen and Catering**. Featured on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives," this is one of the best locally owned restaurants in Omaha serving soul food and traditional American cuisine. *Overnight: Omaha*

Day 2 Omaha

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 we return it is time to explore more than 5,000 years of human artistic creativity in art across three buildings at the newly expanded **The Joslyn**. The museum recently underwent a multi-million dollar 42,000-square-foot expansion and includes art works from antiquity to modern day. Next, we head to **Omaha Community Playhouse**, the largest community theater in the country where we will about the process of putting on a large stage production including set and costume design.

Now it is time to head to west Omaha. Founded in 1917, **Boys Town** is an exceptional heartwarming story of how Father Flanagan worked to create a haven for wayward boys, and now girls, on the outskirts of the city. Dinner tonight is at **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 Nebraska City, Burchard

Your first stop is **Arbor Lodge State Historical Park** where you 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. Next, head to **Arbor Day Farm** where you will explore this 260-acre working farm orchard and forest, which also is a National Historic Landmark with an experienced nature interpreter. 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.

Next, we head to the **Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Interpretive Trail & 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. Now we head to old Hollywood with a tour of the **home of Harold Lloyd**, Nebraska's native son, in Burchard. We can tour the home and enjoy a screening of one of the 200 films made by Lloyd from 1915 to 1919. *Overnight: Lincoln*



Day 4 Superior, Red Cloud, Hastings

After breakfast we head southwest to Superior, home to Lady Vestey, who not only was the highest paid female executive in the world at the time, but also became part of the landed gentry when she married Lord Vestey. While in town, we will meet Lady Vestey at the **Nuckolls County**

Museum and learn more about her life and how she helped and supported her community. Next, we head with Lady Vestey to **Superior Estates Winery** for a wine tasting of delicious Nebraska wines and to listen to further tales of the Lady's interesting life. Afterward, we head to Red Cloud to follow in the footsteps of one of Nebraska's most revered authors, Willa Cather, author of *O Pioneers!*, *My Antonia*, and *Death Comes for the Archbishop*. While in town, we will visit several nationally designated historic buildings prominent in Willa Cather's life and books on a **Willa Cather Foundation Tour** before exploring the **National Willa Cather Center** and **Red Cloud Opera House**.



Hastings Museum

Our next stops are in Hastings where we first talk a walk on the wild side at the **Bigfoot Crossroads of America Museum** and explore the many Bigfoot sightings and stories from Nebraska and around the world. Now we head into town to experience three floors of natural and cultural history exhibits and view full dome astronomy shows in the Planetarium at the **Hastings Museum**. Before departing Hastings, we will have dinner at **Odyssey Downtown** where we will fill ourselves with fine food and craft cocktails in a refreshing urban atmosphere. *Overnight: Lincoln*

Day 5 Ashland, Elmwood, Lincoln

After breakfast, we head 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 the village of Elmwood, east of Lincoln to visit the **Bess Streeter Aldrich House and Museum** for a guided tour of her house to learn about her life and writings. Bess has been known to be home to give the tours personally.

After lunch in Lincoln, Nebraska's capital city, we visit 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. This is followed by a guided tour of the **Nebraska Governor's Mansion** across the street and then one at **UNL's Memorial Stadium**, home of the Nebraska Cornhuskers football team for a peek inside this facility and other areas within the Hawks Championship Center and Osborne Athletic Complex. Dinner tonight is at **Billy's Restaurant**, a popular dining venue for the state's politicians and other political figures. *Overnight: Lincoln*

Day 6 Norfolk, Bancroft

After breakfast, we head north to Norfolk, and the Home of Johnny Carson where our first stop is the **Elkhorn Valley Museum**. Here we can learn more about Johnny Carson and his impressively long television career. On display are many of his personal items, including videotapes, vintage photographs, and his six Emmy Awards. An interactive home theater also shows selected *Tonight Show* episodes and monologues.



Elkhorn Valley Museum

Next stop is the **Johnny Carson Mural**. This large series of paintings by artist Karl Reeder in downtown Norfolk highlights the progression of Johnny's career and is a great spot for photographs. Lunch is a **Black Cow Fat Pig**, one of the premier steakhouses in northeast Nebraska, with an emphasis on locally sourced food and a scratch kitchen. After lunch, we tour **Johnny Carson's childhood home** where owner, Jim McKenzie, will speak about the history of the house and items found along the way while bringing it back to its original condition. As we make our way back to Omaha for dinner, we make one last stop in Bancroft at the **John G. Neihardt State Historic Site** for a tour of the visitor center to learn more about Neihardt's life and his many works, including *Black Elk Speaks*. *Overnight: Omaha*

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 SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

