

OMAHA

BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITIES

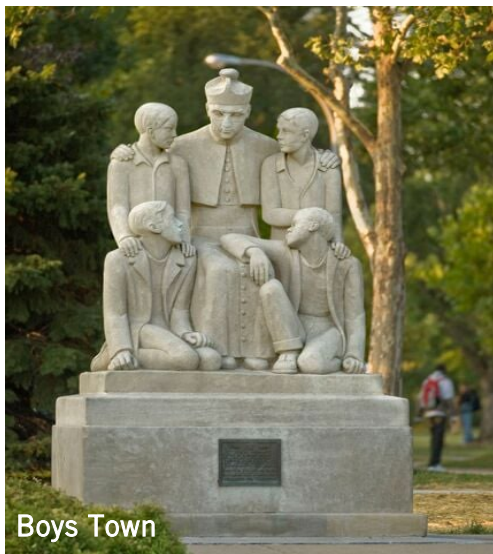


NEBRASKA'S LARGEST CITY IS home to all sorts of can't-miss experiences. As you explore Omaha and the surrounding area, you'll discover the rich heritage and culture of the region. Groups overnight in Omaha each night and enjoy exciting day trips to destinations in Omaha and across southeast Nebraska.

DAY 1 SPEND THE DAY IN OMAHA

Our first activity this morning is a **guided city tour of Omaha** 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 and a traditional Greek lunch and lessons in Greek dancing. *Opa!*

Now 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.



Boys Town

Our next stop is **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 FIND YOUR INNER ARTIST

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 we head south of Omaha to **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.

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 ARBOR DAY, APPLES, WINDMILLS, AND WINE

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 for lunch at Timbers at Lied Lodge before exploring **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.

After lunch we head to **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 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 **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 THE END OF THE COLD WAR, AWESOME BIRD'S EYE VIEW, AND HUSKER FOOTBALL

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.

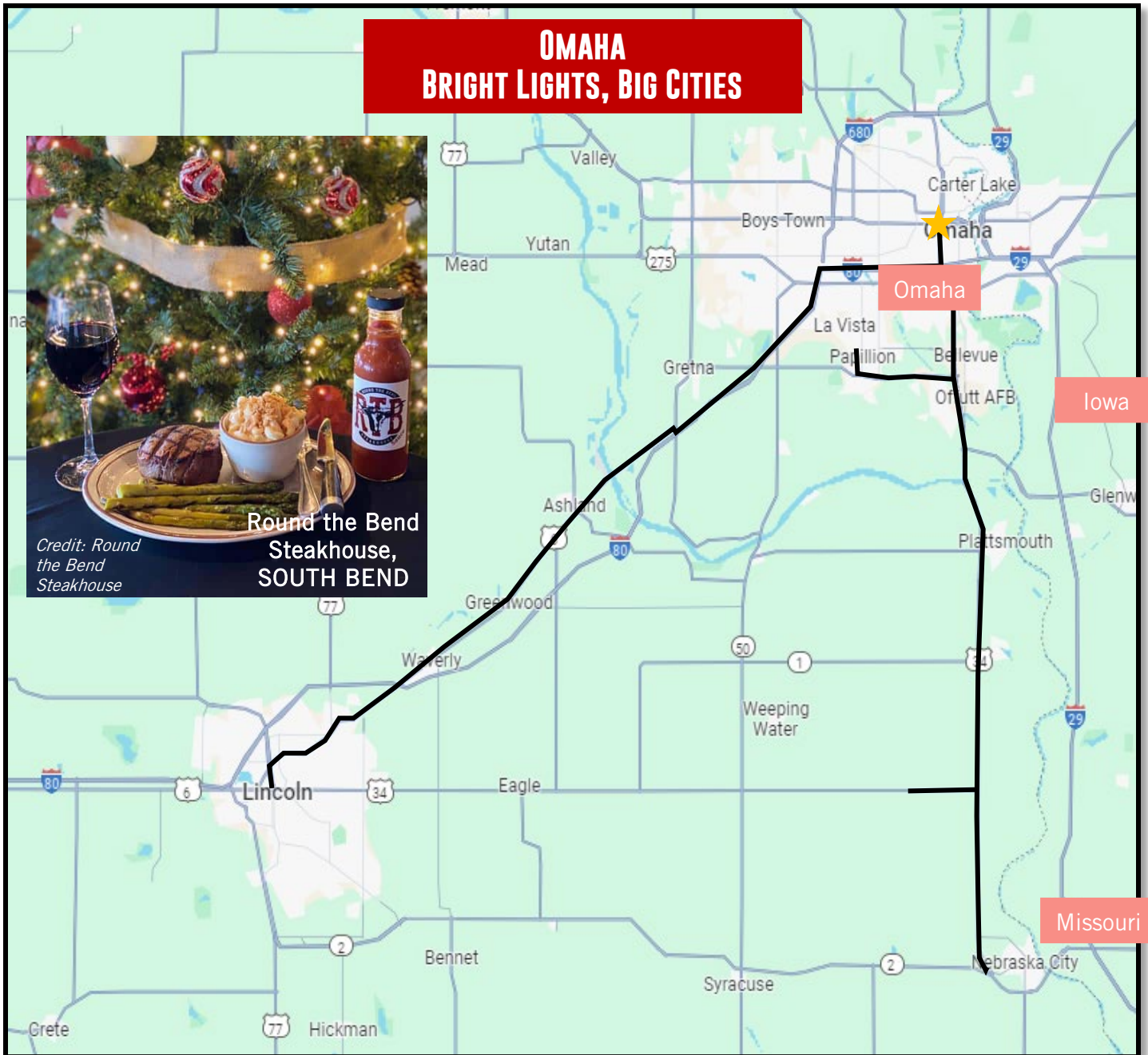
Next stop is Lincoln, Nebraska's capital city, where we will enjoy lunch in the **Historic Haymarket District**, a vibrant section of downtown full of unique shops, bistros, boutiques, and pubs. Afterward, no tour to Lincoln would be complete without a visit to the iconic **Nebraska State Capitol**. 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 head to the Home of the Huskers for a behind-the-scenes tour of **UNL Memorial Stadium**, a must do for any Husker fan. Next, we make our way to the **Eloise Kruger Gallery of Miniatures** on University of Nebraska Lincoln campus. This hidden away museum boasts more than 20,000 handmade pieces of 1:12 scale furniture and accessories of American, English, French, and Asian designs. More than 2,500 pieces currently are on display. Our next destination is the **International Quilt Study Center** 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. *Overnight: Omaha*

SHOW ME WHERE I'M GOING



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

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