

EASTERN NEBRASKA'S UNIQUE STOPS, ONE-OF-A-KINDS AND AMAZING STORIES



Eastern Nebraska is full of unique, one-of-a-kind and special treasures and places. This tour will take you on a journey through eastern Nebraska to search out some of the state's quirky and amazing destinations. Nebraska truly is one of a kind and you'll see that on this exciting tour.

DAY 1

Omaha

MORNING

Founded by Father Edward Flanagan in 1917, not only is **Boy's Town** (allow 1.5 hours) the basis for an award-winning movie from 1938, it also is home to a unique attraction, the World's Largest of Stamps. Enjoy a fascinating guided tour of the grounds, but don't miss this 600 pound attraction made up of more than 4.5 million cancelled stamps. Venture to north Omaha to the **Love's Jazz & Arts Center** (allow 1.5 hours). Located in the heart of historic north Omaha, this 10,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art center tells the story of the contributions African-American artists had on the city and nationwide.



AFTERNOON

Your lunch stop was featured on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives." Taste mouthwatering soul food and traditional American cuisine at the family-owned and operated **Big Mama's Kitchen & Catering**. Try their famous oven-fried chicken and sweet potato pie ice cream. Built in 1903 for George and Sarah Joslyn, the wealthiest couple in Nebraska in the beginning of the Twentieth Century, the 35-room, 20,000 sq. ft. **Joslyn Castle** (allow 1 hour) contains amazing artistic detail in carved wood, stained glass,

chiseled stone, mosaic tiles and wrought iron throughout the building. It's an impressive tribute to the early financial success of the City of Omaha.

The 92,000 sq. ft. **Hot Shops Art Center** includes art studios, showrooms, and galleries catering to the artist community. The Center's "**Omaha Creative Institute**" (allow 2 hours) provides rich, memorable experiences through its "Come Create It" workshop series. These sessions focus on introductory time with professional artists in various media forms, such as watercolor painting, glassblowing, African drumming and ceramics creation. Visual arts workshop participants also can take home a self-created memento of their time.

Before dinner, enjoy a relaxing ride on a gondola in Heartland of America Park or board the Italian Caorlina Tour Boat for larger groups with **Heartland Gondolas** (allow 1 hour). Afterward, enjoy a relaxing dinner cruise down the Missouri River on the **River City Star** (allow 1.5 hours). Omaha offers a number of quality lodging accommodations for your group to rest and relax in.

DAY 2

Omaha • Nebraska City • Lincoln

MORNING

Your last stop before departing Omaha is **El Museo Latino** (allow 1 hour) where you'll explore the important contribution the Hispanic population had on Omaha's history, culture and development. For an even more personal look at south Omaha's Hispanic culture, take **La Veinticuatro-South 24th Street Walking Tour** (allow 75-90 minutes). This is a nationally registered historic district that has been transformed into a vibrant area filled with small businesses, restaurants and art focused on the Hispanic community. Tour participants visit up to 10 sites, including the International Bakery, South Omaha City Hall and World of Pottery.

Enjoy a delicious lunch in the Timber Dining Room at **Lied Lodge and Conference Center in Nebraska City**. The restaurant serves local, sustainable food under soaring timbers, alongside sweeping views of Arbor Day Farm. The menu reflects what's fresh for the season, bringing the best fruits and vegetables from the field to your table.

AFTERNOON

Next stop is Arbor Lodge State Historical Park (allow 1.5 hours), 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. Walk through the rooms filled with authentic furnishings and displays that capture the life and times of this visionary. The 72-acre arboretum includes a lilac walk with more than 200 varieties of lilacs, and a tree trail. Italian terraced garden and carriage house also are located on the grounds.

Step into the past at Nebraska City's newest museum, the **Kregel Windmill Museum** (allow 1 hour). The Kregel Windmill Company operated as a commercial windmill manufacturing company until 1991 and today serves as a time capsule of early 20th Century shop-type manufacturing.

The three story, 12,000 square foot, **Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Interpretive Trail & Visitor Center** (allow 1 hour), sits on a scenic 79 acre wooded bluff overlooking the Missouri River. The facility is unique in that it's the only museum or interpretive center in the nation that focuses on the flora, fauna and scientific discoveries recorded by the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Depart Nebraska City for Lincoln, Nebraska's second largest city and state capital where you'll enjoy a delicious dinner and shopping time in the **Historic Haymarket District** before heading to your hotel for the night.

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DAY 3

Lincoln

MORNING

First stop this morning is a guided tour of the impressive **State Capitol** (allow 1 hour) building, home to the nation's only one-house legislative body, the Nebraska Unicameral.



Discover four centuries of miniatures at the **Kruger Collection of Miniature Furnishings and Decorative Arts** (allow 1 hour). This unique collection consists of 20,000 fine-scale contemporary art miniatures that sample four centuries of interior design history in miniature. Enjoy a guided tour of the exhibition and the collection's storage space.

Stop by the **International Quilt Study Center & Museum** (allow 1 hour), the world's largest publicly held quilt collection, with more than 4,000 quilts from more than 25 countries. For lunch, try an original Nebraska creation, the Runza® sandwich, a homemade dough bread pocket filled with beef, cabbage, onions and seasonings. Follow this with a sweet tasting ice cream treat at the **University of Nebraska Dairy Store** (allow 30 minutes).

AFTERNOON

In 1919 the Nebraska State Legislature established the Tractor Law to encourage the manufacture and sale of improved types of tractors. Visit the **Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power** (allow 45 minutes) Museum to learn how tractor testing and performance data continue to contribute to more successful uses of tractors in agriculture. Watch tractors being tested in the track next to the museum.

Next stop is the **Frank H. Woods Telephone Pioneer Museum** (allow 45 minutes). Featured in the 2008 film "Yes Man," this unique museum tells the story of the telephone from its original design to modern day phones. Visit the only museum in the world dedicated to the history and development of roller sports and technology.

The **National Museum of Roller Skating** (allow 1 hour) exhibits include skates, costumers, film, artwork and other skating related memorabilia from 1819 to the present. Your final stop in Lincoln is the Bedient Pipe Organ Company (allow 45 minutes) where you'll learn more about the art of producing entirely acoustic pipe organs. Since 1969, this small group of pipe makers and woodworkers has built top quality organs one at a time from their modest shop south of Lincoln and sold them worldwide.

DAY 4

Beatrice • Wilber • Henderson • York • Columbus

MORNING

Arrive at the Homestead National Monument of America (allow 2 hours) where you'll spend time learning about the Homestead Act that help to settle the untamed west, take a guided tour of the Homestead Heritage Center led by an experienced Park Ranger, enjoy a demonstration of an early pioneer craft, and a special tour of the museum's vast collection of pioneer and western artifacts.

Step back in fashion time at Yesterday's Lady (allow 1 hour), Nebraska's largest collection of vintage clothing on display at the Vintage Clothing Museum and Vintage Salon. Enjoy a wonderful traditional **Czech lunch in Wilber**, the Czech Capital of Nebraska, before heading to your next destination.

AFTERNOON

Your afternoon begins in Henderson at the **Mennonite Heritage Village** (allow 1 hour). This living history farm traces the Mennonite heritage through the hardships and trials of the first 35 immigrant families that traveled to Henderson in 1874. Buildings onsite include a replica of the original immigrant house, church, 1911 barn, country schoolhouse, farm house, machine shed and a visitor center with exhibits and a gift shop. Enjoy a traditional Mennonite pastry and coffee before leaving.

Next stop is **Wessel's Living History Farm** (allow 1.5 hours) in York where you can experience first-hand farm life from the 1920s until modern times.

Depart York and head toward Columbus, the City of Power and Progress. Upon arrival, your first stop is the **Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial** (allow 30 minutes). The memorial features a life-size replica of the Higgins landing craft, which helped the Allies win the Second World War. A bronze eagle statue sits atop a steel structure made from material salvaged from the 2001 World Trade Center disaster.

Enjoy a casual and relaxing dinner this evening at **Dusters/Gottberg Brew Pub**. Watch the chefs prepare your meals in the open air kitchen in the main dining room or dine by the fire in the fireside room. Make sure to try one of the brew pub's amazing handcrafted beers or its Gottberg Root Beer and Gottberg Red Cream Soda. Afterward, learn about Fremont-based product Dorothy Lynch Dressing and even take home a small bottle for yourself. Check into your lodging in Columbus.

DAY 5

Columbus • Schuyler • Fremont • Blair

MORNING

Built in 1876, **Glur's** (allow 30 minutes) is the oldest tavern west of the Missouri River still in operation. Buffalo Bill visited here while in Columbus rehearsing his Wild West Show and the building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. **Saint Benedict Center and Benedictine Mission House** (allow 1 hour) near Schuyler is a masterpiece of modern architecture. The museum highlights the work of Missionary Benedictines around the world and the commons areas feature a large Madonna collection with statues from the Americas, Asia, Europe and Africa. Visitors can explore and appreciate unique artwork from many countries around the world, especially Tanzania, South Africa, Korea, China, the Philippines and Peru.

Continue to Fremont where you'll have a true dining experience at **J's Steakhouse and Wine Bar**.

AFTERNOON

After lunch, have a different kind of experience as with **Bryson's Airboat Tours** (allow 2 hours) speeding down the Platte River on an airboat. Next stop is Blair and a visit to the **DeSoto Chute National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center** (allow 1.5 hours) where you can take an up-close, behind the scenes tour of more than 200,000 well preserved artifacts from the Steamboat Bertrand, which sunk in the Missouri River in 1865. Return to Omaha.