

NEBRASKA

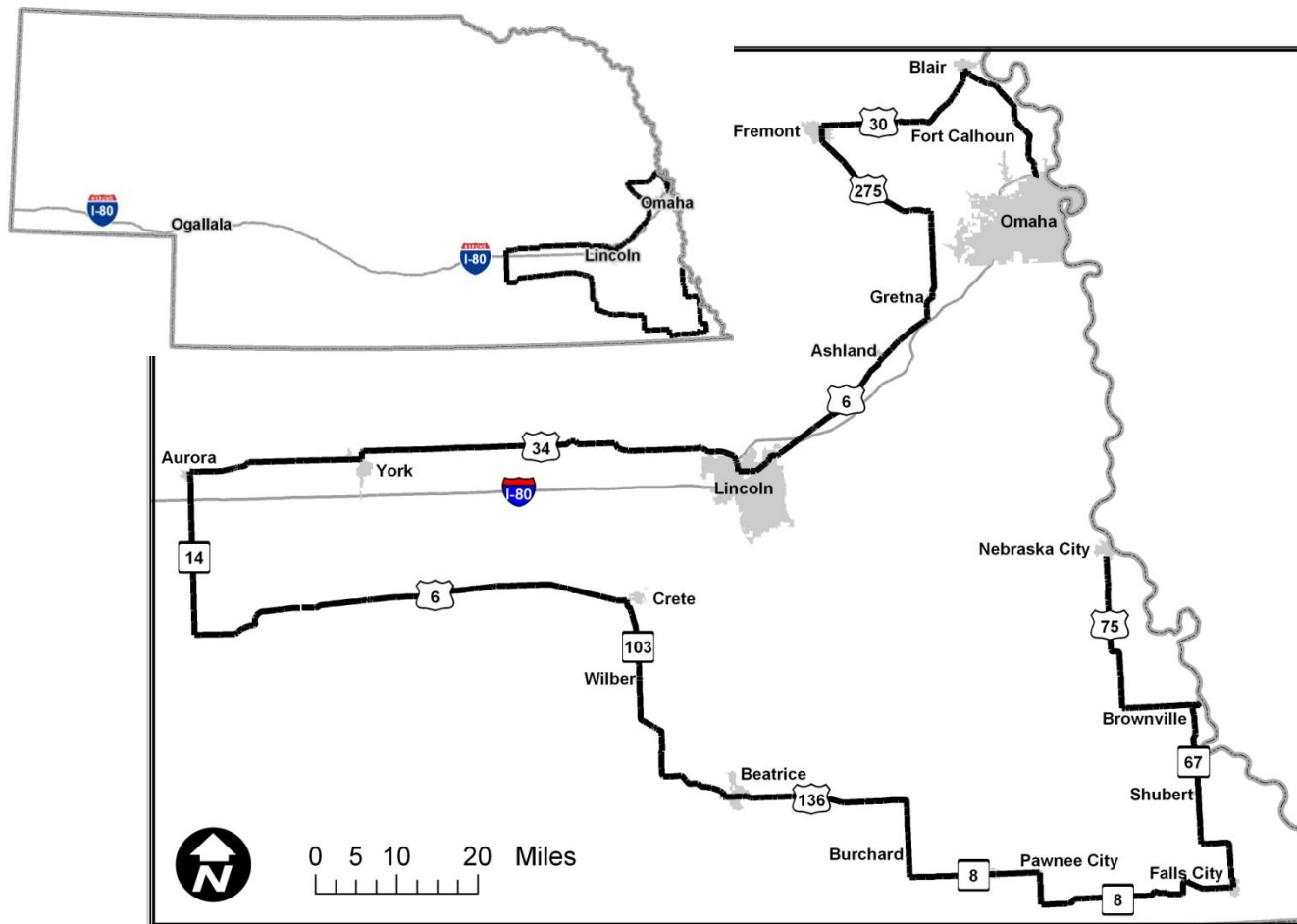
Group Travel Planner



Tour 10 **O' Pioneers** **A Tour of Southeastern Nebraska**

2009

Tour 10 O' Pioneers A Tour of Southeastern Nebraska



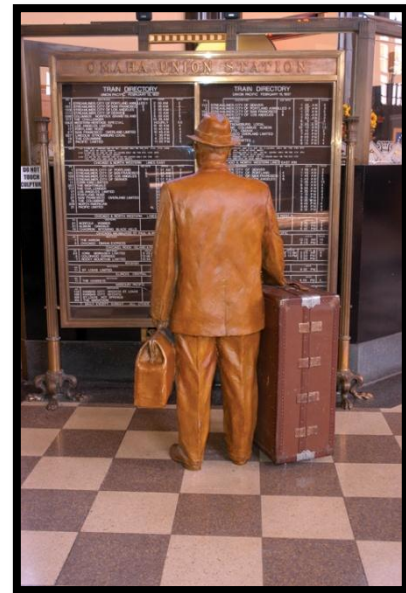
Day 1

Nebraska's largest city, Omaha has a tremendous selection of group tour attractions, shopping experiences, historical and cultural sites, and overnight facilities. [Henry Doorly Zoo](#), 3701 S. 10th St., 402-733-8401, offers a number of impressive attractions, such as the **world's largest indoor rainforest**, the **largest aquarium between Chicago and San Francisco**, the **Desert Dome** (including a sand waterfall), **Kingdoms of the Night** beneath the Desert Dome, and **Hubbard Gorilla Valley**. The zoo boasts an outstanding big cat collection, open-air aviary, and the **Lozier IMAX® Theater**. **Orangutan Forest** boasts an impressive outdoor area and a renovated indoor area. Two 65-foot tall, solid concrete Banyan trees, each weighing more than 222,750 pounds with over 15 branches each, are entangled with thousands of feet of man-made vine to create a one-of-a-kind habitat designed especially for these intelligent animals. Your group can enjoy a tram ride around the

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zoo as well as catered meals and refreshment breaks at the **Tree Tops Restaurant** or concession stands throughout the zoo.

Other attractions in the Omaha area are equally exciting. The historic [Old Market District](#), 402-346-4445, is an eclectic shopping and dining district located near downtown Omaha that features dozens of boutiques, lodging properties, nightclubs, bars, cafes and upscale restaurants. The [Durham Western Heritage Museum](#), 801 S. 10th St., 402-444-5071, is located in a restored Art Deco train station and showcases the history of Omaha and the Union Pacific Railroad. [Joslyn Castle](#), 3902 Davenport St., 402-595-2199, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the state's first historic landmark arboretum. Built in 1903, this Scottish, four-story, 35-room house takes visitors back in time to the turn-of-the-century with its superb craftsmanship and decorative opulence.



The [Hot Shops Art Center](#), 1301 Nicholas St., 402-342-6452, just north of the Old Market, is 92,000-square-feet of art studios, showrooms and gallery space. The center is a first of its kind in Omaha and includes four Hot Shops (Bruning Sculpture, Loken Forge, Crystal Forge and Wilson Custom Tile), 44 art studios, three art galleries, exhibition spaces and a café/coffee shop. Hot Shops Art Center will satisfy the creativity of the hidden artist in everyone on your tour! Located in the heart of historic North Omaha, [Loves Jazz & Arts Center](#), 2510 N. 24th St., 402-502-5291, showcases the wonderful history and culture that African Americans have achieved in the arts, music and humanities. Exciting exhibits, workshops, performances, educational programs and other activities highlight and explore the African American experience.

The [Joslyn Art Museum](#), 2200 Dodge St., 402-342-3300, is a world-class museum of exquisite works of art from antiquity to the present, and features European, American, Western American, Native American and Asian art. The museum is especially noted for its collection of American West art. It also is world renown for its collection by Swiss artist Karl Bodmer, whose watercolors and prints document his journey in 1832-1834 to the Missouri River frontier. [El Museo Latino](#), 4701 S. 25th St., 402-731-1137, highlights the important contribution that the Hispanic population has had on the history, culture and development of Omaha. Bilingual guided tours are available to groups of 10 or more.

The 100-acre [Lauritzen Gardens](#), 100 Bancroft St., 402-346-4002, includes an arboretum, bird sanctuary, rose garden, children's garden, herb garden, spring flower walk, Victorian garden, festival garden, and woodland trail. The 5,000-

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square-foot floral display hall in the visitor and education center offers year-round, ever-changing floral displays. A café and a gift shop also are available. The preserve at the [Neale Woods Nature Center](#), 14323 Edith Marie Ave., 402-731-3140, includes 550 acres of forests, hilltop prairies and riverside woodlands along the Missouri River. Scheduled nature programs are offered, as well as stargazing at the **Millard Observatory**, 402-453-5615. The visitor center features exhibits, animal displays and a gift shop.

Cruise up the scenic Missouri River on the [River City Star Riverboat](#), 402-342-7827, and afterward enjoy live jazz at **Rick's Café Boatyard**, 605 N. 6th St., 402-345-4545, located on **Lewis and Clark Landing**. The **Heartland of America Park** boasts an enjoyable gondola ride around the lake and a 300-foot water fountain, complete with a colorful evening light show. The **Mormon Trail Center at Winter Quarters**, 3215 State St., 402-453-9372, in north Omaha chronicles the hardships faced by the Mormon Pioneers who camped in the area during the harsh winter of 1846-47. The interpretive center offers films and state-of-the-art exhibits about the Mormons and their trek west. **Florence Mill**, 9102 N. 30th St., 402-551-1233, was founded in 1846 as the **Mormon Winter Quarters gristmill**. Now listed on the National Register of Historic Places and Save America's Treasures lists, the mill and grain elevator (1915) served farmers during Nebraska's territorial days through the 1980s. Today it is home to the **Winter Quarters Mill Museum** and **Loft Gallery**. [Historic Florence](#) was built on the ruins of Winter Quarters, and today the mill, bank and depot are open during summer months and by appointment.

If art and culture are your favorite pastimes, Omaha boasts a number of exceptional galleries and theatres, such as the [Omaha Community Playhouse](#), 6915 Cass St., 402-553-0800, (the largest community theatre in the country) and the [Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts](#), 724 S. 12th St., 402-341-7130, in the Old Market. Catch a world-class performance at the [Holland Performing Arts Center](#), 1314 Douglas-on-the-Mall, 402-345-0202.

For those in the group who feel no vacation is complete without some hard-core shopping, Omaha features a great selection of shops and retail outlets to suit anyone's taste and budget. The city is home to great shopping malls, such as [Village Pointe](#), 168th and Dodge Sts., 402-505-9773, an outdoor mall in west Omaha that recreates a small-town shopping district. Other equally impressive shopping opportunities are [Nebraska Furniture Mart](#) (the nation's largest furniture store under one roof), 700 S. 72nd St., 402-255-6327, and [Borsheim's](#) (the largest jewelry store under one roof), 120 Regency Parkway, 402-391-0400.

West Omaha is home to the world-famous [Father Flanagan's Boys Town](#) (renamed Girls and Boys Town), 137th and Dodge Sts., 402-498-1140. Boys Town, an actual working town, is an inspirational stop for any group tour. With prior arrangements step-on guides are available, often a boy or girl who lives at Boys Town. You can see the Oscar that Spencer Tracy won for portraying Father Flanagan, stroll through the

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garden inspired by the Bible, and see the world's largest ball of stamps in the gift shop. A fun group tour opportunity is "Dinner with Father Flanagan" where your group tour enjoys a traditional family style dinner while portraying the life of one of the children who called Boys Town home. Afterward, they can go to the Wall of History to see the outcome of their child. A visit by Father Flanagan also is included. Self-guided tour information and on-site café are available.

Bellevue, Nebraska's third largest city is south of Omaha on Highway 75. The **Lewis and Clark Children's Interpretive Art Wall** is located in Haworth Park, 402-332-5999, along the Missouri River in Bellevue. The many stories of the Lewis and Clark expedition are told in art through the eyes of children from across the country.

South of Omaha, [Fontenelle Forest Nature Center](#), 1111 N. Bellevue Blvd., 402-731-3140, shows evidence of diverse American Indian cultures with 70 known sites of Indian lodges and mounds from the Nebraska Phase culture of 1100-1400 A.D. The forest also boasts more than 1,400 acres of woods, wetlands and waterways with deep ravines, loess ridges, more than 40 varieties of trees, and more than 200 species of birds along 17 miles of walking paths. The **Katherine and Fred Buffett Forest Learning Center** is a beautiful facility that features permanent historical and children's exhibit galleries, including new exhibits of the historic Lewis and Clark Trail. The National Park Service declared Fontenelle Forest in Bellevue an official site on the National Historic Lewis & Clark Trail.

Enjoy the view along the **Lewis and Clark Scenic Byway** as you make your way to Fort Calhoun and [Fort Atkinson State Historical Park](#), 402-468-5611. It is one of the first established and largest parks in the Great Plains region, and offers visitors many fun-filled living history demonstrations. Lewis and Clark had their first meeting with American Indians at Council Bluff during their exploration up the Missouri River. Taste Nebraska wines and experience a little history and art in the 1904 brick building that houses [Too Far North](#), 111 N. 14th St., 402-468-9463. Wine is available by the ounce, glass or bottle, as are custom-made labels for all occasions.



Nebraska and Iowa share [DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge](#), 402-533-4455. Located near Blair, Neb., the refuge is a great place to view Missouri River wildlife. Also located in the refuge's visitor center is a premier archaeological display of artifacts from the Steamboat **Bertrand**, which sank in the Missouri River in 1865. More than one million artifacts were recovered from the wreckage, and many are in remarkable condition to this day.

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Fremont has a great selection of antique shops in its historic downtown district, and a lovely county museum—the [Louis E. May Museum](#)—is housed in a stately mansion, 1643 N. Nye Ave., 402-721-4515. After spending time shopping and visiting the museum, climb aboard the [Fremont & Elkhorn Valley Railroad](#), 1835 N. Somers Ave., 402-727-0615, for a picturesque 16-mile ride through northeast Nebraska in a diesel powered train. The tour includes a half-hour stop in Nickerson. Between May and October, you can depart on an exciting two-hour journey. Caboose and climate-controlled group coach charters are available year-round. The [Fremont Dinner Train](#), 650 North H St., 402-727-4245, can provide a full dining and riding experience for your group. Special events include murder mysteries, USO shows, dinner theatre, winetasting and seasonal shows.

Good times will be had by all as your tour speeds down the Platte River, the wind blowing through their hair. Admire eagles as they soar overhead looking for food or a comfy branch to watch you tear down the river. Wildlife, great scenery, relaxation and a rip roarin' good time are at [Bryson's Airboat Tours](#), 402-968-8534. Spend some quality time surrounded by the arts at **Gallery 92 West**, 92 W. 6th St., 402-721-7779. Enjoy a good time at [John C. Fremont Days](#), 402-727-9428, each July.

Shop! Shop! Shop! The **Nebraska Crossing Outlet Mall**, 402-332-4940, in Gretna will let you cure that shopping bug with a variety of shopping opportunities at discount prices, such as Mikasa, Carter's Osh Gosh, Bon Worth, Casual Corner, and more. The [Aksarben Aquarium](#), 402-332-3901, located in [Schramm Park State Recreation Area](#), 402-234-6855, displays more than 60 of Nebraska's freshwater fish species. The 12,000-square-foot [Aksarben Aquarium Outdoor Education Center](#) includes the aquarium, a terrarium, an auditorium, and display area. [Vala's Pumpkin Patch](#), 402-332-4200, hosts a five-week Fall Festival, complete with hayrack rides, haunted house, lost pumpkin mine, storybook farm, and various other activities. Spend time choosing the perfect pumpkin for your pumpkin pie, or perhaps one to leave for the Great Pumpkin on Halloween night.

Fresh lobster in Nebraska? Darn tootin'! Stop by the [Lobster Inn Restaurant](#) at [Linoma Beach Resort](#), 402-332-4500, on Highway 6 near Gretna for the biggest, freshest lobster tails in Nebraska! A 110-foot inland lighthouse sits on the Platte River and overlooks a 40-acre lake with a public beach. The [Holy Family Shrine](#), 402-332-4565, is a respite for the weary traveler. This impressive glass chapel is open to all people. Directions: Interstate 80, Exit 432, south on Highway 31, west on Pflug Road.

Located equidistant between Omaha and Lincoln on Highway 6, Ashland boasts a charming downtown district full of cool, funky shops and restaurants that serve good, stick-to-your-ribs kinda food! It's also the gateway to three top-notch attractions: [Strategic Air and Space Museum](#), 28210 W. Park Highway, 402-944-3100, **Lee G. Simmons Wildlife Conservation Park and Safari**, 402-944-9453, and [Eugene T. Mahoney State Park](#), 402-944-2523. The Strategic Air and Space

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Museum highlights the history and heritage of the Strategic Air Command. You can view the original bombers and planes that helped safeguard our nation's freedom. Excellent interactive displays, along with dining facilities and a gift shop, are available at the museum.

The Lee G. Simmons Wildlife Conservation Park and Safari is a drive-through exhibit where your group can view native prairie animals, such as bison, elk, wolves, and cranes. Your group can drive through the safari or with prior arrangements board a tram for a guided tour. A gift shop and café are available. Eugene T. Mahoney State Park is one of Nebraska's most popular state parks, offering a variety of outdoor activities.

If the cowboy experience is more your group's taste, then include a stop at the [Double D Ranch](#), 567 County Road C, 402-944-2207. Delicious chuckwagon dinners, yodeling, and toe tappin' cowboys are just some of the many fun experiences you'll have. So don your best cowboy hat, sing along, and eat some of the most scrumptious food this side of the Mississippi!

If a glass of fine Nebraska wine and a relaxing setting are more what your group is looking for, come on by for a sample at **Four Winds Vineyard**, 1033 County Road 5, 402-944-9463. Afterward, head over to [Willow Point Gallery and Museum](#), 1431 Silver St., 402-944-3613, to view an indoor wonderland of nearly 30 wildlife species placed in replicas of their natural surroundings. Acclaimed artist Gene Roncka's five foot paintings include Lewis and Clark displays.

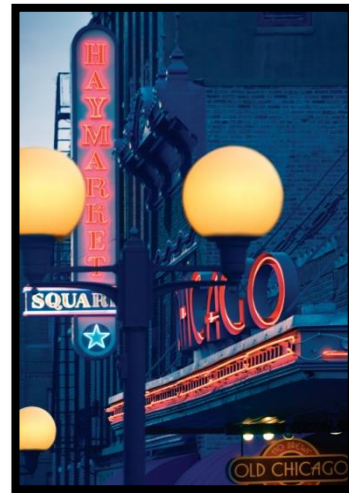
The [Round the Bend Steakhouse and Saloon](#), 30801 E. Park Highway, 402-944-9974, in nearby South Bend is the home of a very quirky annual event. Each June, visitors and locals clamor to South Bend for the annual Testicle Festival—a fun-filled festival that celebrates the Rocky Mountain oyster. But if you're not ready to sample this local delicacy, you'll still find some of the most delicious food this side of the Missouri River. The restaurant is large enough to handle most group tour sizes. Come and have a ball!

Reflect upon the past at the **WWII Library and Museum**, 402-944-4238, in Greenwood. The museum displays memorabilia used by American, German and Japanese service men during WWII, along with 2,000 books and 2,200 hours of documentary tapes on the war. During the summer months, take a ride in a WWII Jeep.

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Lincoln is Nebraska's state capital and second largest city. As you travel along the interstate north of the city, look south to see the impressive [State Capitol](#) building, 1445 K St., 402-471-0448, looming on the horizon. A guided tour of the building is a must while in the Star City. It is Nebraska's pride and joy and features many outstanding works of art that depict the political and cultural development of the state. It also is known for being the nation's only one-house legislative body—the Nebraska Unicameral. After exploring the State Capitol building, make sure to visit the **Nebraska Governor's Mansion**, 1425 H St., 402-471-3466, across the street. Guided tours are available Thursday afternoons. Reservations are required for groups of more than 10.

You can wile away your evenings enjoying Lincoln's exciting [Haymarket District](#), 402-435-7496. This historic downtown district offers a wide variety of galleries, restaurants, antique stores, shops, bars and coffee houses in turn-of-the-century buildings in what was once Lincoln's warehouse and farmer's market district. Today it is home to the state's largest farmers market held on Saturday mornings from May-October. Your group can prearrange a group meal at one of the Haymarket's many great restaurants, or you can encourage your group to find their own favorite spot. Lincoln also boasts many fine lodging properties that cater to the group tour market.



If you're looking for Nebraska-made products, look no further than [From Nebraska](#), 140 N. 8th St., 402-476-2455, in the Haymarket. You're sure to find something special to take home to remember your trip. Licorice lovers will want to spend time sampling some of the world's best licorice at [Licorice International](#), 803 Q St., Suite 300, 402-542-6742. This store offers licorice from across the globe, including France, Germany, the U.S., Denmark, Australia, Switzerland, and the U.K.

Many other exciting attractions are located throughout Lincoln. The [Sheldon Museum of Art](#), 402-472-2461, is an excellent modern art gallery that houses 20th century American art. Located on the University of Nebraska Main Campus, the building was designed by internationally famous architect Philip Johnson. The [Lincoln Children's Zoo](#), 402-475-6741, is in a lovely park-like setting where you can experience a close encounter with more than 300 animals and a variety of beautiful flowers. The [National Museum of Roller Skating](#), 4730 South St., 402-483-7551, is the only one of its kind in the country and features many rare examples of skates. Admire the larger than life sculpture, "**Torn Notebook**," a piece of art created in steel and aluminum that was commissioned by the Sheldon Museum of Art from world-renowned artists Claes Oldenberg and Coosje van Bruggen.

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Located on the University of Nebraska Main Campus, the [Great Plains Art Museum](#), 1115 Q St., 402-472-6220, features changing exhibits and collections of western art. The [Hyde Memorial Observatory](#), 3701 S. 70th St., 402-441-7895, lets your group tour explore the nighttime sky. Asian culture and history come alive through beautiful exhibitions of Asian art and artifacts at the [Lentz Center for Asian Culture](#), 1155 Q St., 402-472-5841, in downtown Lincoln. The [University of Nebraska State Museum of Natural History](#), 402-471-4754, features a world-class collection of fossil elephants, American Indian art, folk art, dinosaurs, wildlife dioramas, a hands-on discovery center and planetarium. Other exhibits chronicle life on the Great Plains for more than 12,000 years, such as the “American Indian Gallery,” “The First Nebraskans,” “Nebraska Joins the Union,” and “Building the State.” People on your tour can laugh out loud, cry, and be thoroughly entertained at one of the [Lied Center for Performing Arts](#), 301 N. 12th St., 402-472-4700, many fun-filled and high quality presentations.

The [International Quilt Study Center](#), 402-472-6549, on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s East Campus, features 950 quilts from the Ardis and Robert James Collection. It also is home to more than 1,600 quilts from the Robert Cargo Collection of African American Quilts, the Jonathan Holstein Collection, and the Sara Miller Collection of Amish Crib Quilts. The [American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Museum](#), 631 D St., 402-474-3363, preserves the history and culture of Germans who first immigrated to Russia, and then to America. The Heritage Center includes a summer kitchen, chapel, general store, blacksmith, railroad caboose, and residences that were turned into exhibits.

The [Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center](#), 11700 SW 100th St., 402-797-2301, south of Lincoln, includes more than 600 acres of rare, native tall grass prairie, springs, wetlands, ponds and other natural environments. It offers visitors an unparalleled opportunity to experience Nebraska’s tall grass prairie. The center boasts more than 350 species of plants and more than 170 bird species. [Prime Country Vineyard](#), 402-826-3567, sits on 480 acres of beautiful rolling hills southwest of Lincoln in Denton. Enjoy wiling away the time sipping a variety of delicious wines in the tasting room. Get “lost” in a labyrinth carved into more than 22 acres of corn with more than 3 miles of twists and turns at [The Maize at Benson Farms](#), 6000 S.W. 140th St., 402-795-3276. Bring a flashlight and try it in the dark!

A short drive north of Lincoln takes you to [James Arthur Vineyards](#), 2001 W. Raymond Road, 402-783-5255, in Raymond. The winery features a winetasting room, gift shop and peaceful hiking trails. While you’re in Raymond experience everyday life at a certified organic farm at [Branched Oak Farm](#), 17015 NW 70th St., 402-783-2124. An on-farm store sells food and products grown directly on the farm.

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Day 2

The big balloon tells you that you are nearing York. This community of just over 8,000 offers an outstanding array of restaurants and fast-food facilities. But it is best known for [Chances "R" Restaurant and Lounge](#), 124 W. 5th St., 402-362-7755, in downtown York. The "R," as it is known locally, hosts more group tours than any other private restaurant in Nebraska—and for good reason—huge portions at reasonable rates and good food made from scratch. If you happen to be in York on a Sunday morning, the "R" offers an outstanding Sunday brunch—a treat worth fasting for.

While in York, your group will be amazed by **Lee's Legendary Marbles and Collectables**, 3120 S. Lincoln Ave., 402-362-0103. More than a half-million marbles are on display, including some very rare examples. Two other very nice York attractions are the **Anna Beemis Historical Museum**, 211 E 7th St., 402-363-2630, which features historic artifacts and the [Yorkshire Playhouse](#), 402-362-7060, which offers a taste of Broadway in small town Nebraska. Four productions are scheduled throughout the year, as well as special seasonal events and children's theater productions. The theater is handicap accessible and group rates are available for performances.



While in York, spend time browsing through the shelves of [Four Winds Indian Books](#), 402-362-5654, the world's largest American Indian bookstore. Everything you've ever wanted to know about American Indian arts and crafts, languages, culture, history, lifestyle, tribes, cooking, clothing and hundreds of other topics is at your fingertips.

Marvel at beautiful life-size bronze sculptures and vibrant, colorful paintings that capture the true spirit of the west at [Friesen Gallery](#), 932 North Main St., 402-723-4977, in Henderson.

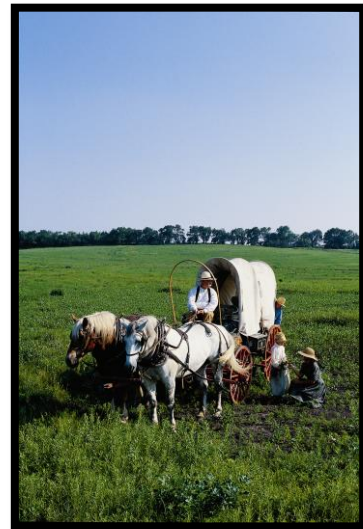
Aurora is a charming community with two outstanding attractions: The [Plainsman Museum](#), 210 16th St., 402-694-6531, and the [Edgerton Explorit Center](#), 208 16th St., 402-694-4032. The Plainsman Museum offers Nebraska history under one roof. A sod house, Pony Express station, car collection ag-related exhibits and equipment, and an outstanding doll collection are featured. Next door, the Edgerton Explorit Center is dedicated to Aurora native Harold "Doc" Edgerton—the inventor of the strobe light. The Explorit Center features examples of Edgerton's work, as well as many hands-on science exhibits.

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Everyone in Wilber is Czech—at least during the first weekend of August when the town hosts thousands for the Annual Wilber Czech Festival. The U.S. Congress proclaimed Wilber the National Czech Capitol and folks in Wilber take that seriously. However, you can get a sense of Czech heritage anytime you come to town. The **Wilber Czech Museum**, 102 W 3rd St., 402-821-2183, contains detailed information on the heritage of those who founded Wilber and on their homeland of Czechoslovakia. There is usually a quilting bee going on at the museum, and the ladies are always delighted to chat with you and show you around.

Located next door to the museum is the **Wilber Bakery**, 104 W 3rd St., 402-821-2995, where your group must sample a kolach, also known as “Czech Danish.” Around the corner is the beautifully restored **Hotel Wilber**, 203 S. Wilson St., 402-821-2020, a wonderful bed and breakfast. Your group can tour the facility and grab a bite to eat. *Vitame Vas!* With advance notice, costumed guides are available to escort your group along walking tours of Wilber. These tours include a meal.

Beatrice is a growing city with a wonderful heritage. One of Nebraska's most outstanding attractions is located near Beatrice—[Homestead National Monument of America](#), 8523 W. Highway 4, 402-223-3514. President Abraham Lincoln signed the country's first Homestead Act, which gave Americans free plots of land as long as they agreed to farm it for a specific period of time. One of the first homesteaders to sign up was Daniel Freeman who settled in the area now encompassed by Homestead National Monument of America. Visitors can see artifacts from early pioneer life and learn what it was like to live in the often-harsh environment. There are hiking trails through virgin prairie grasses that have never been plowed, and living history demonstrations to delight and educate you.



The **Homestead Heritage Center** brings to life the homesteading story and the importance that the Homestead Act of 1862 had on the settlement of Nebraska through state-of-the-art and interactive displays and exhibits. An outstanding bookstore that boasts an impressive variety of books for all ages is located on-site.

The [Gage County Museum](#), 402-228-1679, in Beatrice houses many outstanding collections pertaining to the area, such as an exhibit on Beatrice native and Hollywood actor Robert Taylor. The city's excellent selection of restaurants and fine community theatre naturally cater to the group tour market. **Cedar Creek Pottery**, 37639 S. 80th Road, 402-228-0138, housed in an old country church, is filled with handcrafted pottery and floral creations. Demonstrations are provided upon request. Downtown Beatrice boasts a thriving downtown district that offers a variety of different shopping opportunities.

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Home of film stars Irish McCalla and Harold Lloyd, Pawnee City also is home to a very impressive historical museum complex. The [Pawnee County Historical Museum](#), 402-852-3131, is comprised of 16 historic buildings that display antique furnishings, tools, vintage vehicles, rare photos, books, unique handcraft items and a variety of other artifacts. The **Toy Pedal Clinic**, 402-852-2655, is a museum dedicated to this fun toy of yesteryear. The museum displays more than 450 toy pedal cars, tractors, airplanes and a host of other small toys. Other collections at the museum include a John Deere room, kiddie car collection, kerosene lamps, quilts, bicycles, salt and pepper shakers and doll collection. Your tour also can observe museum staff while they restore old pedal cars.

Enjoy the only winery and microbrewery in Nebraska! The [Schilling Bridge Winery and Microbrewery](#), 62193 710th Rd., 402-852-2400, offers Nebraska produced wines and handcrafted microbrews surrounded by more than eight acres of grapevines. Make sure to ask for a sample of Silent Star wine or Git-R-Done beer. The centerpiece of the landscape is an 1890 Limestone Rock Island Railroad bridge.

Also check out the **restored Harold Lloyd home**, 402-852-3131, in Burchard, 12 miles west of Pawnee City. The front room of the house contains memorabilia from Lloyd's life and acting career. Upon request, you can set up time for your group to watch a Harold Lloyd movie in his former home. Don't forget the popcorn!



Two of Falls City's best attractions are the **Bell-Jenne House**, 402-245-3481, and the **Richardson County Historical Museum**, 402-245-3481. The Bell-Jenne House is an impressive two-story brick Italianate-style house built in 1881 and features eight period piece rooms to give your group tour a glimpse into life in the late 19th century. The Richardson County Historical Museum highlights the history and people of Falls City and the region. With advance planning, tours of both facilities can be scheduled.

[Indian Cave State Park](#), 402-883-2575, near Shubert includes more than 3,000 acres along the Missouri River. This pristine area is home to a variety of activities, such as camping, hiking, backpacking, picnicking, and nature and wilderness activities. There are 20 miles of hiking trails in the park. The fall months are particularly spectacular, and history buffs will enjoy the restored schoolhouse and general store from the old river town of St. Deroin. During the summer months, old-time crafts are demonstrated to visitors. You can reserve a group picnic shelter if needed.

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At one time the bustling community of Brownville was to serve as Nebraska's "Gateway City," but when the railroad decided to locate to Omaha, Brownville's future looked grim. Fortunately the spunky locals refused to let their community die, and today's Brownville has become a genuine tourism destination. Your group can cruise down the Missouri River on the [Spirit of Brownville](#), 402-825-4211, take in a play or concert at the **Brownville Village Theatre**, 402-825-4121, or **Brownville Concert Hall**, 402-825-3331, shop in the quaint downtown, or sip wine at sunset on the deck of [Whiskey Run Creek Winery](#), 702 Main St., 402-825-4601. The **Captain Bailey House**, **Carson House** and **Furnas House**, 402-825-6001, are some of the many restored historic homes that are open to the public.

The **Meriwether Lewis Museum of Missouri River History**, 402-825-3341, a decommissioned U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredge boat, now houses a museum dedicated to the Missouri River. The **Governor Furnas Connector Trail** connects the **Governor Furnas Arboretum**, 402-825-6637, to the Missouri River. The trail boasts more than 200 types of trees, shrubs and flowers for you to enjoy. The **Brownville Lyceum**, 225 Main St., 402-825-4321, is a haven for booklovers with used books to purchase, reading rooms to relax in and read, and a small café that serves tasty, locally-prepared dishes.

If you're visiting Brownville in late April and are looking for something out-of-the-ordinary, look no further than [The Great Nebraska Mushroom Festival](#) just a short drive north in Peru.

shopping opportunities and beautiful scenery—all in one charming community. Nebraska City's pride and joy is [Arbor Lodge State Historical Park and Arboretum](#), 2600 2nd Ave., 402-873-7222. Home of J. Sterling and Carolyn Morton, the 52-room Victorian-style mansion is a memorable stop for any group visit. J. Sterling Morton was the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture under President Grover Cleveland and helped establish Arbor Day as a holiday.

Yes, it's true...Nebraska is the home of Arbor Day! The historic 260-acre [Arbor Day Farm](#), 100 Arbor Ave., is a working farm orchard and forest, and a unique place in the world where trees are king! Explore **Tree Adventure's** 50-foot Canopy Treehouse, Nature Explore Classroom, and hiking and biking trails. At the Lied Greenhouse, each visitor receives a tree seedling. If you plan your group tour during the summer and fall, enjoy picking your own harvest of garden vegetables, pumpkins and Nebraska City's famous apples. Finish your stay at Arbor Day Farm with a wine sampling at the **Apple House**.

A fine example of Victorian architecture is the **Wildwood Center Historic House and The Barn Art Gallery**, 420 Steinhart Park Road, 402-873-6340. Built in 1869, Wildwood was home to Jasper Ware, an early banker in Nebraska City. All home furnishings are of the Victorian Era, and behind the house is a gallery that displays artwork of many Nebraska artisans.

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Another major Nebraska City attraction is **Mayhew Cabin and Historical Village**, 2012 4th Corso, 402- 873-3115. Part of the Underground Railroad for slaves, this restored site has many historical artifacts on display, as well as a restored village. You also can walk through the underground cave on the grounds. Private tours can be arranged upon request.

Downtown Nebraska City is a treasure trove of antique and specialty retail stores where you can find clothing, crafts and works of art, Christmas decorations, books and specialty foods. With advance reservations, 402-269-3737, a trolley can take your group around town. With its abundance of changing leaves and apple harvests, fall is one of the most beautiful seasons to visit Nebraska City.

For a comfortable overnight stay or one-of-a-kind meal, look no further than the [Lied Lodge and Conference Center](#), 2700 Sylvan Road, 402-873-8733. This environmentally friendly, Adirondack style facility offers state-of-the-art meeting rooms, spacious guest rooms and excellent meals.

Experience firsthand the journey of Lewis and Clark at the [Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center](#), 100 Valmont Dr., 402-874-9900, which sits atop an 80-acre site overlooking the Missouri River. The center focuses on the recorded scientific discoveries of plants and animals made during the tour. Enjoy hands-on exploration activities, interactive exhibits, a life-size replica of the keelboat used by Lewis and Clark, and a 45-foot American Indian Earth Lodge. The [River Country Nature Center](#), 114 S. 6th St., 402-873-3000, is open by appointment only and houses more than 400 preserved specimens of native Nebraska birds, mammals, fish, amphibians and reptiles in replicas of their natural habitats.

Free your mind and explore the artistic side of Nebraska City at the [Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts](#), 801 3rd Corso, 402-874-9600. The center is an art retreat for visual artists, writers, art scholars, choreographers and artists from across the nation. A main gallery and exhibition rooms display works of art for public viewing, and are changed approximately every two months. Art classes held at the center are offered throughout the year and open to the public.



Apples, peaches, cherries, plums, grapes, cauliflower, lettuce, onions, pumpkins, squash, peppers, and more...oh my! Load up on delicious fresh fruits and vegetables at [Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard](#), 6045 G Road, 402-873-5293. Your group tour can learn the exciting story about the history and operation of the 6.5-acre vineyard before heading to the Apple Barn Tasting Room for a sampling of

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Nebraska grape and fruit wines. Don't forget to stop by the Kimmel Kitchen for homemade pies, apple donuts, caramel apples, jams and jellies. Benches, scenic resting spots, and picnic areas dot the vineyard to let your tour enjoy spring's blossoms or the beautiful autumn colors.

Go ahead. Get your shop on at [Factory Stores of America Outlet Mall](#), Highways 75 and 2, 402-873-7727. You won't regret it! Bon Worth, Craft Works, G.H. Bass, and a host of other great stores and great prices might wear out your credit card, but definitely will give you some great deals in return! If searching for antiques and collectibles is more your style, head to Nebraska City's historic downtown district where you're sure to find a bargain or two that you simply cannot live without.