

Welcome to Nebraska!

Welcome to Nebraska! Covering more than 77,000 square miles in the central U.S., Nebraska truly is a land of many contrasts. Tall, densely wooded bluffs tower high above the mighty Missouri River that forms the state's eastern border. And while the river has greatly changed since the days that the first Plains Indians, fur traders and explorers dared to discover its treasures, their legacies and spirits still linger there today. Nebraska's two largest cities, Omaha and Lincoln, offer urban chic and a cosmopolitan atmosphere where you can enjoy a relaxing latte and biscotti at a sidewalk café in a historic district during the day and a Tony Award-winning musical in the evening.

Getting away from it all and relaxing has never been easier than in Nebraska. If bright lights and big cities are not your thing, you're in luck! Nebraska has an abundance of small towns, charming farmsteads, sprawling ranches and inviting recreational areas. Affectionately known as "Greater Nebraska" the area outside Lincoln and Omaha is truly beautiful and amazing. The coffee pot's always on, and the tall tales are always flying at the local small town café or diner.

Hiking, biking, birdwatching, tubing or "tanking" are some of the many outdoor recreational activities that Nebraska is famous for. So whether you want to contemplate life as you float down the river in a tank with your buds, or simply want to admire the breathtaking and majestic sight and sound of hundreds of thousands of Sandhill Cranes taking flight at once in the early morning hours, Nebraska has it all!

And contrary to what some may think Nebraska offers amazingly diverse landscapes. The rugged Pine Ridge and Wildcat Hills in western Nebraska will astound anyone with their timeless beauty, especially at sunset. Mighty buttes and bluffs that afford an incredible view as far as the eye can see are well worth the drive. As for water, Nebraska has that, too. More than 2,500 lakes dot the countryside, including the massive 55-square-mile Lake McConaughy near Ogallala.

The information in this group tour travel planner is designed to help make planning and operating your tour through Nebraska as easy and profitable as possible. If you need more information or assistance please contact the Nebraska Travel and Tourism Division.

We look forward to working with you!

NEBRASKA
possibilities...endlessSM

Nebraska Group Tour Travel Planner

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GENERAL INFORMATION

TIME ZONES

The state of Nebraska spans two time zones. The eastern two-thirds of Nebraska is included in the Central Time Zone, and the western third in the Mountain Time Zone. When traveling on Interstate 80, the time change occurs between the Sutherland and Paxton exits.

NEBRASKA TOPOGRAPHY

Eastern Nebraska is covered with rugged bluffs, rolling hills, picturesque valleys and lush vegetation. The Great Plains stretch westward across 75 percent of the state, and include rock formations, eroded hills and deep canyons. The Sandhills, North America's largest stabilized sand dune formation, cover the west central part of Nebraska, and are bordered by the Nebraska National Forest near Thedford. The High Plains are northwest, southwest, and west of the Sandhills. Within this 12,000 square miles are the scenic and rugged Wildcat Hills and Pine Ridge. A small area of South Dakota's Badlands also extends into northwest Nebraska.

NEBRASKA FACTS AND TIDBITS

LOCATION

North central United States, bordered by South Dakota to the north, Iowa and Missouri to the east, Kansas on the south, and Colorado and Wyoming to the west

ELEVATION

Highest point: Panorama Point (5,424 feet) in Kimball County. Lowest point: 840 feet in Richardson County along the Missouri River. Nebraska's average elevation is 2,600 feet.

LAND AREA

77,358 square miles; 16th largest state

Nebraska measures 459 miles across at its widest point, following a diagonal from southeast to northwest.

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POPULATION

1,713,375 (2000); 38th largest state

STATEHOOD

Nebraska became the 37th state on March 1, 1867.

ORIGIN OF NAME

From Oto Indian word “Nebrathka” meaning “flat water” (the tribe’s name for the Platte River, which crosses the state).

STATE CAPITAL

Lincoln

STATE GOVERNMENT

Nebraska is the only state with a single house Legislature—the Unicameral.

TEN LARGEST CITIES

Omaha 404,267

Lincoln 235,594

Bellevue 46,734

Grand Island 43,771

Kearney 28,211

Fremont 25,198

Norfolk 24,061

North Platte 23,924

Hastings 23,536

Columbus 20,880

STATE PARKS

8 state park areas

74 recreational and historical areas

5 federal camping areas

STATE SYMBOLS

Flower Goldenrod

Tree Cottonwood

Bird Western Meadowlark

Insect Honeybee

Mammal White-tailed Deer

Motto “Equality Before the Law”

Gemstone Blue Chalcedony

Fish Channel Catfish

Song “Beautiful Nebraska” composed by Jim Fras

Soft Drink Kool-Aid

PRESIDENTIAL BIRTHPLACE

38th President Gerald Rudolph Ford, 1974-1977

Born: July 14, 1913, in Omaha, Nebraska

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NICKNAME

The Cornhusker State (from the method of harvesting or “husking” corn by hand)

SEASONS

Nebraska offers a full four-season climate. Normal average daily temperatures range from minus 20° F in the winter to more than 75° F in the summer. Annual precipitation ranges from more than 30” in the southeast to less than 17” in the Nebraska Panhandle.

RIVERS AND LAKES

Nebraska has approximately 2,500 natural and man-made lakes.

NEBRASKA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE/CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAUS

WESTERN NEBRASKA

Box Butte County Tourism

111 West 3rd Street
Alliance NE 69301
800-738-0648
www.visitboxbutte.com

Cheyenne County Tourism

740 Illinois Street
Sidney NE 69162
800-421-4769
www.cheyennecountychamber.com

Gering Convention & Visitors Bureau

1050 M Street
Gering NE 69341
800-245-0717
www.geringtourism.com

McCook Area Chamber of Commerce

107 Norris Avenue
McCook NE 69001
800-657-2179
www.aboutmccook.com

North Platte Convention & Visitors Bureau

219 South Dewy Street
North Platte NE 69103
800-955-4528
www.visitnorthplatte.com

Ogallala/Keith County Chamber of Commerce

204 East A Street
Ogallala NE 69153
800-658-4390
www.visitogallala.com

Scotts Bluff County Tourism

1517 Broadway
Suite 104
Scottsbluff NE 69361
800-788-9475
www.scottsbluffgering.net

CENTRAL NEBRASKA

Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce

444 South 8th Avenue
Broken Bow NE 68822
308-872-5691
www.brokenbow-ne.com

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Grand Island Convention & Visitors Bureau

2424 S. Locust Street
Suite C
Grand Island NE 68801
800-658-3178
www.visitgrandisland.com

Hastings Convention & Visitors Bureau

100 N. Shore Drive
Hastings NE 68902
800-967-2189
www.visithastingsnebraska.com

Kearney Visitor Bureau

1007 2nd Avenue
Kearney NE 68848
800-652-9435
www.visitkearney.com

Valentine Chamber of Commerce

229 South Main Street
Valentine NE 69201
800-658-4024
www.heartcity.com

EASTERN NEBRASKA

Columbus/Platte County Convention & Visitors Bureau

764 33rd Avenue
Columbus NE 68601
402-564-2769
www.visitcolumbusne.com

Fremont/Dodge County Convention & Visitors Bureau

605 North Broad Street
Fremont NE 68026
800-727-8323
www.fdcvb.org

Greater Omaha Convention & Visitors Bureau

1001 Farnam-On-The-Mall Suite 200
Omaha NE 68102
866-937-6624
www.visitomaha.com

Lincoln Convention & Visitors Bureau

1135 M Street
Suite 300
Lincoln NE 68509
800-423-8212
www.lincoln.org

Nebraska City Tourism and Commerce

806 1st Avenue
Nebraska City NE 68410
800-514-9113
www.nebraskacity.com

Norfolk/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau

405 Madison Avenue
Norfolk NE 68702
888-371-2932
www.norfolk.ne.us

Sarpy County Visitors Bureau

14333 South Highway 31
Suite C108
Gretna NE 68028
800-467-2779
www.gosarpy.com

South Sioux City Convention & Visitors Bureau

3900 Dakota Avenue
Suite 11
South Sioux City NE 68776
866-494-1307
www.visitsouthsiouxcity.com

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RECEPTIVE OPERATORS

Arrow Stagelines

720 E. Norfolk Avenue
 Norfolk NE 68701
 Tel: 402-371-3840
 Toll-free: 800-672-1009
 Fax: 402-371-3267
www.arrowstagelines.com

Kincaid Coach Lines

1127 N. 20th Street
 Omaha NE 68102
 Tel: 402-342-1855
 Toll-free: 800-407-3403
 Fax: 402-342-1846
www.kincaidcoach.com

AIRLINES AND AIRPORTS

Grand Island	US Airways Express
Kearney	United Airlines, Great Lakes, Frontier Airlines
Lincoln	Allegiant Air, Delta, United
Omaha	American Airlines, Continental Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Frontier Airlines, Mesa Airlines, Midwest Airlines, Southwest Airlines, United Airlines, US Airways
North Platte	Great Lakes Airlines

NEBRASKA TEMPERATURES

Month	Panhandle	North Central	Northeast	Central	East Central	Southwest	South Central	Southeast
January	24	22	20	22	22	25	25	24
February	29	27	26	28	28	31	31	30
March	35	36	37	38	37	39	40	41
April	45	47	49	48	51	49	51	52
May	56	58	60	59	62	59	61	62
June	66	68	70	69	72	69	71	72
July	73	73	75	74	76	75	76	77
August	71	71	72	72	74	73	74	75
Sept.	61	61	63	63	65	36	65	66
October	49	49	51	51	53	51	26	54
Nov.	35	34	35	35	37	37	37	39
Dec.	27	24	23	25	26	28	28	28

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NEBRASKA NORMAL PRECIPITATION

Month	Panhandle	North Central	Northeast	Central	East Central	Southwest	South Central	Southeast
January	0.40	0.45	0.54	0.51	0.67	0.47	0.46	0.73
February	0.44	0.58	0.70	0.61	0.71	0.52	0.56	0.81
March	1.08	1.47	2.01	1.86	2.24	1.34	1.92	2.38
April	1.85	2.32	2.81	2.56	2.94	1.97	2.25	2.90
May	3.10	3.64	4.05	3.89	4.51	3.30	4.07	4.42
June	2.67	3.40	4.01	3.78	4.05	3.18	5.42	3.85
July	2.39	3.32	3.41	3.42	3.60	3.03	3.70	4.30
August	1.70	2.46	3.01	2.80	3.35	2.44	3.07	3.49
Sept.	1.43	2.06	2.42	2.14	2.86	1.40	2.11	3.20
October	1.07	1.52	1.91	1.51	2.12	1.25	1.47	2.22
Nov.	0.64	1.04	1.51	1.27	1.68	0.86	1.27	1.80
Dec.	0.41	0.48	0.68	0.57	0.85	0.43	0.53	0.93
Annual	17.18	22.74	27.06	24.92	29.58	20.19	24.83	31.03

NEBRASKA AVERAGE HUMIDITY, WIND, WEATHER

Station	Relative Humidity (Percent)	Mean Wind Velocity (MPH)	Prevailing Wind Direction	Sunshine (Percent of Possible)	Sky Cover Sunrise to Sunset (Tenths)	Annual Number of Days with Precipitation Measurable
Grand Island	66	11.8	S	-	-	88.2
Lincoln	69	9.4	S	62	-	90.7
Norfolk	66	11.3	S	-	5.7	91.4
North Platte	65	10.2	S	66	5.7	84.2
Omaha	68	10.5	SSE	60	5.8	99.7
Scottsbluff	59	10.7	NW	-	5.6	87.7
Valentine	59	9.4	NW	66	5.5	83.6

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DISTANCES TO OTHER CITIES

From Omaha to:	Miles	From Scottsbluff to:	Miles
Atlanta GA	989	Atlanta GA	1424
Boston MA	1437	Boston MA	1915
Calgary AB	1437	Calgary AB	994
Cheyenne WY	498	Cheyenne WY	109
Chicago IL	469	Chicago IL	946
Dallas TX	722	Dallas TX	969
Denver CO	540	Denver CO	208
Des Moines IA	135	Des Moines IA	613
Fargo ND	421	Fargo ND	767
Kansas City MO	184	Kansas City MO	618
Los Angeles CA	1555	Los Angeles CA	1210
Minneapolis MN	379	Minneapolis MN	799
New York City NY	1243	New York City NY	1721
Oklahoma City OK	520	Oklahoma City OK	767
Omaha NE	-	Omaha NE	481
Rapid City SD	525	Rapid City SD	194
San Francisco CA	1671	San Francisco CA	1282
Scottsbluff NE	481	Scottsbluff NE	-
Sioux City IA	97	Sioux City IA	575
St. Louis MO	436	St. Louis MO	871
Toronto ON	972	Toronto ON	1450
Vancouver BC	1847	Vancouver BC	1404
Washington DC	1154	Washington DC	1632
Winnipeg MB	638	Winnipeg MB	984