

Nebraska

HONESTLY. IT'S NOT FOR EVERYONE.



Nebraska might be the nation's only triple landlocked state, but it is far from flat and boring, boasting exceptional travel destinations for even the most discerning of travelers. Most of Nebraska's population lives in and around the cities of Omaha and Lincoln in eastern Nebraska, so if you are looking for a genuine cosmopolitan buzz, you definitely will find it here. Omaha's Old Market District and Lincoln's Historic Haymarket District are chock full of excellent restaurants, quaint boutiques, vibrant nightlife, and top quality museums and attractions, all in renovated historic downtowns. Hot Shops Art Center lets visitors explore their inner artists in more than 50 studios in two buildings. Boys Town in west Omaha chronicles one of the most heartwarming stories as Father Flanagan sought to create a safe haven for wayward boys, and today girls. South of Omaha in Bellevue is Fontenelle Forest and its Raptor Program where hawks, owls, and falcons unable to fly or hunt, or are injured are housed for recovery.

Nebraska is the official home of Arbor Day so no visit to the Cornhusker State would be complete without experiencing all there is to do at the 260-acre (105 ha) Arbor Day Farm. While there do not miss Treetop Village inside the Tree Adventure, the only place in the country where you can explore 11 different treehouses scattered throughout three acres connected by bridges and walkways. Lincoln is Nebraska's capital city, and its most famous landmark is the Nebraska State Capitol Building, which at nearly 400 ft. (121 m) tall gives visitors an amazing bird's eye view from atop an enclosed observation deck. Also in Lincoln is the Museum of American Speed, a three-floor museum dedicated to all things racing. A short drive south of Lincoln sits one of the most important places in the history of America's westward expansion. Homestead National Historical Park tells the stories of early pioneers who took advantage of the American Homestead Act of 1862 to try to create a better life for them and their families in the often harsh environment of the west.

Nebraska Tourism Commission

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Sandhill Crane Migration in Central Nebraska

Central Nebraska's landscape is dominated by farmland and the braided Platte River, which are ideal for one of the greatest animal treks in the world, the sandhill crane migration. Each spring more than one million sandhill cranes descend onto central Nebraska from mid-February to mid-April to relax, refresh, and refuel to continue their migration from their wintering grounds in the south to their breeding grounds in Canada, Alaska and Siberia. Grand Island's Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center and Kearney's Rowe Sanctuary offer guided sunrise and sunset tours to view these majestic birds up close and without disturbing them in their natural habitat. This is the world's second largest animal migration and should not be missed, whether you are a birder or not.



The Archway, spanning Interstate 80, Kearney

Two additional exceptional destinations in central Nebraska are Kearney's Archway and Grand Island's Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer. The Archway is the only tourist attraction in the country that spans a federal interstate highway as it chronicles America's western movement in its three floors of impressive displays and artifacts. The Stuhr Museum boasts one of the best historical collections in the country and has been heralded as one of the top 10 living history museums. The onsite Railroad Town is an authentic recreation of an 1800s Nebraska community complete with residents in period costumes.



Golden Spike Tower and Visitors Center, North Platte

Further west, the landscape changes dramatically giving way to the beginning of the Rocky Mountains. Western Nebraska definitely dispurses the belief that the state is flat, with its towering buttes and bluffs, and pine studded valleys. North Platte is home to Bailey Yard, the world's largest railroad classification yard, where visitors can enjoy an amazing view of the train cars as they are sorted and sent on their way across the country. Covering 2,850 acres (1,153 ha), reaching a total length of eight miles (13 km), and managing daily more than 10,000 railroad cars, the Yard is a critical component of Union Pacific's rail network. North Platte also is home to "Buffalo Bill" Cody and visitors today can wander through his stately mansion and Scout's Rest Ranch at Buffalo Bill State Historical

Park. While in North Platte, you can stop at Fort Cody Trading Post to view Buffalo Bill's Miniature Wild West Show featuring more than 20,000 hand carved wooden figures of bucking broncos, sharpshooters and more. Recorded audio narration tells the story of Buffalo Bill, his traveling Wild West show, and the creation of the miniatures.

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Scotts Bluff National Monument, outside of Gering

Scotts Bluff National Monument in Gering sits on the Mormon, Oregon, California, and Pony Express trails, serving as an important landmark for westward heading pioneers. Today, visitors can still view actual wagon ruts and take in a breathtaking view of the North Platte River Valley from atop the 800 ft. (245 m) summit. The visitor center is a must see, especially the William Henry Jackson collection, the world's largest of his artworks. Another famous Overland Trails landmark is a short distance away along the Western Trails Scenic & Historic Byway in Bayard. Chimney Rock

National Historic Site was the most documented landmark for pioneers along the trail since they were able to view it on the horizon for days. Rising nearly 300 ft. (91 m) above the surrounding landscape, the visitor center gives you an amazing retelling of the early pioneers and their journey west.

Northwest Nebraska's scenic Pine Ridge and surrounding badlands is home to exceptional destinations, such as Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, Fort Robinson State Historical Park and Toadstool Geologic Park. Agate Fossil Beds, south of Harrison, boasts one of the most impressive collections of Lakota artifacts in the James H. Cook Collection. The collection consists of Native American artifacts the Cook family received in the late 1800s and early 1900s from close family friends like Red Cloud, Chief of the Oglala Lakota. Fort Robinson State Historical Park near Crawford comprises more than 22,000 acres (8,904 ha) of exquisite Pine Ridge scenery, Old West history, and its own buffalo and longhorn herds.

The fort operated from the early days of the Old West until after World War II, and many original buildings survive and remain in use today. It was the site of the 1879 Cheyenne Outbreak and the death of famed Sioux Chief Crazy Horse. It also served as the Red Cloud Indian Agency, a cavalry remount station, K-9 dog training center, POW camp, and beef research station. One of the most remote and scenic destinations in northwest Nebraska is Toadstool Geologic Park, located in the Oglala National Grassland. This moonscape region contains badlands landscape of unique rock formations, some in the shape of toadstools. To many visitors it resembles a mini version of South Dakota's Badlands.



Toadstool Geologic Park near Harrison

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NEBRASKA

TERRAIN & CLIMATE

Nebraska covers 77,358 sq. mi. (200,356 sq. km) and its terrain and climate offer the best of both the eastern and western United States. At an elevation of 5,424 ft. (1,653 m), Panorama Point in western Nebraska is the state's highest point while its lowest is 840 ft. (256 m) in southeast Nebraska along the Missouri River. The terrain changes considerably as you travel from east to west. The Great Plains stretch westward across 75 percent of the state and include rock formations, eroded hills and deep canyons.

Eastern Nebraska is covered with rugged bluffs, rolling hills, picturesque valleys, and lush vegetation while the Sandhills, the Western Hemisphere's largest grass-stabilized sand dune formation, cover sections of western and central Nebraska and include the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey (the world's largest hand-planted forest). Out west, the terrain looks more like the beginning of the Rocky Mountains. Within the 12,000 sq. mi. (31,080 sq. km) High Plains lie the scenic and rugged Wildcat Hills, the Pine Ridge, and the North Platte River Valley. A small portion of South Dakota's Badlands also extends into northwest Nebraska.

Nebraska offers a full four-season climate with normal average daily temperatures ranging from -20°F (-7°C) in the winter to more than 75°F (24°C) in the summer. Annual precipitation ranges from more than 30" (762 mm) in the southeast to less than 17" (432 mm) in western Nebraska.



Golf course in Sydney

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NEBRASKA

TRANSPORTATION

Interstate 80 crosses Nebraska for 455 miles (733 km) from Omaha in the east to Bushnell in the west and is the busiest east-west interstate highway in the country.

Nebraska has two officially designated national scenic byways. Lincoln Highway Scenic & Historic Byway runs approximately 400 miles (644 km) across the state along U.S. Highway 30, America's first coast-to-coast highway. In central Nebraska the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway runs 272 miles (438 km) from Grand Island to Alliance through the Sandhills, the largest grass-stabilized sand dunes in the Western Hemisphere.

Nebraska is well connected to the rest of the country via airports in communities across the state. Omaha offers the most flight options to destinations and airport hubs around the country. Other airport options include Lincoln, Grand Island, Kearney, North Platte and Gering. Western and central Nebraska each has direct service to Denver International Airport.

MAJOR CITIES & TOWNS

Omaha, Lincoln, Bellevue, Grand Island, Kearney, Norfolk, North Platte, La Vista, Scottsbluff, Beatrice, Gering, McCook, Chadron

ATTRACTIONS

- Agate Fossil Beds National Monument
- Arbor Day Farm
- Arbor Lodge State Historical Park
- Archway
- Buffalo Bill State Historical Park
- Chimney Rock National Historic Site
- Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center
- Elkhorn Valley Museum
- Father Flanagan's Boys Town
- Flatwater Folk Art Museum
- Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center
- Homestead National Heritage Park
- Hot Shops Art Center
- International Quilt Study Center
- Museum of American Speed
- Museum of the Fur Trade
- Nebraska State Capitol
- Polish Heritage Society of Nebraska
- Raising Nebraska
- Red Road Herbs
- Robber's Cave
- Rowe Sanctuary
- Scotts Bluff National Monument
- Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum
- Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer

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BUFFALO BILL'S RAILS & TRAILS WEST ITINERARY

To experience western Nebraska is to experience the Old West. This is a land filled with history and culture. From the Native American tribes who first settled this wild region, fur traders and trappers looking for fortune, early pioneers searching for a better way of life out west, and farmers and ranchers who carved out an existence in this wild and rough landscape. Hear their exciting stories and tales as we explore and experience western Nebraska.

Dusty Trails Tank Float along The Platte River



Rodeo at Buffalo Bills Ranch, North Platte



Fort Cody Trading Post, North Platte



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Double Dips Ice Creamery
- Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center
- Dusty Trails (tanking float trip)
- “Ride with the Wild Bunch”
- (Old West shoot-out and Dutch oven dinner)
- Cody Park Railroad Museum
- Grain Bin Antique Town
- Fort Cody Trading Post
- Petrified Wood and Art Gallery
- Front Street and Cowboy Museum
- Crystal Palace Saloon
- Mansion on the Hill
- Camp Lookout
- Sidney’s Boot Hill Cemetery (grave dousing)
- Historic Duckpin Bowling Alley
- Potter Sundry
- EJE Ranch
- Rocky Hollow Buffalo Company
- Scotts Bluff National Monument
- Robidoux 1851 Trading Post
- Wildcat Hills Nature Center
- Legacy of the Plains
- Chimney Rock National Historic Site
- Agate Fossil Beds National Monument
- Fort Robinson State Historic Park
- Hudson-Meng Education & Research Center
- Museum of the Fur Trade

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BUFFETT, BIRDS, AND BEEF: THE GREAT PLATTE RIVER ROAD ITINERARY

We start our tour in Omaha, Nebraska’s largest city and home to Warren Buffett (the Oracle of Omaha), where we’ll visit many of this business magnate, investor, and philanthropist’s favorite points of interest and hangouts. The birding part of our tour takes us to Lincoln and then the Central Flyway where we come face-to-face with a million sandhill cranes who roost in this part of the Platte River during their annual spring migration. A guided sunset tour and sunrise tour give us two different perspectives of these unique birds, also known as living dinosaurs. As far as the beef portion of the tour goes, we venture to North Platte to learn where our beef comes from and how it’s processed, followed by a full meal consisting of five cuts of delicious Nebraska beef.



Sage Grouse

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Warren Buffett Driving Tour
- eCreamery,
- Gorat’s Steakhouse
- Lithuanian Bakery & Café
- Nebraska Furniture Mart
- The Rose Theatre
- Omaha Community Playhouse
- Fontenelle Forest Nature Center
- The Green Gateau.
- Spring Creek Prairie Audubon
- Historic Haymarket District
- Lazlo’s Brewery & Grill
- 1937 Art-Deco Grand Theatre
- Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center.
- The Chocolate Bar
- Studio K Art Gallery
- Raising Nebraska
- Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer
- Fonner Rotunda
- The Archway
- Museum of Nebraska Art
- Alley Rose
- Rowe Sanctuary
- “Here’s the Beef”
- Dusty Trails
- “Ride with the Wild Bunch”
- Lincoln County Historical Museum
- Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center



Suzanne and Walter Scott Aquarium, Omaha



McCue’s Taproom, Kearney



Durham Museum, Omaha

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EASTERN NEBRASKA ENCOUNTERS ITINERARY

Eastern Nebraska is chock full of exciting and fun-filled group friendly destinations to delight any adventurer to this land west of the mighty Missouri River. From the cosmopolitan buzz of Omaha and Lincoln to the wide-open spaces of northeast and southeast Nebraska, your journey will show you why this region of Nebraska is truly an untapped destination for any type of traveler.



Nebraska State Capitol, Lincoln

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Guided city tour of Omaha
 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
 Durham Museum
 Father Flanagan's Boys Town
 German American Society
 Hot Shops Art Center
 Joslyn Castle
 Master's Hand Candles
 Red Road Herbs
 Elkhorn Valley Museum
 Johnny Carson's boyhood home
 Black Cow Fat Pig
 Larson Dairy Farm
 Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial
 Glur's Tavern
 Genoa Indian School

Wessels Living History Farm
 Chances "R"
 Robber's Cave
 Nebraska State Capitol
 Larsen Tractor Test Museum
 UNL Dairy Store
 International Quilt Study Center
 Museum of American Speed
 Screamer's Dining & Cabaret
 Homestead National Historical Park
 Arbor Day Farm
 Arbor Lodge State Historical Park
 Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard
 Strategic Air Command and Aerospace Museum
 Czech and Slovak Educational Centre & Cultural Museum
 Polish Heritage Society of Nebraska



Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City



Omaha Skyline



Old Market, Omaha

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