

COSMOPOLITAN TO COWBOYS: OMAHA TO KIMBALL

On this itinerary, we'll follow the path of the great American west along one of the nation's busiest migration and transportation routes, the Great Platte River Road. Today, Interstate 80 follows this route, taking us through diverse landscapes and terrains. The cosmopolitan urban centers of Omaha and Lincoln in eastern Nebraska, the fertile farmlands and migratory birding paths of central Nebraska and the Central Flyway, and the wide-open and sprawling vistas of western Nebraska make up this exciting land of contrasts.

Travel Day to Nebraska

Overnight: Omaha

Day 1

Omaha

Overnight: Omaha

Omaha Guided City Tour

Explore this exciting city on a guided citywide tour of Omaha.

Durham Museum

Located in the former Union Station, explore the history and settlement of Nebraska's largest city at one of the city's top museums. Make sure to head downstairs to the platform for the chance to walk through authentic train cars.

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

Tour of Omaha's only Greek Orthodox Byzantine-style church followed by a traditional Greek lunch and entertainment, and lessons in Greek dancing.

Lithuanian Bakery & Café

This successful bakery serves eclectic breads and tortes based on "Old Country" recipes. Groups can eat while listening to the story of the family and how they immigrated to Nebraska.

Father Flanagan's Boys Town

Tour the campus and learn how Father Flanagan worked to create a safe haven for wayward boys, and also now girls, on the outskirts of Omaha.

General Crook House at Fort Omaha

Travel back in time to 1879 where General Crook and his wife Mary welcome visitors to a delicious 3-course dinner at their new Italianate-style home.

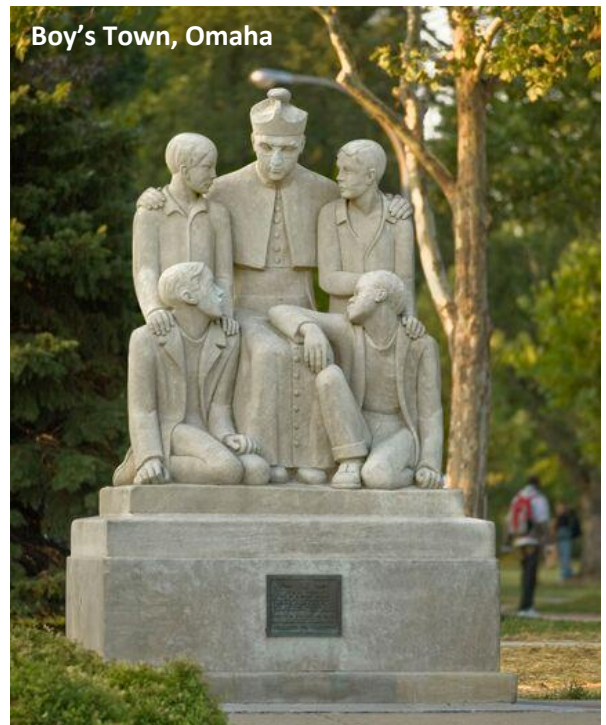
Day 2

Omaha • Bellevue • Lincoln

Overnight: Lincoln

Mormon Trail Center at Historic Winter Quarters

Stop in north Omaha to learn more about the great Mormon Migration to the west through a number of interactive exhibits and displays and the adjacent Mormon Pioneer Cemetery dating from 1846-1848.



Fontenelle Forest Nature Center

Learn about the facility's dedication to help injured birds of prey through their Raptor Rescue Program and the Raptor Woodland Refuge where owls, hawks, falcons, and other species that no longer can survive in the wild live within "homes" designed to fit their natural habitats.

Nebraska State Capitol

Tour Nebraska's unique state capitol building, which at 15 stories and 400 feet tall is the second-tallest statehouse in the country and offers a spectacular view of the city from its 14th floor observation level.)

Larsen Tractor Test Museum

Walk through the only tractor testing museum and tractor test laboratory in the world. On display are more than 25 tractors highlighting the advancements in tractor testing technology, which established power and performance standards and solved agricultural problems around the world.



Larsen Tractor Test Museum, Lincoln

UNL Dairy Store

Time for a tour of the chees making facility before enjoying a tasty afternoon ice cream treat.

International Quilt Study Center

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.

Screamers Dining & Cabaret

Dine on deliciously prepared meals while being entertained by some of the best local performers in Lincoln at this unique Haymarket establishment.

Day 3

Lincoln • York County

Overnight: Grand Island

Museum of American Speed

This 135,000 sq. ft. museum presents a chronology of automotive racing and speed equipment development while preserving, interpreting, and displaying items significant in racing and automotive history.)

Chances "R"

Dine on delicious homemade fare at one of York's most popular group dining destinations.

Clayton Museum of Ancient History

Step back in time to the ancient world of Mesopotamia, Rome, and other great civilizations. Spend a few moments reflecting in front of an accurate reproduction of the Western Wall in Jerusalem where groups also can write a prayer and leave in it the wall.

Mennonite Heritage Park

Listen to costumed storytellers tell their stories about the Henderson Mennonites and explain how this group is connected to the Amish and Old-Mennonites in Pennsylvania and how these Germans from Russia immigrated to Nebraska.

Day 4
Grand Island • Kearney

Overnight: Kearney

Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer

Noted as one of the top ten living history museums in the country, the museum complex transports visitors back to the early pioneer and settlement days of Nebraska. Explore Fonner Rotunda which boasts one of the state's finest collections of cowboy and Native American art and artifacts.

Raising Nebraska

Explore this interactive 25,000 sq. ft. museum that connects consumers with farmers who raise their food by explaining the steps from "farm to fork." Experience a virtual combine harvest experience, full-sized pivot irrigation system, grain bin video theater, a 50-foot-long interactive floor map of Nebraska, and an interactive dinner table.

Rowe Sanctuary

Learn more about the majestic Sandhill cranes, and other migratory birds, during their migration each spring through Nebraska's Central Flyway.

Archway

Wander through this three-floor interactive museum commemorating the nation's westward expansion. At a height of 310 feet, the Archway is the only tourist attraction in the country to span a federal interstate highway.

Alley Rose

Dine on a variety of delicious offerings within a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere "On the Bricks" in downtown Kearney.



Day 5
North Platte • Ogallala

Overnight: Ogallala

Golden Spike Tower and Visitor Center

Start off the morning with breakfast and a bird's eye, 360-degree view of Union Pacific Railroad's Bailey Yard-the world's largest railroad classification yard-from atop the 95-foot tall, 8-story. Historical and regional railroad memorabilia can be purchased in the gift shop.

Buffalo Bill State Historical Park

Tour the home of Colonel William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and his wife and hear more about their lives and their interesting adventures.

Lincoln County Historical Museum

Hop aboard a wagon from the park to the museum for a deliciously prepared Dutch oven lunch and a guided tour of the museum grounds, including an authentic recreated Old West town and learn more about the story of the famous World War II North Platte Canteen.

Fort Cody Trading Post

Visit one of the state's largest, and most eclectic gift shops. Explore the Old West Museum in the back of the store and don't miss the 20,000-piece, hand-carved animated miniature version of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show.

Front Street and Cowboy Museum

Enjoy an authentic western style lunch in this recreation of a 1880s Old West main street in downtown Ogallala, also known as the town “too tough for Texans. The Crystal Palace Revue is a rootin’ tootin’ western shootout complete with cowboys and showgirls and takes place from June to mid-August.

Day 6

Ogallala • Sidney • Kimball

Petrified Wood and Art Gallery

Explore Native American artifacts and delicate works of art and carvings formed from pieces of ancient petrified wood from around the world.

Camp Lookout

Visit the oldest building in Sidney, initially built as housing for soldiers in 1867 to protect railroad workers on the Union Pacific railroad from attacks by the Sioux and Cheyenne. Re-enactors entertain groups with stories of the building and its many colorful inhabitants over the years.

EJE Ranch

Learn about the High Plains Region’s short grass prairie on this working ranch and the unique opportunity of venturing into the prairie to learn more about this fragile ecosystem first hand.

Rocky Hollow Buffalo Company

This working ranch raises grass fed bison and gives groups the unique opportunity to hand feed them hay biscuits and learn more about how these majestic animals exist and thrive in western Nebraska’s High Plains region.



Tour Route Map (Nebraska Interstate 80)
 (Top: Eastern/Central Nebraska, Bottom: Western Nebraska)



Driving Times and Distance
 (Drive times are approximate.)

Location	Drive Time	Distance
Omaha-Lincoln	1 hr.	60 miles
Lincoln-York	55 min.	51 miles
York-Grand Island	55 min.	49 miles
Grand Island-Kearney	50 min.	42 miles
Kearney-North Platte	1 hr. 30 min.	99 miles
North Platte-Ogallala	55 min.	54 miles
Ogallala-Sidney	1 hr. 15 min.	72 miles
Sidney-Kimball	40 min.	39 miles

Don't reinvent the wheel. Let us help you plan your next exciting Nebraska group tour itinerary. We can assist you with general information about tour destinations, group rates at attractions, restaurants, and accommodations, as well as give you personalized service and attention to make planning your tour easy and fun.

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