

Northeast Nebraska American Indian Heritage, the Cowboy Life, Alpacas and Buffalo



Northeast Nebraska lies between two great rivers, the Missouri River and the Platte River, which have helped shape the culture and landscape of this interesting part of Nebraska. On this itinerary, we'll explore and learn more about the region's rich and diverse Native American history, dine on amazing ethnic and locally prepared meals, and experience everyday life as a cowboy on a real working ranch. We'll even get the chance to handfeed alpacas and buffalo, something most people can't say they've ever done.

4 DAYS/3 NIGHTS

- National Park Service Visitor Center
- Omaha Guided Tour
- Durham Museum
- Big Mama's Kitchen & Catering
- Lithuanian Bakery
- Father Flanagan's Boys Town
- Omaha's German American Society
- Fort Atkinson State Historical Park
- Alpacas of the Heartland
- DeSoto Chute National Wildlife Refuge
- Glur's Tavern
- Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial
- Red Road Herbs Retreat & Learning Center
- Uptown Brewery
- Elkhorn Valley Museum & Research Center
- Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park
- Riverview Elk Ranch
- Santee Reservation
- Ohiya Casino & Resort
- WJ Ranch
- Winnebago Reservation
- Woodland Trails Art Center
- Bison Herd
- Omaha Reservation
- Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Memorial Center
- John G. Neihardt State Historical Site
- Feller & Company Cattle Feeder
- Cooper's Chase Distillery
- Louis E. May Museum

DAY 1 Omaha

MORNING

After breakfast, our first Omaha stop this morning is the **National Park Service Visitor Center** where Meriwether Lewis will meet us and talk about his journey up the

Missouri River with William Clark before we embark on an exciting **guided city tour of Omaha**.

Next, we'll explore the history and settlement of Nebraska's largest city at the **Durham Museum**. Located in the former Union Station, this top museum

offers us the chance to walk through authentic train cars on display on the downstairs station platform.

AFTERNOON

Our lunch destination is **Big Mama's Kitchen & Catering**, which was featured on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-ins,

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and Dives.” This family-owned and operated restaurant serves mouthwatering soul food and traditional American cuisine, such as oven-fried chicken and sweet potato pie ice cream.

For dessert, we’ll make a short stop at the **Lithuanian Bakery** for a delicious Lithuanian pastry.

After lunch, we head to west Omaha and **Father Flanagan’s Boys Town** where an experienced guide will give an insider’s view of life in the Village and recount the many inspiring stories of Father Flanagan and his vision to help wayward boys.

EVENING

Tonight’s dinner and entertainment is a traditional German meal and entertainment with **Omaha’s German American Society**. After dinner, we’ll enjoy a performance by the German men’s choir who will lead us in a traditional German sing-a-long. **Omaha (B, L, D)**

DAY 2

Fort Calhoun • Blair • Columbus • Stanton

MORNING

Our first stop this morning is a short drive north of Omaha to **Fort Atkinson State Historical Park** in Fort Calhoun. This was the site of the first council between Lewis and Clark and the Missouri and Otoe tribes. Today an informative visitor center chronicles this historic meeting.

Next, we’ll head to **Alpacas of the Heartland** where we’ll learn more about these unique

animals and have a chance to handfeed them carrots.

Our next destination is Blair and the **DeSoto Chute National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center** where we’ll have a private, 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.

AFTERNOON

Our lunch destination is **Glur’s Tavern** in Columbus. This National Historic site is the oldest continuously operated tavern west of the Missouri River. It even is known to have been frequented by “Buffalo Bill” Cody.

Afterward, we’ll head to the **Andrew Jackson Higgins Memorial**, which features a life-size replica of the Higgins landing craft that 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.

Next, we’ll reconnect with nature at **Red Road Herbs** near Stanton where we’ll learn all about herbs and how to use them in our everyday life. More than 100 herbs grow in cultivated gardens in a cozy woodland setting.

Purchase handmade herbal products in the gift shop. Dinner this evening is at the **Uptown Brewery. Norfolk (B, L, D)**

DAY 3

Norfolk • Royal • Niobrara • Santee Reservation

MORNING

We start our morning in Norfolk at the **Elkhorn Valley Museum & Research Center**, which includes a Johnny Carson exhibit. On display is an impressive collection of his personal items, including videotapes, vintage photographs and his six Emmy Awards. An interactive home theater shows selected *Tonight Show* episodes and monologues.

We depart Norfolk and head toward **Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park** near Royal. This is one of the richest fossil finds in the northern hemisphere. Watch scientists in the Rhino Barn diligently uncover whole skeletons of prehistoric mammals covered by volcanic ash millions of years ago.

AFTERNOON

After lunch in Niobrara, we head to **Kreycik Riverview Elk Ranch** for an up-close encounter with wildlife, particularly bison. Where else in the world can you ride in a covered wagon into a pasture and hand-feed bison as they clamor to you for corn? This unique experience is one you’re not likely to forget anytime soon.

EVENING

We end our third day enjoying a delicious dinner at **Ohiya Casino & Resort** on the **Santee Reservation**. After dinner, we can try our luck at one of the casino’s more than 400 state-

of-the-art machines. **Santee (B, L, D)**

DAY 4

**Fordyce • Winnebago •
Walthill • Bancroft • Wisner •
West Point • Fremont**

MORNING

We start our day living the life of a true western cowboy at **WJ Ranch** near Fordyce. Horsemanship demonstrations, everyday ranch tasks, and a ride in a horse drawn buggy and a 1924 Model T Ford truck are some of the many interactive experiences we'll enjoy as we learn more about the ranching life. The onsite gift shop features a variety of gifts and souvenir items.

AFTERNOON

Now we venture onto the **Winnebago Reservation** where we'll first enjoy a delicious

lunch prepared by members of the Winnebago Tribe.

Afterward, we'll tour the **Woodland Trails Art & Learning Center**. Designed around Native arts and fine crafts, the center features a fine arts gallery, quilting and beading studio, and retail space with handcrafted products made by American Indian artists and other local artisans. Various workshops are available in the learning center.

We continue our tour of northeast Nebraska's Native American culture at the Dr. Susan **LaFlesche Picotte Center** in Walthill. Susan Picotte was the first Native American woman doctor to practice modern medicine in the United States. The center recounts her amazing story and life.

Next stop is Bancroft and the **John G. Neihardt Center**. He

was the author of *Black Elk Speaks* and the center highlights his life and works.

Now it's off to Wisner and a tour of **Feller & Company Cattle Feeder**, an environmentally sustainable cattle-feeding operation.

Next stop is West Point where we'll tour **Cooper's Chase Distillery**, the first federal and state licenses distillery in Nebraska, and sample locally produced vodka and bourbon.

The last stop on our tour is in Fremont for a fine dining experience at the **Louis E. May Museum**, the beautiful 25-room mansion built by Fremont's first mayor. A well-manicured lawn and garden also await us to explore after dinner. **(B, L, D)**