

# BUFFETT, BIRDS, AND BEEF: NEBRASKA'S GREAT PLATTE RIVER ROAD

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 more than 600,000 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.

We spend time in southwest Nebraska where we watch up-close as male prairie chickens compete for dominance and mating rights with female hens on a *lek* in the open prairie. Their unique booming call and stomping makes it worth getting up before sunrise to see. 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.

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## Travel Day to Nebraska

Overnight: Omaha

### Day 1

#### Omaha • Bellevue

Overnight: Omaha

#### Warren Buffett Driving Tour

Breakfast at Warren Buffett's favorite McDonald's followed by driving tour with step on guide highlighting some of his favorite locations.



Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, Bellevue

#### 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.

#### eCreamery

Experience gourmet ice cream at its best in Omaha's historic Dundee neighborhood. Featured on the show *Shark Tank*, the mouth-watering ice cream has also been listed as one of Oprah's favorite things. Warren Buffet took Paul McCartney there when the music legend visited Omaha. Try butter brickle, Warren's favorite flavor.

#### Gorat's Steakhouse

Dinner at one of Warren Buffett's favorite restaurants has been an Omaha tradition for more than 70 years and has hosted celebrities and dignitaries from around the world.

### Day 2

#### Omaha • Lincoln

Overnight: Lincoln

#### Lithuanian Bakery & Café

Breakfast at this successful bakery that serves eclectic breads and tortes base on "Old Country" recipes. Groups can eat while listening to the story of the family and how they immigrated to Nebraska.

### **Nebraska Furniture Mart**

Explore North America's largest furnishing store and afterward spend some time shopping.

### **Dairy Queen**

Lunch today is at another one of Warrant Buffett's favorite places to relax and eat.

### **The Rose Theatre**

The theatre has been at the heart of Omaha's dramatic and arts scene since 1948 and its purpose is to enrich the lives of children and their families through live theatre and the arts.

### **Omaha Community Playhouse**

Tour the largest community theater in the country and learn all about the process of putting on a large stage production including set and costume design.

### **The Green Gateau**

An up-scale neighborhood restaurant in the heart of downtown Lincoln combines French-influenced American contemporary cuisine in a cozy, European country inn setting.)

## **Day 3**

### **Lincoln • Grand Island**

Overnight: Grand Island

### **Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center**

This 850-acre tallgrass prairie nature preserve southwest of Lincoln is home to more than 220 bird species, 30 mammal species, 350 plants, and 50 butterfly species.

### **Lazlo's Brewery & Grill**

Nebraska's first brewpub in Lincoln's Historic Haymarket District is the lunch stop today.

### **1937 Art-Deco Grand Theatre**

View an introductory program about the sandhill cranes given by an experienced guide.

### **Crane Trust Nature & Visitor Center**

Begin our evening sandhill crane viewing adventure along the Platte River with an up-close VIP experience.



## **Day 4**

### **Grand Island • Kearney**

Overnight: Kearney

### **The Chocolate Bar**

Breakfast in a trendy café with a big city ambiance in downtown Grand Island.

### **Studio K Art Gallery**

Groups can get in touch with their inner artists and create their own unique sandhill crane painting experience.

### **Raising Nebraska**

This 25,000 square foot interactive museum at Fonner Park 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, a 50-foot-long interactive floor map of Nebraska, and an interactive dinner table.

### **Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer**

Declared one of the top ten living history museums in the country, the Stuhr transports groups back to the early pioneer and settlement days of Nebraska. The Fonner Rotunda houses one of the state's finest collections of cowboy and Native American art and artifacts.

### **"Wings over the Platte"**

During the sandhill crane migration season, this exhibit at the Stuhr Museum displays artwork by artists from across the country highlighting the annual spring migration. A "must-see" for any bird lover for the past 30 years.

### **Archway**

Explore this impressive interactive museum commemorating the nation's westward expansion. On a side note, at a height of 310 feet, this is the only tourist attraction in the country to span a federal interstate highway.

### **Alley Rose**

Dinner is at one of Kearney's best restaurants that serves a variety of locally prepared signature dishes.

## **Day 5**

### **Kearney • North Platte**

Overnight: McCook

### **Rowe Sanctuary**

Depart for an early morning, pre-dawn guided sunrise sandhill crane viewing on the banks of Platte River where we watch as thousands of cranes start their morning routine getting ready to head into the fields around the area to forage. A "to-go" breakfast is picked up at the hotel and eaten along the route.

### **Buffalo Bill State Historical Park**

Visit the home of Colonel William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and meet him and his wife for a tour of their place to hear about their interesting adventures, lives, and feats.

### **Lincoln County Historical Museum**

Hop aboard a wagon ride from the park to the museum for a deliciously prepared Dutch oven lunch and a guided tour of the facility. Explore the recreated town and learn more about the story of the famous North Platte Canteen during World War II.

### **Golden Spike Tower & Visitor Center**

Take in a bird's eye view of the world's largest railroad classification yard from atop the 7<sup>th</sup> floor open air observation deck or the 8<sup>th</sup> floor enclosed deck.

### **"Here's the Beef"**

West Central Research and Extension Office educators and chef from a local restaurant explain the steps needed to raise and process beef from pasture to the table. Dinner will be a full meal including five cuts of beef.

**Note:** A step-on guide could board the motorcoach in North Platte and ride down to McCook to give the orientation required to view the prairie chicken mating dance the following morning. This presentation will give groups additional information about what to expect on this portion of



the itinerary and teach them proper bird watching etiquette so everyone can enjoy a fun and safe time.

**Day 6  
McCook**

**Prairie Chicken Dance**

An early morning, pre-dawn tour to a *lek* on the open prairie to view the amusing mating rituals of male prairie chickens sparring for dominance and mating rights by stomping the ground, jumping, and sounding their trademark booming call. Breakfast is in McCook upon return to town.



Prairie Chicken "Lek," McCook

**Tour Route Map**



**Driving Times and Distance  
(Drive times are approximate.)**

Location	Drive Time	Distance
Omaha-Lincoln	1 hr.	60 miles
Lincoln-Grand Island	1 hr. 30 min.	93 miles
Grand Island-Kearney	50 min.	42 miles
Kearney-North Platte	1 hr. 30 min.	100 miles
North Platte-McCook	1 hr. 10 min.	68 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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