

SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA'S OFFICIAL VISITORS GUIDE

Southeast Nebraska

Explore the Unexpected



HISTORY | OUTDOORS | SHOPPING | DINING | LODGING

visitsoutheastnebraska.org

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CASS COUNTY

NEBRASKA



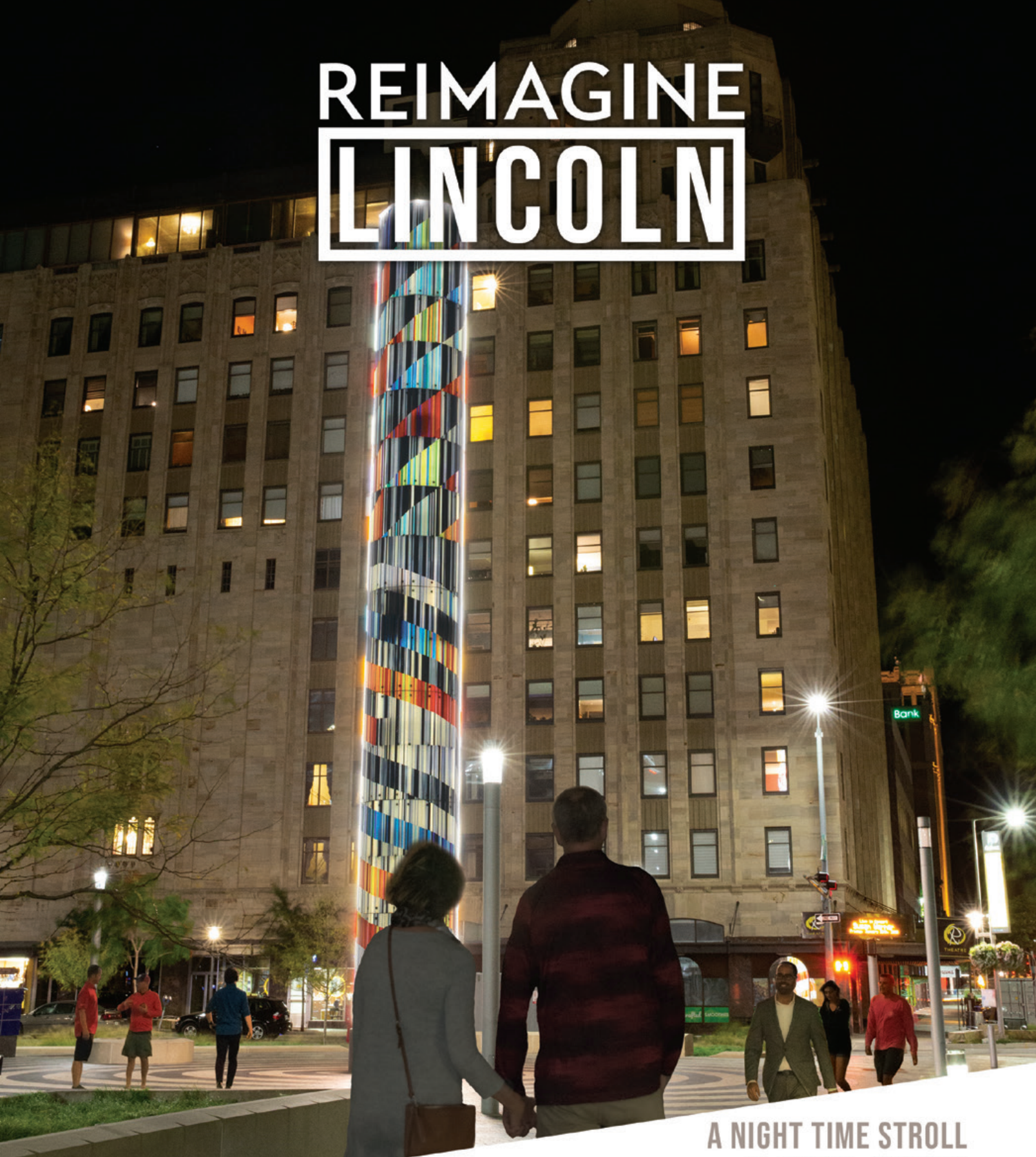
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SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA

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It is my pleasure, on behalf of our 13 member counties, to thank you for your interest in Southeast Nebraska. We look forward to welcoming your event or family to our unique brand of hospitality in the very near future.

My sincerest thanks go out to all of you for the efforts put forth during the pandemic to provide a safe environment for your families and hometowns in recent months. Without you, we would not have tourism, and again, my thanks to each of you for your interest in resuming your travel planning and the return of the many rewards that discovering a new destination brings to all of us.

Many of our hidden treasures, as well as great annual traditions, shine brightly to travelers each and every year. You will find friendly service in our many high-quality facilities, comfortable accommodations, and first-class athletic venues and convention space.

Furthermore, Southeast Nebraska offers a wide variety of activities to entertain, including fine parks, museums, restaurants, theaters, and shopping centers. Our lodging facility landscape is dotted with many unique bed and breakfasts and campsites that overlook some of the most breathtaking scenery in our state.

We look forward to sharing with you our special brand of hospitality and encourage you to discover the many amenities that we have to offer. For more information about our region, visit our website at visitsoutheastnebraska.org or email us at VisitSENebraska@gmail.com.

Oh, and please do me a favor, share your favorite Southeast Nebraska experience by posting your adventure on our Facebook and Instagram pages. I love seeing the fun that people have in our communities and the countless smiles that warm the hearts of so many!

Sincerely,



Jeff Maul, President
Southeast Nebraska Tourism Council



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prints six regular publications created in-house. In addition, they publish the annual Best of Omaha® and Best of B2B® contests, as well as Faces of Omaha and custom projects.

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History of Native Americans in Southeast Nebraska

Compiled by Doug Friedli, Lewis & Clark Center, Nebraska City

Pre-Caucasian encounters - For hundreds of years, as early as 1760, long before the first European fur trappers paddled up the Missouri River, Native tribes lived in Southeast Nebraska.

The Oto tribe gave this state its name. Nebraska comes from two Oto/Missouria words: "Ni-Brathge" (nee-BRATHH-gay) which means "water flat," referring to the Platte River.

The Oto and Missouria tribes were Southeast Nebraska's original farmers. They lived in permanent earth lodges, growing crops including corn, beans, squash, and melons in the rich, subirrigated soil along the Missouri River and its tributaries. They hunted wild game in the wooded bluffs and tallgrass prairie. They caught fish in the rivers and streams.

Evidence of the Natives' presence can still be found occasionally in Southeast Nebraska, mostly on private property: circles from earth lodges in pastures on the bluffs, shards of broken pottery, arrowheads, stones from tools, etc.

Saunders County - The Oto tribe's original principal village and seat of government was located for many years about 10 miles north of present-day Ashland on the south bank of the Platte. From a nearby hilltop, the view of the surrounding landscape is 30 miles in diameter, and visible features include the valleys of the Platte, the Elkhorn, the Wahoo, Salt Creek, and prairie. No enemy could approach without being seen. The ruins of their lodges today cover a half-section of land.

1830 - In a treaty between the United States and the Oto tribe, much of the land they had been living on for hundreds of years in Southeast Nebraska was permanently deeded away.

Sarpy County, 1835 - The Oto tribe was moved 8 miles west of Bellevue in order to be near their mission and Peter Sarpy's trading post, and to escape the ravages of the Dakota tribes.

Cass County, 1840 - The Oto village was moved west of present-day Plattsmouth. Here, at the gateway of the Platte Valley,

the tribe struggled against its fate for a few more years, as the number of white settlers continually increased.

1854, March - The Oto chiefs were hurried to Washington and there signed a treaty selling all their Nebraska lands, except a reserve 10 by 25 miles on the Big Blue in Gage County.

1854, May 30 - The Nebraska-Kansas Act was a political compromise in the halls of Congress to address issues of slavery and freedom. But it did not address the increasing conflicts between Natives and pioneers as to which group had the right to live on the rich soils of Southeast Nebraska. As the debates escalated toward their climax, the Oto tribe, which once had helped the Pawnee rescue Nebraska from the Spaniards, peacefully watched their homelands slowly get taken away from them.

Otoe County and Nebraska City

1804, July 18-19 - The 44 members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition camped for two nights near present-day Nebraska City as they were making their way up the Missouri River. They were disappointed to find that members of the Native Americans had left their earth lodges to head west across the prairie to hunt buffalo and elk. The explorers found one lonely dog the tribes had left behind.

1804, August 3 - About 65 miles upstream from Nebraska City, Lewis and Clark finally encountered a few members of the Oto-Missouria tribes at the place Lewis and Clark later called the "Council on the Bluff" (present-day Fort Calhoun). The Natives treated the strangers well, sharing their food with the explorers. They were the first Natives Lewis and Clark had met with since leaving St. Louis in May 1804. Lewis and Clark gave them peace medals from President Thomas Jefferson. In the next two years, on their way to the Pacific Ocean and back, the explorers would encounter 57 different Native American tribes.

1854 - Otoe County, in the newly established Nebraska Territory, was named for the Oto Indian tribe, 13 years before Nebraska's official statehood. An "e" was added to the Native American spelling.

1854, December 9 - Oto chiefs were assembled at Nebraska City to sign a new treaty slightly changing the location of their reservation. The tribe was moved from their old villages to a narrow tract of land along the Blue River near present-day Blue Springs and Wymore in Gage County.

1882 - The last of the Oto tribe left the lands in Southeast Nebraska, which they had defended from the Spaniards, and moved to a reservation on a stretch of prairie joining their old neighbors, the Pawnee, in Red Rock, Oklahoma, where their survivors still live today.

2000 - Oto tribal member, Mr. Bat Shunatona, returned to Nebraska City in Otoe County, Nebraska. He was invited to participate in the planning of the 200th anniversary of the Lewis & Clark Expedition through Otoe County.

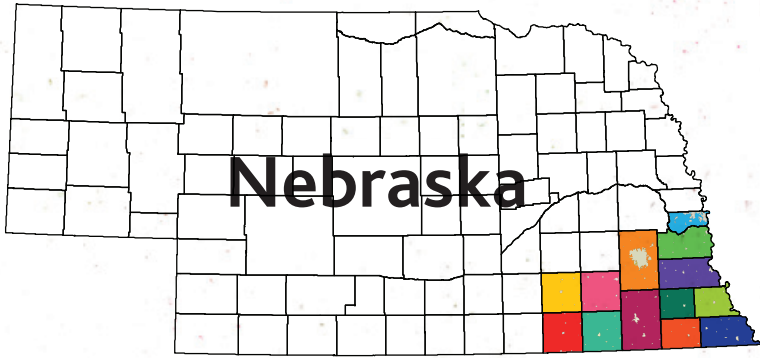
2004, July 18 - Bat Shunatona attended and spoke at the dedication of the Lewis & Clark Visitor Center in Nebraska City, 200 years from the day the Lewis and Clark Expedition had camped nearby. Many of the exhibits in the center explain the influence and support the Native Americans gave to Lewis & Clark... in fact they wouldn't have been successful had it not been for the assistance of the Native Americans.

2019 - A replica of a traditional Native American earth lodge has been built on the Lewis & Clark Center property near Nebraska City. Also on display are shards of broken pottery, arrowheads, stones from tools, etc. which have been found in the area.

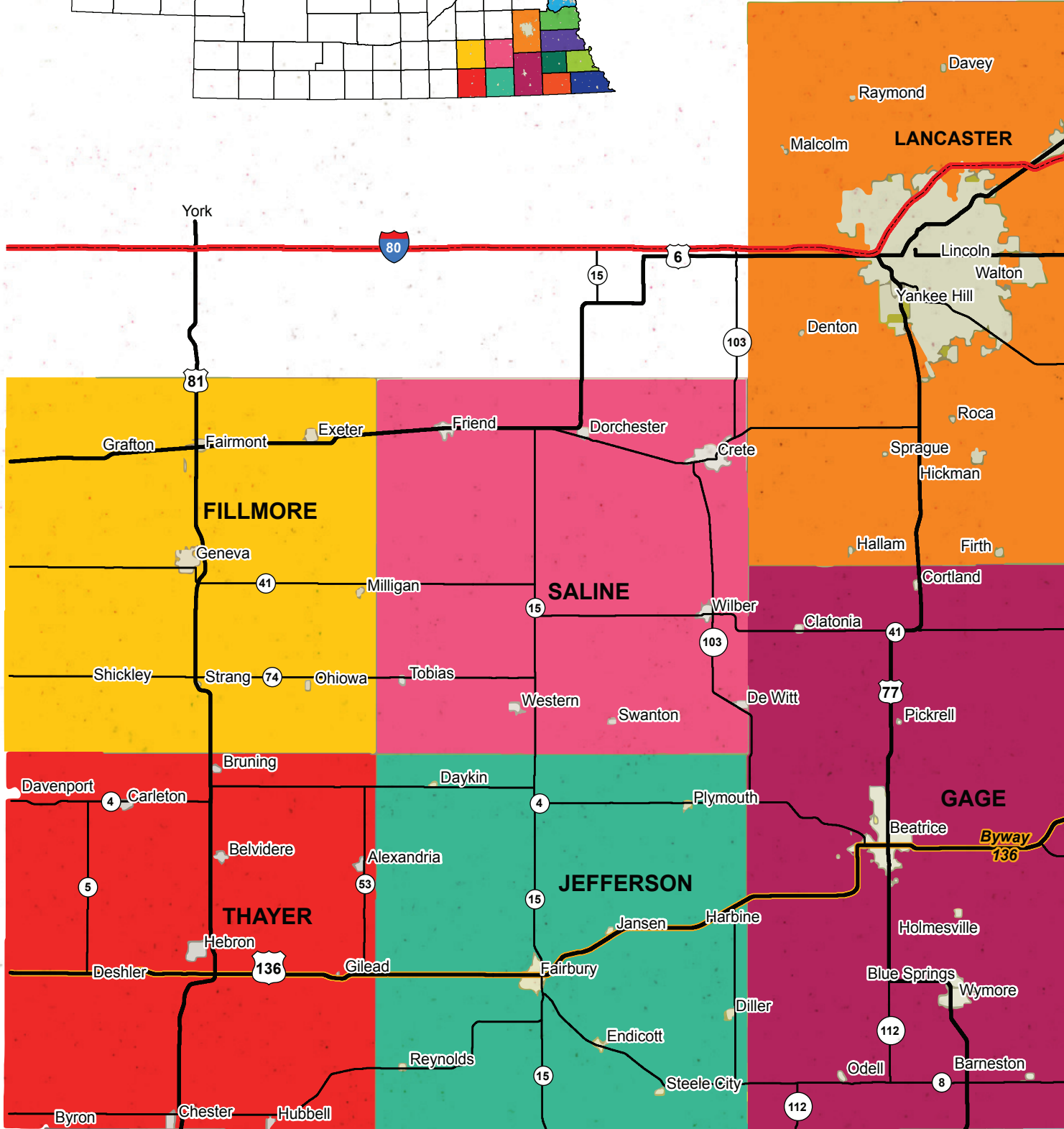
2021 - In May, the Lewis & Clark Center will host their annual Native American Artifact Show, where collections of historic items will be on display. The event will be open to the public.



Lewis & Clark Center in Nebraska City







Nebraska

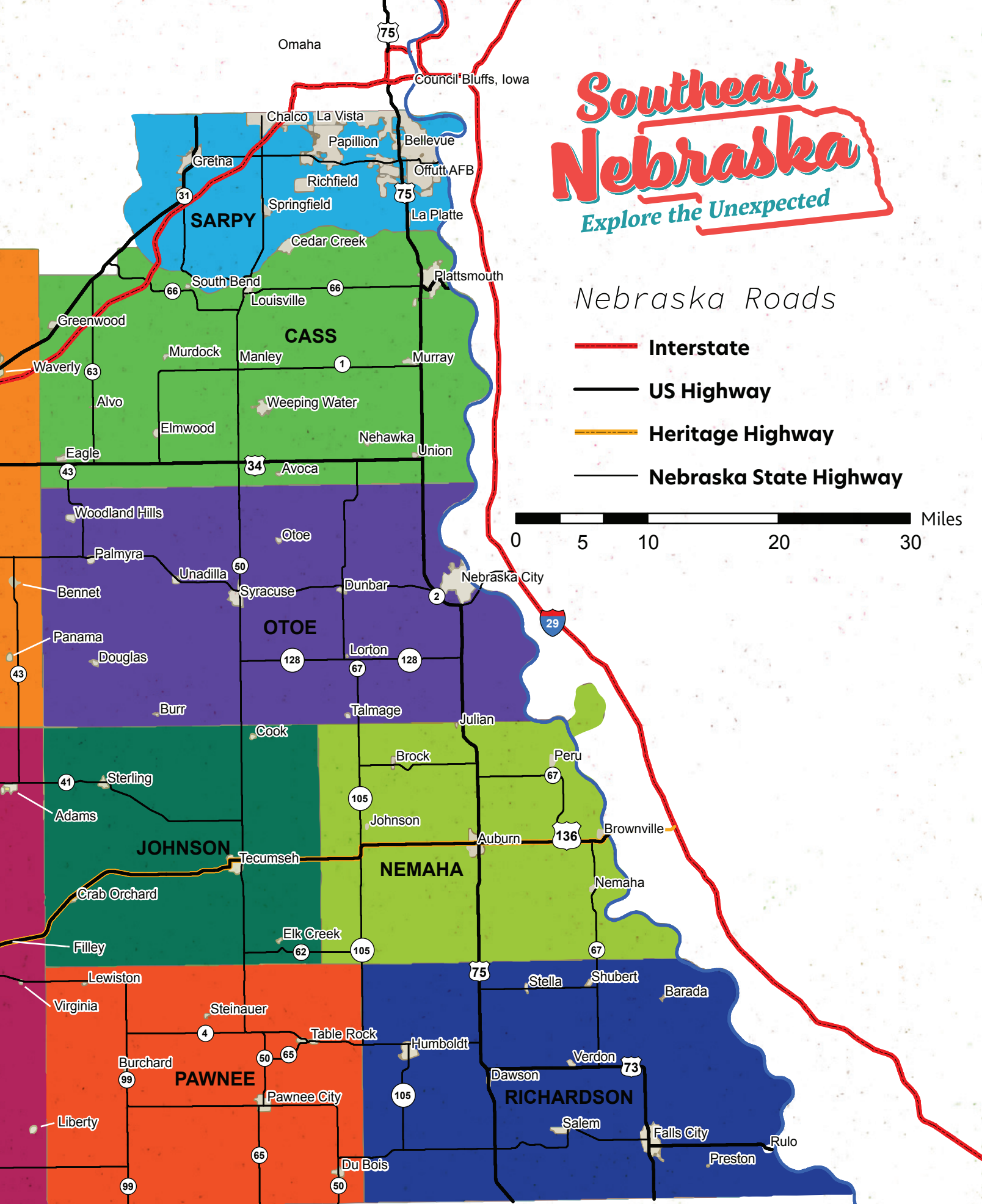
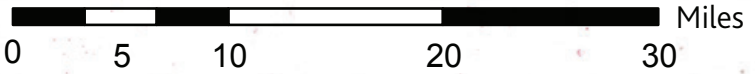


Southeast Nebraska

Explore the Unexpected

Nebraska Roads

-  Interstate
-  US Highway
-  Heritage Highway
-  Nebraska State Highway





Stone Creek Falls, Platte River State Park Photo by NE Game & Parks



CASS COUNTY

Cass County, located halfway between Omaha and Lincoln, is a place where rivers meet, trees stand tall, and wildlife roam free. It's one of the largest counties in the state, comprised of 16 towns, including the cities of **Louisville** and **Weeping Water**. The county seat of **Plattsmouth** started as a trading post known as "Old Barracks," which was established in 1854 by Samuel Martin. Other communities in Cass include **Alvo, Ashland, Avoca, Cedar Creek, Eagle, Elmwood, Greenwood, Manley, Murdock, Murray, Nehawka, South Bend,** and **Union**.

With the Platte and Missouri rivers as its north and east borders, the 566-square-mile area has 26,000 people ready to welcome individuals and families looking for a one-of-a-kind getaway. See why Cass County is a top destination for nature lovers and history buffs, as well as wine enthusiasts and boutique shoppers. Discover your next adventure in Cass County.

EXPLORE!

There's a lot to do in Cass County, including taking in the amazing views, especially from the observation tower at **Eugene T. Mahoney State Park**. An ultra-modern, 690-acre public recreation area nestled along the picturesque Platte River, the park has spectacular lodging at the Peter Kiewit Lodge. There are 40 guest rooms, most with balconies that offer a stunning view of the Platte River valley. The park also features an array of cabins, as well as other camping opportunities. They even have an arts and crafts center, and they offer horseback riding, paddle boating, swimming—with water slides—and many other activities, even in the winter. Climb the Walter Scott Jr. Observation Tower for a true bird's-eye view of the surrounding land. Whether you enjoy roughing it in a tent or prefer the comforts of a lodge, this park, located midway between Nebraska's two largest cities, is a great place to "set up camp" and explore the area.

At the Lee G. Simmons Conservation Park & Wildlife Safari, you'll find scenic prairies and wetlands filled with bison, elk, and crane.

Close by at the **Lee G. Simmons Conservation Park & Wildlife Safari**, you'll find scenic prairies and wetlands filled with bison, elk, and cranes. The Safari is part of the world-famous Henry Doorly Zoo, and also features wolf and bear exhibits, an animal corral, and a prairie dog town. While most visitors wouldn't know it, the park serves an important role with the zoo in helping with the conservation of cheetahs and tigers. Guided bus tours, backstage passes—which includes a cheetah conservation tour—and other premium experiences are available.

Not far from Louisville is the **Platte River State Park**. It features a 5.1-mile, heavily trafficked loop trail with a river view, and offers a number of activity options—dogs and horses are able to use this trail, too! The park's new splash pad also makes it a great place for visitors to cool off on hot summer days.



Platte River State Park Photo by NE Game & Parks



Wildlife Safari Photo by NE Game & Parks

The Louisville State Recreation Area is another great outdoor spot, with 192 acres of lakes and tall cottonwood trees.

The **Louisville State Recreation Area** is another great outdoor spot, with 192 acres of lakes and tall cottonwood trees. It offers (non-power) boating and canoe access to the Platte River, as well as five sandpit lakes with additional opportunities for boating, fishing, and swimming. Kids will love the floating playground and concessions. Those looking for more substantial food offerings can take the quick trip into town for some groceries from The Market. »

Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum



The Bess Streeter Aldrich House and Museum in Elmwood offers a historic glimpse into the life of one of Nebraska's most beloved authors.

« Looking for a relaxing getaway? **Kimberly Creek Retreat** offers a range of glamping cabins, pods, and geodesic domes in a natural environment that is a healthy ecosystem for wildlife and glampers alike. Situated on 22 acres of secluded woods, the retreat features hills, cliffs, Pawnee Creek, fire pits, hiking trails, and picnic areas, with activities that will melt away your daily stresses.

Kimberly Creek Retreat



As one of the earliest settled counties in the state of Nebraska, Cass has a rich past, which visitors can learn about at the **Cass County Historical Society Museum**. Permanent displays depict various stages of the county's history and are supplemented by temporary exhibits, changed periodically throughout the year. Learn about the golden age of steamboats on the Missouri River, the pioneer experience, and the arrival of the train. A second part of the permanent display covers the age of the automobile, the telephone and radio, entertainment, and more. Other exhibits include a general store, pioneer kitchen, and Victorian parlor. The Society also maintains the **Joseph and Mary Cook Log Cabin** (1868); a **Burlington Northern Caboose** (1913); and a life-size replica of **Lewis and Clark's Pirogue**.

Lofte Community Theatre



The **Bess Streeter Aldrich House and Museum** in Elmwood offers a historic glimpse into the life of one of Nebraska's most beloved authors. Aldrich recreated the ups and downs of small-town living in her short stories and novels. Her wish was for her readers to understand the hardships and struggles of the times, but also see the virtues and hopes that became a part of these prairie times in

the Midwest. Her book *Miss Bishop* was made into the movie *Cheers for Miss Bishop*, starring Martha Scott. Aldrich also served as a writer and consultant in Hollywood for Paramount Pictures. Tours of her 1922 home include original furnishings and antiques, flower gardens, a lily pond, and a video history of the author. Her novels are available for purchase there.

The **Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum** is a must-see for all ages. People come from around the world to view its huge collection of rare aircraft, missiles, and space vehicles. Sleek jet fighters, large bomber planes, and an Apollo Command Space Module are on display. Adventurous flight enthusiasts love the FS-VC "Dual System" flight simulators, offering state-of-the-art motion control and high-performance visuals and sounds, the simulators immerse riders in the realism of flight.

Cass County offers something for everyone, whether you like to check out the attractions, sample the local eats, or shop for new treasures. There's even something for theater buffs through the **Lofte Community Theatre**. This theater near Manley is dedicated to providing opportunities for all ages to participate in the creative process and enjoy all art forms. Started by Diane (Bjornborg) Reece, an English, speech, and drama teacher at Weeping Water Public Schools during the '70s, this nonprofit has been going strong throughout the decades. Today, the Lofte offers six core season productions, as well as many special performances featuring visiting artists.

The county also has some of the state's oldest events, such as the **Avoca Quack Off**, a duck race held each January to help raise money for the Avoca Volunteer Fire Department, or **Plattsmouth Harvest Festival**, the oldest continuous harvest festival in Nebraska, held in September.

Don't forget to pick up some souvenirs from local places such as **Platte Valley Antique Mall**, Main Street in historic downtown Plattsmouth, and Louisville's specialty shops. »

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Plattsmouth
Harvest Festival



'Where Corn is Still King!'



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- Carnival Rides
- Craft Show, Parades
- Quilt Show, Tractor Pull
- Family Entertainment
- Flower Show, Photo Contest
- Fly-In Breakfast
- Little Tuggers
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For information contact: P.O. Box 112, Plattsmouth, NE 68048 | plattsmouthharvestfestival.com



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HUNGRY?

« Exploring Cass can really work up an appetite. Enjoy a home-cooked meal from **B's Diner and Bakery** in Louisville or some classic bar food from **Cedar Creek Inn Bar & Grill** in Cedar Creek. Looking for something a little different? Check out **Herban Coffee Lab**, an eclectic bakery and bistro in Plattsmouth offering house-made quiche, soups, sandwiches, and baked goods, as well as some prime boutique shopping.

Round the Bend Steakhouse in the hills of the Platte River Valley is one of Nebraska's premier steakhouses, well-known for being home to an **Annual Testicle Festival** held on Father's Day weekend. Or check out **Bailey's Local** in Eagle, serving locally sourced product with Irish pride.



Round the Bend Steakhouse

THIRSTY?

Wine lovers will enjoy visiting **Slattery Vintage Estates** in Nehawka for great Nebraska wines and craft beers. The **Wostrel Family's Union Orchard** is another must-stop for wine and food lovers, offering local wine, cider, and homemade baked goods. **The Farmhouse Lounge** "down a country road" in Weeping Water offers a long list of liquors, domestic and craft beers, and wines, as well as the opportunity to pick up some unique gifts and souvenirs. If you're in Plattsmouth and feel the urge to whet your whistle, stop in to **DC's Waterhole** and soak in the local flavor.



Wostrel Family's Union Orchard

FORE!

Like to relax on the golf course? Cass County has seven courses to choose from. **Iron Horse Golf Course** and **Quarry Oaks Golf Club** are award-winning courses carved around nature and an old rock quarry. Enjoy a nice meal after your round at **Fairways Restaurant** at **Lake Ridge Golf Course**, casual fine dining that can also accommodate large groups.

Explore more of the unexpected.
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Quarry Oaks Golf Club



FILLMORE COUNTY

A “veritable Eden” was the description used to attract early settlers to the area that is now Fillmore County. Glowing testimonies told of ample water and fuel, rich land, and, of course, easy access to the rail line. These advertisements brought hundreds of settlers to the area. Located just 30 minutes south of York, Nebraska, on Highway 81, visitors today will find friendly, helpful people in the community.

Driving around the county, one might notice distinctive pops of color hanging from buildings throughout the area. These bright quilt patterns on barns, machine sheds, garages, homes, and even in gardens are part of the **Fillmore County Barn Quilt** project, commemorating the county’s rural heritage.

EXPLORE!

Fillmore County is home to many listings on the National Register of Historic Places, and many murals and Veterans' Memorials. Be sure to visit the memorials located in **Fairmont, Milligan, Ohioa** and **Shickley**. Also in Fairmont, you will find the **Fillmore County Museum** that is housed in the **Fairmont Creamery Co.** building, built in 1886. In 1907, Dr. S.F. Ashby purchased the building for his medical practice. The building now houses part of the Fillmore County Museum, which contains the doctor's waiting room, a period kitchen, and rooms devoted to research and genealogy. It displays the doctor's equipment, along with many other items from that era.

Across the street is the **World War II Fairmont Army Airfield** display, located in the **McClellan Drug Store** building. The old McClellan building contains a variety of cubicles housing special displays. These displays include: the soda fountain; a 1905 carriage; a one-room schoolhouse; a pitcher collection of over 2,400 pitchers; an iron collection; printing equipment; miscellaneous farm tools and an antique furniture display.

South of Fairmont, another treasure to explore is the **Historic Fairmont Airfield**, built during World War II. Over 6,000 airmen, bombers, and support crews went through their final training before being deployed overseas during 1943-1946. Visitors can walk the runways, see the hangars and water tower, and view a model of the airfield as it appeared during the war. Two of the four runways are still operational.

Retro enthusiasts should plan to drive through Eddie's Station, a vintage gas station in downtown Geneva.

The **Fillmore County Courthouse**, in the county seat of **Geneva**, is a simplified version of the Richardson-Romanesque style. It serves as a focal point for the historic downtown area and is surrounded on three sides by unique shops and small cafes.



Little Blue River



Tractor Pull - Parade

Retro enthusiasts should plan to drive through **Eddie's Station**, a vintage gas station in downtown Geneva. The building was recently restored and creates a great photo opportunity, especially for classic car aficionados. **The Rialto II Theater**, built in 1951, once served as city hall and an opera house. Travel even further back in time when visiting the **George W. Smith House**, which was once a hospital, and the **J.M. Burk House**.

Built in 1889, the building formerly known as Hamilton Township Hall is now the **Strang Museum**. The structure was moved to town in 1984, and during Strang's centennial year, 1986, it was transformed into a museum. Standing on the grounds is a wooden windmill and the steeple bell from the United Brethren Church. Other historic sites in Strang include the **Belle Prairie Township Hall**, **The Strang School No. 36**, and **Strang Town Hall and Jail**.

For those looking for fun events to attend in Fillmore, July is the month to go. The **Fillmore County Fair** offers all the fixins, including a demolition derby, a rodeo, and tractor pull. Foodies won't want to miss the fair's **BBQ Cook Off**, where the grand prize is nothing to scoff at.

If you want to enjoy the fun, but don't want to camp at the fairgrounds in Geneva, head to the **Lone Star Recreation Area**, just a 20-minute (give or take) drive away. The lake is stocked with catfish, bluegill and largemouth bass, and there is a swimming beach for those who prefer to be in the water. To that end, the **Big Blue River** also runs through the county. Travelers along the river should be sure to check out the historic **Big Blue River Bridge** as well. >>



BBQ Contest - Parade



Gary's Brick-House Grille



Lazy Horse Brewing & Winery

HUNGRY?

« Jill's Sweet Shop may have sweet in the name, but don't skip their savory meals, which you can take home and heat up later. **Molcajete Mexican Restaurant** also serves up the savory, with an extensive menu, ranging from staples such as tacos and enchiladas to their selection of molcajete dishes. Other great places to eat in Geneva include **Overtime Grill & Lounge**, **Sister's Cafe**, **Casally & Coffee**, **OMG Cakes & Treats**, and the **VFW Restaurant Bar & Lounge**.

For some true comfort food, **Bubba's Anytime** in Strang is a must-stop. This family-owned business sports a strong Coca-Cola theme throughout, and the food is exactly what you want in a small-town diner—delicious, homemade, and served with a smile. Need groceries? **Shickley** has **5 Loaves Market & Bakery**, where you can also skip the meal prep and let them do it for you. In a hurry? **Milligan 41 Express** is set up to let you grab some gas and some great grub and head on down the road to your next destination.

THIRSTY?

Lazy Horse Brewing & Winery has a relaxing tasting room, with a large outdoor porch where visitors can enjoy catching up while looking out over the vineyard. Beyond the vineyard, guests will see the LH horses grazing in the pasture. Nebraska-made wine and hand-crafted beer is served here. Watch as pizzas are made in the wood-fired oven, located in the tasting room.

Other local favorites include **Charlie's Pub** in Milligan, the **Ohioa Café**, **Gary's Brick-House Grille** in Grafton, and **Sweetwater Grille** in Exeter.

▼
Bubba's Anytime in Strang is a must-stop. This family-owned business sports a strong Coca-Cola theme throughout, and the food is exactly what you want in a small-town diner.

FORE!

Hidden Hills Country Club is a nine-hole golf course located on the northwest edge of Geneva. The clubhouse overlooks the ninth hole, offering a great view of the whole green. It was incorporated in 1966 and has been a popular place for golfers from the surrounding areas.

Nongolfers can check out the **Geneva City Park**, where there's an **Aquatic Center** with a heated zero-entry pool featuring two large slides, diving boards, a rope climb, basketball hoops, a rock wall, children's water play area, and plenty of lounge space. The adjacent city park hosts horseshoe pits, ball parks, and play equipment.

Explore more of the unexpected.

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Fillmore County

Milligan June Jubilee • [June 11-13](#)

Ohiowa Days • [June 18-20](#)

Old Setts Picnic - Fairmont • [June 25-27](#)

Discover Geneva • [July 2-4](#)

Fillmore County Fair • [July 7-12](#)

50 Flags Veterans Memorial
Dedication - Shickley • [July 24](#)

Come join in the fun! • visitfillmorecounty.org



GAGE COUNTY

“‘Free land’ was the cry!” Gage County is home to America’s first homestead and visitors can experience the story at Homestead National Historical Park, southeast Nebraska’s only National Park Service Site. The largest town is the county seat of Beatrice, located along the Big Blue River and home to more than 20 tourism attractions, such as the oldest standing Carnegie Building in Nebraska, an award-winning community theater, and more. It was founded in 1857 by a group of pioneers from St. Louis, traveling by the steamer “Hannibal” up the Missouri River to the new territory of Nebraska. Beatrice’s downtown district features fine examples of cornice detailed storefronts, and the dates of original construction are still visible on some buildings.



Gage County also offers the opportunity to walk the **Chief Standing Bear Trail**. This trail is named for the famed Ponca chief known for bringing a lawsuit against General Crook of the United States Army for forcibly removing Native American people from their homelands—and winning. The trail follows the

former Union Pacific Railroad line, starting in Beatrice, along the east side of the Big Blue River and flows through the villages of **Holmesville, Blue Springs, Wymore, and Barneston** before connecting to the Kansas Blue River Rail Trail at the border. The total trail runs about 37 miles from Beatrice to Marysville, Kansas.

Explore the history of Gage County at the **Gage County Historical Society and Museum**, located inside the old Burlington Train Depot in Beatrice. The museum’s displays show the history of the industries, businesses, medicine, communities, and people of Gage County. The depot was presented to the Gage County Historical Society by the Burlington Northern Railroad in 1973.

Also located in Beatrice is **Homestead National Historical Park**. This historic park commemorates the western expansion of the United States with the preservation of the first homestead. The park also features a pioneer schoolhouse, an original homesteader cabin, 100 acres of restored tallgrass prairie, and ever-changing special exhibits.

The **Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project** in Wymore focuses on the immigration of Welsh settlers to the Great Plains of the U.S. It includes a **Memorial Garden**, the historic **Pleasant View Schoolhouse**, and the **Railroad Museum** located in the **Burlington Mini Park** in downtown Wymore.

The National Register of Historic Places describes the **Elijah Filley Stone Barn** as a truly remarkable structure. Built in 1874, it is believed to be the largest limestone banked barn in Nebraska, and is currently operated by the Gage County Historical Society. It can be viewed from the outside anytime, but group tours may also be requested.

For those who would rather spend their time outdoors, there are several recreation areas in Gage County as well. **Rockford Lake State Recreation Area** offers fishing and boating (including power boating) opportunities, as well as a swimming beach.

Big Indian Recreation Area, located near Odell, also has a lot to offer, with hiking, biking, hunting, 3-D archery, and even cross-country skiing available, depending on the season.

Big Indian Recreation Area, located near Odell, also has a lot to offer, with hiking, biking, hunting, 3-D archery, and even cross-country skiing available, depending on the season. But for those who prefer the quieter, hidden gems, the **Clatonia Creek Reservoir** and **Wolf-Wildcat Wildlife Management Area** near Liberty are great options. >>



Historic Pleasant View Schoolhouse



Chief Standing Bear Trail



Carnegie Building



Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project



The Mechanical Room

« Those visiting Beatrice have many lodging accommodations to choose from, including seven hotels and three bed-and-breakfasts. A little ways outside town is **Hackberry Bed & Breakfast**, which offers beautiful decor, a walkout patio, and gorgeous views of the sunset. Or check out **The Pond: A Country Retreat**, just outside of Beatrice, where visitors can relax in a cabin by the water, enjoy grilling and making s'mores on the lovely bricked patio, and kayaking in a private pond. Plan your trip well, and you can catch a performance from the **Beatrice Community Players Theatre**, an award-winning commu-

nity theater managed by a full-time staff. They produce classic and contemporary dramas, comedies, and musicals. Grab some tickets and some friends and enjoy this live theater!

Events to keep an eye on in Beatrice include **Homestead Days®**, which takes place in June. Of course, there's also the **Gage County Fair**, which happens in late July, where you'll find all kinds of animals, entertainment, and plenty of food. Those visiting during the holidays will be treated to the **Holiday Lighted Parade**, just in time to put you in a jolly mood.

HUNGRY?

In Beatrice you'll find wonderful sit-down restaurants, such as critically acclaimed **The Black Crow**, and **Legends Bar & Grill**, known for their American comfort food. Spice things up by checking out **Playa Azul Authentic Mexican Restaurant's** extensive menu. Other Beatrice highlights include **Julie's Hotdogs**, **Brews Burgers 'n Blades**, **La Herradura**, and **Back Alley BBQ**.

Gage County is also home to spectacular dining such as **Filley Bar & Grill** (in Filley, of course), known for their unique specials. Visitors can also get classic bar food from the likes of **Grand Avenue Bar & Grill** in Barneston, **The Dog House** in Wymore, and **Across The Trax** in Adams. And in the village of **Virginia** sits a lonely gem known as **Terry's Steakhouse**, formerly Mencl's Tavern, where this family-owned outpost serves their steaks on a char system.

THIRSTY?

A visit to **The Mechanical Room**—a prohibition-style speakeasy in the basement of The Mercantile Building—is a must. Ring the doorbell, say the password, and take an adventurous step back in time as you enjoy an Old-Fashioned, a Bee's Knees, a Fitzgerald, or one of their inventive twists on the classics. Craft beer lovers will want to sample a flight at **Stone Hollow Brewing Company**. Pool sharks should head to **Kick-Shots Bar & Billiards** to practice their skills in a friendly atmosphere. In Pickrell, visitors can enjoy that small-town bar atmosphere with an extra kick of character at **Pickrell Tavern**.

FORE!

Golf enthusiasts have several options in Gage. **Hidden Acres Golf Course** can be found in Beatrice, as well as the **Beatrice Country Club**, where you can enjoy an ace of a meal with a view at **Classic's**, whether you've just played a round or not. In the town of Wymore is a beautiful nine-hole course located on the west end, with gently rolling hills, bluegrass fairways, and many natural hazards, including a pond that plays into two holes. Even those who aren't golfers can still have some hole-in-one fun at **Beatrice Mini Golf**.

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Fairbury Bridge Dam

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jefferson County's history is entangled with that of Jones, Thayer, and Gage, but present-day Jefferson County officially came into existence in the fall of 1871. That means for 150 years, they have been welcoming people to this beautiful, productive land.

Fairbury is the county seat of Jefferson. It was built by two men who saw the potential in this fertile area, with the hope that the railroad would come that way. That hope found fruition when the town was made a station on the St. Joseph & Denver City Railroad that was being built through the county at that time. There are 15 other populated areas in the county, including the communities of **Plymouth**, a small farming town, and **Jansen**, which was settled by Mennonites.

▼
Fairbury City Museum—where local history rooms are themed by memorabilia covering the Civil War, fossils, and the town’s own Campbell Bros. Circus, the second biggest circus in the world during its time.

 **EXPLORE!**

Jefferson County’s story can be traced through photographs. A look at vintage pioneer snapshots reveals the start and the visions shared by many early settlers who created the groundwork for the buildings, communities, and life for the generations who followed. Visitors can find photos illustrating this evolution in the **Fairbury City Museum**, where local history rooms are themed by memorabilia covering the Civil War, fossils, and the town’s own Campbell Bros. Circus, the second biggest circus in the world during its time.

While in town, history enthusiasts should also check out its commercial historic district, including the **Jefferson County Courthouse**. Built in 1891 and constructed of limestone, it features ceramic-fronted fireplaces in some offices and unique antique furniture in the courtroom. Renovated statues depicting Justice, Law, and Freedom stand on top of the courthouse on three sides, and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The availability of suitable building material was of great importance to Nebraska’s pioneer settlers. In Jefferson County, native limestone was used for many buildings. Although the old limekilns have largely disappeared, **Smith Limekiln and Limestone House** in Fairbury remain as examples of this important pioneer industry.



▼
The former stage and Pony Express station, established in 1857, became notorious when James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok killed David McCandles there, beginning his bloody career as a gunfighter.

Historical points of interest in Jefferson also include the **Veterans Memorial Marker** in Plymouth, and the **Jansen Historical Marker** along Highway 136, commemorating the settlement of this area by a group of Mennonites led by Cornelius and Peter Jansen.

The **Rose Creek Wildlife Management Area** is located just outside Fairbury. A breathtaking place to go horseback riding, camping (primitive only), and hiking, it also includes a rather

heartbreaking landmark—**McDowell’s Rose Creek Mausoleum**. Nelson L. McDowell, a wealthy bachelor and Fairbury resident, spent a decade carving the two-room mausoleum with a hammer and chisel. Sadly, following his death in 1937 from a car and train accident, McDowell was buried in the Fairbury Cemetery rather than the cave he spent so much time creating. Visitors hiking to the mausoleum should use extreme caution, as the trail can be treacherous.

Another solemn tribute in Jefferson County is **George Winslow’s Grave**. Winslow died along the trail in 1849 after contracting cholera. His burial site was marked with an engraved sandstone slab. Years later, his sons relocated the gravesite and erected a beautiful monument incorporating the original headstone. It sits beside preserved trail swales. See similar visible deep ruts carved by wagons at **Rock Creek Station Historical Park**.

The former stage and Pony Express station, established in 1857, became notorious when James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok killed David McCandles there, beginning his bloody career as a gunfighter. »



Rose Creek Wildlife Management Area



Frontier Fun Park

▼
The Rose Creek Wildlife Management Area is located just outside Fairbury. A breathtaking place to go horseback riding, camping (primitive only), and hiking, it also includes a rather heartbreaking landmark—McDowell's Rose Creek Mausoleum.

« Monument markers dot the countryside along the route of the **Oregon Trail**, including one in front of the county's **District 10 School Museum**. The museum is near **Alexandria State Recreation Area**, a peaceful, scenic, tree-covered region encompassing 55 acres of land with two lakes totaling 46 acres of water.

Additional recreation can be found at **Fairbury City Park**, which hosts the **Shriner's Annual 4th of July Flea Market**—the largest flea

market in Nebraska—each year. It also has **Frontier Fun Park**, built in 1995 and funded entirely by community volunteers, this fantasy playground recreates the excitement of a pioneer town in the Old West. It's the first of its kind in the state. Travelers can find accommodations nearby at **Crystal Springs Campground**, and shouldn't forget to check out the **Little Blue River Trail** while visiting.

The more adventurous can catch the races at the **Jefferson County Speedway** or

experience the thrill of the hunt during quail, pheasant, and deer season. Or plan ahead and join in some good old-fashioned fun at a local festival such as **Rock Creek Trail Days**, **Rock Island Rail Days**, **Diller Picnic**, or the **Steele City Flea Market**.

Those looking to truly get away can head outside Fairbury to **Cub Creek Recreation Area** near Plymouth or **Buckley Creek Recreation** near **Reynolds** for hiking, boating, fishing, and even snowmobiling when the weather's right.

HUNGRY?

Fairbury has several delectable options to choose from when it's time to eat. Several local favorites are **Rowdy's Steakhouse**, **Griffey's Steakhouse & Lounge**, **Harvest Chinese Restaurant**, and **Jalisco Mexican Restaurant**. The community of **Endicott** has **Criners Corner**, a family-owned joint serving mixed drinks, beer, and great grill food. **The Salty Dog Saloon** in **Steele City** is known for their prime rib specials and loyal customers.

THIRSTY?

The Field Bar & Grill in **Diller** also serves some tasty food, but their beer garden, yard games, and live music makes them the perfect spot to stop for a drink. In the community of **Harbine**, the **Side Trek Bar & Grill** is known for being a biker-friendly bar with great food. Their ample parking, horseshoe tournaments, and famous hot wings makes them a destination spot for county residents. **Pub 303** (formerly Plymouth BrewHouse) in **Plymouth** is a great place to catch a game, often offering drink specials and free munchies.

FORE!

Fairbury Country Club's winding, hilly layout has an intimidating aspect to it, perfect for golfers who love a challenge. This nine-hole course is located on the slopes of the **Little Blue River Valley** just south of town. For something a little different, **McNish Park** is home to the **Fairbury Disc Golf Course**. If you can throw a Frisbee, you can play disc golf!

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Deer Creek Sodbusters

JOHNSON COUNTY

Johnson County is comprised of the towns of **Cook, Crab Orchard, Elk Creek, Sterling, St. Mary, Vesta, and Tecumseh**. Formerly a part of Forney County in the Nebraska Territory, the area was later divided into the counties of Johnson and Nemaha. It is home to **Seven Trails** that were part of the area's early history, and the county seat of Tecumseh was a crossroads for many of these trails formed by Native Americans and the early settlers. Tecumseh was also home to a Carnegie library and an opera house. Both buildings are still standing.

Tecumseh was founded in 1856 and was located at the intersection of the Nebraska City-Marysville and Brownville-Fort Kearny Trails. Today it is the intersection of U.S. Highway 136 and State Highway 50.

EXPLORE!

Tecumseh is named for the legendary Shawnee leader and warrior who attempted to unite all Native tribes in order to defend themselves against white settlers pioneering westward. His death in 1813, while fighting alongside the British in the War of 1812, was the turning point the United States needed to win that war.

In 1958, the town of Tecumseh became the first historic district in Nebraska to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The best-known landmark in the town is the **Johnson County Courthouse**, built in 1888 in the Romanesque Revival-style architecture.

Another historic landmark, the **Johnson County Jail**, was constructed in 1872 of native limestone. The huge blocks for the jail proper were secured from a quarry on **Yankee Creek**. The top floor of the building served as the sheriff's residence. Additionally, Tecumseh was

the site of the **First Rural Free Mail Delivery** in the state of Nebraska (second in the nation). This was the beginning of an experiment by the postal department that resulted in free mail delivery.

For some more exciting history, get a little kickstart by visiting the **Montz Motorcycle Museum** in Tecumseh. The privately owned establishment has over 100 motorcycles and is the only known motorcycle museum in Nebraska.

Those looking to enjoy field sports should visit **Twin Oaks State Wildlife Management Area**. Twin Oaks is located two miles east and three miles south of Tecumseh, encompassing 1,120 acres available for hunting. There are also two one-acre ponds available for public fishing. **Hickory Ridge State Wildlife Management Area** in nearby Vesta and **Osage Wildlife Management Area**, also near Tecumseh, are also prime hunting spots for the adventurous.

Located between Tecumseh and the village of Cook is **Wirth Brothers Lake and Park**, opened in 1996 as part of the South Branch Watershed flood control project. The park offers tent camping, fishing, and boating. There's also a playground, a sand beach and swimming area, and sand volleyball court. New at Wirth Brothers Lake is an archery range located behind the dam.

The community of Cook was known as the "Artesian City" because of the numerous artesian wells in the area. It was founded in 1888 when the Missouri Pacific Railroad was extended to that point. Named for Andrew Cook, the original owner of the town site, it won national recognition as "Best Small Town in America" in 1992, bringing some well-deserved attention to the area.

Crab Orchard was platted in 1883 when the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad was extended to that point and was named from a grove of wild crabapple trees near the town site. It is said to have had the first school in Johnson County—a little log schoolhouse one mile west of town, built in 1867. It was also the childhood home of renowned painter, sculptor, and dancer Paul Swan, once dubbed "The Most Beautiful Man in the World."

Elk Creek had its start circa 1873, with the building of the Atchison and Nebraska Railroad through the territory. It took its name from the nearby creek, which was named for the elk once seen there. The town was established as a compromise between an early settlement called "Butler" and a millpond site on the James Robinson's farm. It is now home to the **Elk Creek Mine**, where various rare earth elements will be extracted.

Situated in the rich fertile valley of the Nema-ha River, which flows through the upper half of Johnson County, **Sterling** is one of the most prosperous agricultural districts in the country.



Wirth Brothers Lake and Park

It was named when William Mann, John Bentz, and William Kneeland decided to flip a \$20 gold piece for the honor of naming their settlement. Mann, being the lucky one, named it Sterling, after his hometown of Sterling, Illinois. Sterling was platted in 1870 when the Atchison and Nebraska Railroad was extended to that point.

The **Deer Creek Sodbusters Antique Machinery Show** is held 4 ½ miles south of Sterling on the second weekend of August each year. The **Tecumseh Music Festival** is another annual event summer visitors should plan on attending. It's typically held in July.

St. Mary (formerly Smartville, named after Robert Smart) used to be on the Atchison and Nebraska Railroad, near the center of the county. It currently has the beautiful **St. Mary's Catholic Church**, whose members serve delicious fish dinners during the Lenten season.

HUNGRY?

In Tecumseh, diners can choose from eateries such as **Rough City Ranch**, where they have affordable entrees, a plethora of homestyle sides, and an extensive kids menu. **Frazier's Cafe** is another popular eatery in town, known for fantastic onion rings and delicious home-cooked food. **Torres Mexican Restaurant** is newer to the area, bringing something different to the table. When visiting Sterling, stop in to **Scott's Place The Legacy**, family-owned since 1957. **TNT Smokin BBQ** in

St. Mary serves smokin' meats for lunch and dinner. They also have a cute outdoor area for a family-barbecue feel.

THIRSTY?

Find a little something different at **Sheah Blue Vineyard** in Crab Orchard. The private vineyard does not sell their wine directly to consumers, but they do share it with their Airbnb and Vrbo guests, so plan your visit ahead of time. Fortunately for those who tend to procrastinate, **Sidelines Steak & Sports Bar** in Cook does not require any reservations—just show up and enjoy the great food, service, and atmosphere.

FORE!

The nine-hole course at **Tecumseh Country Club** features all the hallmarks of Nebraska golf. The raised greens are domed, midsized, and in good condition, and the rough consists of a variety of grasses, mowed down to a playable height. A mix of trees are in play on several holes. Those not interested in being on the green can play a frame or few at the **Harvest Bowl** bowling alley.

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Morrill Hall

LANCASTER COUNTY

Lancaster County is home to Nebraska's capital city of **Lincoln** and to the state's most famous sports team, the Nebraska Cornhuskers. Other communities in the county, such as **Denton, Firth, Hickman, Malcolm, Raymond, Sprague,** and **Waverly**, offer opportunities for those interested in history and adventure. Located along Interstate 80, it's a convenient area to explore for travelers who like to enjoy the drive.

Its rich history began in 1859, when Nebraska was just a territory, with pioneers attracted to the area's 20-plus **Salt Valley Lakes**, many of which now have state recreational areas associated with them. The lakes played a large role in the city of Lincoln (then known simply as Lancaster) becoming Nebraska's capital in 1867, after the territory became a state.

Besides a number of museums and historical landmarks, the county also offers a variety of golf courses, vineyards, and breweries.

Sunken Gardens is the only Nebraska garden to be listed in the “300 Best Gardens to Visit in the United States and Canada” by the *National Geographic* Guide to Public Gardens.



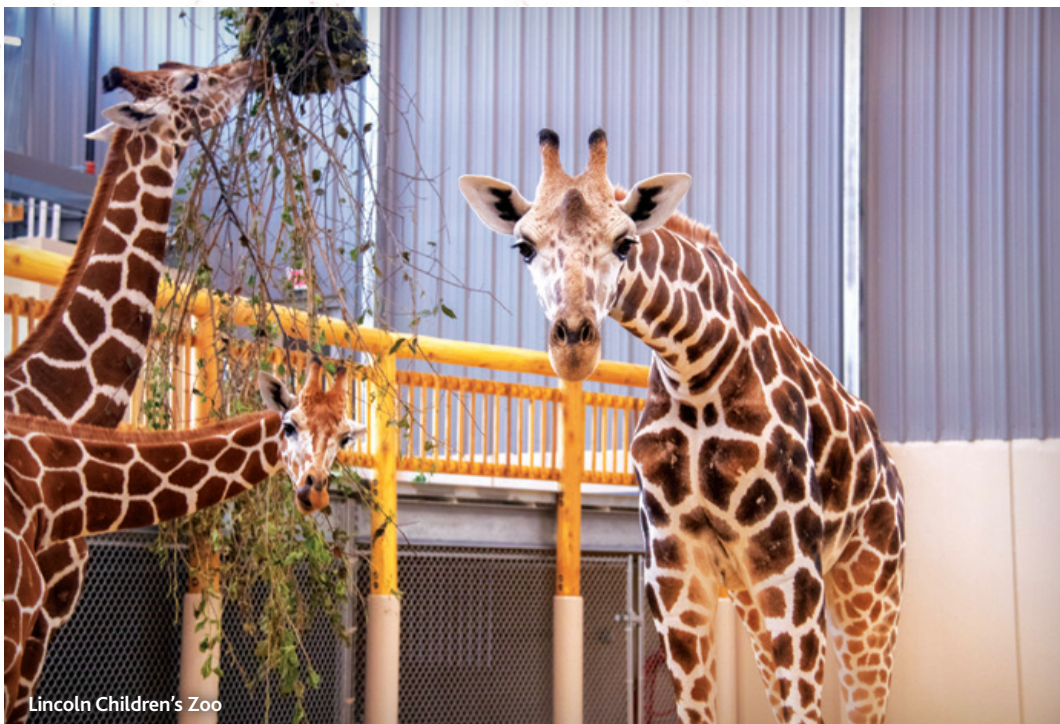
EXPLORE!

The city of Lincoln is distinguished by the towering peak of the **Nebraska State Capitol** building, the product of a nationwide design competition. It was the first statehouse design to radically depart from the prototypical form of the national Capitol building in Washington, D.C., and to incorporate the now-signature office tower.

Nebraska’s history is closely associated with the city of Lincoln. Many of the attractions Lancaster County offers tell the story of these pioneers and immigrants, including the **Nebraska History Museum** and **Fairview**, the **Bryan Museum**, named for one of Nebraska’s most famous politicians, William Jennings Bryan.

Other distinguished landmarks located in the city include **Centennial Mall**, **Veteran’s Memorial Garden**, and the **Lincoln Monument**, which predates the capitol building. The monument was a collaboration between sculptor Daniel Chester French and architect Henry Bacon. The two later worked together to create another ode to the 16th president—the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Glimpse a wider view of history by visiting “Archie,” the life-sized bronze Columbian mammoth outside **Morrill Hall**, the region’s premier museum of natural history. It’s located on the **University of Nebraska-Lincoln** campus, where visitors can also see **Memorial Stadium**, which could itself be described as mammoth with a seating capacity of 90,000.



Lincoln Children's Zoo

Moving away from the university campus, visitors will find the **Sunken Gardens**, the only Nebraska garden to be listed in the “300 Best Gardens to Visit in the United States and Canada” by the *National Geographic* Guide to Public Gardens. Developed in 1930 and set on 1.5 acres, Sunken Gardens has several art installations, water features and a varied combinations of trees, shrubs, and perennials.

Those looking to live the wild life can visit the **Lincoln Children’s Zoo**, which is home to over 40 endangered animals, including the Sumatran tiger, Humboldt penguin, snow leopard and Matschie’s tree kangaroo. Visitors can feed the giraffes or simply marvel at the majesty of a Galapagos tortoise.

Pioneers Park Nature Center, a 668-acre nature preserve, keeps the wildlife tour going with eight miles of hiking trails winding through various habitats. With non-releasable raptor exhibits and a small herd of bison, it offers a true taste of Nebraska’s native prairie species.

Looking for something a little racier? **The Museum of American Speed** in Lincoln, Nebraska—a nonprofit corporation founded in 1992 by “Speedy” Bill and Joyce Smith—has a vast collection of vehicles and items significant in racing and automotive history. The Smiths’ appreciation for all things fast was passed on to their children, who run the museum today. »



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Nebraska State Capitol was the first statehouse design to radically depart from the prototypical form of the national Capitol building in Washington, D.C., and to incorporate the now-signature office tower.

« Branching out from Lincoln, you will find the village of Denton, where nature lovers can explore **Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center**. Walk the trails and experience the sights and sounds of an 850-acre native tallgrass prairie reserve. Besides the multitude of wildlife, including 222 species of birds, history also lies in the refuge. Wagon ruts that mark the crossing of wagons along the Nebraska City-Fort Kearny Cutoff remain undisturbed in its earth, memorializing the passage of pioneers.

Further out is the town of Hickman, located on Salt Creek, a tributary of the Platte River. Here visitors will find the **Norris Forest School Arboretum**, 160 acres containing approximately 400 trees and shrubs representing over 90 species. There is also a display of native grasses and plants, annual and perennial flowers, and a gazebo-like learning center.

Another village on the periphery of Lincoln is Malcolm, located just a few miles from **Pawnee Lake State Recreation Area**. This recreation area has two swimming beaches, as well as three ramps and two docks for boaters. It's a popular fishing spot, with white bass, walleye, largemouth bass, bluegill, two kinds of catfish, and others. There is also a fish cleaning station and a shotgun-only shooting range.

Bluestem State Recreation Area is located just a few miles from Sprague in Lancaster County. This 742-acre area was created in 1963, when the Bluestem Conservation Dam was built. The resulting lake spans 325 acres and has great spots for picnicking and camping, as well as hunting, fishing, and swimming.



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Nebraska State Capitol



Haymarket Park



Museum of American Speed

For those who are fortunate enough to be in the area around the Fourth of July, the **Uncle Sam Jam** is an annual celebration that includes music from mostly local acts, family entertainment and activities such as horseshoes, canoeing, and bingo, and of course, fireworks.

While the Cornhuskers may be the most widely recognized sports franchise in the state, they certainly aren't the only games in town. During baseball season, visitors can catch a game from the **Lincoln Saltdogs**. The team is a member of the South Division of the American Association of Independent Professional Baseball. They play their home games at **Haymarket Park** in Lincoln. »

▼
The Museum of American Speed has a vast collection of vehicles and items significant in racing and automotive history.

HUNGRY?

« Food connoisseurs may not realize it, but Nebraska has its fair share of incredible eateries. One of Lancaster County's best-known restaurants is **Misty's Steakhouse**, now with two locations in Lincoln. **Lazlo's Brewery & Grill** is another popular spot known for serving classic comfort cuisine and brewing their own beers. It's not all about steak and beer, though. **Yia Yia's**, popular with the college crowd, is known for having some of the best pizza in town, and **Blue Orchid Thai Restaurant** is another local favorite, known for its classic Thai dishes.

Leaving Lincoln, one culinary highlight is **Prairie Plate Restaurant** in Waverly, a farm-to-table restaurant located in a rural lakefront setting. Most of the produce for the restaurant is provided by the owners' own Lakehouse Farm. The village of Raymond offers another scenic dining experience at the **Boat House Bar & Grill**. This prime boat-watching location along Branched Oak Lake Marina is a casual spot that often has live music and karaoke nights. Be sure to set aside a whole day to explore the **Roca Berry Farm**, the oldest and largest pumpkin patch in Lancaster County. Visitors during the fall will want to experience Roca Scary Farm at night!

THIRSTY?

Being a college town, Lincoln has its fair share of bars, taverns, lounges, etc. Perhaps one of the best-known is **Duffy's Tavern**, popular for their fishbowl drinks menu and for putting on rocking live music shows. While Duffy's has been a regular spot for decades, the **Zoo Bar** has been around even longer, opening in downtown Lincoln in 1973. This legendary blues bar has played host to the likes of Bo Diddley and Mighty Joe Young, and reportedly was the first white club that Magic Slim played. If a dive bar is more your style, check out **The Tack Room** on Cornhusker Highway or **Luckie's Lounge** near the airport, where you can also grab a bite to eat.

For those who want to scope out the small-town scene, the **Davey Tavern**, in Davey, of course, is a historic local bar "with a BIG heart." Be sure to try their famous pizza while you soak in the atmosphere.



Lazlo's Brewery & Grill



Yia Yia's Pizza

FORE!

Besides hunting, camping, and fishing, the land around Lancaster County is also ideal for golfing. There are multiple courses located around Lincoln, including public courses such as **Jim Ager Memorial Golf Course**. This award-winning nine-hole course was built in the 1960s, and has numerous programs for all ages.

Mahoney Golf Course, also located in Lincoln, is a beautiful 18-hole course built in 1976. Known for hosting events such as the

Nebraska Open and state golf championships and being recognized by the *Omaha World-Herald* as "Hall of Fame Hole" for hole No. 8, Mahoney is proud to offer a course that is enjoyable to all. Not exactly golf weather? Don't sweat it. Head to the **Graduate Lincoln Hotel** for an exciting, immersive golf experience at their new **Topgolf® Swing Suite®**, where you can rent a hitting bay.

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Missouri River at Brownville

NEMAHA COUNTY

With the mighty Missouri River pressing against the county's eastern edge and fertile farmland flourishing out west, the distinctive geography of Nemaha County has certainly shaped its history. From the pioneering and territorial days, through the Civil War, statehood, and into the age of iron horses, Nemaha County was the gateway to Nebraska. While it is known for its rich land, the county is also rich in history and the arts.

EXPLORE!

Placed throughout the county are 27 exquisite, uniquely painted honeybee sculptures known as the **Honeybees in the Heartland**. The sculptures are the first and most widespread public art display to land in Nemaha County and are a sweet nod to the agricultural community, as well as a reminder that unity and working together are imperative for the good of any community.

Another Nemaha County gem is **Duck Creek Recreation Area**. Opened in spring 2018, this 62-acre lake is located on over 150 acres

of land five miles northwest of Peru, just two miles east of U.S. Highway 75. The area includes a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities such as camping, no-wake boating, fishing, swimming, and is excellent for canoeing and kayaking.

History is evident in each of Nemaha County's seven communities, but is especially prevalent in **Brownville**. Founded in 1854, Brownville showcases homes and museums that take you back in time to Nebraska's beginnings, while shops, galleries, unique attractions, and special events offer something for everyone to enjoy. Anyone drawn to the scenic "Mighty Mo" will certainly want to visit the **River Inn Resort** and **Spirit of Brownville** where you

can enjoy a river cruise, delicious meal, and even an overnight stay. Music lovers will be thrilled by the variety of performances at the **Brownville Concert Hall** and those with a love of theater are sure to find interest in the oldest repertory theater in Nebraska—the **Brownville Village Theatre**—which hosts a variety of plays and musicals. Every year thousands of visitors flock to the area for unique finds during the spring and fall flea markets. Other special events include the **Fourth of July Celebration**, **Freedom Run**, and **Old Time Autumn**.

Nearby, the village of **Nemaha** has a rich history of its own. Founded in 1854, the town was named "Nemaha City" because the

founders believed it would one day be a great city. During the Civil War years, Nemaha was a station of the Underground Railroad which assisted slaves who were escaping to the North.

While you're in the area, **Indian Cave State Park** is a must-see. Named for the large sandstone cave within the park, Indian Cave State Park encompasses 3,052 rugged acres bordering the Missouri River south of Nemaha. The park is well known for its beautiful camping and picnicking spots, as well as its 22 miles of scenic hiking and biking trails and 16 miles of equestrian trails. The park is host to a variety of seasonal events year-round, such as an Outdoor Adventure, Haunted Hollow, Christmas in July, and various naturalist programs.

Centered in the heart of Nemaha County, what we now know as **Auburn** was previously three earlier towns—St. George, Sheridan and Calvert. In 1882, the towns incorporated to form present-day Auburn. A vestige of the past, Auburn still supports two “downtown” areas—one being the courthouse square and the other in Sheridan—along with the crest-view business district in south Auburn. Shops, parks, restaurants, and small-town charm will take you back to a different time.

On the corner of 2nd and West streets in Julian stands the iconic **Julian Gas Station**. Built in 1928, it is one of the few original buildings that still stands. The current residents have restored and preserved the filling station and garage so visitors can walk inside and transport themselves to years past.

Peru serves as the trailhead of the **Steamboat Trace Trail**, where wildlife and natural beauty abound, and is home to **Peru State College**, the oldest college in the state of Nebraska. Peru's biggest celebration, **Old Man River Days** is held every summer and results from the town's willingness to work together against the forces of the Missouri River, which has flooded multiple times throughout history.

Coryell Park, situated near the communities of **Johnson** and **Brock**, is one of the least-known but most beautiful parks in the state. It was dedicated to the public in April 1934 by the Coryell family, in loving memory of their pioneer parents who settled in Nebraska in 1867. The grounds consist of a chapel, treasure house, auditorium, and a mausoleum. The park is well-known in the area for its awe-inspiring annual holiday light display.

River Inn Resort



Brownville Village Theatre



Spirit of Brownville



Duck Creek Recreation Area



Honeybees in the Heartland



HUNGRY?

There is no shortage of mouthwatering meals and refreshing drinks in Nemaha County! Everyone is sure to find a menu to please their taste buds. You'll find authentic Mexican cuisine at El Portal, home-cooked meals with a breakfast to die for at Café Metro, and award-winning barbecue at Re-Bucks. Satisfy your sweet tooth with the infamous homemade treats at **Dutch Pantry** and cold creamy ice cream from **Dairy Sweet**.



THIRSTY?

TJ's Tavern in Brownville, home of FarmAid legend Corky Jones, celebrates the spirit of the farmer and Red Dirt Music. It offers outdoor seating in their beer garden and occasional live music.

For a different type of sipping experience, Brownville is also home to **Whiskey Run Creek Winery & Distillery**. With a 100-year-old barn that spans the creek and a turn-of-the-century all-brick cave, the winery offers a unique escape from the norm.



FORE!

Golf-lovers will want to head to Auburn, where you'll find the **Auburn Country Club**, a scenic nine-hole course that also happens to have a great clubhouse where you can practice your swing inside. Or play a different type of nine holes at either of the county's two disc golf courses—**Ariens Disc Golf Course** in Auburn or **Neal Park** in Peru. Both parks also feature playground equipment, a shelter, picnic tables, and charcoal grill.

Explore more of the unexpected
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Arbor Lodge

OTOE COUNTY

Otoe County was established in the then-newly created Nebraska Territory in 1854. It was named for its former residents, the members of the Oto tribe, who lived along the Missouri River. The combined tribe ceded most of their lands in Nebraska south of the Platte River to the U.S. government by treaty in 1854, retaining the Oto Reservation along the Big Blue River.

The boundaries of the county were redefined in 1856. Its county seat is the river port of Nebraska City. The terrain of Otoe County consists of rolling hills, dropping down to the Missouri River Basin. Its rich soil is perfectly suited for agriculture, and the result is beautiful, bountiful land.

EXPLORE!

Nebraska City's origin started with the establishment of Fort Kearny in 1846. The fort was founded within present-day Nebraska City, near the banks of the Missouri River, between North Table Creek and South Table Creek. Early settlers of Nebraska City were

**Originally built in 1879,
Morton's Nebraska
City home is a 52-room
mansion constructed
to resemble the White
House in Washington, D.C.**

well aware of the absence of significant wooded areas resulting in a lack of building materials. To combat the situation, the state began offering incentives for local land owners to plant trees.

Nebraska City pioneer and resident J. Sterling Morton became a political proponent of tree-planting and was the founder of Arbor Day, which is now observed nationally.

In addition to the founding of **Arbor Day** and establishing his own orchard and arboretum, Morton was a local, state, and federal politician, ending his political career in 1897 as the Secretary of Agriculture under President Grover Cleveland.

Morton's Nebraska City home is a 52-room mansion constructed to resemble the White House in Washington, D.C. Originally built in 1879, the structure was later converted into **Arbor Lodge**, a state historical park and arboretum.

Additionally, Nebraska City also has **Arbor Day Farms Tree Adventure**, where visitors can pick apples in the orchard and explore **Treetop Village**, a fun-for-all-ages nature experience up in the trees. It features the **WonderNet**, a large, raised area for jumping, playing, and bringing out the kid in everyone. Tours of the **Lied Greenhouse** reveals where millions of tree seedlings get their start. Watch their **Trees in the Movies** compilation video and take the **Discovery Ride** through the orchard. Each visitor receives a tree seedling to plant at home.

Nebraska City is known for its **Annual Arbor Day Celebration**, and in April 2021, they celebrated 150 years of hosting the event. No one celebrates Arbor Day quite like Nebraska City, so be sure to put it on your calendar. Fall is also a great time to visit Nebraska City, as that's when their annual **AppleJack Festival** is held each year. This festival has been rated one of the top 10 Fall Festivals in the United States by *USA Today*. In the summer, visitors can go on a **Sunflower Bloom Discovery Ride** through the bountiful fields of the farm.

The **Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Visitors Center** is also located in Nebraska City. Walk in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark and Seaman the dog, famous for being a member of this first American overland expedition. The center consists of 79 acres and features an authentic full-sized, 55-foot replica of the keelboat used by the explorers over 200 years ago. Explore their interactive exhibits, where you can burrow with the prairie dogs, run with American bison, and be surprised by a ferocious grizzly bear. Pull the oars on a pirogue, and avoid the snags as you race down the Missouri River. Follow the trails to the **Missouri River Overlook** and the **Birding Amphitheater** and step inside the **Plains Indian Earth Lodge**.



Nebraska City is loaded with history and heritage. Other museums and points of interest to visit while in town include: **Civil War Veterans Museum; Kregel Windmill Factory Museum; Nebraska City Museum of Firefighting; Nelson House; Old Freighters Museum; Wildwood Historic Center; and River Country Nature Center.**

Within Otoe County is also a town called **Otoe**. Originally named Berlin—likely after pioneer and Civil War veteran E. D. Berlin—the decision was made to change the name after numerous fires destroyed a full block along the main street. It was thought the fires may have been set, due to anti-German sentiment at the time. The change became official in 1918, less than a month

before the start of World War I. The town survived, and now visitors can attend the annual **Otoe BBQ** event, which happens in September.

Many Otoe County villages celebrate events unique to them, such as **Old Settlers Picnic** in **Palmyra**, a family-friendly event with games for kids, a parade, pedal-tractor pull, street dance, wine tasting, and other activities. Another fun event is the **Groundhog Day** celebration in **Unadilla**, the “Groundhog Capital of Nebraska,” where they have their very own groundhog mascot—Unadilla Bill. It features a parade and the crowning of a king and queen. »

« Those looking for an old-fashioned county fair can head to **Syracuse**, the second largest city in Otoe County. The **Otoe County Fair** typically takes place in July. At the end of August, they celebrate their German heritage with **Syracuse GermanFest**. The festival features “Viener Dog Races,” a tapping of the FestKeg, crowning of royalty, German dancers, and more.

While in Syracuse, visit the **Otoe County Museum of Memories**, which consists of three buildings and hosts a variety of historical attractions. The main building is the former First Lutheran Church. Its five display rooms include: an old-time butcher shop; a carriage room with sleigh; a country store made from cottonwood logs; a loom room, which also includes a section of the 1912 Syracuse switchboard from the telephone office; and a doctor’s office.

HUNGRY?

If you get hungry for Mexican food while in Nebraska City, **El Portal** offers delicious margaritas and authentic food made with the freshest ingredients. They’re also known for their prompt service in a family-oriented atmosphere. **The Downtowner** is a casual cafe downtown, featuring a scratch kitchen serving breakfast and lunch. **The Keeping Room Café** in historic Nebraska City offers a unique experience, where you can sip wine, shop, and dine on out-of-this-world homemade pies and desserts.

Speaking of desserts, **Dairy Chef** in Syracuse has the best soft serve ice cream in the area in several flavors, including lemon and strawberry. Other dining options in Syracuse include **B&J’s Family Restaurant & Lounge** and **Highway 50 Drive-Inn**, where you can get the best summer treats. Don’t discount the smaller communities, either. **Lorton Lounge**, in the town of Lorton, brings in diners from surrounding areas with Fish Fridays, Prime Rib Saturdays, and Wings Sundays. Or check out a new restaurant in the village of Palmyra, the **Copper Moon Steakhouse**.



Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard



Sunflower Bloom Discovery Ride

THIRSTY?

Otoe County could be considered Nebraska wine country, with **Safehouse Winery** and **Rich Harvest Vineyard & Winery** near Syracuse and **Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard** by Nebraska City. But the beer also flows here, thanks to **Nebraska City Tap House**. **Glacial Till Vineyard & Winery** offers another option, as they’re best-known for crisp, gluten-free ciders. Don’t forget to visit **Arbor Day Farm Winery** in Nebraska City and the **Library Lounge** at Lied Lodge for delicious wines and drinks in a casual atmosphere. Those who don’t imbibe should visit **Kleinstadt Coffee**, also in Syracuse, to try the best coffee around and fresh homemade muffins, pastries, and bread.

FORE!

Of course Nebraska City also has plenty to do outdoors, specifically when it comes to golf. The **Golf Club at Table Creek** is an 18-hole course that will challenge experienced golfers with strategically placed bunkers and water hazards while welcoming casual players who will love to relax among the rolling countryside and natural, wooded areas. **Wildwood Golf Course**, a well-manicured nine-hole municipal golf course, is the city’s oldest green, located less than one mile from Lied Lodge. Also in Nebraska City is **ArborLinks**, a private club that is part of the Dormie Network. The **Syracuse Country Club** also offers a beautiful nine-hole course, defined by a creek that winds its way in and out of the fairways.

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Pawnee County Veterans Memorial

PAWNEE COUNTY

In 1854, a group of pioneers from Ohio, arriving in Nebraska Territory, traveled up the Nemaha River until they came to a Pawnee Indian village on Turkey Creek. The settlement they formed nearby became a trading post for the area. Since the village was near the center of Pawnee County, it was selected as county seat in 1855, and is called, simply, **Pawnee City**.

The city and county are both named for that Pawnee tribe of Native Americans who lived in Nebraska for generations, from before the 16th century to the latter part of the 19th century. In 1876, their last Nebraska holdings were given up, and they were moved to what was then known as "Indian Territory" in what is now Oklahoma.

Pawnee County is now known as the place for you to "Explore the Unexpected." Six towns, five main highways, countless country roads, and over 1,500 acres of Wildlife Management Areas. Museums, monuments, historic sites, and other cultural offerings can be found in the towns, as well as restaurants and a winery/microbrewery. Visit Amish settlements, stores, and carpentry shops while enjoying scenic views, ponds and streams, and habitats for lots of birds and wildlife.

The Harold Lloyd Museum in Burchard is the birth home of the silent film star whose degree of fame rivaled that of Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton



The Pedal Clinic

 EXPLORE!

Pawnee City's historic downtown district, largely formed in 1881, is included on the National Historic Register. The **Pawnee City Historical Society & Museum** also has over 20 buildings to explore, including an old-style barn, six country school buildings, a genuine log cabin, the home of the first state governor, and the U.S. Senator **Kenneth S. Wherry Memorial Library**.

The city also has a private collectibles museum, **Rinne's Private Toys and Dolls Collectibles** which includes displays of 2,000 dolls and over 1,000 model cars, trucks, and tractors. A Santa House offers a unique seasonal experience.

The renovated **ZCJ Hall**, a Czech social hall north of **Du Bois**, features some incredible architecture. Constructed in 1920-1921, the hall is a large, single-story brick and tile structure, rectangular in plan, with a front gable facade executed in the Czech-American National Baroque-Revival style. The exterior walls are plastered with exposed, decorative colored-glass aggregate. The interior consists of a large open hall directed toward a stage with proscenium arch, with a kitchen, cloak room, and ticket office located beneath the rear balcony. Dances are held here on the weekends.

Table Rock—named for a unique rock formation near the Nemaha River that was eventually destroyed by time and people—has a downtown district that includes several museums, such as the **Argus Newspaper Museum**, **St. John's Catholic Church Museum**, **The Table Rock Historical Museum**, and others.



Amish Buggies



Pawnee City has **The Pedal Clinic** museum of pedal cars, which has more than 400 pedal toys, including cars, tractors, airplanes, and other small toys. There's also a John Deere room, a kiddie car collection, kerosene lamps, quilts, bicycles, salt and pepper shakers, and a doll collection.

Midway between Beatrice and Pawnee City, the community of **Lewiston** serves as a great spot for slowing your pace and enjoying the special quiet of a small, rural town. **Lewiston Town Park** has an intriguing variety of playground equipment, providing a good place for children to play and adults to relax.

Outdoorsy folks will want to visit **Pawnee City Pool & North Park**, the **Dr. Rick Johnson Trail**, **South Park**, and **Pawnderosa Pond and Campground**. Pawnderosa has a fishing pier, picnic areas, and nearby park facilities. Or check out **Burchard Lake**, east of Burchard, and **Iron Horse Trail Lake**, one mile north and two miles west of Du Bois. Pawnee

County also has six wildlife management areas across the county, excellent for birdwatching, observing wildlife, etc.

See the beautiful Romanesque-style architecture of **St. Anthony's Catholic Church** in **Steinauer**. The first iteration of the church was built around 1882, and would outgrow a second one before the large building that's there today began construction in 1926. Tours of the church are available.

The **Steinauer Community Heritage House Museum** is located in the former post office building. The building now houses the pioneer history of the Steinauer community.

The **Harold Lloyd Museum** in Burchard is the birth home of the silent film star whose degree of fame rivaled that of Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton. The actor's films featured hair-raising stunts, and you may view one of them during your visit, done in that wonderful, slapstick style. »

HUNGRY?

« For a truly unique dining experience, check out **Jeannie's Place** in Lewiston, where you'll feel like you just stepped into grandma's house. Be sure to call ahead to make a reservation, especially on evenings and weekends. For a more spur-of-the-moment stop, **The Round Up Bar and Grill in Table Rock** is a welcoming place offering good bar food, from hot dogs to ribeyes.

Whether you're looking for breakfast or a juicy hunk of prime rib, **Shirley's Place** in Pawnee City is where you need to go. Craving a great burger? **The Blazin' Bull** is literally right around the corner.

The Palmer Cafe (formerly Pawnee Cafe), offers simple fare in a simple setting, serving breakfast, lunch, and some down-home specials. While the food is good, the real reason people love it is the friendliness and enthusiasm of the owner and staff. It's a true, small-town experience. Another local, family-oriented joint where you can pick up some food is **Nider's Thriftway**. They even have Champ's Chicken, for those seeking the familiar.

THIRSTY?

Nebraska's first farm winery/microbrewery combination is **SchillingBridge Winery & Microbrewery** near Pawnee City. It features award-winning wines, a large selection of microbrews, and signature cocktails in a beautiful setting. This family-owned winery's commitment to creating a memorable experience is the reason behind its success and warm, inviting atmosphere.

Burgers and beer more your style? **Rooster's** in Du Bois has all that, plus the occasional live music or comedy nights. They serve breakfast (on the weekends), lunch, and dinner, but they're closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, so plan accordingly.



Burchard Lake



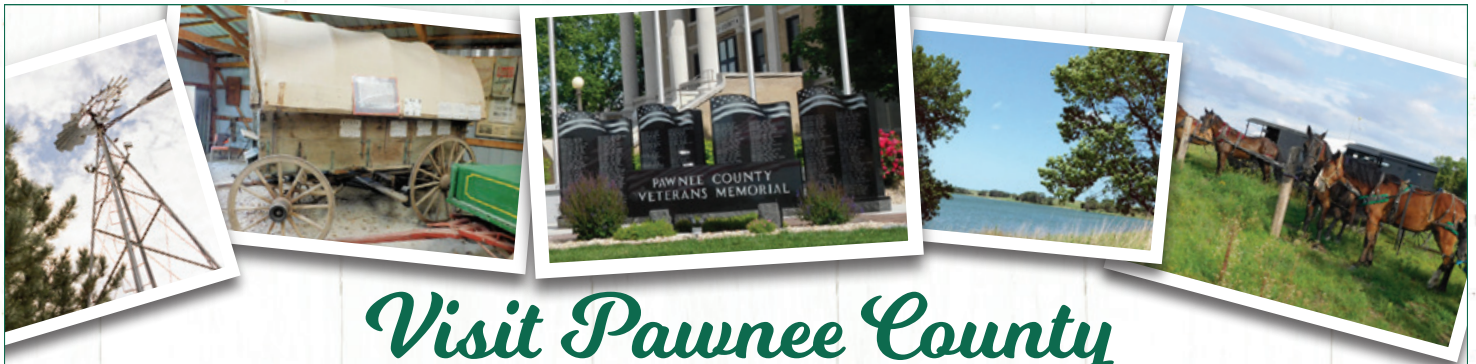
SchillingBridge Winery & Microbrewery

▼
Nebraska's first farm winery/microbrewery combination is SchillingBridge Winery & Microbrewery near Pawnee City.

FORE!

Pawnee City also has a nine-hole golf course. **Fairview Golf Course** opened in 1922 and has all the hallmarks of Nebraska golf. This sand green course is well-maintained and the club house offers outdoor seating with a view.

Explore more of the unexpected.
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Visit Pawnee County

Historic Downtown Pawnee City

Downtown Pawnee City is on the National Historic Register. Pick up a self-guided tour map at the Pawnee City Public Library.

Pawnee City Historical Society & Museum

Over 20 buildings on the grounds, over 25,000 hidden treasures for you to find. www.PawneeCitymuseum.com

Pedal Clinic – Pawnee City

More than 450 pedal cars, tractors, airplanes, and other toys displayed at Highway 8 and I Street. Tours by appt. only: 402-852-2655

Schilling Bridge Winery and Microbrewery

– Pawnee City Featuring award-winning wines and Nebraska's first farm winery/microbrewery combination. www.SchillingBridgeWinery.com

Table Rock Historical Society The Table Rock Historical Society features several historic buildings, Stehlik Czech Museum, Argus Print Shop and St. John's Catholic Church. Open by appointment. www.Tablerockhistoricalsociety.com

ZCJB Lodge Hall near DuBois Admire one-of-kind architecture on this Czech Social Hall, listed on the National Historic Register.

Visit Amish Community between Pawnee City & Table Rock. Over 25 families with several stores.

Heritage House-Steinauer Former post office now houses the pioneer history of the Steinauer community. www.steinauer.us/heritagehouse

Birthplace of Harold Lloyd - Burchard Visit the home where internationally acclaimed silent film actor Harold Lloyd was born. View silent films and memorabilia. Open by appointment: 402-865-4665

Wildlife areas and outdoor fun Six Wildlife Management area. Birding information at: Nebraskabirdingtrails.com

For outdoor fun: Buchard Lake, near Burchard Iron Horse Trail Lake near DuBois Pawnderosa City Pond in Pawnee City

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE AND OTHER ATTRACTIONS GO TO WWW.PAWNEECOUNTYNEBRASKA.COM
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Memorial Cancer Garden

RICHARDSON COUNTY

Richardson County is rich in history, natural beauty, and tradition. Embedded deep in the history of the county is its role in the famous John Brown's Underground Railroad, a secret network of cooperation that aided slaves in reaching sanctuary in the free states and Canada. Several of the network's stations were set up in this area.

The first family to build a home in what is now the county seat of **Falls City** were abolitionists Dave and Anne Dorrington, who came to Nebraska from New York. Anne's kindness and compassion led to her being known as "Mother" Dorrington, and it is said she fed John Brown when he passed through the settlement. A number of the descendants of this family's six children stayed on in the community, becoming prominent citizens in the development of the town and still reside here.

EXPLORE!

Ten communities make up Richardson County. Falls City features the **Richardson County Historical Museum**, whose building was acquired in 2002 and displays items that were once stored in five locations with no public access. An additional Agricultural Building for farming displays was constructed on this site in the summer of 2019.

The **Richardson County Courthouse** also features a **War Memorial** with a collection of exhibits and displays of war memorabilia, photographs, uniforms, medals, and swords from World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War. Take the full military tour and visit **Falls City Military Park**, where a ship's anchor, a tank, a howitzer, and a B-17 bomber propeller are on display.

Also in Falls City is the **John Philip Falter Museum**. Falter was a world-renowned illustrator, known for his *Saturday Evening Post* magazine covers. The museum features his Philadelphia studio (on loan from the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln), a collection of his 129 *Saturday Evening Post* covers, original World War II paintings, book illustrations, magazine ads, and a 30-minute documentary video produced by Nebraska Educational Television. There are other works on loan from local collectors and a gift shop with a variety of items.

Dig deeper into the history of Richardson County by visiting the **Henry Heim House Museum**. The newer museum opened in 2014 in the town of **Dawson**, where you can also visit the **John G. Smith Memorial Library**. Explore the county's historic displays, such as the **Historic Miles Ranch**, the **Verdon School Museum**, and the **Richardson County Historical Marker & Mural**, which illustrates the history and heritage of **Humboldt** and depicts all the pomp and pageantry of the Richardson County Fair. You can also find the **Quad County Museum**, where donated exhibits reflect the life of the county's early years, on the east side of Humboldt City Square.

Combine history and nature by visiting **Humboldt City Square Park**, with its 125-year-old bandstand and **Veterans Memorial**.



Falls City Hot Air Balloon Festival



Quad Museum Car Show

It is surrounded by the historic commercial district and features a mural illustrating the history and heritage of the town and its brick streets. There's also the **Southeast Nebraska Cancer Memorial Garden**, a tribute to loved ones whose lives have been touched by cancer, stroke, illness, or other tragedy, located near the **Humboldt City Lake Park**.

Richardson County is ideal for hunting and fishing, offering several Wildlife Management Areas, such as **Kinters Ford State Wildlife Management Area**. In the other half of the county is **Verdon State Recreation Area**, which offers a 45-acre lake and 30 acres of land. It features primitive camping and picnicking, but the highlight is angling in the spring-fed lake. **Stanton Lake Park** near Falls City has a dozen camper hookups with electricity situated next to a scenic lake. A concrete sidewalk circles the lake, with a playground, dog park, and picnic shelters nearby. Fishing, sand volleyball, and disc golf can be part of the experience here. When in Hum-

boldt, **Kirkman Cove Recreation Area** is less than 10 minutes away. It has fishing, hiking, camping, swimming, and even golf.

Find a unique camping experience at **Boy Scout Camp**, located near Humboldt. The camp contains 360 acres of rolling hills with large oak trees and an abundance of wildlife. And when it's not occupied with Scouts, the facility is open to public camping.

Just east of Shubert sits a jewel in Southeast Nebraska—**Indian Cave State Park**, a public recreation and historic preservation area covering over 3,000 acres along the Missouri River.

The park is well-known for its beautiful camping and picnicking spots, 22 miles of scenic hiking and biking trails, sweeping views of the wide, winding Missouri River, and a majestic hardwood forest that puts on a spectacular show of colors each autumn. »



Kirkman Cove Recreation Area



Falls City Aquatic Center



Mutt & Jeff's Drive



The Classic Club 8.

« Other Richardson County highlights include the **Stella Arboretum**, which contains more than 18 varieties of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers and provides a year-round habitat for birds and butterflies. The Stella Arboretum is a member of the Nebraska State Arboretum and gained National Butterfly Certification. It is open year-round.

Plant lovers can also enjoy the **Krumme Arboretum** in Falls City, where you'll find some 70 species of trees, shrubs, and grasses.

Falls City Aquatic Center is the ultimate splashing ground featuring two water slides, a lap pool, two diving boards, a water canon, flower showers, and a zero depth entry area with shelter areas and attractive landscaping.

Children and adults alike will want to visit the **Falls City Aquatic Center**. This ultimate splashing ground features two water slides, a lap pool, two diving boards, a water canon, flower showers, and a zero depth entry area with shelter areas and attractive landscaping.

Visitors to the area during June should be sure to get tickets to the **Falls City Hot Air Balloon Festival** as well. With live music, food trucks, and of course, those big balloons, it makes for a perfect family day getaway.

The Iron Monument in the community of **Rulo** is the original survey point for Nebraska and Kansas properties. The site is south of Rulo, near Kansas Highway 7. It is newly refurbished and can be reached by hiking 150 feet up on the bluff and is marked by the Nebraska State Historical Society. This area is also where the historic **Rulo Bridge** connecting Nebraska and Missouri was located. However, it was recently replaced.

HUNGRY?

Falls City has no shortage of food options. Whether you're craving Chinese, Mexican, or good ol' American cuisine, they have it. The **The Farm Table Café** is perfect for that hometown, family-style dining. **Mutt & Jeff's Drive In** has an old-school vibe fit for those who enjoy their food with a side of nostalgia. Be sure to try the cheesebar! If sweet treats are more your style, check out **Keller Bakery**, or combine the sweet and savory at the **Frosty Queen**.

THIRSTY?

Don't drive by the **6 Mile Café** in Dawson. With burgers, pie, and even a little bar if you'd like to quench your thirst, this place is welcoming and satisfying.

Swingin' Doors Saloon is the oldest working bar in Nebraska, but they aren't resting on their laurels. Not only can you quench your thirst at this historic bar in Rulo, you can also get some great food. Grab a drink and catch a show or a game at **Still Centerfield Sports Bar** in **Shubert** or head to **Wild Bill's**, a biker-friendly bar in Rulo that serves up good food as well as a good time.

FORE!

Kirkman's Lakeview Golf Course in Humboldt is a beautiful place to play a quick nine holes. In Falls City, **The Classic Club 8** has an imaginative, flowing layout with nine greens and 18 tee boxes. The distinctly separate sets of front and back-nine tees allow golfers to play 18 holes without feeling like they've played the same nine twice. The club also has a restaurant and bar open to the public.

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SALINE COUNTY

Saline County was created by an act of the Territorial Legislature in January 1855 and was officially organized in February 1867, the year Nebraska was admitted to the Union. The county derives its name from a belief held by the early pioneers that great salt springs and deposits could be found in the area. The pioneers' supposition, however, proved to be false.

Eight communities are located within the boundaries of the county, the largest and easternmost being **Crete**. To its west are **Dorchester** and **Friend**. **Wilber**, the current county seat, and **DeWitt** are located several miles south of Crete, and the towns of **Swanton**, **Western**, and **Tobias** are located on county roads west of Wilber, off Highways 41 and 15. Other populated areas include **Berks**, **Shestak**, and **Pleasant Hill**. With the Big Blue River and its tributaries crossing through the county, the land is well-suited to agriculture and stock raising.

Saline County claims the heaviest population of Czech descendants in the state. They emigrated from Czech lands in the late 19th century and were known as "free thinkers," indicating their split from the Catholic Church.

Since its birth, Doane University has occupied a distinguished place in the liberal arts and sciences higher-education community in the Midwest.

EXPLORE!

Crete, which was incorporated in 1872, has several properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including: **Downtown Crete Historic District**; **College Hill Historic District**; **Jesse C. Bickle House**; **Frank J. Rademacher House**; **Johnston-Muff/Algermussen House**; **T.J. Sokol Hall**; and the **Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church**.

Doane University in Crete is also on the register. Since its birth, Doane University has occupied a distinguished place in the liberal arts and sciences higher-education community in the Midwest. Doane College officially opened its doors in 1872, and in May 2016, changed its name to Doane University. The university opened additional locations in Lincoln, Grand Island, and Omaha. This nearly 150-year-old institution is establishing itself as a new kind of comprehensive university, proving it can withstand the test of time.

Students at the university can learn about the area's history firsthand at the **Benne Memorial Museum**. The modern, 5,000-square-foot museum features a historic farmstead. Visitors can tour the **Bickle Homestead** with its 1864 log home as well as a **1909 Saline County District No. 1 Star School**.

Crete's **Great Pumpkin Festival** takes place in October. While the annual festival is fairly new, it draws a large crowd that's growing every year. Some of the activities that take place over the weekend include a car show, craft and farmer's market, hayrack rides, and live entertainment. Of course, there are plenty of pumpkin-related happenings, which include a pumpkin-pie eating contest, a pumpkin drop, pumpkin competitions, and more.



Czech Dancers



Legion Memorial Park

The great thing about Saline County is you'll always have a Friend. Originally called Friendville, the town got its beginning in 1870. **The Warren Opera House** was built here 15 years later, when it was erected by Joshua Warren at a cost of more than \$40,000. The brick structure features an elaborate row of narrow windows, with stone window ledges and interconnected arches above. Efforts to revitalize it are in effect, and tours are available.

Tobias Historical Museum is located on Main Street in the village of Tobias in the southwest corner of the county. This mini-museum contains records of the town, school, churches, and newspapers. »



Wilber Czech Museum



Blue River State Recreation Area

« To learn more about the county as a whole, visit **Saline County Museum** in Dorchester. The museum has 11 buildings set on five acres and houses many historical items. The museum's unique "In Loving Memory" exhibit shows how Americans deal with death, mourning, and funeral customs. Also in Dorchester is **Tabor Lodge**, a Czech social hall that was organized in 1899 by 14 Czechs who felt the need for a place of fellowship. The hall is still very active with wedding receptions, dances, and meetings.

Nearly every community in Saline County displays large murals on business buildings, all painted by local artists, and six historical markers have been placed throughout. The strong Czech connection is especially evident in Wilber, where **Sokol Hall** is an integral part of the annual Czech festival, which takes place in August. The hall is available for meetings, dances, and reunions. It also houses a mini museum of Czech Sokol athletic historical items. The **Wilber Czech Museum** also features exhibits of traditional costumes, artwork, and artifacts.

Visitors can stay at the historic **Hotel Wilber**, a quaint hotel featuring uniquely decorated guest rooms, a full-service dining room, an outdoor garden area, and the **Czech Cellar**, where you can grab a beer or a glass of wine at the end of a long day of sightseeing.

Cemeteries are a part of every community, and many represent the heritage of the people within that community. The **Wilber Czech Cemetery**, formerly known as the Bohemian-Slovakian Cemetery, is located just one mile west of Wilber, and is worth a stop to see many Czech-related tombstones. A new brick shelter offers information to locate graves.

If your idea of being outside is more sport than history, the **Legion Memorial Park** is located just outside Wilber. It has ball fields and tennis courts for the sports lover in the family, so don't forget your racket.

Saline County is ideal for those seeking the great outdoors, as it offers several Wildlife Management and Protection Areas, including **Tanglewood Lake** and **Swanton WMA**, which

has 160 acres with excellent opportunities for fishing, hiking and hunting year-round. **Blue River State Recreation Area**, located five miles north of Dorchester, is a beautiful spot to cast out. This is a day-use area (no camping), with fishing available year round.

HUNGRY?

Elle's on Main in Crete is a classic, all-American sports bar serving classic, all-American food. It's a great place for college students and older regulars alike. **Cristina's Family Restaurant** is another popular place to eat in Crete. This family-owned restaurant has been around for nearly 20 years, serving Mexican food and margaritas.

You can take your food to go when you visit **Frank's Smokehouse** in downtown Wilber. Owned and operated by Frank and Scott Havel since 1966, they offer a plethora of Czech specialties, homemade beef jerky and sausages, and of course, fresh-baked kolache and rye bread.

THIRSTY?

The **Pour House** in Friend is a wine bar, but it's so much more than that. Located in the historic **Warren Building**, they serve upscale comfort food in a mellow, relaxed atmosphere. Visit **RJ's Bar and Grill** in DeWitt or **Eastside Bar & Grill** in Dorchester for a different type of atmosphere.

FORE!

Appropriately, **College Heights Country Club** is located in Crete. It has a challenging nine-hole course that is always in excellent condition. Players can grab a bite or a drink before, or after, heading out to the green. **Friend Country Club** is another beautiful nine-hole course, surrounded by nature that also has a restaurant and a lounge.

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Festival Activities: Art Show • Quilt Show • Heritage Demonstrations • Kids Rides • Camping
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Wilber Area Chamber of Commerce • Nebraska Czechs of Wilber • City of Wilber
Czech Days Information • P.O. Box 652 • Wilber, NE 68465

wilberchamberofcommerce.com • 402.821.3233 • nebraskaczechsofwilber.com

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Welcome to

Saline County!

Crete
Dewitt
Dorchester
Friend
Swanton
Tobias
Western
Wilber

- Home of 5 State Historical Markers
- Home of 5 Rural & Heritage Museums
- 60th Annual Czech Festival,
August 6th-8th, 2021

Sponsored by Saline County Tourism
Advisory Committee





Holy Family Shrine

SARPY COUNTY

Explored in 1804 by Lewis and Clark and serving as the springboard for Nebraska's settlement and expansion, Sarpy County is home to both the oldest continuous Nebraska settlement, the city of **Bellevue**, and the state's youngest community, **La Vista**.

Established in 1822 as a fur-trading post by Joshua Pilcher, Bellevue was named from the French words for "beautiful view." The post was later known as Fontenelle's Post after being run by Lucien Fontenelle, a fur trader who purchased it in 1828 to represent the American Fur Company. It served as an important missionary center and agency of the Oto, Pawnee, and Omaha tribes. Chief Big Elk, or Ong-pa-ton-ga, is one of the most iconic figures in Sarpy County history. This Omaha chief's original resting place was on Elk Hill in Bellevue, but visitors can now pay their respects at the historic **Bellevue Cemetery**, where his grave is located at the top of the hill, overlooking the famous view for which Bellevue is named.

▼
The facility became Offutt Air Force Base in 1948, gaining national prominence when it became the host base for Strategic Air Command headquarters.

🕒 EXPLORE!

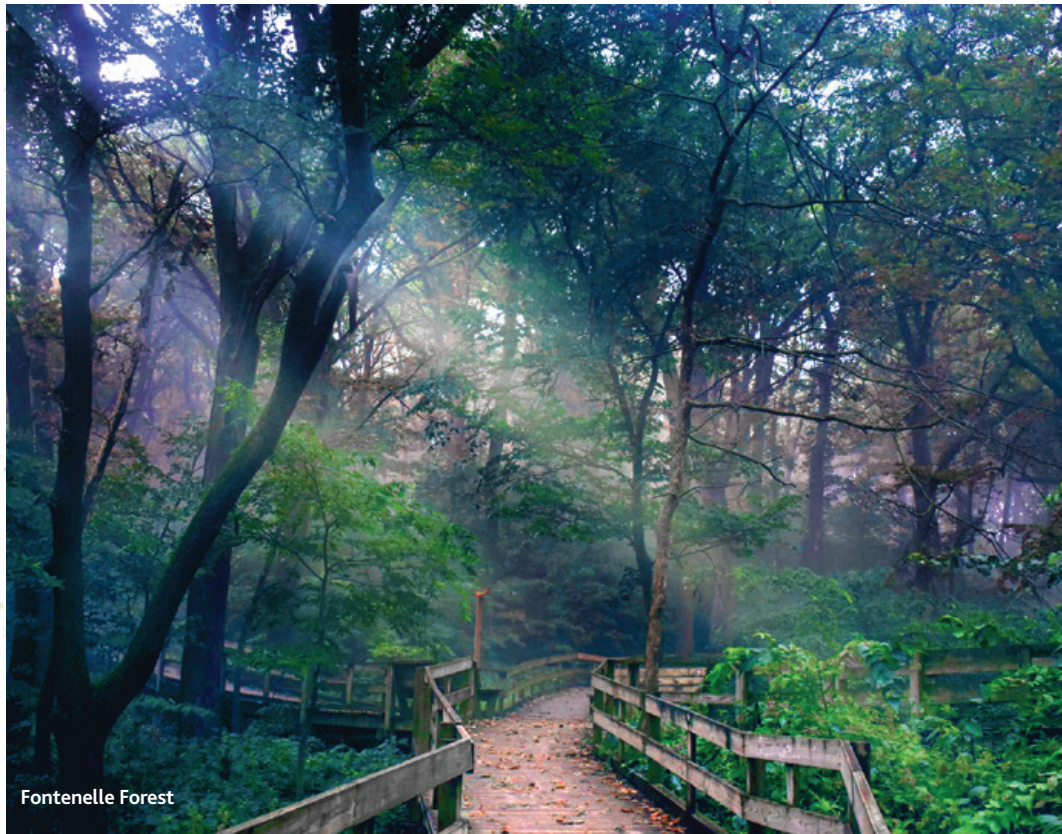
Sarpy County separated from Douglas County in 1857. Bellevue served as the county seat until 1875, when the county government was moved to the more central location of **Papillion**. Bellevue remains the largest community in Sarpy County, with plenty to offer visitors to the area.

Nebraska's oldest church, the **Old Presbyterian Church** built in 1856, and the oldest commercial building, **Old Fontenelle Bank**, are located in Bellevue. Built in 1857, the bank building's original purpose was for it to serve as a bank, naturally. However, when the Panic of 1857 struck, banks across the nation failed. It then served as the Sarpy County Courthouse until 1875, when the county seat was moved. Today, it is on the National Register of Historic Places. Also on the register is **The Bellevue Log Cabin**, built in the 1830s. It is commonly acknowledged as the oldest building in Nebraska. Bellevue's courthouse, originally built as a territorial bank, served as the town hall from 1876-1959. The structure is currently maintained as an example of the architecture of the period.

Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue has played a major role in American military history for more than a century. The base was originally the site of Fort Crook, and many of the original structures built on the post before 1900, including the guardhouse and various enlisted and officers' quarters, are still in use. A flying field was added in 1921, designated Offutt Field, in honor of 1st Lt. Jarvis Offutt, on May 6, 1924. Offutt was killed while flying with the



Offutt Air Force Base



Fontenelle Forest

Royal Air Force in France, and was Omaha's first World War I air casualty. The facility became Offutt Air Force Base in 1948, gaining national prominence when it became the host base for Strategic Air Command headquarters.

In 1992, SAC was disestablished and replaced by the newly created U.S. Strategic Command. The STRATCOM mission was further defined

in 2002 with responsibility for strategic deterrence, global strike and operation of the Defense Department's Global Information Grid. The former Army outpost, once hard-pressed to support a few hundred soldiers, now accommodates a combined military and civilian workforce of some 12,000 while supporting more than 22,000 family members. »



Werner Park

In Papillion, visitors will find a lovely historic downtown, featuring a unique blend of local merchants, boutiques, dining options, and historical sites such as the **John Sautter Farmhouse** and the **Portal School**, a one-room schoolhouse. Built in 1890, it remained open until May, 1993.

SumTur Amphitheater, also located near Papillion, features a mix of outdoor concerts, live theater, and community movie nights. For recreation, the county seat has **Papio Fun Park**, **Papio Bay Aquatic Center**, and **Werner Park**, home to Triple-A baseball Omaha **Storm Chasers** and USL League One **Union Omaha** professional soccer team. Regular events in the county include **Papillion Days** in June and the **Winter Wonderland Festival**.

The Southport area of La Vista features an assortment of lodging, dining, and shopping experiences. New to the community is the **Czech and Slovak Educational Center and Museum**, featuring exhibits honoring the early immigrants and a gift shop featuring many items from the old country and some of the best kolaches around.

Gretna is the home of one of Nebraska's favorite fall destinations, **Vala's Pumpkin Patch and Apple Orchard**. The town also has the largest outdoor lifestyle shopping destination in the region, **Nebraska Crossing**. Other, more spiritual attractions that will bring you closer to nature include **Holy Family Shrine** and **Cloisters on the Platte**.



Vala's Pumpkin Patch

« Other noteworthy Bellevue sites include **Fontenelle Forest**, a 1,400-acre forest which includes hiking trails, a nature center, children's camps, a gift shop, and picnic facilities. The forest is listed as a National Natural Landmark and a National Historic District. A newly added feature is the **TreeRush Adventure Park**, with a ropes and zip line course that offers a fun, challenging workout.

Bellevue Little Theater was founded in 1968 as a nonprofit organization. In its first eight years, productions were mounted in restaurants, schools, and **Bellevue University**. Scenery, props, and costumes were stored in homes and storage units. In 1977, their board was able to purchase and renovate the 240-seat 1940s vintage Roxy Movie Theatre building in **Olde Towne Bellevue**. It provides

quality entertainment and arts education experiences through a variety of productions.

Bellevue Berry & Pumpkin Ranch doesn't just offer pastoral scenery, it's also known for its family-friendly outings, including events such as the **Renaissance Festival of Nebraska** in May, **Midwest Pirate Fest** in August, and the **Great Pumpkin Roundup**, which happens every autumn.

August is a big month for event-goers in the area. **Bellevue Rocks! Riverfront Festival** is an annual two-day community celebration happening in **Haworth Park**. **Arrows to Aerospace**, sponsored by the Bellevue-Offutt Kiwanis takes place in Old Towne Bellevue that same month.

Springfield was named for several area springs but today provides a rural setting for art and wine lovers. **Soaring Wings Vineyard and Brewing** is a great place to relax after a day visiting **Springfield Artworks**, **Robin's Nest** and **Weiss Studios and Gardens**. The community also hosts the annual **Sarpy County Fair** every August.

Outdoor lovers can visit **Wehrspann Lake**, located in **Chalco Hills Recreation Area**, and **Schramm State Park and Education Center**, a state-of-the-art facility that allows visitors to learn about Nebraska's aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems through unique, interactive exhibits.

HUNGRY?

Sarpy has a virtual smorgasbord of good places to eat, too many to list them all here. Some highlights include **Quick Bites Soul Food** in Bellevue, the destination for authentic soul food, candy, and sweets. Also in Bellevue—with a chef who hails from New York City where he trained at Michelin-starred restaurants—is **Umami**, a Japanese restaurant serving stellar sushi and sashimi.

MacDaro's Pub & Pizzeria in Gretna has an extensive menu. While their focus is on pizza, they also offer brunch and a large variety of sharable appetizers. Papillion's **Ollie & Hobbes Craft Kitchen** is well-known throughout the area for serving from-scratch food that's made fresh daily, combining high-quality ingredients with classic techniques. Just outside of Springfield along the Platte River is **Heron Bay**, a restaurant with a view that's still serving up good food, drinks, and music after bouncing back from a flood.

THIRSTY?

Houston's Lounge in La Vista may look nondescript on the outside, located in a strip mall not far from Interstate 80, but it is luxuriously upscale inside. They also have a nice outdoor seating area, complete with a fire pit for those cooler evenings. For those who prefer a sportier atmosphere, **The Good Life** in Papillion has that, plus some excellent bar food. Fans of games of chance should check out **La Vista Keno & Sports Bar**. If you want to know where the locals like to grab a drink, **Babe's Bar** in Bellevue is the answer. This hometown hole-in-the-wall dive bar may not look like much, but it's bigger than it looks, in both space and heart.

Beer fans will want to take a tour of La Vista's breweries. **The Nebraska Brewing Company Tap Room & Brewery** is an airy alehouse with an industrial feel. **Kros Strain Brewing** is a local microbrewery known for their award-winning beers and unique label art. Get a two-in-one experience when you visit **Lucky Bucket Brewery**, which is also home to **Cut Spike Distillery**, for those who prefer something a little stronger.

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For a refreshing blast from the past, stop in to **Springfield Drug Old Fashioned Soda Fountain**, a small, locally owned pharmacy with an operational soda fountain.

FORE!

Sarpy County also has several options when it comes to golf. Starting in Papillion, **Eagle Hills Golf Course** has 18 holes featuring bent grass greens, rolling fairways, beautifully sculptured bunkers, lakes, creeks, and wetlands.

Tara Hills is another 18-hole course, designed for golfers of all skill levels, and **Tiburon Golf Club** is a beautiful 27-hole golf course in the Gretna area.

Not to be outdone, Bellevue has **Tregaron Golf Course** and **Willow Lakes Golf Course**, located near Offutt, as well as **Platteview Golf Club**. All offer 18-hole courses.

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Calvin's Garage

THAYER COUNTY

Long before Thayer County existed, the area was crossed by the Oregon Trail and the Pony Express. Today it's crossed by the new, four-lane Pan-American Highway U.S. 81, connecting Interstate 80 in Nebraska and Interstate 70 in Kansas. Originally known as Jefferson County, it was later renamed in honor of Gen. John Milton Thayer, a U.S. senator and, later, a Nebraska governor. As the St. Joseph and Western railroads built through northern Thayer County and the Burlington and Missouri River railroads crossed the southern part of the county, new growth resulted. Hebron was named the county seat, as it was ideally located right in the center.

Saturday nights in **Hebron** were "especially busy times." Farmers came to town with their cream, eggs, and chickens. They sold them at the produce station or traded them at the grocery stores for staples such as salt, molasses, and spices. Then, until very late at night, they visited with each other while the children played. Wednesday night was band concert night at the city park. That sense of community remains.

Hebron, also has the **World's Largest Covered Porch Swing**. Located in **Roosevelt Park** in downtown Hebron it has a **32-foot-long seat** and is said to hold **24 children or 18 adults**.

EXPLORE!

There are several events that bring these community members together. **Deshler Daze** happens on Father's Day weekend, with all types of family-friendly activities taking place. From duck races to road rallies, there's something for everyone. On the last weekend in June, everyone gets together again for **Chesterfest**, featuring a beer garden, ball tournament, and bands. And of course, fireworks.

The last Sunday in September is when the Thayer County Historical Society's **Fall Festival** takes place in **Belvidere**. This event features vendors, demonstrations, and antique tractor/car/truck shows as well as live music.

Toward the end of the year is the **Christmas in Chester Light and Sound Show**, presented by Cindy Chinn and **The Center Of Creativity**, which used to be the old Chester school. Now the grand old building gets all dressed up each year to celebrate the holidays. The magnificent display draws visitors from all around who want to see the show that features over 30,000 LED Christmas lights with 4,000-plus feet of wire. Chinn, the artist behind the show and owner of the old schoolhouse, adds more every year.

Hebron also celebrates the season in a big way with their annual **Holiday Craft Fair**. Stroll the downtown area and shop the local businesses while wandering through buildings filled with craft vendors. Representative of their strong sense of community,



World's Largest Covered Porch Swing



Water fight



Hebron Bathtub Races

Hebron has the **World's Largest Covered Porch Swing**. Located in **Roosevelt Park** in downtown Hebron, it has a 32-foot-long seat and is said to hold 24 children or 18 adults.

The city of Hebron got its name because the people referred to it as "their city of refuge." So Ives Marks, a minister from Rose Creek, gave it the Biblical name for such—Hebron. The **Thayer County Courthouse**, con-

structed in 1903, is located here, though the building's tower was so badly damaged by a tornado in 1953 that it had to be removed. There are numerous markers throughout the county where visitors can learn more about the history of the area, including the **Fort Butler Marker**. This fort was created to combat Native American uprisings in the late 1800s. At this time there is no indication as to where the fort stood except the soil is a different color from the surrounding area. »



Belvidere Train Watching Station



Gabby's Pond

« **Belvidere Train Watching Station** is an open-air constructed train watching station, completed with private donations and grants from the Union Pacific Railroad. Railroad buffs will be able to view Union Pacific trains on a double-wide track system about every 20-25 minutes. The station includes Thayer County's last depot and a wooden box car. Enthusiasts should also swing into the **Spring Creek Model Trains** store in Deshler. It is the largest model train store between Denver and Chicago.

Another cultural and historical attraction in the county is the old **Bruning Opera House**, built in 1907. It is still in use for civic events, and a collection of photographs of the "good old days" are available for viewing at the Bruning State Bank just down the street.

Those seeking outdoor recreation need to visit **Little Blue River**. This river stretches across the southern edge of Hebron and offers fishing, canoeing, hiking, and hunting. The **Little Blue Wildlife Management Area** is two miles east of Hebron on the River Road. It's another great place for hunting, fishing, and sightseeing. Look for the wild turkeys while traveling the River Road.

Outside Hebron, **Alexandria State Recreation Area** also offers good fishing year-round in its two recently reconstructed lakes, which total 47 acres of water. **Gabby's Pond** is available for fishing as well, but you have to wait until after Deshler Daze each year. The local Ike's organization stock the pond each year for the kid's fishing contest; after that event the pond is open for all to fish.

HUNGRY?

When it comes to satisfying your hunger, there are options aplenty. **RW's Dining & Drink** in Davenport has a great weekly noon buffet, plus you can order one of their homemade pies to take with you. **Pioneer's Inn Restaurant** is in Gilead. Located in an old limestone building constructed from native stone, they offer a large Sunday buffet, and Thursday is hamburger night. Their homemade Coconut Cream pie is a must-try. **Foote Café** in Chester is a classic sit-down diner serving huge cinnamon rolls during breakfast hours.

Hubbell brings the beef at **Acreage Steakhouse**, where they have brisket and ribs on Fridays, and Saturday is prime rib night. For those seeking lighter fare, the salads on their salad bar are made in-house. **Betty's Place** in Bruning doesn't skimp on the beef either. Their homemade Hot Beef Sandwich is a specialty, and they have a noon salad bar daily.

THIRSTY?

Toad's in Belvidere is a bar and grill where good friends can eat good food, drink cold beer, and make good memories. **Brand X Saloon** is another great place to grab a drink and enjoy the atmosphere. Located in Hebron, it's a place where, as they say, "The food is hot, the beers are cold, and the staff are nuts."

FORE!

Hebron Country Club is the place to be for golf in Thayer. The nine-hole course is an open, mildly rolling course where the fairways consist of a mixture of grasses.

Sports enthusiasts can also check out **Rattlesnake Run Disc Golf Course** in Deshler, which follows the creek from **Friendship Park** to the Fairgrounds and back again after shooting over the bridge. And while it may not be golf, the **Fourth Street Archery Range** in Hebron does require hitting the mark.

Explore more of the unexpected.

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Czech and Slovak Educational Center and Cultural Museum

Our mission is to share and preserve our Czech and Slovak heritage. Displays include a Crystal Room, Bohemian Cafe Room, Immigration Room, and Music Room. We offer cooking classes, genealogy classes and a variety of cultural presentations. We offer ethnic items for sale including ornaments, garnets, crystal books, painted eggs, kolache and many other gift ideas! We welcome folks to come in & "Czech us out!" Currently we are open Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1-5 p.m., but we encourage you to give us a call and we'll gladly open up to those who are interested! We also welcome tour groups. 8106 S 84th St., La Vista, NE. 68128 • 402-686-9837 facebook.com/CzechAndSlovakMuseum

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Falls City Area Chamber of Commerce & Main Street

The Falls City Area Chamber of Commerce, an organization of people working together, seeks to unite, grow, and strengthen the industrial, agricultural, commercial, and civic interests of our community. Falls City Main Street strives to enhance community identity and pride through revitalization, restoration, and business development in downtown Falls City. 1705 Stone St., Falls City, NE. 68355 • 402-2454228 FallsCityAreaChamber.com

Fontenelle Forest

Visit Fontenelle Forest! Located in Bellevue, Nebraska, it's just minutes south of downtown Omaha! Visit the Nature Center and learn about the many outdoor activities available, including hiking, birdwatching, and snowshoeing. Stroll the mile-long, ADA accessible boardwalk, observing wildlife, the changing seasons, and beautiful views of the Missouri River. Explore over 2,100 acres and 24 miles of maintained trails featuring a range of vastly different ecosystems. Let your children make nature discoveries at Acorn Acres, a one-acre natural playscape. Observe rescued birds of prey in a unique, treetop environment in our Raptor Woodland Refuge. Open daily, year-round. Plan your visit today! 1111 Bellevue Boulevard N. Bellevue NE. 402-731-3140 • FontenelleForest.org

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KZUM Radio

Established in 1978, KZUM Community Radio exists to educate and build community through broadcast media with diverse and independent voices that enrich the perspectives of our audience, both on 89.3 FM and streaming worldwide at KZUM.org. KZUM is just like Nebraska weather; if you don't like the music, wait 30 minutes for something completely different. From podcasts and programs in many languages to award-winning blues programming, jazz, Americana, and everything in between, it's the perfect station to listen to while cruising around Southeastern Nebraska. Powered by over 100 volunteers, KZUM is truly the voice of the community. 3534 S. 48th St. Suite 6 Lincoln NE. 68506 • 402-474-5086 • KZUM.org

Lincoln Children's Zoo

Lincoln Children's Zoo is home to over 40 endangered animals, including the Sumatran tiger, Humboldt penguin, snow leopard, and Matschie's tree kangaroo. Plus, feed a giraffe, see a fossa, ring-tailed lemurs, dromedary camels, red pandas, meerkats and more. 1222 S. 27th St. Lincoln, NE. 68502 • 402-475-6741 lincolnzoo.org

MRB-Lewis & Clark Center

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Nebraska City Museum Association

Nebraska City Museum Association was established to coordinate the efforts of the museums in Nebraska City and Otoe County so that all might be better utilized by citizens and visitors to the community. The Association provides professional museum consultation in regard to long-range planning, exhibitions, educational programming, and collections management. The association also promotes awareness of its 10 member museums: Civil War Veterans Museum, Kregel Windmill Factory Museum, Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Visitor Center, Nebraska City Museum of Firefighting, Nelson House, Old Freighters Museum, Otoe County Museum of Memories, River Country Nature Center, and Wildwood Historic Center 114 S 6th St., PO Box 792, Nebraska City, NE. 68410 nebraskacitymuseum.org

Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce

Welcome to Southeast Nebraska's premier tourism destination! Looking for a quick family vacation with activities to satisfy and entertain Mom, Dad, and the kids? Check. How about a girls' getaway, complete with time for shopping, eating, or simply relaxing and catching up? Yup. What about a conference for your business—large or small? No problem! From the natural wonders of Arbor Day Farm, to historic downtown, to the many unique museums to peruse (seriously, what other town of this size has 10 different museums?), Nebraska City is right for you. Nebraska City...a city so great, they named a state after it! 806 1st Ave., Nebraska City, NE. 68410 • 402-873-6654 nebraskacity.com

Prairie Creek Inn Bed & Breakfast

This historic bed-and-breakfast is located just 5 miles east of Lincoln. We offer 10 rooms and suites in three houses (1911 Leavitt House, 1900 Farmhouse, and Log Cabin) on a 100-acre farm with a lake, trails, native prairie, fire pits, horseshoes, 1900 reception and Opry Barn (cap. 299), and 1871 Railroad Depot. Ideal for a couples' getaway, family reunions, weddings, business meetings, church group retreats, concerts, and specialty events such as car or quilt shows. Book a room, suite, the entire house, or everything! (cap. 35+). Close to restaurants, shopping, museums, and MoPac Trail. 2400 S. 148th St. Walton NE. 68461 • 402-488-8822 pcibnb.com

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SchillingBridge offers Nebraska-produced award-winning wines AND hand-crafted microbrews, along with homemade root beer and hard cider. Then we serve them up in a pastoral setting with stunning views of the countryside and add a side of fun. 62193 710th Road, PO Box 307, Pawnee City, NE. 68420 402-852-2400 • schillingbridgewinery.com

Shadow Lake Towne Center

Shadow Lake Towne Center is Sarpy County's premier shopping destination. We invite you to shop, dine, and enjoy the local flavor at Shadow Lake, located at 72nd Street and Highway 370 in Papillion. 7775 Olson Drive, Papillion, NE. 68046 • 402-537-0046 shadowlaketownecenter.com

TreeRush Adventures

Climb, zip, and swing through a canopy of old-growth trees at TreeRush Adventures in Greater Omaha's Fontenelle Forest. Explore zip lines, suspended bridges, rope ladders, and a variety of exciting aerial challenges. Bring friends and family for a dose of fresh air and excitement. Enjoy nature from a new vantage point—up to 55 feet above the forest floor. You don't need to be an athlete to enjoy nine ropes course trails, rated easy to expert. TreeRush offers something for everyone, ages 4 to adult. Feel the rush of excitement, empowerment, amazement, and fulfillment at TreeRush Adventures. 1111 Bellevue Blvd. N Suite A Bellevue, NE. 68005 • 402-316-7038 • TreeRush.com

EXECUTIVE PARTNERS

Brownville Concert Series

The Brownville Concert Series presents a diverse offering of musical genres, including Broadway show tunes, movie music, jazz, blues, rock, bluegrass, folk music, and classical. This is not just another community concert series featuring local talent and touring artists. We intentionally present the best of the best. We are proud of the standard we insist upon as to who and what is presented on our stage. Come see, hear, and be thrilled by the magic of live music in Brownville. Buy tickets online at BrownvilleConcertSeries.com or call the box office at 402-825-3331. Tickets are just \$25.00, students \$16.00, or purchase a season ticket for \$180.00. P.O. Box 52, Brownville, NE. 68321 • 402-825-3331

Brownville Fine Arts Association

The BFAA promotes the visual and performing arts in Brownville's historic and culturally rich setting. We maintain an arboretum and sponsor art exhibits, speakers, and workshops for those who wish to develop the creative process, expand aesthetic appreciation, and derive new meaning and understanding from the arts and nature. P.O. Box 4, Brownville, NE. 68321 402-274-4146 • brownvillefinearts.com

Brownville Historical Society

The Brownville Historical Society is dedicated to preserving Brownville's history. From April to October, we provide access to our history through museums and displays, including the Railroad History Museum, Land O' ce, Sage Museum (Native American History), Didier Log Cabin, Wheel Museum, and the Carson and Bailey Homes. Tours welcome. P.O. Box 1, Brownville, NE. 68321 • 402-274-5722 • brownvillehistoricalsociety.org

Brownville Village Theatre

The Brownville Village Theatre is Nebraska's oldest rotating repertory theatre. Audiences from all over enjoy shows produced by company members. In a weekend, one could see five different shows ranging from comedy to musical to farce. The season runs June through August with limited productions throughout the year. 222 Water St., Brownville, NE. 68321 • 402-825-4121 brownvillagetheatre.com

Camp A Way

For over 50 years, Camp A Way has been the leader in providing the best guest experiences and amenities. Camp in your RV, tent, or one of our cabins. Full hook-up RV sites are available all year, with fast WiFi, cable TV, indoor spa, heated pool, great family toys, and activities. 200 Campers Circle, Lincoln, NE. 68521 402-476-2282 • campaway.com

Crete Chamber of Commerce

The Crete Chamber of Commerce will host its 4th Annual "Great Pumpkin Festival" on October 2-3 on Main Street in Downtown Crete, Nebraska. A day of autumn fun is filled with hayrack rides, carnival games, food court, live entertainment, and more. It's a festival the whole family will enjoy! 2905 Betten Drive, Crete, NE. 68333 • 402-826-2136 • cretechamber.org

Deer Creek Sodbusters

See history come alive at the Deer Creek Sodbusters Antique Machinery Show. The event typically takes place in August, and is located 4 1/2 miles south of Sterling, Nebraska. It is dedicated to the preservation of the agricultural heritage of Southeast Nebraska. The flag raising happens at 8 a.m., with an outdoor church service following at 8:15 a.m. Guest speaker appears at 11:30 a.m., and the parade starts at 1 p.m., with the plowing taking place at 2 p.m. 72973 610 Avenue Sterling, NE. 68443 • 402-239-2307 sodbuster@diodecom.net • deercreeksodbusters.org

From Nebraska Gift Shop

Located in Lincoln's Historic Haymarket, the From Nebraska Gift Shop and James Arthur Vineyard's Tasting Room offers the best of Nebraska. Find gourmet Nebraska food baskets, gifts, souvenirs, and award-winning Nebraska wine. If it's from, about, or made in Nebraska, you can find it at the From Nebraska Gift Shop. 803 Q St. Lincoln, NE. • 402-476-2455 fromne.com

Great Plains Welsh Heritage Project

Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the contributions of the Welsh pioneers on the North American prairies. The mission has the honor of being the only Welsh museum in the U.S. and Canada dedicated to those hardy settlers of Welsh ancestry. We also are home to the one-room school located in McCandless Park in Wymore, Nebraska. 307 South 7th St., Wymore, NE. 68466 402-432-3656 • welshheritageproject.org

Homestead National Historic Park

This National Park Service site commemorates the Homestead Act of 1862. Homestead National Monument of America is open daily, except for Thanksgiving, December 25, and January 1, and is free to visit. World-class facilities, family interactive museums, historic structures, hiking trails, and picnic areas are available. Visit nps.gov/home for a complete listing of 2019 dates for events. 8523 West State Highway 4, Beatrice, NE. 68310 • 402-223-3514 • nps.gov

Humboldt Shares

Humboldt Shares is an opportunity for a proactive investment in our community. Humboldt Shares is a local effort to pool finances to be utilized to foster economic development. Shares may be purchased for \$100, and the proceeds are combined to support economic development and business creation in and around Humboldt, Nebraska. P.O. Box 142, Humboldt, NE. 68376 • 402-862-2434 • ci.humboldt.ne.us

Kregel Windmill Factory Museum

Preserved to reflect a moment in time (the year 1939), the museum is the only known surviving intact historic windmill factory in the United States. It represents a time capsule for early 20th-century shop-type manufacturing, preserved to reflect a moment in time in 1939, as if the factory employees just went to lunch. 1416 Central Ave., P.O. Box 46, Nebraska City, NE. 68410 402-873-1078 • kregelwindmillfactorymuseum.org

Merchants of Brownville

Brownville, Nebraska...where History, Music, Theater, Nature, and Art flourish! Looking for a unique getaway in a charming historic town? Brownville, Nebraska, should definitely be on your list of places to visit. Founded in 1854, Brownville continues to provide its residents and visitors with an assortment of things to see and do. The height of our tourist season is from mid-May to mid-October, with special events scheduled throughout the year. Be sure to check the monthly calendar for upcoming events and for individual hours for shops and museums, or call 402-825-1240 for quick tour information. P.O. Box 68, Brownville, NE 402-825-1240 • 402-825-1240 • brownville-ne.com

Midlands Place

Midlands Place is Papillion's most treasured destination, offering a variety of unique restaurants, beauty services, fitness and medical facilities, and a hotel. Located next to Midlands Hospital at the intersection of Highway 370 and 84th Street in Papillion, Midlands is your neighborhood center. 465 Olson Drive, Papillion, NE. 68046 • 402-215-7738 • midlandsplace.com

Morrill Hall

Morrill Hall is Nebraska's premier natural history museum. We have four floors of family-friendly exhibits on fossils, science, and world cultures. We're also home to the world's tallest mounted mammoth fossil. Check out our Visible Lab to talk with actual researchers as they prepare different museum specimens. 645 N. 14th St. Lincoln, NE. 68588 • 402-472-2637 museum.unl.edu

NE High School Sports Hall of Fame

The Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame is dedicated to its motto of "Honoring the past to inspire the future." The exhibit hall, located in the Nebraska School Activities Building, consists of interactive displays and memorabilia from Nebraska's prep history. Open to the public with free admission. 500 Charleston St. Suite 3, Lincoln NE. 68508 • 402-476-4767 nebhalloffame.org

Otoe County Museum Society

The Otoe County Museum of Memories' main building is the former 1881 First Lutheran Church, which has been divided into five display rooms. The house consists of a parsonage's display of vintage furnishings in the kitchen and parlors, plus a Thomas Edison room. The third building houses a private collection of animal taxidermy. 366 Poplar St. Syracuse, NE. • 402-269-2355 ocgsne.org/index.php/research/museum

Pawnee City Assisted Living

Needing assistance with medications, personal care, home-cooked meals, or something else? Maybe just wanting a little more socialization? Give us a call for a free assessment! Schedule a tour to see our beautiful facility and meet our friendly and caring staff. We are a city-owned nonprofit facility. 330 12th St., Pawnee City, NE. 68420 • 402-852-2055 pawneecityassistedliving.com

Pawnee City Chamber of Commerce

The Pawnee City Chamber of Commerce provides leadership that helps stimulate our vibrant local economy, sponsors and organizes events for family and community fun, and promotes our unique travel and tourist destinations. P.O. Box 6, Pawnee City, NE. 68420 • 402-852-2781 • pawneecitynebraska.com

Pawnee City Historical Society and Museum

The museum complex has over 20 buildings, including a genealogy resource center, six country schoolhouses, a log cabin, the U.S. Sen. Kenneth Wherry Memorial Library, the Whitney barn, and the home of Nebraska's first governor, David Butler. Artifacts are on display from all of Pawnee County. There's something for everyone, with more than 25,000 reasons to visit. 529 P St., Pawnee City, NE. 68420 • 402-852-3131
Facebook.com/ Pawnee City Historical Society and Museum • pawneecitymuseum.com

Pawnee City Promotional Network

PCPN has been working to improve Pawnee County by promoting tourism, economic development, historic preservation, cultural events, and educational projects for over 25 years. From grant writing and coordinating multi-county promotions to supporting the local communities, special projects, and nonprofit organizations, PCPN strives to help our neighbors help themselves. 1041 5th St., Pawnee City, NE. 68420 • 402-852-2444
pawneecountyhistory.com

Rich Harvest Vineyard & Winery

Rich Harvest Winery offers a country setting with over 5 acres of grapevines creating beautiful views to enjoy estate wines, ciders, and sangrias. Live entertainment often fills the spacious tasting room, open-air on the deck or stage. Available for hosting your special occasions, meetings, or private events. 3010 County Road G, Syracuse, NE. 68446 • 402-828-0708
richharvestwine.com

River Inn Resort & Spirit of Brownville

The River Inn Resort is a floating boutique bed-and-breakfast inn located on the Missouri River in Brownville, Nebraska. The River Inn is perfect for a relaxing getaway, weddings, reunions, and business retreats. P.O. Box 96, Brownville, NE. 68321 • 402-297-3344
river-inn-resort.com

Robber's Cave Tours

Visit Lincoln's Robber's Cave, a Nationally Registered Historic landmark that's open year-round! The cave was a 2020 Nebraska Outstanding Tourist Attraction of the Year finalist. A film about the cave is set to be released for network television in 2021. Contact Joel Green greenyj4@icloud.com / 402-975-0598 to book tours.

Rock School Foundation

Visit the "rock" county school, built of limestone in 1872. Pleasant Valley Country School, also called Lionberger school, sits at the base of a long hill of native prairie grass never touched by a plow. It is on a rural road 5 miles southeast of Table Rock. 306 E Grand, Table Rock, NE. 68447 • 402-839-2915
sharla.cerra@gmail.com

Safehouse Winery

Enjoy our large selection of handcrafted Nebraska wines made exclusively from grapes grown at our family-operated vineyard. Relax and unwind at our tasting room in the historic "Bank of Syracuse" building that was built in 1886. Open Saturdays from 4-8 p.m. or by appointment. The space is also available to rent. 325 5th St. Syracuse, NE. 68446 • 402-440-4490
safehousewinery.com

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

Established in 1998, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center is an 850-acre tallgrass prairie sanctuary 20 minutes southwest of Lincoln. Free and open to the public, the refuge offers miles of walking trails, native prairie, ponds, woodlands, and native prairie flora and fauna. The site contains a visitor center, exhibits, and a gift shop. 11700 SW 100th St. Denton NE. 402-797-2301 • springcreek.audubon.org

Steinauer Community Heritage House

Steinauer Community Heritage House is a museum dedicated to the preservation of Steinauer's pioneer history. 206 3rd St., Steinauer, NE. 68441 • 402-812-0388
steinauer.us/heritagehouse

Syracuse Area Chamber of Commerce

Welcome to Syracuse, Nebraska! Located in Otoe County, the Syracuse Area Chamber of Commerce is here to promote the businesses of our area. Home of GermanFest, we celebrate this event the weekend before Labor Day Weekend. It is a day-long celebration of our German heritage that includes a parade, "veiner" dog races, ribfest, and a dance. Join us in the fun! P.O. Box J, Syracuse, NE. 68446 • 402-269-3242
gosyracusene.com

Table Rock Historical Society

Visit Table Rock, the Museum Town. Tours include buildings constructed from 1854-1915; many stand where built. Also available are story tours of the town cemetery (since 1857), the Bohemian cemetery, and privately-owned buildings. Ask for a schedule of flashlight tours of abandoned or unused spaces in historic buildings. Much history, many stories. P.O. Box 66, Table Rock, NE. 68447 • sharla.cerra@gmail.com

Union Orchard/Central Apple Market

Union Orchard, Southeast Nebraska's only family-owned and operated orchard, is open 7 days a week offering fresh baked goods and jarred items. Enjoy a wine tasting at our wine bar. Seasonal produce is available for u-pick opportunities. Follow us on Facebook for complete details of our summer music and storyteller evenings. 2405 S Highway 75, Union, NE. 68455 • 402-263-4845 • unionorchard.com

University of Nebraska-Lincoln / Hospitality, Restaurant and Tourism Management

The Hospitality, Restaurant and Tourism Management (HRTM) major includes 45 hours of core requirements and 21 hours of electives towards a 120-hour Bachelor of Arts degree. Hospitality Management students can choose a specific emphasis from areas including: event management, lodging, club management, tourism, food and beverage management, or human resources. Students graduating with a degree in Hospitality Management are able to lead organizations anywhere in the world. The major combines classroom instruction with experiential learning to help move graduates into management positions. Students earn a minor in Leadership and Communication within the program. 1700 N. 35th St. Lincoln, NE. 68538 • 402-472-3867
HRTM.unl.edu

Whispering Pines Bed & Breakfast

Relax. Retreat. Renew. This unique lodging offers four rooms in an 1878 Victorian Farmhouse and one room in a horse barn. Stays include gourmet breakfasts. Guests can enjoy 6 acres of landscaped water and flower gardens, as well as an outdoor hot tub, fire pit, hammock, and wraparound porch. Available for vacation rental, reunions, and as a wedding/event venue. We offer cooking classes, specialty dining, and we're pet friendly. 2018 6th Ave. Nebraska City, NE. 68410
402-873-5850 • facebook.com/whisperingpinesbb

Wildwood Historic Center

The center includes the period house, classroom, and Art Barn. This 10-room Victorian Home was built by a Nebraska City banker and contains hundreds of historical pieces. Costume-guided tours provide insight into the lifestyle of the period. Regional artists are showcased in the Art Barn on property, and the center has seasonal hours. Admission to house. 420 Steinhart Park Road, Nebraska City NE. 68410 • 402-873-6340
wildwoodhistoriccenter.org

Wunder Roost Bed & Breakfast

Enjoy our charming bed-and-breakfast only 10 miles south of Lincoln. The country setting includes a century-old farmhouse, and now a grain bin! Visits include a country breakfast, with a winery next door to walk to, and beautiful sunrises and sunsets to view. Enjoy our hot tub and country serenity. Book early to insure your spot! 14817 S. 25th St. Roca, NE. 68430 • 402-430-9130 or 402-430-9969 • wunderroost.com

ENTRY PARTNERS

Antiques Paradise

827 West Court, Beatrice, NE. 68310 • 402-223-0121

Arbor Manor Steakhouse & Motel

1617 Central Ave., Auburn, NE. 68305 • 402-274-3774

Bess Streeter Aldrich House & Museum

204 East "F" St., Elmwood, NE. 68349 • 402-994-3855

Cass County Historical Society

646 Main St., Plattsmouth, NE. 68048 • 402-296-4770

Check-In Motel

2824 N. Old Highway 73, Falls City, NE. 68355
402-245-2433

Harvest Bowl Bar & Restaurant

72811 Highway. 50, Tecumseh, NE. 402-335-2095

Hebron Chamber of Commerce

329 Lincoln Ave., Hebron, NE. 68370 • 719-648-5857

Humboldt Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 125, Humboldt, NE. 68376 • 402-883-7075

Nebraska Czechs of Wilber

P.O. Box 652, Wilber, NE. 68465 • 402-826-1082

Thayer County Museum & Historical Society

110 9th St., Belvidere, NE. 68315 • 402-768-2147

Valentinos of Nebraska City

1710 S. 11th St., Nebraska City, NE. 68410

Individual Members

Steven Delay



Otoe County

NEBRASKA CITY, SYRACUSE, & VILLAGES

Your Home for Festivals, Fun, & Family

February Groundhog Day *Unadilla*

April Arbor Day (Last Friday In April) *Nebraska City*

May-August Farmers Market (Thursdays) *Nebraska City*

June- August Downtown Summer Movie Series (Saturdays) *Nebraska City*
Radler Bike Festival *Nebraska City*
Old Settlers' Picnic *Palmyra*
Juneteenth *Nebraska City*
Talmage Days *Talmage*
Annual BBQ Celebration *Unadilla*

July Independence Day Celebration *Nebraska City*
Lemon Days Sidewalk Sale *Nebraska City*
Otoe County Fair *Syracuse*

August Germanfest *Syracuse*
Farm To Fork Meal *Nebraska City*

September Traditional Applejack Festival (Third Weekend) *Nebraska City*
Otoe BBQ *Otoe*
Extreme Bull Riding Tour Finals *Nebraska City*
Taste Of Applejack (Fourth Weekend) *Nebraska City*

October Living History At Arbor Lodge *Nebraska City*
Wildwood Victorian Christmas *Nebraska City*

November Small Business Saturday—*Thanksgiving Weekend*
Tree Lighting At The Otoe County Courthouse

December Christmas At The Mansion *Nebraska City*
Tannenbaum Festival *Syracuse*



For More Information On These And Other Events, Go To Visitotoecounty.com, Nebraskacity.com, Or Gosyracusene.com

ENOUGH FOOD, FESTIVALS AND FUN TO KEEP YOU BUSY YEAR-ROUND. WELCOME TO **SARPY COUNTY.**



No matter what time of year, Sarpy County welcomes you to experience everything we have to offer and to create new and lasting memories. Start the year off with a stay in one of our premier hotels. Catch a Union Omaha soccer game, Storm Chasers baseball game or an outdoor concert this summer. Take an autumn excursion with the family and visit Sarpy County's very own Vala's Pumpkin Patch. Then finish off the year celebrating the holidays with exclusive shopping at Nebraska Crossing and Shadow Lake Towne Center. Spring, summer, winter and fall, Sarpy County has it all! For more information, visit us online at [GoSarpy.com!](http://GoSarpy.com)



So Near, So **FUN.** • GoSarpy.com