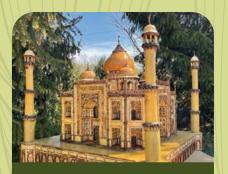


## 2025

## One year, four seasons of FUN in Omaha's public garden



Wonders of the World
January 18 - May 11



**Daffodil Display** April and early May



**Tremendous Topiaries**May 26 - September 1



**Sofia's Play Garden**Opening summer 2025



**La Calavera Catrina** August 17 – November 8



Marjorie K. Daugherty Conservatory Reopening fall 2025



Lauritzen Gardens Antiques & Design Show September 25 - 28

**TROLLS: Save the Humans by Thomas Dambo**November 25 - May 18



**Bright Nights**November 21 - December 31

### LAURITZEN GARDENS

Explore 100 acres at 100 Bancroft Street | Omaha, NE Gardens • Café • Gift shop • Exhibits • Special Events PLAN YOUR VISIT at lauritzengardens.org





Join Today to Experience All That The Durham Has to Offer Family Memberships start as low as **\$5 a month**.







**Sweet** Traditions



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### Memories made here every day!



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ocm.org 402-342-6164





## Union Pacific Railroad Museum

200 Pearl Street, Council Bluffs, IA

Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information:





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As Omaha's official tourism authority, Visit Omaha shares valuable information to help visitors build a jam-packed itinerary filled with memorable experiences. Go to VisitOmaha.com and sign up to receive information on events, attractions and special offers. Also, follow us on social media for the most up-to-date news. We'd love to hear from you; share your Omaha experiences with #OmahaWeekend.

### **CONNECT WITH US**

@VisitOmaha@BobTBridge@OmahaRestaurantWeek













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Omaha Visitors Center: 306 S 10th St · Omaha, NE 68102 402.444.7762

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VISITORS GUIDE PRINTED BY: Omaha Publications



# WELCOME TO OMAHA

#### **GETTING AROUND OMAHA**

Omaha city streets are on a grid system and are very easy to navigate. Dodge Street divides the city between north and south, and numbered streets start at the Missouri River and increase as you travel west. Taxis, zTrip, Ubers and Lyfts are available. Many Omaha hotels offer complimentary direct shuttle service to and from the airport.

#### OMA - OMAHA'S AIRPORT

Omaha's airport serves over 5 million passengers annually and offers non-stop service to more than 30 major airports. Getting in and out of the airport is quick and easy. The airport is less than 4 miles from downtown. By car, it takes less than 10 minutes to arrive at the city's hub. If you're departing from OMA, arrive two hours before departure. Food service is available beyond the checkpoints. More improvements are on the horizon – the airport is undergoing a \$950 million expansion with a tentative 2028 completion.

#### **BILLION-DOLLAR MAKEOVER**

Omaha has been making moves with more than \$8 billion in development projects. Underway projects include new entertainment districts, a downtown streetcar, a brand new Omaha Children's Museum and the construction of a premier multi-sport youth complex at Tranquility Park.

#### FINDING A HOTEL

With more than 15,000 hotel rooms in the Omaha area, there are various options for your stay. Check out the PLANNING YOUR STAY feature on VisitOmaha.com where you can search and book directly with the hotel you choose. You can also view hotel availability for two months at a time and compare rates surrounding your selected dates.



### A MESSAGE FROM Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert

With its reimagined parks, vibrant neighborhoods, sports events and local food scene, Omaha exceeds visitors' expectations and offers many surprises. It's why first-timers leave impressed and why many travelers return again and again. Last year, a new visitor in town for the Men's College World Series wrote me a note praising the city:

"Omaha was incredibly clean, modern and packed with amenities you'd expect in a much larger city. We're already planning to come back next year. We'll make sure to carve out more time to enjoy everything Omaha has to offer."

We welcome this visitor – and you! – to explore our zoo, voted the best in the country by USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice Awards for the second consecutive year. Play at Kiewit Luminarium, our science center with more than 100 interactive exhibits. Relax at The RiverFront, three connected parks in the heart of downtown Omaha, and marvel at 12,000 works at Joslyn Art Museum. You'll find even more inspiration for Omaha fun in this Visitors Guide.

Fall in love with a city that's full of surprises – and send us a note sharing your favorite experiences.



Metro population is just under **1 MILLION** 



#### **LOCATED IN DOUGLAS COUNTY**



Distance from airport to downtown **4 MILES** 



Non-stop airline service to **30+ MAJOR AIRPORTS** 



**SALES TAX IS 7%** 



**SMOKE-FREE** bars that close at 2am

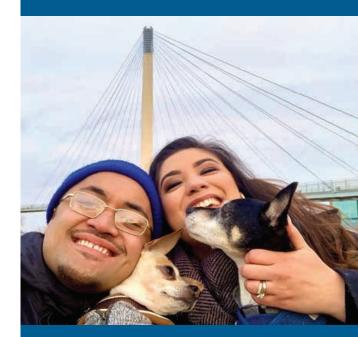


#### **OMAHA VISITORS CENTER**

306 South 10th Street (in the Old Market District) · 402-444-7762

Stop in the **Omaha Visitors Center** and speak with friendly Omaha experts who will help customize your Omaha experience. Learn about OMAR the Troll, search for OMAI, find out how to receive a free souvenir beer-tasting glass, and win a "Bob the Bridge" T-shirt. Whether you're looking for maps, something unique to do, or a place to dine, the Omaha Visitors Center is the place to start. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available. Two visitor information kiosks are also at the airport.





### **PETS WELCOME**

Omaha makes visiting with your trusty companion easy. AAA Four-Diamond **Hotel Deco** welcomes furry friends at the front desk with a water bowl. Other hotels where pets receive exceptional service include **Magnolia Hotel** and **EVEN Hotel**. For a full list of pet-friendly hotels, go to VisitOmaha.com/hotels/pet-friendly-hotels.

#### **PET-CENTRIC EVENTS**

Doggy Barket at **Dewey Park** gives canine fans much to woof with local vendors, snacks and live music. The event Leashes at Lauritzen – on select evenings at **Lauritzen Gardens** – allows pet owners to reconnect with nature and their little beasts. **Junkstock** is a biannual multi-weekend event spring and fall that welcomes well-behaved, leashed dogs.

#### **FIDO FUN**

Drop your pooch off at the **Paw Spa Resort** for pampering or doggy daycare while you do a pet-free activity. **Wag** provides typical grooming services for dogs and cats, with premium shampoos. The **Gene Leahy Mall Dog Park** has 15,000 square feet of space, separate sections for big and small dogs, tunnels, obstacles, and grassy areas. **Aksarben Village** has two spacious runs for different-sized dogs and benches for their people. The City of Omaha manages four large dog parks.

#### **FOOD & DRINK**

Omaha Dog Bar offers socializing fun for both humans and canines. Humans can order from a bar while their four-legged friends play. Your pooch is also welcome at patios including Goldbergs in Dundee, Nite Owl and Finicky Frank's, among others.

Tip: Don't have a pet to bring but want some pet cuddles? Snuggle cats and enjoy coffee at **Felius**, Omaha's cat café.

### WE'VE GOT YOUR FUN MAPPED OUT

THIS MAP IS YOUR
GUIDE TO THE GIANT
BLUE PINS LOCATED
AT TOP OMAHA
ATTRACTIONS

- Bemis/KANEKO: Bemis's cutting-edge contemporary art exhibitions feature work by rotating national and international artists. Across the street, KANEKO dazzles with oversized sculptures, riveting photography and interactive exhibits.
- Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge: "Bob," a 3,000-feet-long pedestrian bridge, offers beautiful views of Omaha's skyline and the chance to stand in two states at once. Look for OMAR the Troll.
- Boys Town: A landmark that's helped countless children is now the headquarters of the national organization. View the chapel, gardens and a museum featuring the world's largest ball of stamps.
- The Durham Museum: This preserved Art Deco train station houses passenger train cars, a historic schoolhouse and an old-fashioned phosphate bar. Rotating exhibits feature everything from superheroes to LEGO bricks.
- El Museo Latino: Located in South Omaha, this museum features ethnographic art, folk art, sculpture, historical exhibits and photography. Dance performances are frequently held; speakers and demonstrations highlight current exhibits.
- Film Streams: One of two Film Streams locations presents indie and foreign films. Located in the vibrant North Downtown Entertainment District, Ruth Sokolof Theater offers showtimes from Tuesday through Sunday.
- Kiewit Luminarium/The RiverFront: Experience the wonder of science firsthand in this stunning attraction with more than 100 interactive exhibits. Located at The RiverFront, Kiewit Luminarium inspires creativity to flow.
- Hot Shops Art Center: Witness cutting-edge art in a unique warehouse atmosphere. More than 50 art studios are open to the public to watch, learn and buy distinctive works.
- Joslyn Art Museum: Recently reopened after a two-year renovation, visitors enjoy free admission to this pink marble masterpiece filled with rare works from Monet, Chihuly, Rembrandt and more.
- Lauritzen Gardens: Discover 100 acres of botanical beauty. More than 20 themed gardens and an indoor conservatory make this a year-round experience. A visit promises tranquility and an education.
- 11 North 24th Street: Once the stomping grounds of jazz greats Ellington, Basie and Omaha's very own Preston Love Sr., this historic neighborhood still celebrates music and African American arts.
- 12 Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium: Welcome to the world's best zoo, where elephants parade, a desert dome inspires architectural wonder, and one of the world's largest indoor rainforests hums with life.
- 13 Old Market Entertainment District: Unique boutiques, antique-selling emporiums, musical buskers, oversized flower planters and more than 30 restaurants and pubs populate the cobblestone streets of this lively historic area.
- Omaha Children's Museum: Specially designed with kids in mind, the museum features hands-on exhibits the whole family can enjoy, including the Super Gravitron ball machine, science center and more.





## **ACCESSIBILITY**

OMAHA STRIVES TO MAKE ITS ATTRACTIONS
ACCESSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT VISITORS OF ALL
ABILITIES CAN ENJOY WHAT THE CITY HAS TO OFFER.

#### **MAJOR ATTRACTIONS**

Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, The Durham Museum, Lauritzen Gardens, Joslyn Art Museum and Kiewit Luminarium feature accessible exhibits.

Download **Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium**'s app Omaha Zoo 4 All. This free interactive app provides users of all ages, abilities and needs a new way to visit one of the world's best zoos.

**Omaha Children's Museum**'s entire building is accessible and wheelchair friendly. The museum features sensory-friendly experiences and events geared toward children with disabilities.

All events and concerts at **CHI Health Center Omaha** are ADA-compliant with various services including sign language, assistive listening devices, closed captioning and accessible seating.

Kiewit Luminarium's building and exhibits have inclusive designs for vision, hearing, thinking, reach and dexterity, and mobility. The museum features high-contrast and large-text signage, captioned video experiences, curbside pickup and dropoff, wheelchairs for guest use, sensory kits for free checkout, a sensory map highlighting different types and levels of stimuli throughout the science center and a social experience narrative. The majority of exhibits provide front wheelchair access.

Joslyn Art Museum offers assistive listening systems (including hearing loop technology). American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation is available by request and present at select programs. Mobile guide stops will offer verbal descriptions of artworks and sensory kits are available for visitors at the Welcome Desk.

#### THEATER/PERFORMING ARTS

Both theaters at **Omaha Community Playhouse** are equipped with an infrared sound system. Each year "A Christmas Carol" is presented as a shadow-interpreted performance. Omaha Community Playhouse also has the traveling experience **VROOM! Mobile Sensory Theatre** for children with autism or other sensory sensitivities.

**The Rose Theater** offers shows with ASL service and audio description service and also has sensory-friendly performances.

**BLUEBARN Theatre**, Omaha's premier professional theater, also offers ASL performances.

Omaha Performing Arts (O-pa) wants to ensure every patron's experience is extraordinary. At the Holland Center and the Orpheum Theater, O-Pa offers curbside dropoff, ASL-interpreted performances, assistive listening devices, audio description, closed captioning, sensory-friendly performances and a social experience narrative.

#### **OUTSIDE FUN**

Omaha's **Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge**, or Bob for short, is accessible and wheelchair friendly.

Designed with accessibility in mind, all three parks in **The RiverFront** have gently sloping paths and broad plazas to welcome individuals who use wheelchairs or mobility devices, with signage indicating accessible routes. Playgrounds, picnic areas and bathrooms are all built to accommodate people with special needs, including space for companion seating, multiple family restrooms and ADA-accessible stalls. Play areas have been equipped with transfer systems and include features designed for children with sensory sensitivities.

More accessible outdoor fun can be found at Benson Park, Pipal Park and ALLPLAY Complex and Water Park at Seymour Smith Park.

The **Omaha Visitors Center** is ADA-compliant. ASL interpretation is available by request.



Go to VisitOmaha.com/accessible-travel for more information on accessible travel in Omaha.







## MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES

Minority-owned businesses introduce rich cultures, viewpoints and cuisines to share in the Omaha area. Here, we highlight a few; you'll find others throughout the guide.

A Taste of New Orleans – After Hurricane Katrina, Lee Franklin moved to Omaha for a fresh start. His Benson cafe serves Creole and Cajun food, like seafood jambalaya and southern cheesy grits.

**Big Mama's Kitchen and Catering** – One of Omaha's best spots for soul food. Owner Gladys Harrison, who took on the mantle after her mother's passing, greets diners at the Highlander Accelerator building in North Omaha.

**Blue & Fly Asian Kitchen** – Authentic Chinese dishes by husband-and-wife team Cong Yue and Sun Yi, like handmade dumplings, fish filets cooked in spicy oil and seasonally crafted teas.

**Coffee Alley - Callejon del Cafe** – Co-owners Rosio Granados and Yasmin Payan-Vega share their culture with Mexican-inspired flavors. Most of the drinks offered at Coffee Alley have cinnamon in them.

**2 Dads and a Bookstore** – Owned by Fearless Cummings and Andile Mahlangeni-Byndon, this shop has about 4,000 books in stock and provides a cozy reading environment.

**El Churro Spot** – Owner Omar Garrido went from a food truck to a brick-and-mortar spot in central Omaha, serving authentic Mexican cuisine and churros.

**Ital Vital Living** – Owner Imani Murray became passionate about smoothies and juices after she became vegan. Now, she creates healthy drinks and bowls from her North Omaha shop.

**Jackson's Fair Deal Cafe** – Twin brothers Vershan and Antoine Jackson own this cafe on North 24th Street in the same building that once housed Fair Deal Cafe, a historic gathering place. Today, the twins use their spot to continue to bring the community together.

**Kasa du Bonbon** – Karime Rios and Paolo Almeida named their coffee shop to show a fusion of French and Mexican cultures. The coffee shop serves boba drinks, Mexican sweet bread and scratch-made crepes.

**Kathmandu Momo Station** – Owners Aagya Subedi, Rocky Shrestha and Sagar Gurung dish up authentic Nepalese street cuisine and Burmese noodles.

#### DELIGHT IN OUR DIVERSITY.

**Kochava Coffee** – Founded and owned by Tashiara Wilson, this coffee shop brews rich roasts in downtown Omaha and offers locally made products by women and Black entrepreneurs and food artisans.

**La Michoacana Plus** – Located inside Isla del Mar, this ice cream shop is far from a simple scoop-and-serve shop. Ismara Gonzalez immerses customers in the world of the colorful culture of Mexico. Grab your cone – and some sweet shots for Insta.

**Le Voltaire** – Owner-chef Wilson Calixte serves authentic French cuisine and offers fusion dishes with Caribbean and African flavors in West Omaha.

**Long Dog Fat Cat** – Owner Kazu Gotoh couldn't find high-quality natural products, so he opened a store. Discover treats and accessories at several Omaha locations.

**Mula** – Owned by Michael Sanchez, Mula serves authentic Mexican food alongside a world-class tequila bar. Michael also owns Taco Co. in Benson. Try the puffy tacos – a recipe from Grandma's Tex-Mex background.

**Okra African Grill** – In the heart of Omaha, owner-chef Nina Sodji and her team serve slow-cooked African food. Every dish is a love story.

**Saffron Urban Indian Kitchen** – Diwesh Bhattarai originally came to Omaha to fulfill his engineering degree but instead found an interest in the culinary arts. Today he is executive chef and co-owner at Saffron.

**Southern Spoon** – Chef Jay Overton, a third-generation restaurant owner, runs this family-friendly joint that serves a variety of cuisine.

**STATUS** – Owner Christi Ballard certifies gently loved luxury goods through a third party before selling them at her chic Aksarben Village shop.

**Taqueria Tijuana** – With a second location in West Omaha, owner Karina Rubio takes after her immigrant parents, restaurant founders and former owners Miguel and Maria Ortiz, to serve delicious Tijuana-style tacos.

**Telle & Resa** – A natural soy wax candle company created by two sisters creates uplifting scents. Watch their socials for special candle pouring workshops.

**Típico Helado** – A single street vendor spot in Omaha turned into three ice cream trucks and three brick-and-mortar shops in Omaha and Fremont. Jesus Mata and his wife Crystal Murillo serve an array of ice cream, ranging from sorbet to alcohol-infused to fruity flavors as well as Mexican snacks like nachos, tostitos preparados and esquites.

For more information on minority-owned businesses, head to VisitOmaha.com/minority-owned.









#### OMAHA'S ATTRACTIONS, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS EMBRACE THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY.

Every June, Omaha's Pride festivities begin with a song as LGBTQ+ choral group the **River City Mixed Chorus** presents an annual showcase. Watch for other performances throughout the year. From June 28-30, Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge is lit up in rainbow hues. Also in June, Union Omaha Soccer Club and Omaha Storm Chasers baseball team host Pride nights with special activities. Benson First Friday, a regular arts engagement event in Omaha's historic Benson neighborhood, amplifies Pride with live music, all-ages art club activities, window decorations, public art demonstrations and more. Traveling with your doggo? Head to the Pride Paw-ty at Omaha Dog Bar.

In July, the Heartland Pride Parade and Festival is a massive celebration winding through downtown Omaha. After the parade, the party continues at CHI Health Center Omaha with performers, food and beverage offerings and artisan vendors. Also in July, GRRRL Camp is a genre-bending, gender-inclusive music festival inspired by the Riot GRRRL movement of the 1990s.

Year round, dance lovers head to The Max with two dance floors playing different music. Flixx is a video lounge with cabaret shows, karaoke, and drag queen bingo. Other bars to check out include The Omaha Mining Company, one of Omaha's longeststanding gay-friendly dive bars, and The Sydney Bar & Lounge, which hosts LGBTQ+ parties. Watch for more drag events at Jams American Grill and Kros Strain Draft Works at Millwork Commons.

Omaha ForUs is an LGBTQ+ Community Center that offers alcohol-free social events like game, crafting and sewing nights.

LGBTQ+ films are often shown at both Film Streams locations. In performing arts, **BLUEBARN Theatre**, Omaha Community Playhouse and Opera Omaha stage productions with LGBTQ+ actors and themes. The city's visual arts scene – from Hot Shops Art Center to Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts presents work from LGBTQ+ artists.

Find more LGBTQ+ businesses and experiences at VisitOmaha.com/lgbtqia.





## SIGNATURE EVENTS

Omaha buzzes with cultural, sports and dining events that attract recurring visitors. Join the fun. Plan your trip around one of Omaha's signature events. Confirm details at VisitOmaha.com/events.

#### OMAHA BEER WEEK

February Citywide

Ten beer-packed days of special events and celebrations. Learn about local breweries' beer making and score some souvenirs. Cheers to Omaha!

#### OMAHA FILM FESTIVAL

February/March Aksarben Cinema

100+ independent films, including world premieres, show during the week. A cinephile's dreams come true in the Midwest.

#### OMAHA FASHION WEEK

March & August Omaha Design Center

The fashion event spotlights rising talent and provides a red-carpet experience. Don't miss the popup shops after the runway shows.

#### JUNKSTOCK

Spring & Fall Sycamore Farms

Shop unique antiques and handmade artisan goods and foods at this seasonal weekend-long event that draws vendors nationwide.

#### CINCO DE MAYO

May

South Omaha

Omaha's Latino community throws a vibrant family-friendly weekend-long fiesta with authentic food, live music, colorful costumes and a grand parade.

#### NCAA MEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

June Charles Schwab Field Omaha

Let's play ball! Tailgate, watch the best in men's college baseball and check out Fan Fest during this treasured annual event.

#### MIDWEST FEST

June, December The RiverFront

Exceptional artisans and makers sell handcrafted goods. Grab a bite to eat from local food trucks, play games and dance to live music in June. A holiday market in December delivers much the same, and with hot drinks and wintry fun.

#### MEMORIAL PARK CONCERT AND FIREWORKS SHOW

Memorial Park

June

A summer highlight, this annual Omaha event offers a free concert with a national performer and one of the best fireworks shows in the region.
Come early to grab a spot and enjoy a picnic.

### HEARTLAND PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL

July Old Market Entertainment District & CHI Health Convention Center & Arena

Omaha's premier LGBTQ+ celebration. Youth Pride kicks off the weekend; on Saturday, a party follows a parade in the Old Market.

#### **MAHA**

August The RiverFront

Omaha's premier nonprofit music festival has welcomed hundreds of music acts since its 2009 start. Head to The RiverFront for this unmissable celebration of music and discovery

#### **RIVER CITY RODEO**

September CHI Health Convention Center & Arena

World-champion cowboys compete for entry into the National Finals Rodeo in this action-packed event with steer roping, barrel racing and more.

#### OMAHA RESTAURANT WEEK

September Citywide

Enjoy discounted threecourse menus at over 50 Omaha restaurants during Omaha's 10 Tastiest Days.

### OMAHA COMEDY FESTIVAL

September Citywide

National headliners perform standup or improv comedy or lead comedy workshops.

#### AFRO FEST OMAHA

September The RiverFront

Experience one of the largest celebrations of African culture in the Midwest. Clothing and jewelry vendors, live performances, African cuisine and a children's village are part of this daylong celebration.

#### **ZOOLIGHTFUL**

November – December Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium

In the glow of dazzling holiday light displays, the Zoo transforms into an enchanting wintry wonderland with games, food, drinks and fun.

### HOLIDAY LIGHTS FESTIVAL

November – January Various Locations

Come celebrate the holidays with light displays, family-focused events and fireworks to ring in the New Year.

### CHRISTMAS AT UNION STATION

November – January The Durham Museum Check out the region's most massive indoor Christmas tree and marvel at the beauty of this Omaha landmark dressed for the holidays.

#### HOLIDAY POINSETTIA SHOW

November – January Lauritzen Gardens

Thousands of vibrant poinsettias fill the floral display hall. Don't miss Bright Nights, when all is aglow in the gardens.





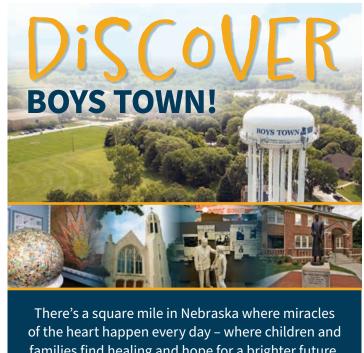
Experience the epic Latter-day Saint pioneer migration through interactive exhibits, art and artifacts



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION.



**FREE ADMISSION** 3215 State Street Omaha, NE 68112 402-453-9372



families find healing and hope for a brighter future.

boystown.org/visit | 800-625-1400











## WHAT TYPE of TRAVELER ARE YOU?

Omaha is ready to provide you an unforgettable action-packed vacation built around your individual interests.

> Take the quiz below to determine your traveler type, then head to VisitOmaha.com to discover customized itineraries.

### SELECT THE PHOTO THAT'S MOST APPEALING TO YOU.













#### WHY DO YOU TRAVEL?

- a. To reconnect with loved ones.
- **b**. For thrills in nature.
- c. To try delicious new things.
- d. To explore and learn about the past.
- e. To witness exciting sports events or play games.
- f. To be immersed in arts, music and culture.

### WHERE WOULD YOU PREFER TO STAY?

- a. Anywhere with a swimming pool for my kids.
- **b.** A local campground or in a cabin.
- **c.** A hotel that has a great restaurant.
- d. An historic hotel.
- e. A hotel with a sports bar that's close to the action.
- f. A boutique hotel with stylish décor.

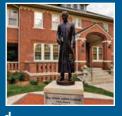
#### SELECT WHICH OMAHA CHARACTER YOU'D MOST LIKE A SELFIE WITH:















#### (HOOSE ONE FROM THIS SAMPLE OF OMAHA DINING OPTIONS:

- a. Inner Rail Food Hall Find multiple vendors at this food hall. Everyone can get what they like. There are outdoor tables and lawn space.
- **b.** Block 16 Dig into farm-to-table street food. The James Beard Award-nominated owner-chefs use produce from their own farm.
- c. Yoshitomo This restaurant offers "one of the most iconoclastic and original sushi experiences in America." - The Washington Post
- d. Soda Fountain and Candy Shop Grab a seat at the counter and transport back in time with an old-timey treat or lunch in Omaha's former Union Station, now The Durham Museum.
- e. The Fat Putter A full bar, daily specials and artisanal pizza are on the menu. After dining, have some fun with four unique 9-hole courses.
- **f.** Memoir This sumptuously decorated Omaha restaurant in the Old Market serves delectable starters, sushi, salads and entrees. Order a beautiful cocktail with your meal.

#### RESULTS:

Mostly As: Family Fun

Kid-focused attractions and eateries await you in Omaha!

**Mostly Bs:** Active Adventurer

Omaha is an outdoor enthusiast's playground.

**Mostly Cs:** Foodie Fanatic

Dig into Omaha's exciting dining scene.

Mostly Ds: History Buff

History takes centerstage in Omaha.

**Mostly Es:** Sports Fan

Discover the thrill of the game in Omaha.

Mostly Fs: Art & Music Lover

Omaha's stages and galleries are full of creativity.





### OUTDOOR MILES OF HIKING, BIKING, TRAILS & RIVERS TO EXPLORE **ADVENTURE** YEAR-ROUND SPORTING EXPLORE AND ENJOY SARPY COUNTY!











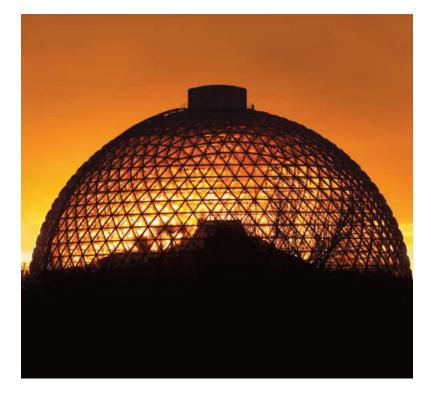




### **OMAHA'S HENRY DOORLY ZOO AND AQUARIUM**



Inside Desert Dome, the world's largest indoor desert, 14 reptile species lurk. Habitats represent three deserts from Africa, Australia and the American Southwest. Meerkats peep, klipspringers bound and a bobcat reclines in the shade of a rock. Dare to venture through Rattlesnake Canyon before heading below to Mahoney Kingdoms of the Night, the world's largest nocturnal exhibit. Take in fascinating creatures like naked mole rats, fossas, aardvarks, springhaas, greater bush babies, wallabies and short-beaked echidnas. A cave with stalagmites, stalactites, and a seemingly bottomless pit adds to the mysterious feeling that increases as you enter the world's largest indoor swamp. A boardwalk passes over animals in barrier-free habitats, including nine American alligators. More impressive ambush predators can be found at Asian Highlands, a national awardwinning exhibit. Amur tigers prowl as visitors watch from a mini-amphitheater. Nearby, hiding snow leopards reward patient searchers. Other crowd-pleasers include red pandas, a sloth bear and Indian rhinos.



#### WELCOME TO OMAHA'S WILD SIDE AT ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST ZOOS.



Penguins and puffins enchant you with their aquatic antics at Suzanne and Walter Scott Aquarium. Catch 10:30 am and 3 pm daily feedings. A 70-foot shark tunnel immerses visitors in a watery world inhabited by stingrays, sea turtles and sharks. Tropical fish aquariums, fluorescent jellyfish and giant crustaceans reveal otherworldly colors and textures. At Stingray Beach, enjoy petting and feeding smooth stingrays. The fish glide around an 80-foot-long pool as Caribbean music plays. The sea lions at Owen Sea Lion Shores have an

even more fantastic playground with a 275-thousand-gallon pool, beach area, waterfall and 40-foot-long underwater viewing window. Crawl spaces for kids' viewing intensify the excitement of encounters with flippered friends. Ready for splash action of your own? Head to Alaskan Adventure, where over 100 water jets pummel ecstatic, squealing children navigating 75 lifelike bronze sculptures of salmon, puffins, sea lions, orcas and an 18-foot-long humpback whale.













To find big beasts that roar and rumble, head to the Zoo's 28-acre Scott African Grasslands to view lions, cheetahs, white rhinos and giraffes. Feeding the giraffes is a treat - for the giraffes and the guests. The Grasslands is also home to Omaha's herd of 10 African elephants, including five babies born at the Zoo. Delight in watching the calves frolic and play. To take in a novel view, ride the Skyfari and listen for the animals roaring below. Scan for the lion pride perched on sun-warmed rocks and the cheetah family napping in the tall grass. Swapping scenic vistas for an intimate experience, head to Hubbard Gorilla Valley. There you can sit beside a gorilla separated by a thick glass before it departs to explore its diversely enriched indoor habitat.





At the newly renovated Hubbard Orangutan Forest, orangutans and siamangs enjoy seeking treats in their habitats' enrichment trees. Kids can see orangutans face-toface from a tree root climbing structure. For more impressive tree climbing, visit Lied Jungle, the nation's largest indoor rainforest with tropical habitats from South America, Asia and Africa. More than 90 animal species live here. Gibbons, silvered leaf monkeys and langurs swing in the forest canopy. Macaws rock and squawk on branches. Enjoy swaying on a rope bridge

while watching roaring waterfalls and bats rocketing through the sky. Are the kids inspired to do some climbing of their own? Head to Bay Family Children's Adventure Trails, a 5-acre outdoor playground with a treehouse, slides, rope bridges, waterfalls, rafts and creeks. Animals are still central to the attraction. Above the treehouse playground, small primates scamper in elevated shoots. On the large lawn, Animal Ambassadors introduce special quests. And kids can scramble rocks with goats or enter a tunnel to view a prairie dog town.





#### MORE ZOO TO DO:

Backstage Experiences offer special behind-the-scenes tours of select exhibits.

Late Nights at the Zoo provides a 21+ summer evening experience with drinks and bites.

Meadowlark Theater gives 15 bird species center stage to demonstrate flight paths and behaviors.

Sue's Wildlife Carousel enchants riders and onlookers with 30 beautiful animals and nostalgic music.

The Omaha Zoo Railroad has a steam train that joyfully whistles as it pulls into depots. Passengers enjoy an exciting view of the Zoo's attractions.

Holiday Events include Ghouls & Glow during the Halloween season and Zoolightful during the winter holidays with wild decorations and much cheer.

Lee G. Simmons Conservation Park & Wildlife Safari continues the Zoo adventure just west of Omaha with a 4-mile drive-through and hiking adventure.

## THE RIVERFRONT

THE RIVERFRONT COMBINES THREE PARKS IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN, SERVING AS A VIBRANT GATHERING SPACE BETWEEN THE HISTORIC OLD MARKET AND NORTH DOWNTOWN OMAHA.

The RiverFront offers 72 acres of recreational and relaxation opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.

**Gene Leahy Mall** spans from 8th to 13th streets between Douglas St. and Farnam St. Omaha's cityscape rises around it. Visitors sway on oversized porch swings, flop into hammocks, and spread lunch on picnic tables. A wide green lawn becomes seating for those attending live performances at the performance pavilion. Children scrabble and swing at Arches Playground, which has towering climbing arches, a rope forest and a climbing wall. Also in the park: giant slides, a sculpture garden curated by Omaha artist Jun Kaneko, water features, a dog park and a cove perfect for captaining toy boats. Historic elements of the park from throughout the years have been preserved, like a pair of limestone arches from the 19th century and two giant slides that have been park fixtures since the 1980s.

Heartland of America Park is the largest of The RiverFront's three parks. Since the 1990s, the park's lake and 250-foot fountain have been downtown landmarks. New additions amplify the chill vibe. Stroll extensive walking trails or strap on a pair of ice or roller skates at the Skate Ribbon. A lakeside amphitheater, a riverfront promenade and bocce courts offer more places to stretch out and relax. Play a game of frisbee on the Lakefront Green, let the kids go wild at the Lake Playground, or walk to the end of the iconic Farnam Pier.

Along the Missouri River, Lewis and Clark Landing has a blooming prairie garden, a sandy urban beach, and a destination playground. It is the northernmost part of The RiverFront, just east of Omaha's arena and convention center CHI Health Center Omaha. The Discovery Playground has an adventure path, water play features, a merry-go-round, play towers, ziplines and below-ground tunnels to explore. Sand volleyball and pickleball areas are ready for active types to play. Other major Omaha attractions are within walking distance, including the world-class science discovery center Kiewit Luminarium and **Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge.** 









## KIEWIT LUMINARIUM

SPARK YOUR CURIOSITY AT OMAHA'S BRAND-NEW SCIENCE CENTER ON THE RIVERFRONT WHERE YOU CAN PLAY WITH MORE THAN 100 HANDS-ON EXHIBITS.



Kiewit Luminarium is a vibrant science center packed with more than 100 interactive exhibits. Nestled at Lewis and Clark Landing at The RiverFront, the Luminarium's exhibits span a wide spectrum of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. From physics to earth science, biology to finance, there's something to pique everyone's curiosity.

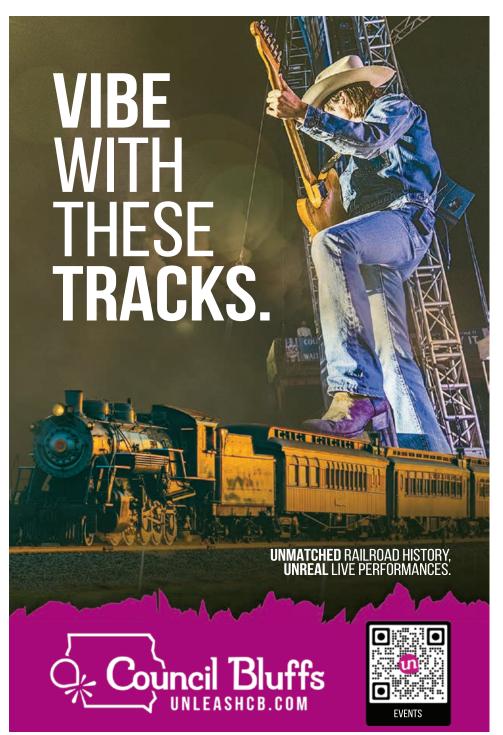
The hands-on activities engross people of all ages. Marvel at ice crystals under a magnifying glass, observe the silence of a bell without oxygen and admire iridescence in a massive soap bubble sheet. Play with shadows, test how quietly you can walk on a pebbled path, digitally try on historical clothing holograms, examine your blood vessels with a special light and collaborate on building a foam block arch, solving electrical puzzles or constructing a Rube Goldberg machine.

The Luminarium offers unique experiences that bring science to life. Live presentations, led by enthusiastic "Luminators," delve into various scientific concepts. The cow eyeball dissection is a hit with kids. The discovery center's stunning river views provide a picturesque backdrop for learning about water currents and the environment. Children can engage with an expansive water table, exploring how currents shape and are shaped by the environment. The Geometry Playground gives kids' bodies and minds a workout. (Have you ever tried to climb a truncated octahedron?) Special adults-only nights on Thursday evenings called Night Light give the grown-ups a turn to play.

Make sure to stop at the beautifully curated gift shop before you leave. For refreshments, pop into Fig., the onsite cafe that serves freshly baked sourdough pastries, sandwiches, salads, coffee, wine and beer.

















#### FULL STEAM AHEAD TO AN HISTORIC OMAHA DESTINATION.

Omaha's former Union Station displays permanent exhibits highlighting the region's history and traveling exhibitions featuring a range of topics. Visitors can tour restored train cars, see 1940s storefronts and view an array of local historical artifacts. The building is also a wonder – and has received designation as a National Historic Landmark.

Upon entrance, the Great Hall transports visitors to the grandeur of the 1930s. Millions of people traveled by train through Omaha between 1931-1971. They witnessed what guests marvel at today: classic Art Deco style highlighted by terrazzo tile flooring, cathedral-like windows, 13-foot-tall chandeliers and a ceiling of gold leaf design in the main waiting room. Bronze statues of couples, military men and children tell stories of people who passed through.

Elsewhere in the museum, experience Omaha's history through various permanent exhibits. Learn how people traveled through the years, from covered wagons to passenger trains and streetcars. Stroll through train cars from the 1940s and 1950s. Discover the fascinating culture of the Omaha Native American Tribe by stepping into a rawhide

tepee or sitting by the fire in a replica earth lodge. Peek into a blue-collar home to experience how families lived over 100 years ago. View some of the rarest coins and documents in the world in the Byron Reed Collection and walk through the Buffett Grocery Store, a replica of the original 1915 store operated by three generations of billionaire Warren Buffett's family.

Visiting with kids? The model trains delight visitors of all ages. The train set represents Union Pacific's main line from Omaha to Ogden, UT and has interactive features allowing visitors to lower the crossing guards and turn on the lights. Kids also enjoy The Platform, an interactive STEAM-based (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) space.

Take a break to enjoy the train station's restored 1930s soda fountain. Order a sandwich and an old-fashioned phosphate with your favorite flavoring and soda water. Add hand-scooped ice cream to make a luscious ice cream float, or order a malt, shake or sundae. A retro candy shop offers a variety of nostalgic hard-to-find candies and freshly popped popcorn.







### HISTORICAL ATTRACTIONS

#### JOURNEY TO OMAHA'S COLORFUL PAST – AND CATCH A GLIMPSE OF ITS FUTURE.

Local museums and attractions showcase Omaha history and how it has shaped our present. Explore collections of everything from aircraft to cultural artifacts, learn how things work and imagine what's still to come.

Smithsonian affiliate Strategic Air Command & **Aerospace Museum** features the nation's largest collection of Cold War aircraft and artifacts. In the expansive 300,000-square-foot space, you'll find an array of historical aircraft and spacecraft, including the Apollo Command Space Module. Engage with virtual reality simulators for an immersive experience or test your piloting skills on a traditional flight simulator. Families can explore many interactive exhibits that inspire curiosity in science, technology, engineering and math, encouraging young minds to think big and explore innovative solutions for the future.

Boys Town, a National Historic Landmark District, is home to chapels, statues and gardens, the Hall of History museum, its founder Father Flanagan's House, and the Visitors Center, where you can find the world's largest ball of stamps.

Human rights activist Malcolm X was born in Omaha, where visitors may access his Malcom X Birthplace\*. A 17-acre developing memorial features a visitor center, community garden and plaza with a historical marker commemorating where Malcolm X first lived with his family.

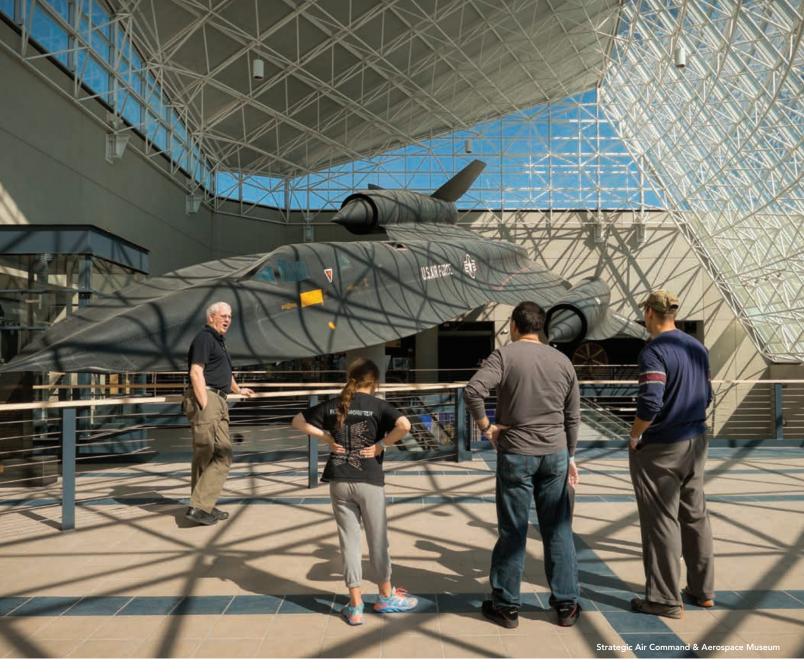
With interactive exhibits, artwork and artifacts, Mormon Trail Center at Winter Quarters helps guests imagine what it was like to live as a Mormon pioneer during the Latter-Day Saints' westward migration. Guided or selfguided tours are available.

For a taste of 19th-century life, head to **General Crook House Museum\***. View decorative arts, costumes, arts and crafts, and period furnishings, and enjoy a stroll in the heirloom garden with more than 110 varieties of flowers and plants. Visit during the holidays when every room in the house transforms into captivating glimpses of Christmases past. Audio tours are available; open seven days a week.

Union Pacific Railroad Museum\* in nearby Council Bluffs offers hands-on train fun. The museum chronicles more than 150 years of American railroad history, including photographs and documents from the creation of the transcontinental railroad to a collection of artifacts from Abraham Lincoln's life and death.









Located in South Omaha, El Museo Latino\* offers temporary and permanent exhibits along with educational programming and a tradition of visual and performing arts. El Museo Latino organizes and presents special events throughout the year, including Cinco de Mayo in May and Hispanic Heritage Month in September.

#### **MORE ATTRACTIONS:**

**Gerald R. Ford Birthsite and Gardens** Fort Atkinson State Historical Park Florence Mill\* **Bank of Florence\*** Florence Depot **Prospect Hill Cemetery** 

\*Listed on the National Register of Historic Places



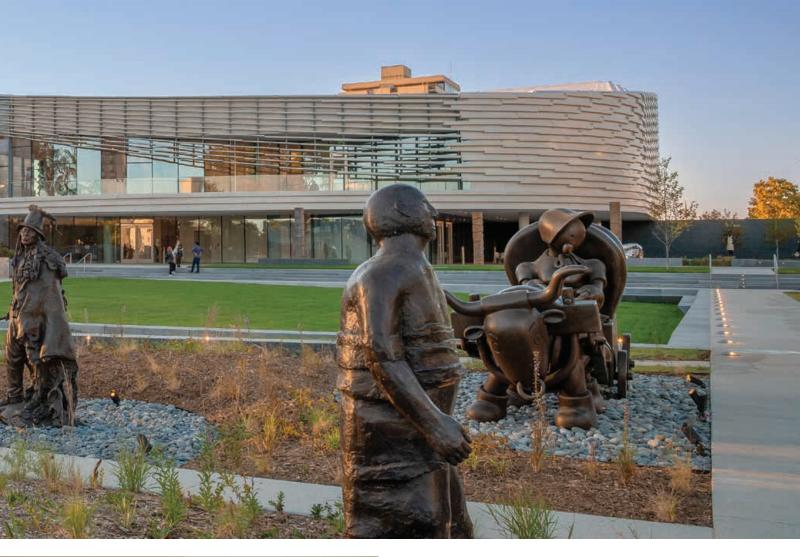


## THE UNEXPECTED MEETS THE EXTRAORDINARY AT THE JOSLYN ART MUSEUM. THE OMAHA CULTURAL HUB BOASTS A COLLECTION OF 12,000 OBJECTS SPANNING 5,000 YEARS OF HUMAN CREATIVITY.

The campus has three distinct but connected buildings – each a masterpiece in its own right. The museum's original 1931 Art Deco structure stands alongside the 1994 expansion by the illustrious British architect Norman Foster. A bold new wing, unveiled in 2024, was conceived by the renowned Norwegian-American firm Snøhetta in collaboration with Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture. Together, these buildings are a testament to The Joslyn's commitment to serve as a visionary institution that inspires all who visit.

Museum-goers may also witness The Joslyn's innovation reflected in its thoughtful curation. For example, The Joslyn explores America's varied artistic legacy by integrating its vast collection of Native American art into its American and contemporary galleries. By displaying Native American art alongside European American and African American art instead of in a separate category, The Joslyn tells the multifaceted story of the nation's history and culture.

## THE JOSLYN ART MUSEUM





In addition to special exhibits, permanent collections span contemporary art, ancient Mediterranean art, European art, photography, Asian art and more. Visitors can engage further at Art Works: A Place for Creativity, featuring 11 hands-on activity stations.

The Joslyn's gardens offer dynamic open-air galleries within a Nebraska Sandhills-inspired landscape. Sculptures and diverse plantings intertwine with the Hawks Pavilion's transparent atrium (a centerpiece of the latest museum expansion), blending art, architecture and nature. Stroll the grounds or relax on the green lawn at the base of the original building's Grand Steps.

General admission to the museum is free, with enticing shopping and dining experiences on offer. The Durham Café, presented by Clean Slate, serves made-to-order breakfast, lunch and dinner on select days. There is a full-service coffee bar, wine, beer and select cocktails. The Joslyn's Hitchcock Museum Shop has a curated selection of unique gifts celebrating art, design and architecture. Consider bringing home an artful memento.







### **VIEW OMAHA'S** TRUE COLORS

OMAHA'S ART SCENE IS HOPPING. JOSLYN ART MUSEUM (SEE PG. 30) IS A MUST-SEE, BUT INCLUDE TIME IN YOUR ITINERARY TO VISIT THE EXPANSIVE SELECTION OF PUBLIC ART, GALLERIES, OPEN WORKSHOPS AND MUSEUMS THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

KANEKO continues to shine its cultural light on the community from their turn-of-the-century downtown warehouse. Founded by world-renowned artist Jun Kaneko and his wife Ree, the venue hosts innovative artists, exhibitions, performances, workshops and events.

Across the street is **Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts**. Founded by artists for artists, Bemis hosts an international residency program along with public education programs and ever-rotating art exhibitions featuring work from both emerging and established artists.

The Union for Contemporary Art uses the arts as a vehicle to inspire positive social change. Their North Omaha location includes a gallery space, fellowship program, co-op studios and community garden.

Outside of downtown, the Benson neighborhood is a certified Creative District through the Nebraska Arts Council. Find galleries and regular art shows there.

Local galleries make it easy to take home a piece of locally-made art. Lewis Art Gallery is the oldest and largest art gallery in Omaha. Gallery 1516 supports Nebraska and regional artists. Artists' Cooperative Fine Arts Gallery is an artist-run gallery, and Anderson O'Brien Fine Art promotes regional and national visual artists.





Stop into **Hot Shops Art Center** for an interactive art experience. Named for "hot shops" featuring glass blowing, pottery and bronze casting, the 92,000-squarefoot warehouse houses over 90 studio artists whose spaces are often open for exploration. View evolving exhibitions, create your masterpiece at a class or workshop and attend one of their popular bi-annual open houses.

Gene Leahy Mall at The RiverFront has a sculpture garden with works from world-renowned artists. "Wind Sculpture" by Yinka Shonibare is a hand-painted fiberglass sculpture that references Nebraska's natural history. It rises from a shallow pool of water where people are invited to play during warmer months. "Dream" by Omaha artist Jun Kaneko is a 20-foot-tall head with a serene expression overlooking the boat cove.

At Lewis and Clark Landing at The RiverFront, discover a 10-foot statue of Chief Big Elk, an Omaha tribal leader and exceptional orator and peacemaker during his era. Under the Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge, find OMAR the Troll.

American flags line the entrance to the iconic white stone structure at Memorial Park. The 67-acre memorial honors men and women who have served in the armed forces, featuring numerous bronze statues honoring veterans and a garden filled with 1,000 rose bushes.

Find colorful murals painted by local artists across the city. The **South** Omaha Mural Project includes murals celebrating the area's diverse communities, including Mexican, Native American, Black and Irish. The 32,500 square-foot-mural "Fertile Ground" at 13th St. and Mike Fahey St. depicts Omaha's story. "Spirit of Nebraska's Wilderness" and "Pioneer Courage" are two downtown sculpture parks paying tribute to Nebraska's early settlers and native wildlife. It's one of the world's largest collections of bronze and stainless steel sculptures, featuring 123 pieces and installations. Look for bison emerging from buildings and the more than 50 Canadian geese that weigh 200 pounds each, and imagine yourself on the larger-than-life horsepulled wagon.

Historic Dundee has a memorial to Omaha's street cars at the corner of Underwood and Happy Hollow, which was the endpoint for the original streetcar line. See plenty more art in North Omaha, downtown and Benson neighborhoods.







A 100-ACRE URBAN OASIS
WITH 20 THEMED GARDENS
FEATURES SOMETHING
SPECIAL TO SEE EVERY
SEASON. WHAT ARE YOU
WAITING FOR? PUT YOUR
"PETAL" TO THE METAL
TOWARD OMAHA.

#### **SPRING**

The Spring Flowering Walk gifts visitors with color and fragrance, as trees, like magnolias and crabapples, and shrubs bloom. Crocus and grape hyacinth stretch for the sun. Tulips bob in the breeze. Hundreds of thousands of daffodils cheer visitors. A StoryWalk adds an educational twist for younger visitors, making the garden a fun and interactive experience. Precious peonies begin to pop in late April. The garden's variety ensures blooms extend through early June. Enjoy a seat on a bench or wander a meandering path to soak up the rich colors and intoxicating aromas.

May's warmth nurtures 2,000 roses and bedazzles visitors. While you're in the rose garden, visit the armillary sphere sundial adorning the center of the garden. Designed by Nebraska artist Milt Heinrich, it's not only beautiful but also accurately measures Central Standard Time.

#### **SUMMER**

Pollinators buzz around native plants in Song of the Lark Meadow. Named after a short story by Nebraska author Willa Cather, the garden's colors shift as diverse plants bloom and fade. Search for "Startled," the bronze sculpture of a buck by artist Kent Ullberg, who also created "Spirit of Nebraska's Wilderness," part of a sculpture display at the First National Bank plaza in downtown Omaha.

Those looking for quiet and cover from the sun find the Garden in the Glen, which has a trickling stream, small waterfalls and a lush offering of hostas, astilbe, bleeding hearts and Japanese maple. Woodland Waterfall also features a waterfall, two small ponds and the charming sculpture "New Friends." Founders' Garden has beautiful hostas, shade-loving perennials and ferns. Woodland Trail offers the serenity – and shade – of a century-old forest.

#### **AUTUMN**

Chrysanthemums bloom in the Festival Garden. The Arboretum and Bird Sanctuary is a four-acre oasis of vibrant leaves. Check out the "End of Day" sculpture of sandhill cranes and the "Sunflowers, Snowbirds & Lizards" sculpture featuring snowbirds preparing to eat sunflower seeds.

Autumn is your last chance to see the Model Railroad Garden in action before it closes for the year. G-Scale model trains puff around miniature landscapes and communities. Look for Omaha landmarks. For lifesize train action, ascend the stairs to neighboring Kenefick Park to see Union Pacific Railroad's Centennial No. 6900 and Big Boy 4023, two of the most powerful locomotives ever built.

Special annual fall events add to the fun. Plan your visit around an elevated September antiques show or October's Ghoulish Garden Adventure.



#### WINTER

Lauritzen is open year-round, and there's always something special to see in Marjorie K. Daugherty Conservatory, a 17,500-square-foot four-season glass conservatory housing tropical gardens with tall palms and vibrant flowers and temperate gardens with moss-covered oak trees and azaleas. A pool with water lilies will make you feel as inspired as Monet.

During the winter holidays, Lauritzen Gardens is vibrant with holiday merriment. The Holiday Poinsettia Show features an iconic 20-foot-tall tree made from poinsettias, special themed garden displays and decorations, a holiday-inspired model train setup and toasty fires where you can roast marshmallows. In the evenings, the garden glows with holiday lights for Bright Nights. Set a merry mood with friends and family and create extraordinary memories at Lauritzen Gardens during the holiday season - or any time of year.



Omaha Children's Museum offers permanent and temporary exhibits to inspire and delight kids. The target audience is children 3-10 years old, but all ages find amusement here.

# BINGO! FIND BIG FUN AT OMAHA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Plan your next visit to this year-round attraction with your very own Bingo card. Can you hit five squares in a row on your next visit?

Shoot colorful balls through chutes with the Super Gravitron machine.	Build a beaver dam or find a resting place for a sandhill crane on a water table.	Run in the sun at the outdoor playground and grab a book from the little library.	Experience the excitement of a live science show where things fizz and foam.	Bring puppets to life on a stage as you produce an original show as unique as you.
Check that dolly is feeling jolly at a hospital and medical center built for Dr. Kid.	Play farmer as you mow grass, pick vegetables, collect eggs and drive your tractor.	Paint on a window as big as a wall – and receive nothing but praise for your effort.	Snap a selfie and drag and drop elements to create an image of your future self.	Shop for healthy food for your family or work the register at a mini grocery store.
Choose a colorful animal on the carousel and take a spin in tune to whimsical music.	Change a car tire with a pneumatic drill and lug nuts or create custom plates.	Command the wheel of a firetruck and race to save the day. You're a hero!	Explore a variety of rotating exhibits that feature culture, nature and more.	Add some tiger stripes or bunny whiskers to your cheeks at the face painting station.
Draw a picture and scan it to add to an animated scene on an oversized screen.	Attend a special event at the museum – like a fairytale ball or holiday party.	Bust a move on a light-up floor as you follow videos showing different dance styles.	Visit the gift shop for a souvenir of your fun trip to Omaha Children's Museum!	Climb aboard a miniature train and daydream about the places you'll travel.
Cool off in an outdoor water play area (from Memorial Day to Labor Day).	Play with power tools (with a grown-up) and make whatever you can imagine.	Cozy up in a camel or slide down a kangaroo's tail or an elephant nose at Zooland.	Learn about inventors, scientists and engineers at the S.T.E.A.M. Cave.	Get in your tummy time in the Wiggle Room (for children ages 0-18 months).









Find things to do, places to eat, unique shopping and special offers at VisitOmaha.com 37

# OMAHA'S TERRIFIC TRIO BOB, OMAR AND OMAI

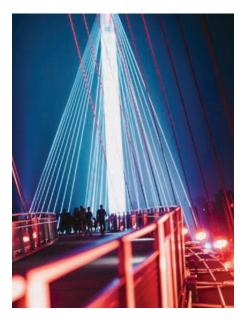






#### THREE OMAHA CHARACTERS MAKE YOUR TRIP EVEN MORE MAGICAL.

In Omaha, you'll encounter fascinating, friendly individuals. Allow us to present three standouts. **Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge**, also known as Bob, is a 3,000-foot pedestrian path across the Missouri River who has his own Instagram and X accounts (and a fun trick up his girder). **OMAR** is a blue troll who lives under the bridge and loves to meet visitors. OMAR's little sister **OMAI** is harder to find – she has an Omaha scavenger hunt for kids and leaves behind blue footprints across the city.









#### VISIT OMAHA RECENTLY SAT DOWN WITH BOB AND HIS CHOSEN FAMILY, OMAR AND OMAI, FOR AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM — AND A NEW FAMILY MEMBER.

#### Visit Omaha: Thanks for making this happen.

OMAR: Thanks for coming down-I've found such a good home under Bob I hate to leave.

OMAI: Glad to be here, but I can't stay long. I have places to go. Omaha is calling me!

Bob: I'm happy to talk about me. What do you want to know? I'm an open bridge.

VO: Sure, let's start with you, Bob. As a 3,000-foot-long curved suspension bridge across the Missouri River, you've become one of Omaha's most renowned ambassadors. How do you do it?

Bob: You know, I started being famous by just hanging around and looking good. And then I realized I could make other people look good too. Like, where else can you stand in two states at once and strike a pose with a mighty river below your feet? We call that Bobbing. You're welcome.

#### OMAR: From where I sit, I see a lot of engagements happening on Bob, too.

Bob: Yeah, what can I say? I've got a great body, offer dreamy views and even provide a bit of romantic sway when the wind blows. Oh, and sometimes I light up to celebrate special events.

#### VO: Bob, talk to me about being a fitness destination in Omaha.

Bob: I'm an outdoor enthusiast's dream come true. No big deal, but I've got connections. Like 150 miles of trails kind of connections. You've heard of a 5K and a 10K, but what about a 0.9K? Walk across me, take a selfie, and show it to my people at the Omaha Visitors Center for a 0.9K marathon sticker. During my peak season, as many as 6,500 people walk me daily.

#### VO: OMAI, I know you need to run, but can you tell us about your scavenger hunt?

OMAI: Sure! I've left footprints around a dozen of my favorite Omaha places. Visit those attractions and scan the QR code on my footprints. It will take you to my website, omaiadventure.com, where you can learn more about each special place. And don't forget to grab a specialized pin button at each stop so you can remember me. You can put them on a free orange backpack available to you at the Omaha Visitors Center!

Bob: Where you can also get your 0.9K sticker.

#### VO: Right, you've mentioned that, Bob.

OMAR: You can also find my book "OMAR Finds a Home" at the Omaha Visitors Center. It's about how I came to live here. And when you walk on Bob, you can learn more about me through videos. Or – even better – come down and sit with me.

Bob: And look up for a great view.

OMAR: We can take a selfie together.

Bob: I will photo-bomb you!

OMAR: Kids like to rub my toes and make wishes. And both Bob and I love dogs.

#### VO: Any exciting new developments in the works?

Bob: Yes, we had a new family member arrive. Baby Bob gives the convention center, ballpark, arts district and several hotels better access to me ... and OMAR, too. This baby feels just like an extension of me.

#### VO: Congratulations! Ok, I've got OMAI's website, but how can we find you two online?

OMAR: I'm at omarthetroll.com.

Bob: I'm @BobTBridge on X and Instagram, or you can holler at me with #ItHappensOnBob. I love when friends share photos of us together. Holding up the Tower of Pisa. Kissing the Blarney Stone. Walking on Bob. All selfie musts in this lifetime if you ask me.



OMAHA HAS YOU COVERED FOR OUTDOOR ADVENTURES. ANGLERS, BIRDWATCHERS, CYCLISTS, GARDENERS, GOLFERS, HIKERS AND WATER SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS ALL DISCOVER MUCH TO ENJOY.

Explore two rivers, multiple lakes, forest hiking paths, restored prairies, gardens and more than 120 miles of paved bike trails. Omaha has more than 250 parks encompassing 11,000 acres, and eight public golf courses. So what are you waiting for? Get out there, already!

#### HIKING

Lace your boots and head out to Omahaarea trails. Fontenelle Forest is one of the largest privately operated nature centers in the nation. It has 1,400 acres with 19 miles of trails of varying lengths and climbs, including a 1-mile-long ADA-accessible boardwalk. The Forest is home to more than 600 animal and plant life species. Neale Woods Nature Center is a 600acre nature preserve along the Missouri River. Its forest and hilltop prairies offer nine miles of walking trails with scenic views. Glacier Creek Preserve is a 525acre preserve northwest of Omaha with a restored tallgrass prairie offering glimpses of what most of Nebraska once looked like. The waving grass is mesmerizing. Across the river in Iowa, Hitchcock Nature **Center** is a 1,200-acre preserve in the heart of the Loess Hills with camping sites.

#### **CYCLING**

Omaha's Paths of Discovery trail system winds through all parts of the city, inviting walkers, cyclists and cross-country skiers to get moving. In Iowa, the Wabash Trace Nature Trail is a 63-mile rails-to-trails route stretching from southwest lowa to northwest Missouri. Many parks, including Tranquility Park, Swanson Park, Jewell Park and Walnut Creek Park, have dedicated mountain biking trails.

Need some wheels? Heartland Bike Share is one of the country's first allelectric bike share systems. It has over 80 stations and 400 ebikes, making your bike trail excursions a breeze.







#### LAKE AND RIVER ADVENTURES

Located throughout the Omaha metro area, lakes Zorinsky, Cunningham, Standing Bear, Manawa, Flanagan, Youngman, Wehrspann and Walnut Creek offer fishing, boating and places to picnic. Anglers pull in largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie and channel catfish. Rent a kayak or canoe from **UNO's Outdoor** Venture Center to hit the water.

Or try your luck standing. Elkhorn Outfitters offers paddleboat tours. Neighborhood Offshore also rents them. Are you feeling less ambitious but still seeking a thrill? Try tanking or tubing with Tubing and Adventures, or hop aboard Woody's Airboat Tours and let your hair down.

#### **PARKS**

Omaha is home to more than 250 public parks, totaling 11,000 acres. Aside from picnic areas, ball fields and playgrounds, it has 17 aquatic facilities, 12 spraygrounds, four public dog parks, three skateparks and a BMX track. Visit parks.cityofomaha.org to learn more.

Omaha's privately run parks include **The** RiverFront, a 72-acre oasis in the heart of downtown with playgrounds, sandy beaches and recreational opportunities. Turner Park at **Midtown Crossing** is a 7.5-acre greenspace with well-kept gardens and shady places to rest.

#### **CAMPING/GLAMPING**

Nebraska State Parks offer RV camping, lodge accommodations, tent camping and cabins. Prairie Fireflies at Lake Cunningham provides a turnkey glamping experience. Tents have comfy beds, a coffee maker and electricity. At Kimberly Creek Retreat in Ashland, guests stay in climate-controlled geodesic domes with private showers and firepits.

#### **BIRDWATCHING**

Omaha is a birding hotspot located along the Missouri River Valley and a main migratory path. Spring and fall are peak birding seasons, but a variety of diverse habitats means there's no bad time of year to birdwatch. Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge and DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge are excellent places to see waterfowl, raptors and songbirds.

In addition to offering opportunities to spot feathered friends in the wild, Fontenelle Forest also has Raptor Wildlife Refuge, providing an up-close look at rescued hawks, owls, falcons and eagles. Traverse a suspension bridge, take in a birds-eye view of the Forest, and see these amazing birds of prey.

#### SEASONAL ADVENTURES

TreeRush Adventures at Fontenelle Forest is an exhilarating way to experience the forest. Visitors ages 4 and older can explore the old-growth forest from the treetops at this aerial amusement park suspended over 6 acres. After expert instruction, navigate suspended obstacles, bridges, rope ladders, tunnels and other surprises that comprise more than 100 challenges and 11 ziplines. Seven different trails are color-coded according to the difficulty level, from beginner to expert. For pint-sized thrill seekers, there's KidRush. Ideal for kids ages 4 to 6 but fun for ages 7 and 8 too, this area is specially designed with smaller bodies in mind. The obstacles are only a few feet off the ground, allowing a parent or guardian to walk alongside.

Just west of Omaha is Lee G. Simmons Conservation Park and Wildlife Safari operated by Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium. Enjoy a 4-mile drive-through wildlife adventure and see North American animals like bison and wolves, with pit stop opportunities for hiking. Open March through November.

Find fun for the entire family in a lush setting at **Eugene T. Mahoney State** Park. Nestled along the Platte River, the 700-acre park offers warm-weather activities like miniature golf and a driving range, tennis, horseback riding, hiking, paddle boating and fishing, along with cold-weather fun like crosscountry skiing, sledding, tobogganing, ice skating and ice fishing.

Thrill seekers head to Mt. Crescent Ski Area in the wintertime to hit the slopes reaching 2,400 feet in length; sledders, snowboarders and spectators are also welcome.





#### **GOLF**

From early spring until late fall, golfers flock to the rolling hills and tree-lined fairways of Omaha courses. From executive style to championship courses, swing through Omaha's unique golf landscapes. Go to VisitOmaha.com/golf for a complete golf course list.

**Topgolf** is a multi-level facility featuring high-tech gaming, climate-controlled hitting bays, music, food and more in a lively, casual atmosphere.



### **EXCURSIONS**

MORE UNIQUE EXPERIENCES AWAIT JUST OUTSIDE THE OMAHA METRO AREA.







#### **EXIT 426 IN CASS COUNTY**

About 30 miles southwest of Omaha at Exit 426, visitors go on a North American adventure at the Lee G. Simmons Conservation Park and Wildlife Safari. See bison, elk, cranes, pronghorn antelope and other native animals right outside your vehicle on this 4-mile drive-through journey. Park the car and hike to Wolf Canyon and climb the nature trails surrounding the park's lake.

After the safari, take your getaway to new heights at Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum, a 300,000-square-foot museum showcasing military memorabilia and celebrating space travel. You might even get to see a real astronaut walking around. Clayton Anderson, a native Nebraskan, was a member of the International Space Station Expedition 15 crew and is the president and CEO of the museum.

For spiritual people – or architecture buffs – **Holy Family Shrine** is a stunning glass church that was created as an oasis for travelers. Cloisters on the Platte is a retreat center where visitors can spend an afternoon winding through a half-mile trail and encounter life-size religious Stations of the Cross sculptures.

#### **SAUNDERS COUNTY**

Saunders County is filled with history and surprises. More than 30 unique cities, villages and townships make up the county.

This area offers plenty of opportunities for outdoor adventures with recreation areas offering hiking and lakes primed for fishing and boating. Memphis State Recreation Area offers 163 peaceful acres for tent and RV camping and a sparkling 48-acre lake. Lake Wanahoo is another popular spot including camping, boating and hiking. Plenty of wildlife watching and picnicking opportunities can be found at the Czechland Lake Recreation Area.

Saunders County deserves to be on every golfer's bucket list. Iron Horse Golf Club is an award-winning course Golf Digest considers one of the best and Quarry Oaks Golf Club offers a course so challenging that only golfers with intense discipline can find victory.

Travel back in time at the **Saunders County Historical** Museum in Wahoo and visit a log home, one-room schoolhouse, county church and the smallest post office in Nebraska. Learn about famous athletes, motion picture pioneers, and historic figures and see over 25,000 objects from the 1870s-1980s. Pick up a thoughtful gift at Found & Flora in downtown Wahoo. Or pop into The Good Life Boutique for a new blouse or skirt.

Cellar 426 Winery has breathtaking 360-degree views and has won more than 160 international wine competition awards. Sit on the patio and enjoy a bottle and some small bites. Watch for special Tour and Taste experiences.

Downtown Ashland has specialty shops, galleries, coffee houses, an old-fashioned ice cream parlor and a studio that handcrafts wooden furniture.

Amazing Pizza Machine is an indoor entertainment center, buffet and arcade experience. Enjoy 60,000 square feet of fun with rides and attractions including laser tag, go-karts, bumper cars, mini bowling, arcade games and more.

FAMILY
ENTERTAINMENT

WORK OUT THE WIGGLES WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILDREN OR RECONNECT WITH YOUR OLDER KIDS AT A VARIETY OF SPOTS AROUND THE CITY.

Try virtual reality gaming at Omaha Virtual Reality. The Holloway **Experience** is an immersive video gaming cafe offering a futuristic atmosphere with video, virtual and table-top games. Verse Immersive is a holographic theater that uses augmented reality visors to bring 3D characters and stories to life.

If you're looking to have your kids burn some energy, check out Urban Air Trampoline and Adventure Park, Sky Zone Trampoline Park or Altitude Trampoline Park.



Navigate dinosaurs and volcanos as you play mini golf indoors at Prehistoric Putt. Downtown, The Fat Putter is open to all ages before 6pm and presents a fun and challenging course.



Board game enthusiasts adore Spielbound, which offers the largest selection of board games in the U.S., including games for children of all ages. Order a round of hot chocolate for your table, and you'll be the ultimate winner of the day.



For an interactive gaming experience, try one of Omaha's escape rooms. Entrap Games, The Escape Omaha, House of Conundrum and Get Out: Omaha invite guests to race against the clock, solve the mystery and unlock the door to freedom.



Fun-Plex is the perfect one-day summer getaway. Enjoy waterslides, aquatic playgrounds, a wave pool, a lazy river, a go-kart track, kiddie and family rides, and an 18-hole mini golf course.

> Blue Sky Patio & Pickleball has a four-season covered patio and two local food vendors. Wonderbowl at Blue Sky offers mini bowling for all ages.







Hold on for the twists and turns at Papio Fun Park's outdoor go-kart track. Families can also enjoy miniature golf, laser tag, batting cages, arcade games and more.





# **PERFORMING ARTS**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEATS. THE SHOW IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. LOCAL SYMPHONY, OPERA AND THEATER COMPANIES STAGE STELLAR PERFORMANCES; TRAVELING BROADWAY SHOWS AND STARS DAZZIF, PREPARE FOR ENCHANTMENT.

Omaha Performing Arts brings Broadway productions, jazz, blues, dance, comedy and family shows to the **Orpheum** Theater and Holland Performing Arts Center. These venues host more than 500 events annually.

Performing arts enthusiasts find joy not just in the performances but in the venues' architecturally inspired buildings. Designed with French Renaissance glamor, the Orpheum Theater was originally built for vaudeville acts in the 1920s, later becoming a movie theater through the 1970s. Although renovations were undertaken in the early 1970s and again in 2001, care was taken to preserve the building's beautiful original craftsmanship. The theater welcomes a full lineup of touring Broadway productions in 2025, including "Some Like it Hot" and "MJ."

The **Orpheum Theater** is also where Opera Omaha presents its mainstage productions. Smaller productions happen throughout the city. New to Opera Omaha in 2025 is a family opera series (this year it's "Fantastic Mr. Fox") that will be performed at Lauritzen Gardens. Mainstage productions for 2025 include "The Rake's Progress" and "Giulio Cesare."

For a modern architectural beauty, look to Holland Performing Arts Center, a building clad in zinc, copper and glass. Inside, the Peter Kiewit Concert Hall has 2,000 equally excellent seats because architects specifically designed it to provide unobstructed views and pristine sound wherever you are sitting. The Holland Center also includes a spacious lobby, open-air spaces, dining and drinking options, and a smaller performance space.

The Holland Center is home to the Omaha Symphony. The symphony performs Classical, Baroque, 20th-century masterpieces and the work of new composers. Watch for special events, like screenings of movies with live cinematic scores, pops concerts, special children's concerts and quest artists. On Sundays, the symphony plays a casual matinee show and highlights soloists at Strauss Performing Arts Center on the University of Nebraska at Omaha campus.

Omaha enjoys a rich theater tradition. **Omaha Community Playhouse** is the nation's largest community theater and one of Omaha's oldest arts organizations. (Fun fact: the theater's first production starred Marlon Brando's mother Dodie Brando a year after his birth. The cast also included Jane Fonda, whose brother would also one day become an actor.) The Playhouse features musicals, comedies, dramatic works, new plays and – for the past four decades – an annual performance of "A Christmas Carol."

**BLUEBARN Theatre** is Omaha's nationally recognized theater producing original scripts, and progressive, experimental work. Its architectural design reflects the theater's upstart scrappiness and risk-taking with reclaimed wood, weathering steel sheet metal cladding and a custom-fabricated exterior screen of welded rebar.

**The Rose Theater** is a downtown children's theater featuring musicals, comedies and children's books adapted with an Omaha twist. The theater's ornate design and colorful lighting create a magical atmosphere that kids love.

#### OMAHA IS A MUSICAL MELTING POT - AND IT'S BUBBLING HOT. IMMERSE YOURSELF IN LIVE PERFORMANCES AT INTIMATE CLUBS, ALL-SIZES OF ARENAS AND OUTDOOR FESTIVALS.

Omaha is a magnet for big names in pop, rock, jazz, indie, rap and R&B. But it's not just about the stars. This tastemaker city also plays a crucial role in nurturing and supporting rising local and national talent. Whether you prefer a cozy jazz club, a big arena show, a mid-sized club, or an outdoor experience, Omaha has your jam.

Birthplace to national artists such as Conor Oberst, Cursive and The Faint, Omaha's music scene has also grown acts like The Mynabirds and Azure Ray. The Waiting Room Lounge and Reverb Lounge in Benson, The Admiral in Little Bohemia and The **Slowdown** in NoDo attract national and local indie rock, folk and country

Downtown, Steelhouse Omaha has a capacity for 3,000 fans and hosts nationally and internationally acclaimed rock, funk, metal and rap acts. The Astro Theater in La Vista has a 2,500-capacity indoor theater connected to an outdoor grass amphitheater accommodating 5,000 people and overlooking a 34-acre park.

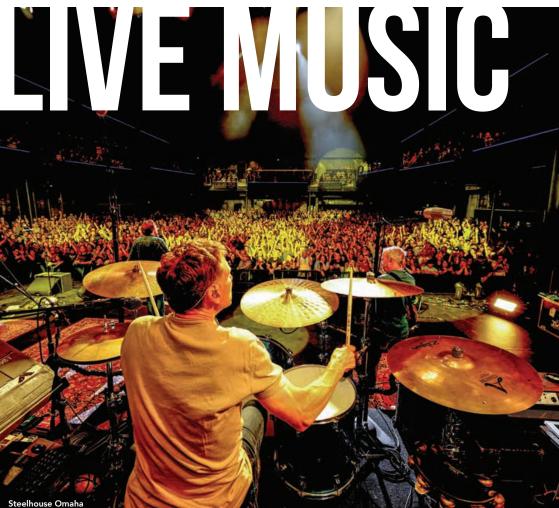
In The Capitol District, Jewell on Capitol is a swanky music superclub that stages top-notch jazz, blues, R&B, Americana, Latin and singer-songwriter acts. Out west, Barnato offers craft cocktails, dinner, and national and international artists all week long.

Experience diverse jazz, bluegrass and world music acts at the Holland Performing Arts Center. Also inside the building, The Holland Music Club - known during the day as Scott Recital Hall – transforms into a club at night offering drinks and dinner. The **Orpheum Theater** thrills loyal fans of artists and groups from Jackson Browne to En Vogue. CHI Health Center Omaha and Charles Schwab Field Omaha feature today's most popular musical acts across various genres. Across the river, musicians play loud at the outdoor venue Stir Cove at Harrah's Casino and the beer flows.

Summertime in Omaha steps up the live music tempo. Catch free Jazz on the Green concerts at **Turner Park** at Midtown Crossing or Music in Miller Park, showcasing Omaha's best local talent. Live on the Lawn concerts feature country bands, cover bands and more at Zorinsky Lake. Playing with Fire gathers blues and R&B artists from around the world for a threeday free festival. Maha Festival brings top indie and alternative acts to **Heartland** of America Park at The RiverFront. And GRRRL Camp brings indie acts inspired by the '90s Riot Grrrl movement.









DO YOU LIKE TO DUCK INTO A DIVE BAR, SIP COCKTAILS ON A ROOFTOP PATIO, PULL YOUR FRIENDS ONTO THE DANCE FLOOR, OR TAKE THE MIC AND SING YOUR HEART OUT? IN OMAHA, WE'VE GOT THE SPOT JUST FOR YOU.

#### **DIVES**

The Down Under Lounge is a friendly spot with regular live music. The **Dubliner Pub** has a lively college crowd playing darts and dancing to live music. Stella's Bar and Grill serves one of Omaha's juiciest burgers and ice-cold local beer. The riverside venue Surfside **Club** has a menu featuring fried chicken, fried catfish and corn fritters and often has live music.

#### **WINE**

Sample wines from around the world and enjoy gourmet food pairings at La **Buvette, Corkscrew Wine & Cheese** and Vino Mas. Servers treat wine connoisseurs and novice wine drinkers with equal warmth and attention. Stretch out on the rooftop patio and share a bottle of bubbly at The Tenant in Benson.

#### **CIGARS**

Cigar smokers enjoy puffing at Havana Garage in the Old Market Entertainment District and Jake's Cigars & Spirits in Benson. In West Omaha, visit Copa Cabana or Safari.

#### **COCKTAILS**

Nite Owl in Blackstone has a funky '70s vibe and quality food. Laka Lono Rum Club mixes Caribbean, African, Southeast Asian, rockabilly, Hollywood, funk and surfer cultures in one strong – and sometimes flaming – drink. Celebrate an unbirthday downtown at Wicked **Rabbit**, a speakeasy with cocktails that are all a little "mad." Alice, its sister speakeasy, is in West Omaha. Fizzy's Fountain & **Liquors** delivers on fun with floats, ice cream and slushie cocktails and a cool retro vibe. Red Lion **Lounge** is a cozy spot for a drink and live jazz. The Berry & Rye concocts pre-Prohibition cocktails with housemade sodas, syrups and bitters. Mercury serves hearty fare and a rotating list of themed cocktails in a mid-century-styled space. Their mixologists also make alcohol-free mixed drinks with fresh ingredients.

#### **KARAOKE + COMEDY**

For singers and shy folks alike, there's **Reno's** Karaoke in the Blackstone District, which offers private rooms for all sizes of parties. Prefer to exercise your vocal cords laughing? Check out The Backline Comedy Theatre, Blackstone Theater, Omaha Funny Bone, or special comedy events at Tiny House Bar, The Waiting Room and The Sydney.

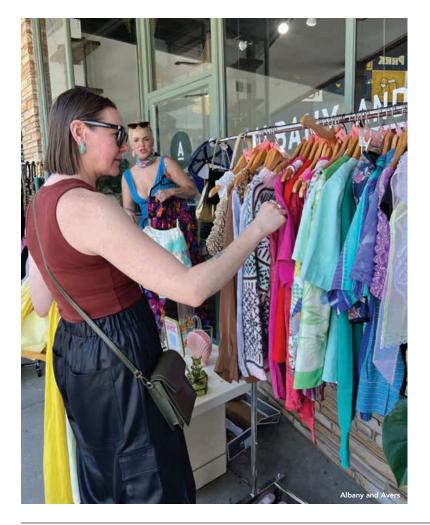
#### **DANCE + BIKE**

Dance fiends head to Omaha's high-energy gay bar and club, **The Max**, where everyone is welcome. The 12,000-square-foot multiplex has a main disco dance floor, a glass-encased upper-level lounge, a lively show floor and an expansive outdoor patio. Bushwackers is the place to get your country steps in. The Omaha Jitterbugs welcome visitors to a Friday evening of instruction and dancing with a live band or DJs, Howard's Charro Cafe hosts Saturday salsa nights and Barnato has Sunday nights covered for salsa. If you've got any strength left in your legs, try Omaha Patio Ride, a giant party bike for up to 16 adults traveling around the Old Market.

### OMAHA IS HOME TO THE NATION'S FOURTH LARGEST FASHION WEEK, A WORLD-RENOWNED JEWELRY STORE AND A TRAVEL-WORTHY HOME FURNISHING DESTINATION.



## SHOPPING IN OMAHA



#### **OMAHA'S BIGGEST ORIGINALS**

Owned by Omaha billionaire investor Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway, **Borsheims** is the nation's largest independent jewelry store. Every gift inside the signature silver box with a burgundy ribbon is a treasure waiting to be discovered. Another can't-miss Buffett retailer is **Nebraska Furniture Mart**, one of the country's largest (450,000 square feet) home furnishing stores.

#### **SHOPPING CENTERS**

Discover high-end home goods, bespoke suits for men and luxury womenswear at **Countryside Village**. Farther west, **Rockbrook Village** is home to artsy, funky boutiques. At **Shops of Legacy**, you'll find one of Nebraska's largest collections of upscale shopping. Main street style shopping comes to life at **Village Pointe Shopping Center**, home to over 50 retail shops, boutiques and restaurants. Shop national brands at **Westroads Mall**, which has a Von Maur, and **Regency Shopping Center**, which features Anthropologie, Williams Sonoma and Lululemon. **Oak View Mall** has shopping for outdoorsmen and urbanites. **Nebraska Crossing** outlets in Gretna is also a popular shopping destination featuring more than 80 stores and restaurants.

#### **LOCAL BOUTIQUES**

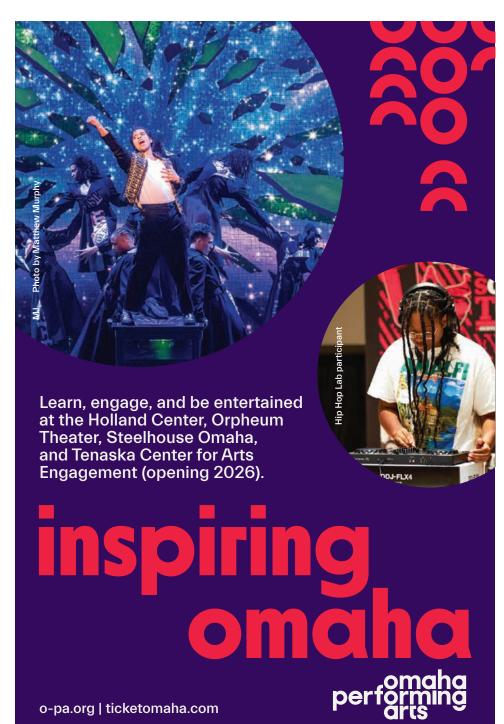
Fashion lovers will score this season's favorites at Omaha's local boutiques. **Garment District Omaha** stocks its racks with NYC-inspired pieces from well-known and emerging designers. **Nouvelle Eve** provides just-off-the-runway fashions for women in the Old Market Entertainment District. At **grae**, men can freshen up their wardrobe while they enjoy a drink. **Fontenelle Supply Co.** caters to the outdoorsy, who discover an array of handmade leather goods alongside raw denim, fall flannels and boots. Other boast-worthy boutiques include **Beau Joyau**, **The Fold** and **Gramercy**.

#### **LUXURY CONSIGNMENT AND VINTAGE FINDS**

Every Omaha fashionista's secret is **Esther's**, which gives barely used luxury brand clothing a second life. **Albany and Avers** sells an on-trend curated collection of inclusive sizes in the heart of Dundee. **Flying Worm Vintage**, in the Old Market, offers funky finds.









# THE JOSLYN





# REDISCOVER OMAHA'S EXPANDED AND TRANSFORMED ART MUSEUM

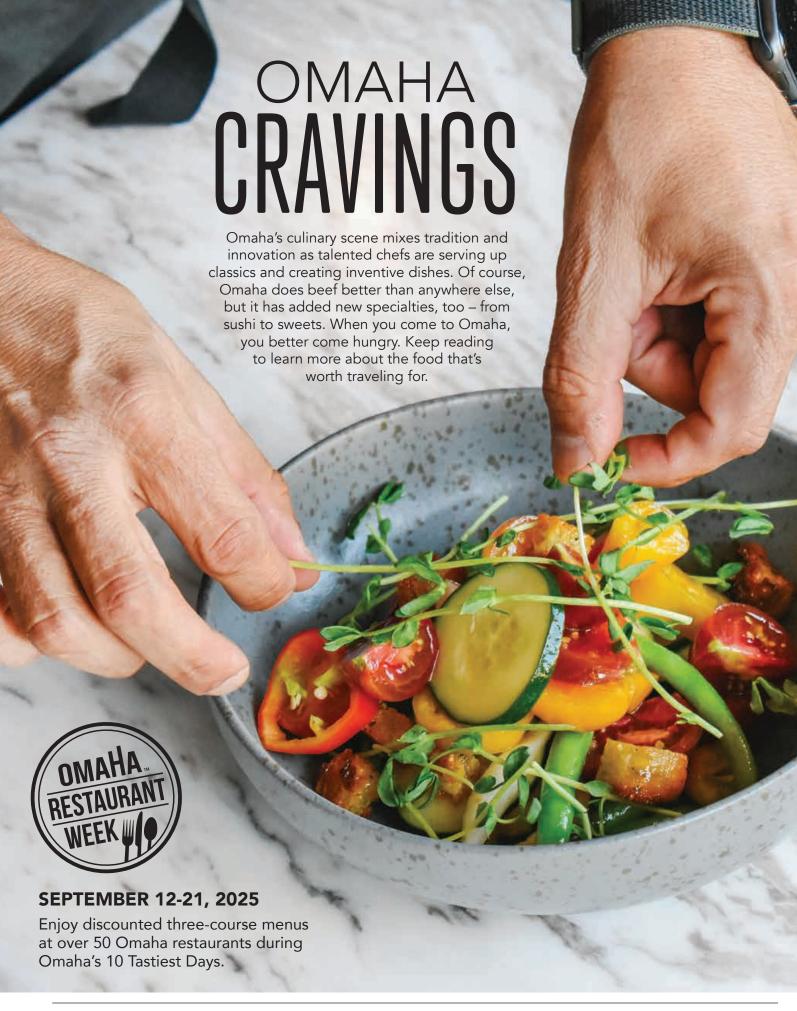


Explore our stunning new building, expanded art collection, updated gardens, and reimagined amenities. Whether you are visiting again or for the first time, we look forward to welcoming you.

#### Free general admission to all.

**Hours:** Tue-Sun, 10 am to 4 pm; late until 8 pm on Wed and Thu; closed Mon. The Durham Cafe and The Shop open during all Museum hours. Free on-site parking (first come, first served).

Joslyn Art Museum 2200 Dodge St. ∘ Omaha, NE 68102 ∘ (402) 342-3300 ∘ joslyn.org





OMAHA GREW UP BEEF-FED. OUR CITY'S INDUSTRY
HAS DIVERSIFIED SINCE ITS 19TH AND 20TH
CENTURY HISTORY AS A MAJOR CENTER FOR THE
MEATPACKING INDUSTRY, BUT OUR STEAKS – AND
OUR STEAKHOUSES – ARE STILL WORLD-RENOWN.

This long-standing tradition is a testament to our commitment to quality and taste. We're here to back that reputation up with the beef. Whether it's an Omaha institution or a relative newcomer, Omaha steakhouses deliver big on flavor, service and ambiance.

Johnny's Cafe has been thrilling steak lovers since 1922. It offers a perfectly marbled broiled ribeye in a dining room that resembles a 1970s time capsule. Indeed, the strong set vibes led local filmmaker Alexander Payne to shoot "About Schmidt" with Jack Nicholson on location there. Gorat's Steak House also has a claim to fame. The Omaha tradition for 80 years is a favorite of local billionaire Warren Buffett. His goto order is a rare T-bone with a double order of hash browns. Cascio's Steakhouse is another signature Omaha steakhouse, serving beautiful beefy bites since 1946. You'll feel like you're a long-lost member of a big Italian family. For a unique whiskeymarinated steak, head to The Drover. The dimly lit atmosphere has a fun Western feel. Brother Sebastian's Steakhouse & Winery serves a divine prime rib in a space inspired by a rustic abbey. For more old-world style and sumptuousness, the Old Market Entertainment District offers several steakhouse options, including Omaha Prime, Dynamite Wood Fire Grill, 801 Chophouse, Spencer's for Steaks and Chops and more. Go for a stroll after dinner.

### ESSENTIAL STEAKHOUSES

- 801 Chophouse at the Paxton
- Brother Sebastian's Steak House & Winery
- Cascio's Steakhouse
- The Drover
- Dynamite Wood Fire Grill
- Farmer Brown's Steak House
- Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar
- Gorat's Steak House
- Jerico's Restaurant
- Johnny's Cafe
- J. Gilbert's Wood-Fired Steaks
   & Seafood
- Omaha Prime
- Spencer's for Steaks and Chops
- Tavern 180

Check our steakhouse listings at VisitOmaha.com/restaurants/specialty-food/steakhouses.











OMAHA IS A DESTINATION FOR DATE NIGHT. LET OUR RESTAURANTS SET THE MOOD FOR LOVE.

When planning the perfect date night, ambiance is just as important as the food. Whether you're celebrating an anniversary or in the early days of a new relationship, Omaha offers dining experiences that will sweep you off your feet.

**Au Courant Regional Kitchen** crafts "New European" dishes that are almost too beautiful to eat. Take a culinary journey with your beloved with the six-course chef's tasting menu.

**Dolomiti Pizzeria & Enoteca** is a buzzy spot serving Italian aperitifs and sourdough crust pizzas loaded with fresh ingredients.

**Saffron Urban Indian Kitchen** offers a romantic ambiance with luxe seating and twinkling lights. Vivid, flavorful dishes bring your tastebuds to life.

**The Boiler Room**, located in a unique industrial setting with high-end touches, specializes in whole fish for two and a wine cellar filled with old world French and Italian wine.

**V. Mertz** dresses its tables in white linens and candlelight in the Old Market Passageway. Order from the tasting menu to experience multiple plates of pleasure.

#### **MORE VIBEY DATE NIGHT SPOTS**

Avoli Osteria Le Bouillon
Cibo Vino Lola's
Clio Memoir
Cumbia Pasta Amore
Dante Nick's Quorum
Herbe Sainte Salted Edge
La Buvette The Tenant







# CRAFT BREW

OMAHA IS HOLDING A BARSTOOL JUST FOR YOU. YOU MIGHT BE A VISITOR, BUT YOU'LL NEVER FEEL LIKE A STRANGER AT THE CITY'S FRIENDLY BREWPUBS.



Omaha's craft beer scene is quietly making its mark. Visitors are welcomed with a "Buy 1, Get 1 for a Penny" deal at VisitOmaha.com/PennyPack, an invitation to explore a dozen local breweries. Interested in how brewing works? Join a tour at Lucky Bucket, Nebraska Brewing or Brickway. For the session drinker, February is a great time to visit. Omaha Beer Week features specials and offers a four-hour bus tour during the event to sample a cross-section of the city's suds.

It's an unpretentious yet vibrant scene. Whether you're in the mood for a classic pint or something more experimental, Omaha's breweries deliver.

#### **OMAHA CRAFT BREWERIES**

Benson Brewery: A cozy neighborhood gastropub brewing beer on-site since 2013. Dig into stellar elevated pub fare and take in the scene in the outdoor beer garden.

#### **Brickway Brewery and Distillery:**

Enjoy beer brewed with locally sourced ingredients at one of Omaha's first production craft breweries since prohibition.

**Infusion Brewing Company**: Infusion serves craft beers year-round while changing the seasonal brews almost weekly. Home of the Vanilla Bean Blonde and Radial IPA.

Kros Strain Brewing: Offering hopforward IPAs and traditional lager styles, Kros Strain has two funky taprooms that provide a place to convene with friends.

#### Lucky Bucket Brewing:

Hoppy libations, barrel-aged ales, bold stouts and tart sour beers – Lucky Bucket offers a beer for all preferences.

**Monolithic Brewing**: Stretch out on a spacious patio overlooking a pond and slurp a Feisty Walrus Brown Ale, session hazy IPA or a rotating kettle sour Gose.

#### Nebraska Brewing Company:

The prominent craft brewer in the city continues to build a broad portfolio of incredible and handcrafted ales.

#### Pint Nine Brewing Company:

Focused on aroma-driven American ales and complex Belgian beers, Pint Nine Brewing is constantly innovating. Check out the board games, darts and food trucks.

#### Scriptown Brewing Company:

Smooth, balanced session-style beers allow customers to pace themselves with several pints.

Site-1 Brewing: Humanity has only just begun to explore space. Site-1 Brewing embodies that same dogged curiosity that made us reach for the stars. Their constellation of beers shines.

#### **Upstream Brewing Company:**

Known for its fresh-brewed draught beers cask-conditioned and barrel-aged beers, and a full New American pub fare menu.

Vis Major Brewing: Their complex recipes for ales, IPAs and stouts create unique flavors. Feel free to bring the kids along to this casual taproom.



### **BRUNCH**

Kick off your day in Omaha with sweet and savory delights.

**Cafe Botanica** offers a healthy start to your day with fresh-pressed juices, organic coffee and tea, salads, smoothies, wraps, toasts and waffles.

**Saddle Creek Breakfast Club** serves up crispy hashbrowns, creamy over easy eggs and thick-cut bacon. Breakfast sandwiches and burritos hit the spot.

**Sips on 10th** is a vibey spot for fluffy French toast, Little Italy benedict, inventive breakfast sandwiches and mimosa trees – each a spiral staircase of four mimosas with your choice of juice.

**The Brunch Box** has two locations in downtown Omaha, one in the Old Market and one in the Capitol District. Find decadent bites and kid-friendly choices.

### DIVES

Omaha has the greasy spoons, taco joints and dimly lit bars for you to satisfy all your deepest comfort food cravings.

**Crescent Moon** serves one of the city's tastiest Reubens and a beer list that keeps suds fans coming back for more.

**Dinker's Bar and Grill** has been a popular watering hole since 1965. Pack in for a beer and a burger – or try one of the homemade specials.

Jonesy's Taco House is a neighborhood staple known for puffy tacos, chili con carne, enchiladas and burritos.

**Lisa's Radial Cafe** is an old-school breakfast diner with all the classics on the menu. Grab a seat at the counter for the full experience.

### FOOD HALLS

Omaha food halls live by the maxim, "Variety is the spice of life."

**T&T: Trucks, Taps, Patio** is a twist on the typical food hall – it's a hub for local food trucks with a full bar.

**Flagship Commons** in Westroads Mall offers a variety of food concepts, from falafel to ramen. A fireplace at the center of the hall is a great place to cozy up with a hot coffee or cocktail.

Inner Rail Food Hall at Aksarben Village has up to 10 vendors offering diverse cuisines. Outside is a plaza and certified entertainment district where patrons can carry open containers while enjoying outdoor games and fire pits.

**KAMP Blackstone** has a central bar with cocktails and mocktails surrounded by handcrafted food concepts. An "ice shot" lets guests down a shot and throw their ice glass at a tiger bell.

### FARM-TO-TABLE

**Block 16** has two chef-owners – Paul and Jessica Urban – so committed to local food that they bought their own farm to grow ingredients for the restaurant.

**Dante** is a restaurant ruled by bounty of the seasons. Chef Nick Strawhecker sources the freshest protein and produce from local farms.

**Gather in Omaha** has its very own hydroponic farm on the premises where the restaurant grows greens, sweet basil, arugula, kale and microgreens for its dishes.

**Le Bouillon** sources ingredients from local producers at the Omaha Farmers Market. Find executive chef Joel Walsh perusing carrots, tomatoes, greens and more at the Old Market or Aksarben Village markets.

#### **MORE FRESH FINDS**

- 402 Eat + Drink
- Modern Love Omaha
- Acadian Grille
- The Boiler Room
- Brushi
- THE BOILET ROOM
- Kitchen Table
- Jewell on Capitol Twisted Cork Bistro
- La Buvette
- Via Farina







### CHOCOLATE

Chocolat Abeille creates hand-crafted confections, including custom chocolate shoes. Split a pair with friends, along with tea, in the whimsical outdoor garden. Old Market Candy Shop concocts an array of cocoa-based goods, like Mud Ball truffles. Find fanciful chocolate-covered cherries, one of Oprah's Favorite Things, at The Cordial Cherry. Hollywood Candy fuels the inner child with retro candy collections, homemade fudge and chocolates available by the pound.

### **SWEET FAVORITES**

Lithuanian Bakery's Napoleon Torte is shipped to all corners of the U.S. The 72-hour confection comprises 17 layers of wafer, vanilla and lemon buttercream, with a luscious apricot center. Weekly flavored personal pies the size of your hand await at Carter & Rye, a local femaleowned bakery. Sweet Magnolias is a boutique bakery perfecting melt-in-your mouth confections like cinnamon rolls and brown sugar cardamom cake. Pettit's Pastry is a family-owned doughnut shop with two locations offering Danish, twists, rolls and cakes. Olsen Bake Shop makes donuts, kolaches and fried croissants that melt in your mouth. Le Quartier specializes in French pastries. Goldbergs in Dundee serves 12 different types of bread pudding. Big Mama's Kitchen is renowned for sweet potato pie and sweet potato pie ice cream.

### ICE CREAM

Speaking of ice cream, Omaha is a big deal in the world of cold creamy stuff. **Coneflower Creamery** was named the number one ice cream shop in the U.S. in 2023 by Yelp. (Midwest Living also recognized Coneflower as the best ice cream parlor in the 2023 Best of the Midwest Award.) Farm-sourced seasonal ingredients make the difference at Coneflower – so does a lot of love and creativity.

Not to be outdone, **Ted & Wally's** slow churns superpremium made-from-scratch ice cream with 18 percent butterfat. Line up at Old Market or Benson locations.

**eCreamery** has also enjoyed national media buzz, with write ups in O, The Oprah Magazine, The New York Times, Reader's Digest and more. Peruse eCreamery's Dundee parlor case for rotating flavors of ice cream, gelato and dairy-free sorbet, and cookies, or customize your flavor from home at eCreamery.com. **Freezing Thai Rolled Ice Cream** at Aksarben Village serves Thai rolled ice cream and boba tea made to order. Prefer soft-serve custard? Check out **Cup and Cone**, which serves vanilla, chocolate, orange creamsicle, blue raspberry sorbet and more.



JAMS MIDTOWN

JAMS OLD MARKET

### MODERN CUISINE.

Jams is a Modern American Grill that offers a melting pot of different styles and varieties of food dishes containing highquality ingredients paired with the optional cold drink or creative cocktail



#### HOURS

MON-THU 11AM-9PM FRI & SAT 11AM -10PM SUN 10AM-9PM

BRUNCH - SAT & SUN ONLY

**[6]** JAMS OLD MARKET --- 11TH δ HARNEY

f JAMS MIDTOWN ----- 78TH & DODGE



# Meighborhoods WELCOME TO A CITY PEPPERED WITH ENTERTAINING

WELCOME TO A CITY PEPPERED WITH ENTERTAINING NEIGHBORHOODS RANGING FROM HISTORIC AND URBAN CHIC TO DELICIOUS AND ULTRA-HIP.



Explore the following pages for more on things to do throughout Omaha's entertaining neighborhoods.





# Old Market Entertainment District

#### 10 CHARMING EXPERIENCES

- Wander through the enchanting Old Market Passageway
- Shop beautiful offerings at the Omaha Farmers
   Market
- Find a souvenir art piece at one of the many galleries
- Eat an ice cream cone from Ted & Wally's while seated on the iconic cement planters
- Play a game at Hollywood Candy's Pinball Museum
- Watch performances of sidewalk musicians and street performers
- Squeeze inside the British phone booth outside Spaghetti Works
- Explore floor-to-ceiling books at Jackson Street Booksellers
- Hop on an Omaha Patio Ride, the ultimate giant party bike
- Stop in the Omaha
   Visitors Center for more inspiration for your visit

There's something to experience year-round in Omaha's Old Market, from parades and holiday lights to farmers markets and other seasonal events. Plus, exhibits refresh at local art institutions, so there's always something new to see at **KANEKO**, **Old Market Artists Gallery**, **Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts** and **Artists' Cooperative Gallery**.

The Old Market is home to a remarkable lineup of restaurants, most with outdoor patio seating available. **La Buvette** transports guests to France with its impressive wine list and small plates. **M's Pub** is an Omaha institution serving an array of specialty dishes in an elevated, welcoming atmosphere. **Jams** is an American grill offering a variety of dishes made with high-quality ingredients. Among the fashionable newcomers to the dining scene are **Clio**, offering Mediterranean plates in a beautiful interior space, and **Memoir**, a swanky spot to see and be seen.

Because dessert makes every experience sweeter, savor a Mud Ball from the **Old Market Candy Shop** or an authentic Italian treat at **Dolci**. **Ted & Wally's** serves scratch-made ice cream in inventive flavors.



#### THE OLD MARKET IS ONE OF OMAHA'S MOST DISTINCTIVE AND PHOTOGENIC NEIGHBORHOODS. ALONG COBBLESTONE STREETS, EXPLORE GALLERIES, BOUTIQUES, RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND PUBS.







Shop a range of boutique clothing shops like Nouvelle Eve, Flying Worm and Overland Sheepskin Co. and specialty shops such as Tannenbaum Christmas Shop, Imaginarium and Modern Mayhem.

Explore the Market's distinctive nightlife scene. Laka Lono Rum Club serves over-the-top fun craft cocktails, like their flaming Zombie drink. Mr. Toad's and Billy Frogg's offer great outdoor patios. The Berry & Rye serves experimental cocktails, and Brickway Brewery & Distillery offers public brewery tours. Havana Garage cigar lounge is a chill way to cap off a night.

Tip: Most downtown Omaha hotels are within walking distance and offer complimentary shuttle service to and from the Old Market.

#### **5 FUNKY OLD MARKET SPOTS**

- Goldsmith Silversmith: Custom jewelry and local artist selections
- Homer's Music: Retro music and gifts store focused on vinyl records
- **Hollywood Candy and Fairmont** Mercantile: Ultimate store of antiques, collectibles and retro candies
- Made in Omaha: Stocked with locally designed and produced goods
- Raygun: Known for their tongue-in-cheek merch



THE NORTH DOWNTOWN (NODO)/CAPITOL DISTRICT HOSTS TOP-TIER SPORTING EVENTS, A CUTTING-EDGE FASHION WEEK AND EPIC MUSIC PERFORMANCES. EXPLORE A NEIGHBORHOOD THAT APPRECIATES ITS INDUSTRIAL ROOTS WHILE ADVANCING A PROGRESSIVE VISION.

# No Do & The Capital District

CHI Health Center Omaha, the city's award-winning convention center and arena, brings the world's biggest names in music and entertainment to perform. The center also hosts major sporting events such as NCAA Volleyball Championships and Men's Basketball Championships.

Across from CHI Health Center is Charles Schwab Field Omaha, home of the NCAA Men's College World Series, a beloved summer tradition that electrifies the entire neighborhood.

After the game, grab a bite at local pubs like **DJ's Dugout Sports** Bar, Blatt Beer & Table and Rocco's Pizza and Cantina. Or enjoy more face time and less screen time at Lula B's, Burdock + Bitters, Nosh Restaurant and Wine Lounge and Hook & Lime.

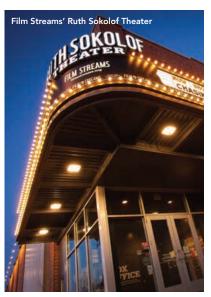
This part of town isn't just for sports fans. Music enthusiasts also discover their rhythm; art and style mavens find inspiration. Steelhouse Omaha brings exciting musical acts - from rock to rap – to its venue with a capacity for 3,000 people. **Slowdown** is a rock club and bar started by musicians behind Omaha record label Saddle Creek Records. Two stages feature local and nationally renowned indie acts. Jewell on Capitol highlights Omaha's jazz roots. Enjoy dinner and a drink with your show. Film Streams' Ruth **Sokolf Theater** shows independent and foreign films and features special panels and director talks.

Omaha Fashion Week, held at the Omaha Design Center, is one of the country's largest organized fashion week events. Twice a year, the season's hottest trends hit the runway and offer trendsetters the chance to buy.



At Hot Shops Art Center, you'll witness creativity in action. More than 90 working artists work here. Join a workshop and learn something new. At Millwork Commons, a hub for tech, art and design, Hutch sells high-end modern furniture and home decor, Kros Strain **Draft Works** pours craft beer, **Coneflower Creamery** scoops up award-winning ice cream, **Sweet Magnolias** Bake Shop serves "unapologetically indulgent" pastries and the good folks at **Dolomiti Pizzeria & Enoteca** pull piping hot pies from their Italian-imported oven.









THIS WALKABLE, BIKEABLE NEIGHBORHOOD FEATURES A LUSH AND LIVELY PARK, A WORLD-RENOWNED VEGAN RESTAURANT AND A BOARD GAME CAFE WITH THE LARGEST SELECTION OF PLAYABLE GAMES IN THE U.S.!

# Midtown Crossing

Central to Midtown Crossing is **Turner** Park, a lush 7.5-acre greenspace offering a vibrant array of activities in every season. During the summer, immerse yourself in the free yoga and fitness classes. As the sun sets, experience the enchanting night markets and live music events that bring the park to life. When winter arrives, the Season of Lights festival transforms Turner Park into a romantic wonderland, with thousands of twinkling LED lights creating a magical ambiance through Valentine's Day.



Midtown Crossing is a destination for culinary adventure. Head to Modern Love, where celebrity chef Isa Chandra Moskowitz reimagines classic American dishes with a delectable vegan twist. For a taste of Europe, **Sofra Kitchen** serves a fresh, locally sourced menu that delights the senses. Sea Thai Restaurant satisfies your spiciest cravings.

Quench your thirst with a variety of drink options. Thirst-Tea Cafe offers a delightful array of boba teas. For whisky connoisseurs, **Proof** boasts an impressive collection from around the globe. Smokin' Oak Wood-Fired Pizza & Taproom serves wood-fired pizzas and has a self-serve tap wall featuring local beers and cocktails.

#### Spielbound Board Game Cafe

is a must-visit for those seeking entertainment and a cozy vibe. The cafe features over 3,500 board games and serves craft coffee, beer and wine, personal pizzas and small bites. At The Corky Canvas, channel your artistic talents while you sip your favorite mixed drink.

After a day of excitement, unwind at the pet-friendly Element Hotel. Recharge with your furry friend, take advantage of the 24-hour fitness center and enjoy a complimentary breakfast to start your next day of adventures right.





# Blackstone

Before hitting the Blackstone District's craft brew pubs or cocktail lounges, fuel up with delicious food. Pull up a barstool at **Crescent Moon** and dig into an Omaha original. "The Moon" serves the Reuben sandwich recipe that originated in the neighborhood at The Blackstone Hotel (now Kimpton Cottonwood Hotel, which also presents three delicious varieties).

Huber Haus is a German beer hall serving sausages, pretzels and beer. Enjoy it by the flight or by the boot. At **Red Lion Lounge**, a revived historic jazz bar, enjoy a craft cocktail in a cozy speakeasy space.

Blackstone's pulse quickens at **Mula**, a trendy Mexican restaurant with a long tequila list. Noli's Pizzeria serves up fresh New Yorkstyle pizza and fun cocktails - and they're open late on Fridays and Saturdays for any midnight pizza cravings. Craft cocktail bar Nite Owl also has a late-night menu featuring thick burgers, salty fries and fresh salads.

For a sweet treat, head to award-winning Coneflower Creamery, which buys local honey, strawberries, goat cheese, lavender, milk and more ingredients from area producers. Beer lovers searching for Omaha brews quench their thirst at Scriptown Brewery, which names many of its brews after Omaha landmarks, geology and history. Cunningham's Pub & Grill is a casual sports bar serving food and local brews, including tap takeovers.

KAMP Blackstone is a food hall with a bar serving cheekily named cocktails, frozen drinks and spirit-free options. Corkscrew Wine & Cheese offers an expertly curated selection of wines and an equally thoughtful list of nonalcoholic drinks for boozefree fun. For a drink with a view, visit Little Ricky's Rooftop Bar. Reno's Karaoke rents affordable private karaoke rooms by reservation or walk-in.

And there's more than nighttime fun. Early birds in search of one of Omaha's best cups of coffee head to Archetype, proud "home of the 4th best barista in the world" (their tongue-incheek reference to owner Isaiah Sheese's placement at the World Barista Championship). Archetype serves small-batch roasted coffees, lattes, cappuccinos, macchiatos and in-house brewed chai, along with freshly baked sweet and savory pastries. Nearby, **Early Bird** offers decadent brunch options like Breakfast Nachos and Cereal Killer Pancakes. And Artemis Tea sells beautifully handcrafted teas and tisanes in a darling parlor.





PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY BLACKSTONE BECKONS FUN-LOVERS TO SING, DINE. DRINK AND CELEBRATE. THIS REVITALIZED HISTORIC DISTRICT PROMISES AN ACTION-PACKED TIME YOU WON'T SOON FORGET.



#### A DESTINATION FOR VISUAL ARTS ENTHUSIASTS, INDIE ROCKERS, FOODIES AND FANS OF COMEDY AND THEATER.



Independent music and the ever-evolving Omaha sound are the soundtrack to Benson nights. The Waiting Room is a nationally recognized club featuring established and up-and-coming independent record label artists. Nearby, The Sydney stages indie country, rock, dance and punk groups as well as drag shows and subversive comedy. Reverb Lounge hosts emo nights, Bollywood musicians, dubstep groups, indie pop acts and others, and crafts excellent tiki drinks. Benson Theatre features regular Soul Sessions and brings in independent film screenings, avant garde dance and singer-songwriters.

Ready for a cocktail? Krug Park will spice up the night with a dozen bloody mary concoctions and other craft libations. Jake's Cigars & Spirits pours stiff drinks and has a wide-ranging humidor.

On nice days, visitors enjoy the rooftop patio at **Benson Brewery**. Watch the Benson strip come to life while sipping a craft beer and digging into hearty pub fare. The Tenant is a new Asian-inspired smokehouse and rooftop bar where you can tuck into menu items such as tempura shrimp, oak smoked salmon and coconut rice. Order sparkling wine by the glass or share a bottle with friends.

Diners are spoiled for choice in Benson. Chef David Utterback at Yoshitomo has received multiple James Beard award nominations. Au Courant Regional Kitchen is a fine dining experience with European-influenced meals. Mas **Chingon** offers authentic Mexican-style street food in a fun atmosphere. Visitors can also discover unique shopping at Legend Comics & Coffee, Found Vintage Market and Shop Five Nine.



#### MORE NEIGHBORHOOD BARS

- Bärchen Beer Garden: German, Belgian and American craft brews
- Burke's Pub: Known for the Apple Pie shot
- Edge of the Universe: A themed cafe with an ever-changing menu
- Ming Toy Gallery: Nontraditional art gallery, new artists with a point of view
- Petshop: A shared creative space in Benson with galleries, studios and event space
- Radial Arts Center: A nonprofit gallery and collaborative studio space
- St. Andrews Pub: Relaxed pub with soccer on
- Snowy Sundaes: Bubble tea and shaved ice
- Veg.Edible: Vegan, gluten-free, nut-free, but not flavor-free bites





### VISIT OMAHA'S BIGGEST FARMERS MARKET, EAT AT A DINING HALL NAMED AFTER A HORSEY HISTORY AND BIKE THE KEYSTONE TRAIL ON A RENTAL BIKE.





# Aksarben Village

This part of Omaha has always been a gathering place. Once the Ak-Sar-Ben Race Track and Coliseum attracted sold-out crowds to watch horses run or Elvis or Kurt Cobain sing. The race track closed in 1995; the arena closed in 2002. The bronze marker of "Omaha," the 1935 Triple Crown winner, marks the winner's burial site in **Stinson Park**.

Today, Aksarben Village hosts the Omaha Film Festival in February and Omaha's largest and most visited farmers market from May through October. More than 120 growers and chefs line the streets selling farm-fresh flowers, local produce, honey and cheese, free range eggs and meat, homemade jams and sauces, baked goods and more. Kids can take a

break from the action at **Stinson Park**, where they can run, climb and swing on the playground.

In summer months, this is a bustling place. Musicians play live music on patios as patrons linger at bars and restaurants. There are offerings like Detroit-style pizza at **Backlot Taphouse** and dim sum at **Gold Mountain Restaurant**. Those searching for spice find it at **Saffron Urban Indian Kitchen, Mai Thai** and **Voodoo Taco**. **Herbe Sainte** offers Cajun plates and scratch cocktails. Or if you're with friends who can't agree on one place, head to **Inner Rail Food Hall** (the name is an homage to racetrack history) which features a variety of different vendors and indoor and outdoor seating.

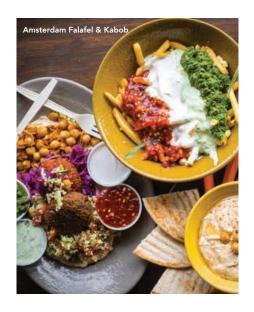
Grab a drink from **Sonny's** and enjoy your smorgasbord outside.

Shoppers at Aksarben Village are also spoiled for choice. **Chlorophyll** is an elevated plant boutique that celebrates the beauty of nature indoors – visit even if it's just for inspiration. Find pre-loved luxury handbags and goods at **Status. A Priori** offers apparel, footwear and homegoods. **GreenStreet Cycles** offers biking gear – if you left your shorts at home, they've got you covered. The store also offers classes and organizes group rides. Hop on a **Heartland Bike Share** electric bicycle to explore the nearby Keystone Trail.

When you're ready to retire for the day, you can choose from three well-appointed hotels: **Courtyard by Marriott**, **Hilton Garden Inn** and **Residence Inn**.









## Dundee

ALLOW DUNDEE TO CHARM YOU WITH ITS HISTORIC 20TH CENTURY HOMES, UNIQUE EATERIES AND FUNKY FAMILY-FRIENDLY VIBE.

Dundee residents dedicate themselves to maintaining their neighborhood's historic beauty. Find volunteers pruning roses in Memorial Park, working at the daylong annual street festival Dundee Day or watering 500 hanging flower baskets.

This family-friendly neighborhood has lots of dining options for travelers with kids - including counter service restaurants. Amsterdam Falafel & Kabob has a simple menu featuring falafel and doner kabob sandwiches, salads or plates with regular and kids portion sizes. Do not skip the curry fries. Le Quartier Bakery & Café offers freshly baked breads and

serves elevated Midwestern breakfast, brunch and lunch in an unfussy atmosphere. eCreamery is an ice cream maker that's won national acclaim, media praise and Warren Buffett's stamp of approval.

pastries, sandwiches and soup. Grab a baguette to go after your meal. Good Lookin'

Wander the **Dundee Community Garden** for a treat for your eyes – one of many spaces with a progressive mission in the neighborhood. Nearby, Ooh De Lally is a dinner restaurant that employs formerly incarcerated people, Exist Green is a zero waste market and eco-boutique and Albany and Avers is a second-hand shop that advocates for sustainable fashion.

Dundee's artsy vibe is also strong. Film Streams' Dundee Theater is a nonprofit cinema dedicated to the presentation and discussion of film as an art form. (You may catch filmmaker Alexander Payne, a native Dundee resident, taking in a show.) The restaurant Lola's shares the building if you want to do dinner and a show. Enjoy a nightcap at Pageturners Lounge, which is co-owned by Omaha's most famous indie rocker, Conor Oberst. Intimate music performances might be the birth of the next big star - and you can say you saw them first in Omaha.

#### MORE DUNDEE DINING

- Avoli Osteria: Northern Italian cuisine
- Blue Line Coffee: Cozy coffee shop with friendly neighborhood vibe
- **Dundee Double Shot**: Local coffee house serving 32+ of its own roasts
- Goldbergs in Dundee: Burgers, beers, bread pudding and Bloody Marys
- The Hoppy Taco: Street-style tacos and craft brews, daily happy hour
- Pitch Coal-Fire Pizzeria: Chef-crafted salads, pasta and pizza
- Dundee Dell: Since 1934 serving pub grub, single malts and unique cocktails







# Morth Omaha & Florence

Cultural attractions line North 24th Street, where musicians like Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Omaha's jazz great Preston Love and others once played at the **Dreamland Ballroom**. The Union for Contemporary Art offers opportunities to experience and create art with exhibitions, performing arts and co-op studios. Culxr House is a community hub hosting events, art shows, open mics, music showcases, pop-ups and bike rides. Great Plains Black History Museum celebrates the contributions of Black Americans through exhibits and seminars. Watch for more exciting additions as North 24th Street is undergoing an ambitious revitalization, with plans for wider sidewalks, landscaping and better parking.

Another famous North Omaha figure, Civil Rights leader Malcolm X, was born not far away and recently inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame. The 17 acres near his birth site at 3448 Evans St. include a visitor center. community garden, greenhouse, plaza and historical marker. On the horizon: a museum, education center and outdoor amphitheater.

Does all this history and culture make you hungry? Big Mama's Kitchen is located in the Highland Accelerator Dining **Room** and serves up pig ear sandwiches and sweet potato cheesecake. Food Network's "Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives" and Travel Channel's "101 Tastiest Places to Chow Down" have featured

the restaurant. Duck downstairs for a hot drink to-go at Hardy Coffee Co. Farther north on 30th Street, Time Out Foods serves some of Omaha's most delicious fried chicken.

North of North Omaha, the Florence neighborhood has more historical markers per square mile than anywhere else in Nebraska. You'll experience history at the Mormon Trail Center at Winter Quarters, where westwardbound Latter-Day Saints once built a place to stop. A museum and a visitors' center tell the story of their journey. Florence Mill, constructed in 1846, is the only surviving original building from that time. Today it is home to a nonprofit Winter-Quarters Mill Museum, ArtLoft Gallery and a Sunday farmers market

that runs from spring to fall. Other area historical attractions include Florence **Depot** and **Florence Bank**. Florence Days in May is a unique way to visit all these historical attractions for free.

For refreshments, Harold's Koffee **House** is an old-school diner whipping up breakfast and lunch classics, while Ramona's Mexican Restaurant a few doors down is known for its deep-fried burritos. Tussey's Casual Grill offers a globally inspired menu, including colorful salads and hearty sandwiches.

The restored home of Civil War General George Crook offers engaging tours. Outside, admire more than 100 varieties of flowers in the heirloom garden.





WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JAZZ LEGENDS, SATISFY CRAVINGS FOR HOMESTYLE COOKING AND WATCH NEW DEVELOPMENTS TAKE SHAPE ALONG HISTORICAL ATTRACTIONS.

## south Omaha

STROLL ONE OF **OMAHA'S LIVELIEST** STREETS, SAVOR FIERY SALSAS AND **ADMIRE PRODIGIOUS** PUBLIC ART.



Historic 24th Street is the main artery of South Omaha. It invites people to gather. Ornately decorated circular benches dot sidewalks next to blooming flower planters. Inside historic brick buildings vendors bustle selling their wares and beautifying their storefronts. Savory smells waft from taco trucks and restaurants.

Gracing many buildings are murals, including "Magic City," which tells South Omaha's immigrant story. Stroll Plaza de la Raza to see three more murals representing Mayans, Latinos and Omaha's Indigenous people. South Omaha is where many groups – Polish, Irish, Czech, Italian, German, Mexican, Guatemalan, Salvadorian and more sought new beginnings for their families.





Today, visitors to South Omaha savor these cultures' cuisine - whether it's tacos from El Alamo, tortes from Lithuanian Bakery or tom kha soup from Laos Thai. Some spots, like Donohue's Pub, celebrate South Omaha's cultural smorgasbord with eclectic daily specials - enchiladas, Polish cabbage rolls, dumplings served with kraut and corned beef are among the rotating options. Find a vast array of authentic Mexican options here including El Dorado, Isla Del Mar, Guaca Maya, Casa de Huarache, Taqueria Tijuana and Howard's Charro Cafe.

South Omaha's annual Cinco de Mayo celebration attracts as many as 200,000 local and regional visitors annually. Watch for more South Omaha events - like Fiestas Patrias, Día de Los Muertos and Holiday Lights Festival - on the Visit Omaha calendar.

El Museo Latino showcases art from Latin American countries and features programming including art history and anthropology lectures, dancing and weaving demonstrations, film showings and more. It's an Omaha treasure you won't want to miss. ¡Vamos!



#### SLURP A BOOZY ICE CREAM DRINK IN A RETRO FOUNTAIN SHOP, SWAY WITH THE CROWD AT AN ELECTRIFYING ROCK SHOW AND DISCOVER A TINY BAR THAT'S BIG ON FUN.





Omaha's growing entertainment neighborhood Little Bohemia is fast becoming a visitor favorite because of its unique small businesses offering unique shopping, dining and entertainment.

Fizzy's Fountain & Liquors is a soda fountain for grownups-with boozy floats, ice cream cocktails and slushees. A menu of finger-licking food includes retro offerings like a wedge salad or a fried bologna sandwich. The kitschy decor and tableside phone ordering is fun. And it's all for adults 21 and older.

Catch live rock, metal or country music at The Admiral. The 1,400-capacity venue reopened in 2022 after extensive renovations. Recent performers include Lucinda Williams, Polaris and Silversun Pickups. The venue also plays host to comedians.



# Little Bohemia

Comedians also frequently visit Tiny House Bar, an intimate woman-owned space that features live music, DJs, bingo and LGBTQ-centered events, and serves inspired seasonal cocktails. Spread out on the patio and meet new friends. In winter, cozy up in an igloo with pals.

Fans of hoppy, sour and high-gravity beers head to Lumen Beer Company, which has a serene interior and hosts fun music trivia nights. Play Skee-ball with a drink in hand at **Beercade 2**. You'll find more than 30 rotating craft beers and a full bar as well as 40 arcade offerings and 13 pinball machines.

If you're traveling with your dog, trot to Omaha Dog Bar, where your fur-riend will have 12,000-square-feet of fully fenced outdoor turf to play. Choose from a menu of cocktails, beer, wine and nonalcoholic drinks. There are also snacks for people and their pups.

A variety of specialized boutique stores, Pretty in Patina, Family of Things and Dusk Goods & Gifts, will satisfy shoppers in search of a special gift from Omaha.



# OMAHA

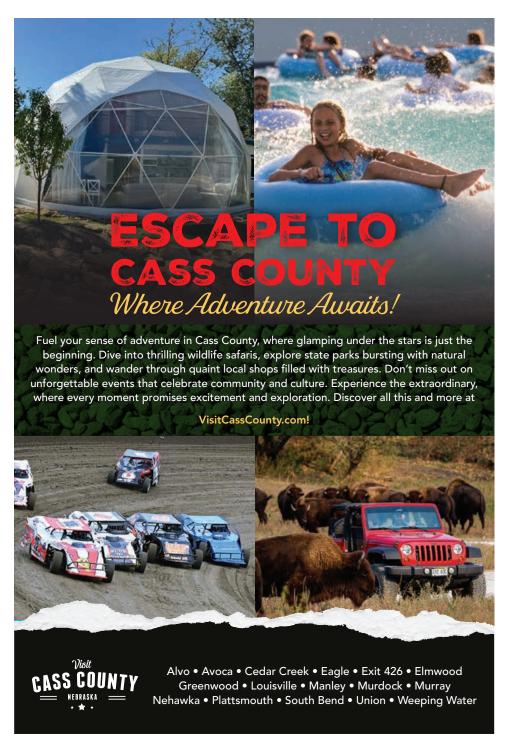


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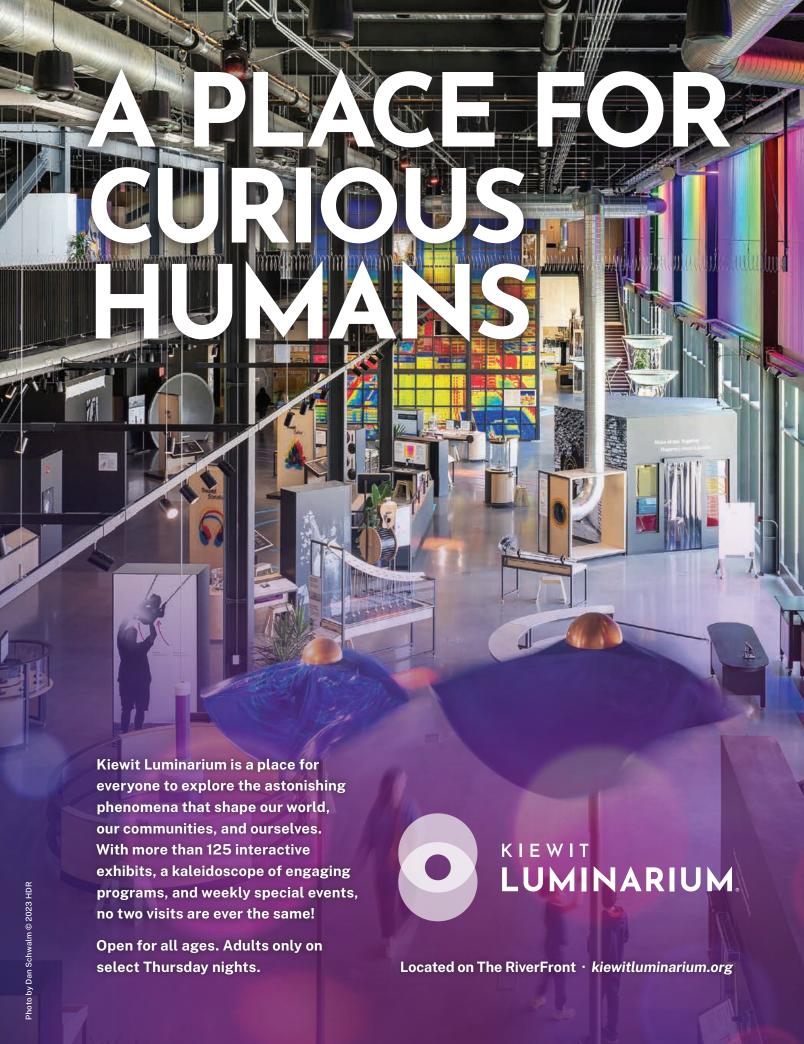
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