

Some TOP Omaha attractions

1. Boys Town
2. Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge
3. Casinos in Council Bluffs
4. Saint Cecilia Cathedral
5. Cloisters on the Platte
6. Lauritzen Gardens
7. The Durham Museum
8. Joslyn Art Museum
9. SAC & Aerospace Museum
10. Old Market District
11. First National's Spirit of Nebraska's Wilderness and Pioneer Courage Park
12. Performing Arts Center
13. Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium

- * **Did you know:** Omaha is home to 5 Fortune 500 Companies: Berkshire Hathaway(7); Union Pacific(143); ConAgra Foods(215); Peter Kiewit Sons(255); Mutual of Omaha (411).
 - * **Did you know:** The U.S. Swim Trials return to Omaha for the fourth time. Qualifying for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.
 - * **Did you know:** Since [1950](#), the College World Series (CWS) has been held in Omaha, Nebraska
 - * **Did you know:** Omaha is the nation's 40th largest city; population 500K; (Greater Omaha Area pop.1.3M)
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1. Boys Town: When Father Edward J. Flanagan purchased the Overlook Farm in 1921, it became the new, permanent site of Boys Town. Over the decades that followed, schools, churches and homes were built, and tens of thousands of young lives have been transformed. When you visit the Village of Boys Town, you'll get an unforgettable glimpse into the history of an organization that has given new hope to so many at-risk children over the past 100 years.

Address: 14100 Crawford St. Boys Town, NE 68010 Official site: <https://www.boystown.org>
[Boys Town Movie \(1938\)](#) [Boys town today](#) [Visit Boys Town](#)

2. Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge: The Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge is unique in the fact that it is one of the only foot bridges to connect two states. A plaque marks the spot where the two states meet. The bridge makes for a great stroll after dinner or for snacks at the beautifully restored Old Market part of town, which is located very nearby. On the far side of the "s" curving bridge is the city of Council Bluffs. The distance from one side of the bridge to the other is 3,000 feet. Bicycle enthusiasts will be pleased to know that the bridge connects to a large trail network in both cities. For those with an interest in floral displays, or just looking to take a break in beautiful surroundings, the Lauritzen Gardens are just a short pedal away.

3. Casinos: Just across the Missouri River into Council Bluffs, Iowa you can find Ameristar Casino Hotel (3.4 miles from our hotel)., and Harrah's Hotel & Casino (2.6 miles from our hotel).

4. Saint Cecilia Cathedral: Set high upon a hill, the twin bell towers of this lovely cathedral are one of the city's key landmarks. The cathedral was started in 1905 and is said to contain more than three million bricks. According to some of the stories about the cathedral, every one of the bricks had to be dipped in water before the architect would allow them to be mortared. The beautiful stained glass windows are more than 500 years old. In one section of the glass, the Virgin Mary is shown holding an ear of corn. The exterior of the cathedral does not do it justice; visitors should try to sneak at least a peek of the beautiful interior.
Address: 701 N 40th Street, Omaha Official site: <http://www.stceciliacathedral.org/>

5. Cloisters on the Platte: 930 acres — some of which were once home to a ski resort , offer 47 retreat weekends a year, all of which will be silent and based on the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius, with plenty of time for contemplative strolls. The Stations of the Cross that rest on the grounds at Cloisters on the Platte is comprised of 14 stations. The stations, sculpted by a team of 10 sculptors from Colorado and Oregon, consist of a 2,500 feet long walking tour that represent Christ's trial through his burial -- roughly the distance that Christ carried his cross from Jerusalem to Golgatha — the place of his crucifixion. There is a suggested \$10 donation for people making The Stations of the Cross walk. Address: 23332 Fishery Rd, Gretna, NE 68028 <https://cloistersontheplatte.com/>

6. Lauritzen Gardens: These 100-acre gardens are in the riverfront hills area of the city and make for a pleasant place to observe nature in its finest form. Lauritzen Gardens were founded in 1995 and have grown and expanded their displays from the initial rose, herb, and shade hosta gardens among others. Now visitors will find gardens focusing on many themes, from English and Victorian, to one on Nebraskan prairies, called Song of the Lark Meadow. The gardens also feature a model railroad, education center, and a bird sanctuary. Address: 100 Bancroft Street, Omaha Official site: www.lauritzengardens.org/

7. The Durham Museum: In a spectacular Art Deco building, the huge Durham Museum is an urban renewal project that has shown tremendous results. Originally one of the nation's busiest train stations, the 1931 building was restored to its former glory in 1995 after an extensive renovation. The museum showcases the history of the local area. One of the highlights is the Suzanne and Walter Scott Great Hall where the exhibits are showcased in the fully restored main hall featuring impressive Art Deco architecture. Also of note are the Steam Locomotive Stations where the inner workings of this world-changing technology are showcased with hands-on displays. The Durham Museum is an easy stroll southwest from the Old Market area. Address: 801 South 10th Street, Omaha Official site: www.durhammuseum.org/

8. Joslyn Art Museum : The Joslyn Art Museum was built in the late 1920s and opened in 1931 to great fanfare. It was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn to commemorate her husband George. The impressive exterior is clad in Etowah Fleuri marble, which shows a pink hue in the light, and the interior displays a mix of marbles from across Europe and Morocco. The Joslyn Museum is Nebraska's largest art museum, with notable collections of Baroque art and Greek pottery. The museum is also known for its collection of works by Alfred Jacob Miller, Karl Bodmer, Charles Bird King, and Henry Inman. Address: 2200 Dodge Street, Omaha Official site: www.joslyn.org/

9. SAC Aerospace Museum: Public tours of the SAC Aerospace Museum are given daily. They begin at 11 a.m. and are conducted by a volunteer staff member of the museum. Allow two hours for a full tour. (On occasion, docent tour guides are unable to give tours due to extenuating circumstances. Feel free to call the front desk [402.944.3100] after 9 a.m. on the day of your visit to ensure that tours will be available, or call in advance to schedule a tour). [Visitor information](#) Address: 28210 West Park Hwy, Ashland, NE.

10. Old Market District : In the heart of downtown Omaha is the Old Market District, where a variety of historical buildings from the 19th century line cobblestone streets. It's a wonderful place to wander around, and some of Omaha's best and most interesting cafés and restaurants are in this area. Galleries abound, and their offerings are diverse, ranging from eclectic to more contemporary. The Old Market attracts locals and tourists alike and is relatively compact and well signposted for easy navigation.

11. First National's Spirit of Nebraska's Wilderness and Pioneer Courage Park: This free attraction is one of the most unique permanent outdoor art installations in the nation. Made of bronze and stainless steel, it is one of the largest of its kind in the world. Although the sculpture park is spread out over five city blocks, the installations are not adjacent. That said, it is easy to follow the flow from one piece to the next. The series shows a wagon train and pioneers making their way

through hilly and muddy terrain, as well as a herd of bison and a flock of geese. The meandering procession terminates at the First National Tower. Visitors can walk right up to and around the sculptures, which are 1.25 times life size.

12. Performing Arts Center: The Omaha Performing Arts Center is actually two venues: the Orpheum Theater and the Holland Center for the Performing Arts. The Orpheum Theater, constructed in 1927, is the host to traveling Broadway shows, dance shows, and traveling comedians among others. The Holland Center for the Performing arts is housed in a modern, architecturally acclaimed building noted for its fine acoustics. It has had the honor of hosting some of the world's premiere musicians and is the home of the Omaha Symphony. Official site: <https://www.omahaperformingarts.org/>

13. Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium: This huge facility is home to all kinds of unique exhibits and is one of the state's most popular attractions. Among the zoo's claims to fame are the **Dome Desert**, known for being the largest indoor desert in the world, and the Lied Jungle, North America's largest indoor **rainforest**. The Kingdoms of the Night exhibit, also touted as the largest nocturnal exhibit of its kind in the world, allows for a close-up look at creatures of the dark, from bats to beavers and other animals that most visitors may not even have heard of before. The zoo is also home to the Suzanne and Walter Scott Aquarium, where visitors can walk through a 70-foot-long shark tunnel. Address: 3701 S 10th Street, Omaha Official site: <http://www.omahazoo.com/>