



OMAHA, NE AREA INFORMATION

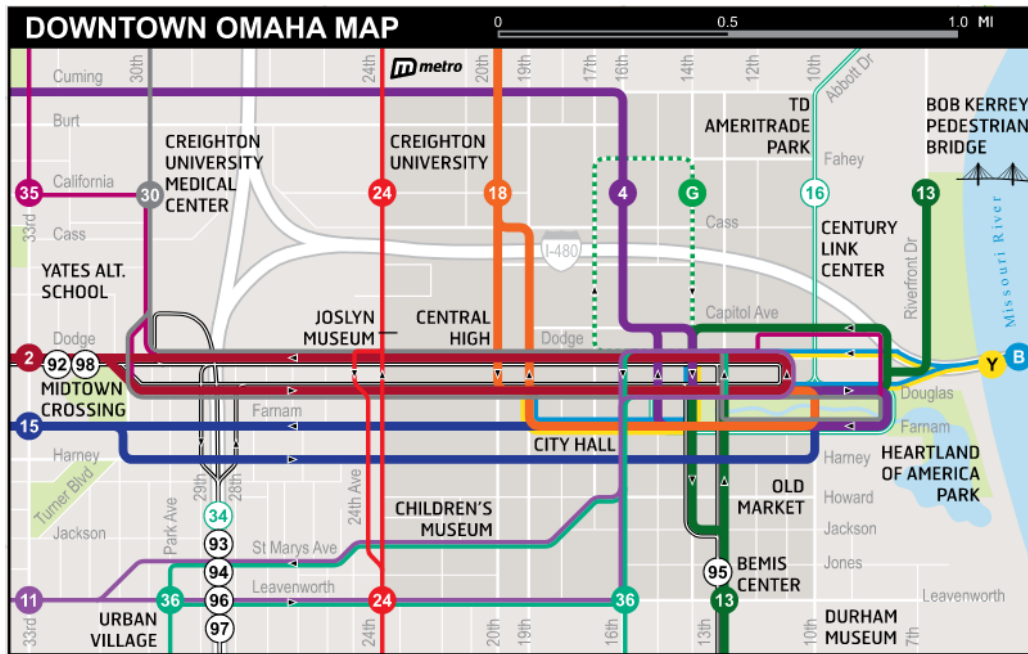
[Omaha](#) is the largest city in the state of Nebraska and the county seat of Douglas County. It is located in the Midwestern United States on the Missouri River, about 10 miles (15 km) north of the mouth of the Platte River. With a population of about 410,000, Omaha is the nation's 44th-largest city. Nearly 1.3 millions residents live in the Greater Omaha area, a 50-mile radius around Downtown Omaha.

Founded in 1854 by pioneers and known as the "Gateway to the West", today's Omaha is home to four Fortune 500 companies and five Fortune 1000 headquarters. Its modern economy is diverse, built on skilled knowledge jobs. Notable inventions from Omaha include the bobby pin and the Reuben sandwich, and tourism greatly adds to the city's revenue.

Transportation

By Bus

The [Metro Area Transit \(MAT\)](#) offers a system of public transportation that serves Downtown Omaha and neighboring towns, and they have a Trip Planner as well as downloadable PDFs of their routes. While buses are available, they are not always reliable, they are better in the downtown tourism area, and 80% residents prefer to commute by car.



By Car

It is important to have a car in Omaha. While traffic becomes congested during normal rush hours, roads are almost never at a standstill and some traffic is avoidable with small route changes. The average commute time is 20 minutes, and Omaha is well connected to the Interstate Highway System.



By Water

An anomaly in the city's transportation is the [River City Star](#), a passenger excursion paddleboat that sails between Omaha and Council Bluffs. The boat is docked at Miller's Landing.

By Foot and Bike

For those who live in central neighborhoods near downtown, biking and walking are increasingly popular options. The [BCycle public bike-share system](#) allows residents to rent a bike at one station and return it at another. There are 67 miles of paved trails which are used for both commuting and recreation.

Leaving Omaha

Omaha's [Eppley Airfield](#), just 20 minutes from downtown, is serviced by several national airlines, including American Airlines, Delta, and United. The region is also accessible via [Amtrak](#) trains and several charter bus companies.

Registration

Obtaining a Driver's License

If you have an out-of-state or out-of-country license, you may use it for as long as you maintain your residency in the state where it was issued. If you are moving permanently to Nebraska, you may use your out-of-state license for **30 days**. To change to a Nebraska license, bring your Social Security card, another form of ID, and multiple utility or phone bills verifying that you are a Nebraska resident to a motor vehicle facility. You'll have to pass written and eye exams, and usually a road test.

For general information and instructions on how to obtain an official state ID card or driver's license, visit the [Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles](#).

Your Destination Services Consultant will also assist you with the proper procedure.

Schools

Generally, to register your child for school you will need to have a passport and/or birth certificate, proof of immunizations, any applicable past school records and proof of residency. Most public schools have boundary areas, and you must show proof (i.e. copy of lease or home purchase agreement) to be allowed to register in that particular school. Please always confirm requirements with the school you are interested in before assuming that your child will be able to attend that school.

Grade level in the public school system is determined by the age of the child. Typically, the child must be 5 years old by September 1st to enter kindergarten. School districts may be very strict about the age requirement, but inquire with the school district you are interested in to determine if there are any exemptions for students who are ahead in grade level. You may also want to ask about any gifted or advanced programs as well as their English as a Second Language (ESL) Programs. Some elementary schools also offer a pre-Kindergarten program for children who miss the September 1st requirement. You may inquire at the school districts for availability.

Contact your IOR Destination Services Consultant for more assistance with schooling questions.

Public, Private, and Preschools

A complete listing of public schools in Omaha can be viewed [here](#).

A complete listing of private schools in the Omaha area can be viewed [here](#).

A directory of preschools in the Omaha area can be viewed [here](#).

Additional Resources

- www.greatschools.org
- www.eschoolprofile.com
- www.schooltree.org

Colleges/Universities

- [Colleges and universities near Omaha](#)



University of Nebraska at Omaha. Courtesy of [UNO](#)

Recreation

Arts and Culture

Explore more than 100 acres of botanical beauty at [Lauritzen Gardens](#) and marvel at exquisite works of art inside the [Joslyn Art Museum](#). [El Museo Latino](#) is the first Latino art and history museum in the Midwest, [Love's Jazz and Art Center](#) captures the heritage of jazz in an area where Duke Ellington, Count Basie and others once played, and [The Old Market Omaha](#) preserves its historic place in time in this historic section of town where visitors can stroll along the cobbled streets and explore the many preserved buildings.

For Families and Fun

Walk across a swinging rope bridge suspended over a tropical rainforest at Omaha's [Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium](#). Hop aboard historic train cars at [The Durham Museum](#). Discover Omaha's past through the [Douglas County Historical Society's](#) Tombstone Tour. Climb in, on, and through everything imaginable at the [Omaha Children's Museum](#). Catch the spectacular [Heartland of America](#) Fountain with its 320-ft water jet and light show. Lewis & Clark Interpretive exhibits, WWII and Airborne Memorial Sculptures and a pedestrian bridge connecting to the Lewis & Clark Landing.



Omaha Zoo. Courtesy of [Morrissey](#)

Other Attractions, Dining, and Nightlife

Once overlooked as a vast landscape of chain restaurants and Old Italian steakhouses, Omaha is now a culinary haven in the Midwest, with a growing number of locally owned restaurants relying on quality produce, meat and cheese from small-production farmers, and a strong craft-brewery scene.

[Fine Dining Guide](#) and the [Newcomer's Eating Tour of Omaha](#) are excellent restaurant resources.

Omaha's [nightlife scene](#) ranges from ultra-sophisticated to warm and friendly.

Omaha has several indoor [rock climbing gyms](#).

Visit Omaha's [Farmers Markets](#), the city's best source for locally grown produce, meats, cheeses and specialty items.

General Links for Recreation in Omaha

- [Outdoor Recreation in Omaha](#)
- [Family Attractions in Omaha](#)
- [Arts & Culture in Omaha](#)
- [Dining in Omaha](#)
- [Shopping in Omaha](#)



[Approach Climbing Gym](#)