

Explore UNL's 'suburb'

Lincoln offers culture, entertainment

Analysis By
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Staff Reporter

Students, beware! Life on a university campus tends to numb one's sense of reality; to shelter the ears from social issues; to shield one's eyes from the "real world" beyond the lecture halls. The following information is provided as a safeguard from that loss of touch with reality, which seems to come with the territory.

How many of us will complete our stay at UNL without even exploring its suburb (called "Lincoln")? The town has plenty of sights to see, and most are available to us day after day, all year long. Let's begin with the great outdoors.

Parks

Lincoln has more than 5,000 acres of parks, with swimming pools, golf courses... OK, OK, I'll save it for April. But just in case we get one more taste of winter this year, the parks can be just as fun in the winter as in the summer. Check out Wilderness Park, with over 1,400 acres just brimming with cross-country ski trails. Holmes Park has skiing as well as ice skating and sledding. It also has the Hyde Memorial Observatory for star gazing. Pioneers Park offers a great toboggan run, as well as an area to ski.

Art Galleries

Want to stay inside? The "Star City" has several art galleries and exhibitions. The Elder Art Gallery, on the Nebraska Wesleyan University

campus, features artwork by Wesleyan University faculty and students.

University Place Art Gallery, 4822 Cleveland, has paintings, sculpture and other artwork available for purchase.

The Haymarket, 119 S. Ninth St., is a community art center displaying works of more than 300 area artists.

Closer to home is the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, with one of the nation's finest collections of paintings, sculpture, photography and more.

The Christlieb Collection of Western Art, found in Love Library, second floor, displays works by Remington, Russell, Norman Rockwell and other masters. The collection comprises nearly 400 works of painting and beautiful bronze sculpture.

Historical Attractions

If you haven't seen the State Capitol Building — the inside, that is — by now, then it may be time you did. It is considered one of the world's seven modern architectural wonders. Free tours are given daily on the hour, except noon. The tour takes about half an hour.

A few blocks north of the Capitol is the State Historical Society, 15th and P streets. Nebraska's colorful past is presented with various photos, films and exhibits. Plan to spend a few hours.

The Heritage Room at Bennett Martin Public Library, 14th and N Streets, features writing about Nebraska, as well as writings by Nebraska



Phil Tsai/Daily Nebraskan

authors. I recommend "Looking at Lincoln" by Ellen McKinnon to those of you with a thirst for knowledge about your city, and "Inside Lincoln" by Roger Welsch, for those of you with a somewhat mischievous thirst for knowledge.

Lincoln has some homes that every Lincolnite should visit. The Kennard home, 1627 H St., is restored to its 1870 appearance. Next door is the Ferguson Mansion, in 1910 style. Both are open for visitors on weekends from 1:30 to 5 p.m.

William Jennings Bryan lived in the Fairview home, 700 S. 16th St. It, too, has been restored to its early 1900s look. Perhaps the most famous home to visit is the Governor's Mansion, 1425 H St. Tours conducted on Thursdays, feature a doll collection of Nebraska's first ladies.

Other Attractions

While the University of Nebraska State Museum in Morrill Hall is historically oriented, it also is a unique place to visit. See some world-famous displays and learn about prehistoric America while you're at it. The Ralph Mueller Planeta-

rium also is in Morrill Hall, offering various astronomical and audiovisual presentations.

On East Campus, you will find the NETV headquarters. NETV is one of the finest, most modern television production studios in the world. Tours can be arranged by appointment.

The National Museum of Roller Skating, 7000 A St., is considered the definitive source for roller sports history in America. Trace the history of roller skating from the 1800s to the present.

Last, but probably not least, check into The Acreage, 26th Street and Sathillo Road. This historic site has 40 acres of shops from the turn of the century, a park, a farmer's market, arts and crafts and a country store. It is on old Oregon Trail route. The Acreage gives tours, and a "down home" atmosphere prevails.

If you want more information about Lincoln, or about Nebraska, check the Heritage Room at Bennett Martin Library, or the Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1221 N St.



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