



Gladstone Parks & Recreation 50+ Travel *Nebraska's Pioneers* *June 25-27, 2014*

Wednesday, June 25th

In 1857 three small towns along the Missouri River were consolidated and **Nebraska City** was born. Beginning as a trading post, the town grew into a center for the pioneer freighting industry and a departure point for western exploration and settlement. Your first stop will be the **Lewis & Clark Missouri River Basin Visitors Center** where the flora and fauna and scientific discoveries recorded by the Lewis & Clark expedition are the focus. You will enjoy lunch at the **Lied Center** before visiting **Arbor Lodge**, the home of J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day. On the way to Hastings, Nebraska you will stop at **Lee's Marble Museum** where you'll find the largest collection of collectable marbles in the world! Your home for the next two nights is the Holiday Inn Express in Hastings. (Lunch is included today).

Thursday, June 26th

To start your day, you will be joined by a step on guide to learn about **The Naval Ammunitions Depot**, or NAD. The largest ammunition depot in the nation was at Hastings. On June 10, 1942, the War Department authorized the building of a \$45-million naval ammunition depot southeast of Hastings. The site was chosen because it was an equal distance from the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. It manufactured and stored bombs, mines, rockets, 40-millimeter shells and six-inch shells. NAD supplied 40% of the Navy's ammunition during the war. After lunch you will visit **The Pioneer Village in Minden**, Nebraska, which houses the largest private collection of Americana anywhere. There's a Frontier Fort, a Pony Express Station, an Iron Horse, a general store and a toy store, chock full of all the goods from yesteryear, an original art collection, 17 historic flying machines, 100 antique tractors, plus 350 antique cars, and much more. You will travel to Kearney to visit the **Great Platte River Road Archway Monument**. The pioneers' westward journey along the Great Platte River Road is re-created with a variety of interactive and audiovisual exhibits that allow you to join a wagon train and experience a prairie crossing, a buffalo stampede and a stopover at a frontier fort. The museum is built directly over I-80, today's busiest east-west highway. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included today).

