

Oh My! A Guide to Your New City

Subtitle: I do not recognize any name around here, Please help!

Meaning of “Oh My!” (<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/my-oh-my>)

Please help support our local small businesses

To give you an example: supporting local producers also supports the state economy. If each Nebraska households spent just \$10 per week on locally grown foods, it could bring \$371 million back into the state’s economy each year, according to Nebraska Extension (2020 estimates).

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This is not an exhaustive list of ideas and places, but it should help you get started discovering your new city. We do not have any specific interest including financial in any of those places, and they are not listed in any particular order. Try them at your own risk.

Do not forget that we are here to help you succeed, thus feel free to reach out to your colleagues.

If you think that something is missing from the list (or not up-to-date), please send a message to era@izard.org with the subject “Oh My!”, and tell us in short sentences what to add (or remove). Thank you in advance for your contribution!

Emergency number in US is 911

It is for medical emergencies, fire and the police in case of emergency.

UNL Arrival Guide

Scroll to the bottom of <https://nse.unl.edu/international/arrival-orientation/>

Idioms

Sometime a colleague will tell you a sentence that does not make an *ounce of sense*, which might be an idiomatic expression. You’ll find some help online for some (<http://www.smart-words.org/quotes-sayings/idioms-meaning.html>), but the best remedy is to tell the person: “*It beats me! I can’t make a head or tail of what you said*”. You got it. Just ask what the person meant. Do not wait.

Communication

Mobile or Cell Phone

You'll learn quickly that a smart phone (cell phone) is becoming a necessity. It is to the point that you may only use your cell phone and can save by not having a land line for the phone. UNL has some contracts that might be advantageous (<http://sales.unl.edu/verizon-0>; UNL computer and phone shop on city campus). Be aware of your particular situation (international call direct or via calling card being one example). Shop around!

The carriers are Verizon, AT&T, Alltel, US Cellular, T-Mobile, Sprint (not too great of a network) and others that are non-contract carriers such as H2O wireless and PagePlus [small companies but good, we have been told]. You can also get the sim cards from places like Best Buy or Walmart.

Internet and WiFi

Free WiFi

Synonym with coffee shop such as The Mills, The Bay, Scooter, Nu Vibe, and Starbucks. Other option includes Le Quartier (if you prefer your WiFi with a side of fresh bread and European pastries).

University WiFi

Connect to UNL-Wireless-Registration and open the browser. It will take you to the registration page where you can register your device. After this, connect to Eduroam. (<https://its.unl.edu/services/wi-fi/>)

Internet at home

You can find a list of internet providers at <http://broadbandnow.com/Nebraska/Lincoln>, and Allo.

Lodging

Be aware of the distances. You will need a car, bike or bus pass very quickly depending where you live.

Rental Properties

Most searches for rental properties are made via the Internet. Do not make any payments before you check the credibility of your place and the property owner.

- <https://www.zillow.com/>
- <https://www.trulia.com/>
- http://www.realtor.com/apartments/Lincoln_NE
- <https://www.apartments.com>
- <http://postdoc.unl.edu/housing/>

Be aware that there is a lot of false advertisements for rentals on this site:

<https://lincoln.craigslist.org/search/apa> [it is a very good site to find things to put in your place, but not for rentals]

University Housing for Students

- Single student: University housing 530 N 17th Street; housing@unl.edu access through MyRed
- Married students or students with children housing via UNL (<http://housing.unl.edu/residence-halls>)

While you are searching for a more permanent accommodation

Be aware that the cost of temporary housing can accumulate pretty fast. You can get a room in a hotel or motel per night or per week. If you cannot be in a room with the smell of cold cigarette, be sure to request a non-smoking room.

You can find the room via internet via web sites such as Kayak.com, Expedia.com, CheapOair.com, Travelocity.com, Hotels.com, and Trivago.com.

Transportation

Bicycle

Bike Paths

There is an extensive network of bike paths that are not visible while driving. Maps are available at the Visitor Center in Haymarket (7th and P Streets) or <https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/bike/trip.htm#dl-maps>

Bicycle Rental

- BikeLNK (<https://bikelnk.bcycle.com/>)
 - Bike Rack located on west side of our FIC building
 - UNL faculty, staff and students can buy an annual membership for only \$10, using promo code "UNLBIKES1920" when you use your unl.edu email
 - One trip use will cost \$3 per 30 minutes after the first free 30 minutes.
- UNL Campus Recreation Center (<https://crec.unl.edu/outdoor/rental>)
- RentabikeNow (<https://www.rentabikenow.com/Nebraska/>)

Scooter

Electric scooters, which made their debut in Omaha in 2019, are in Lincoln. To rent the scooters, Huskers will need to download either the [Bird](#) or [Spin](#) mobile app. After registering and adding a payment method, the app displays a map of where all available devices are located. Both brands of scooters cost \$1 to unlock and 10 to 35 cents per minute to ride (pricing varies depending on city). Users can ride the scooters within a [designated area downtown](#), as they use geofencing to restrict where the devices can go, so if a scooter is brought outside the set boundaries, it will stop running.

Bus

Lincoln Bus System

- StarTran (<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/pworks/startran/>)
- UNL Campus Bus Services (<https://parking.unl.edu/campus-bus-service>)
- "Lincoln Bus Tracker" (phone app) allows you to track the buses

Bus Passes

- UNL's Parking and Transit Services, at 625 Stadium Drive, Suite A
 - UNL students with N-card are entitled to a free bus pass (<https://parking.unl.edu/bus-riders-user-guide#student-pass>)
 - UNL employees with N-card may purchase an annual bus pass <https://parking.unl.edu/bus-riders-user-guide#faculty-pass>)
- "Token Transit" (phone app): you can buy monthly pass for less than \$10 dollars

Lincoln to Omaha

- N-E Ride shuttle bus: free service between UNL (Lincoln) and UNO or UNMC (Omaha) during the week (<http://engineering.unl.edu/n-e-ride/>)
- Omalink shuttle: to and from airports (<http://www.omalink.com/>)

Long Distance Bus Services

- Arrow Stage Lines, Burlington Trailways, Windstar Lines, Dashabout, Roadrunner
- Megabus (<https://us.megabus.com/>) with 5 destinations

Taxi Services

- Uber (phone app or <https://www.uber.com/>)
- Lyft (phone app or <https://www.lyft.com/>)
- zTrip (phone app or <https://www.ztrip.com/>)
- Taxis (Yellow Cab, Servant Cab, Capital Cab, Happy Cab) [Be aware cash only]

Train

- Amtrak – They have discounts for students available

Airports

- LNK Lincoln airport is next door; five miles northwest of downtown.
- OMA Eppley Airfield (Omaha airport) is only a one hour drive away. This choice can save you money on some destinations.
- Flight search sites include Kayak.com, Expedia.com, CheapOair.com, Travelocity.com, and specific company such as United Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Alaska Airlines, Allegiant Air, American Airlines, Frontier and Southwest Airlines that leave out of Lincoln and Omaha.

Car Rentals

- Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, National Car Rental, RentAVan, Rent’N Drive
- Short term car rental (by hour increment): ZipCar.com

Driver’s License

You will need to take care of your driver license at the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicle; <http://www.clickdmv.ne.gov/>). If you are a foreigner, your passport, I-20 and I-94 form might be part of the requested documents. In any case, check their web site as gathering the list of document required more time than the process, and will save you multiple trips.

Parking Garages

The nice thing about parking in city parking garages is that the first hour is free (you’ll need a US credit or debit card to get out even during the free hour).

Finding Your Way Around

You’ll quickly learn that “there is an app for that!”

Directions to a location

- Waze on your smart phone
- Google map (web and phone versions)
- Maps on your iPhone

Finding restaurant, coffee shop, etc.

- Yelp (this will also give you a price range from cheap [\$] to expensive [\$\$\$])
- Google search

Weather

An app to check the weather is from WeatherUnderground.

Tornadoes can strike Nebraska (yes, you read correctly!) and are most likely to occur in the spring or summer. If a tornado warning sounds (siren), go to the basement of a building and stay away from windows. You will notice that there is a county wide siren system testing at 10:15 am, the first Wednesday of each month.

Banking and Money

Currency Exchange

- Wells Fargo
- U.S. Bank
- UBT (they need 24 hour notice)

Banking

- As a member of the University of Nebraska community you are entitled to a free checking account at the University of Nebraska Federal Credit Union.
- Many options are available. If you need international transfers, be specific while asking as some banks do not offer this option.

Shopping

Food

The prices range very widely from one store to the other and within a store (from cheap to abusive pricing). Be informed, be aware ☺. Some of them are open 24h a day (yes, your 2 am ice cream craving can be satisfied all year long). If you eat out of a can, with a plate, organic, gluten free, pescatarian, vegetarian, vegan or with any other dietary restrictions, you'll find what you need in many parts of the city.

Grocery Stores

- Aldi
- Costco (need a yearly fee, visit with an existing member)
- Open Harvest Co-op grocery
- Hy-Vee

- Russ's Market
- Natural Grocers
- Leon's Food Mart/Gourmet Grocer
- Sam's Club (need a yearly fee, visit with an existing member)
- Super Saver
- Trader Joe's
- Target
- Walmart
- Whole food (expensive side)
- So called "ethnic stores": several are located along 27th Street between Vine and Holdrege Street.
 - Asian: Saigon Market on 26th Street, Nguyen Market and Oriental Market on 27th Street, and Beijing Market on O street
 - Halal: All African Market on 27th Street
 - Indian: Suji Grocery on O street
 - Hispanic: Figueroa Market
 - Mediterranean: Family Food Market on O street

Farm store

- Jisa Farmstead Cheese in Brainard, NE.

Farmers' Markets

Farmers' markets are shops that are temporarily set up and sell local produce. They run from May to October.

- Historic Haymarket downtown (7th and P Street; Saturdays 8 am-12 pm; <https://lincolnhaymarket.org/events/farmers-market>)
- College View neighborhood (4801 Prescott Avenue; Sundays 10 am-2 pm; <https://www.sundayfarmersmarket.org/>)
- Fallbrook (600 Fallbrook Boulevard; Thursdays 4-7pm; <http://www.fallbrookfarmersmarket.com/>)

Bakery

- Le Quartier in Lincoln and Omaha (fresh bread and European pastries)
- Grand Patisserie in Omaha (European pastries and fresh bread Friday and Saturday)

Lunch Options

Here are some options if you have no time to prepare your own food that day:

Nebraska Innovation Campus

- No cafeteria on site
- The Bistro vending area in the connector between Food Innovation Complex and NIC Conference Center
- The Mill Coffee and Tea sells some food items

City and East Campuses

- City Union Food Courts (Starbucks, Imperial Place, Subway, Valentino's, Chick-fil-a, Steak n Shake)
- East Union
- UNL Dining Centers (<https://housing.unl.edu/dining-services> and phone app)

Salad Bars

- Hy-Vee
- Whole Foods
- Fresh Thyme Farmers Market

Fresh Ready Meals

- Hy-Vee
- Source Eat Fit (<https://www.sourceeatfit.com/>)
- Wham Bam Meal in a Pan (<http://www.chefaucchef.com/whambam>)

Frozen Meals

- Frozen meal rescue in the frozen isle of your preferred store

Food Delivery

For an additional fee, you can have food delivered.

- Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches
- Most pizza places
- DoorDash (<https://www.doordash.com/> or phone app)
- GrubHub (<https://www.grubhub.com/> or phone app)
- Metro Dining Delivery (<http://www.metrodiningdelivery.com/>)
- Waitr (<https://waitrapp.com/> or phone app)

Local Restaurants and Fast Food

If/When you own a car, there are some places nearby

- Downtown and Haymarket areas
- On north 27th Street or at 10th Street and Cornhusker Highway

Tipping at Restaurants

The tips are not included in your bill (except very rare occasions mentioned on your bill). The most common recommendations are:

- 15% to 20% tip for sit-down restaurant service
- 10% for servers at buffets (for help with drink orders and plate removal)
- \$1 to \$2 per drink for bartenders, or 15% to 20% of the bar tab
- As for cash-register coin jars, there's no obligation to add money to them, although it might be worth it if you receive super service or you're a regular customer

All the tips are calculated on the pre-tax amount. Do not worry, there is an app to calculate tips, split bills etc. No top of the head calculation needed 😊.

Dietary Restrictions

There is an App for that! Some of them allows you to know based on the bar code of the product if it is compatible with you needs. Others will tell you if a restaurant has meals that fit your needs.

For gluten free diet there are multiple apps, "Find Me GF" is one of them.

Furniture

You can find new furniture at furniture stores around town or in large department stores like Walmart. IKEA now can ship part of their catalog to your place.

A popular store in eastern Nebraska is Nebraska Furniture Mart and its discount store, Ms. B Clearance, in Omaha NE.

Clothing and Home Items

- Kohl's
- JC Penney
- TJ Maxx
- Marshalls
- Home Goods
- DSW (shoes)
- Payless (shoes)
- Big Lots (home items and canned food)

All Under One Roof

From food to furniture to clothing to home items

- Target
- Walmart

Large quantity store

From large pack of socks or huge bag of rice (membership required; you may want to go with someone whom already has the membership)

- Costco
- Sam's Club

Shopping Malls

Lincoln has two malls where your shopping needs may be fulfilled:

- Gateway Mall
- SouthPointe Pavilions

Nebraska Crossing Outlets is a place with multiple factory outlets of a large number of brands. However, it is in Gretna, about a half-hour drive east from Lincoln.

Used Items

Sometimes you do not want to buy all new and it is fine. To save money, you can buy used furniture, clothing and home items at thrift shops, consignment shops, and garage sales.

Stores:

- Goodwill
- Salvation Army
- Play it Again Sports (sport related items)
- consignment and thrift stores

Garage sales:

For individuals from abroad not familiar with the terms, a “garage sale,” “rummage sale,” “yard sale,” or “estate sale” is a sale held for a day or two by people selling their stuff out of their garage, yard, or home at whatever price they choose to set. You can find excellent items at a nice price (sometimes not even believable as it is so cheap) or expensive garbage. There are some sale advertisements on Craig’s List as well as in the local newspaper, *The Lincoln Journal Star* (the ads are published during the week and online), and some dedicated websites such as <https://garagesalefinder.com/>.

App and web-based sales of items by individuals in the area (any item):

- Facebook Market
- letgo.com
- Craigslist

Pharmacy

You'll rarely see a "Pharmacy" sign. Some of them are open 24 hours a day. Here are some of those businesses incorporating a pharmacy (for those medications that need prescription from your doctor or not):

- University Health Center (<https://health.unl.edu/pharmacy>)
- CVS
- Walgreen
- Target
- Walmart
- Hy-Vee

Books

For your courses

You can get rental textbooks from UNL online or from the University Bookstore in the union at both East and City Campus. They also do a price match for the books (if you find the same book at some other place or website for a lesser price). You can also buy or rent books from Amazon or eBay online.

Do not forget that there is the UNL library with paper and digital options.

For your leisure

Physical bookstores (bookshop) are becoming rare. Google "bookstore" to find the smaller ones. Two examples:

- Barnes and Noble on O street
- A Novel Idea (<http://anovelaideabookstore.com/>) used bookstore in downtown Lincoln

Large online bookstores include Amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and ebay.com.

Lincoln has a nice public library with satellites all over town to access books and more for free (www.lincolnlibraries.org).

UNL Employee and Student Discounts

Now that you have an ".edu" email address...

Discounts available to all higher education members:

- Apple has a discount via the apple store (online or via UNL)
- Microsoft office offer software at a great discount for educators
- The *Washington post* can be obtained at a discounted price with a valid .edu email address (students, employees, etc.)
- New York Times can be obtained at a discounted price for educators

Discounts for students:

- Microsoft Office for students there is the possibility to get the software for free
- New York Times can be obtained at a drastically discounted price

Basically think about discounts that may apply to you. This can save you a lot of money.

Recycling

In Lincoln, you'll find very different attitudes for recycling. Know that recycling sites exist if it is not offered where you live. You will need to separate the items (paper/glass/plastic) in some places, in other it is single stream. Check the sites at <https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/pworks/solid-waste/recycle/>.

For electric cables (the cable of the old radio, etc.) and old rechargeable batteries you can go to the entrance of Best Buy store.

For electronics (old hard drive, printer, etc.), Staples offer to take it for free in a reasonable quantity.

Kids

Schools (K-12)

For native speakers

The Lincoln Public Schools District should have the answers to your questions (<https://www.lps.org/>; 5905 O St, Lincoln, NE 68510).

For non-native speakers

The District office of the Lincoln Public Schools will most probably refer you to go to “English language Learner Program (ELL)” located in the Park Middle School, 855 S, 8th Street (Entrance Gate is 11). At ELL, they assess the English skill of the child and deliver their recommendation of admission to the nearby school from the residence.

Things to Do

- Lincoln and Omaha zoos are excellent for kids
- Lincoln Children's Museum is quite popular
- Nebraska History Museum also has lots of kid-friendly activities and free admission
- Artreach project in the Summer (<https://www.shoppinggatewaymall.com/events/artreach-project-summer-camps>)
- StoryTime at Indigo Books in the Haymarket district and local libraries
- Many parks of Lincoln are generally kid-friendly. Trago Park very close to Innovation Campus, is particularly popular during warm weather.

Community

Student Societies

- UNL Food Science Club (<https://www.unl.edu/foodsciclub/food-science-club>),
- American Society for Microbiology (ASM): <https://www.asm.org/>
- Institute of Food Technologists (IFT): <https://www.ift.org/>, with the local IFT Aksarben student chapter
- Phi Tau Sigma (<https://foodsci.unl.edu/phi-tau-sigma>)
- American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE): <https://www.asabe.org/>
- International Association for Food Protection (IAFP): <https://www.foodprotection.org/>
- UNL Engineering Student Organizations: <https://engineering.unl.edu/current-students/all-student-organizations/>

- American Association of Immunologists: <https://www.aai.org/>
- American Society for Nutrition: <https://nutrition.org/>
- UNL College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources: <https://casnr.unl.edu/clubs-organizations>
- Nebraska Union Toastmaster Club: <https://nutslincoln.toastmastersclubs.org/>
- UNL Grad Student Assembly: <https://www.unl.edu/gsa/>
- Additional UNL recognized student organizations: <http://involved.unl.edu/student-organizations>
 - Community of origin by country, language, ethnicity, etc.
 - LGBTQA+ Resource Center (<https://lgbtqa.unl.edu/>)
 - Others you'll have to figure out what the club is based on cryptic titles

Students are encouraged to visit with their advisors for advice on useful field-specific societies to join.

Religious communities

- Please use Google search.

Groups focused on an activity

- Anything from meditation to hardcore coding. You might search <https://www.meetup.com/> for these.

Visitors Center

The Lincoln Visitors Center is located at 201 N. 7th St., Lincoln, NE 68508 (telephone: 402-434-5348). It offers maps and information about current events and sites to see in Lincoln, as well as a wealth of other information about the capital city.

- UNL Life On and Off Campus: <https://globalnebraska.unl.edu/life-and-campus>
- Downtown Lincoln <https://downtownlincoln.org/>
- Historic Haymarket: <https://lincolnhaymarket.org/>
- Lincoln Convention and Visitors Bureau: <http://www.lincoln.org/>
- Omaha Convention and Visitors Bureau: <https://www.visitomaha.com/>
- Omaha's Old Market: <https://oldmarket.com/>
- Visit Nebraska: <https://visitnebraska.com/>

Stimulating Your Creativity

Hands on activities

- Do you love to create and build all sorts of unique projects? Join Innovation Studio (<http://innovationstudio.unl.edu/>) and get access to an incredible facility with unique professional fabrication tools!
- Makit Takit (<https://www.makittakit.com/>) also has tools for you to use on projects as well as kids' camps

Museums

- Sheldon Museum (Lincoln), free: <https://sheldonartmuseum.org/>
- Children's Zoo (27th and Normal Blvd, Lincoln, NE)
- University of Nebraska State Museum (also called Morrill Hall), <http://museum.unl.edu/index.html>
- LUX Center for the Arts [permanent collection and exhibits (2601 North 48 Street, Lincoln, NE): <https://www.luxcenter.org/>
- Kaneko Museum (Omaha), donation based, <https://thekaneko.org/>
- Bemis Museum (Omaha), free, <http://www.bemiscenter.org>
- Henry Doorly zoo and aquarium (Omaha, NE): <https://www.omahazoo.com/>

Parks

- Pioneer's Park Nature Center (SW Lincoln, NE) – There are buffalo, eagles and a lot of trails
- Holme's Lake (70th street Lincoln, NE) – Fishing and kayaking
- Lauritzen Gardens (Omaha, NE) – indoor/outdoor botanical gardens and arboretum (\$10)

Performances

- Check the Lied Center (Lincoln) for student focus discounts (<https://www.liedcenter.org/>). A past example was \$20 Student Broadway Pass.
- Concerts and alternative events check <http://focusomaha.com/>

An evening of art

- The First Friday Artwalks are held on the first Friday of every month at galleries and businesses in downtown Lincoln (<https://downtownlincoln.org/explore/first-friday/monthly-listings>).

The small businesses we like in Lincoln

The community of Nebraskan farmers can be searched at: <http://buylocalnebraska.org/>

The 2020 Local Food Guide is at: <http://buylocalnebraska.org/PDFs/2020-food-guide.pdf>

Supporting local producers also supports the state economy. If each Nebraska households spent just \$10 per week on locally grown foods, it could bring \$371 million back into the state's economy each year, according to Nebraska Extension (2020 estimates).

FOOD (no chain, no franchise):

- Surf and Turf (fresh fish; expensive side)
- Mr Hui \$ [3255 Cornhusker Highway, near NIC] and Mr Hui 2 \$ [70th street and Pioneers Blvd) (Chinese restaurant and take out)
- Imperial Palace \$ (corner of Vine and 27th street)
- Leon's Food Mart/Gourmet Grocer (grocery store)
- Open Harvest Co-op grocery
- Prairie Plate Restaurant in Waverly, farm to table, seasonal \$\$\$ (<http://prairieplaterestaurant.com/>)
- Au Courant Regional Kitchen, farm to table, in Omaha \$\$\$ (<http://www.aucourantrestaurant.com>)
- Le Voltaire, in Omaha \$\$\$ (<http://www.levoltaireomaha.com/>)
- The Normandy \$\$\$ (<https://www.thenormandylnk.com/>)

BOOKS (no chain, no franchise)

- A Novel Idea (<http://anovelideabookstore.com/>) used bookstore in downtown Lincoln