

Nemaha County – The Interesting, The Unique, And the Downright Remarkable

Nemaha County has a personality all its own. Call it ambiance, atmosphere, character. It's a certain blend of the interesting, the unique and the downright remarkable.

The Downright Remarkable

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about Nemaha County is the countryside. There are many opportunities for relaxing Sunday drives and glimpses into our rural landscape that you just don't notice from the paved roads. You're welcome to wander the back roads here, but always respect private property. Just use your binoculars and camera to enjoy the sights, or get landowner permission to explore beyond the roadway.

Any of the cemetery routs shown on the map make excellent destination drives, or just pick a corner of the county to explore. Be aware that some roads are "minimum maintenance" and passable only in dry conditions.

In the northwest corner, you'll be treated to panoramic southward views of Nemaha County, particularly, near Lafayette Cemetery north of Brock. You'll get a taste of rich river bottom country and bi old-fashioned farm houses and barns with vicinity of the winding Little Nemaha River. See if you can spot the remnants of the bank vault in the cluster of houses still known as Glen Rock. A little to the southwest of Glen Rock, you'll find Coryell Park, Lilac Hill and old limestone quarries and out cropping along 732 Road. If you're in need of a snack, the nearby Village of Johnson has a grocery, convenience store and two restaurants.

The county's Southwest quadrant is criss-crossed with many small streams. If you close your eyes driving through the low-water crossing on 633 Avenue, just south of the 725 Road, you can transport yourself back in time to the days of fording streams in a buckboard. A rare octagonal barn is located on 733 Road one-half mile west of 635 Avenue. If you've packed a picnic, or even if you haven't you'll find several places along the road to spread a blanket and enjoy the solitude or watch for wildlife or content cows in the adjacent wooded pastures on the loop bounded by Highway 105 and 632 Avenue and 724 and 725 Roads.

The terrain of Southeast Nemaha County, heading toward Indian Cave State Park, becomes more rugged. Explorers willing to take the "Road less graveled" (652 Avenue accessed from 721A Road) can find some secluded spots where it doesn't take much imagination to conjure early inhabitants traveling Indian trails or encamped in the wooded bluffs. There's a nifty beaver dam upstream of the bridge on 646 Avenue just north of 722 Road. Keep a sharp lookout for the limestone cave on 649 Avenue, one-half mile south of 722 Road. The Village of Nemaha, on nearby Highway 67, has a convenience store and a restaurant for evening dining.

A great fall foliage drive awaits visitors to the Northeast part of the country in the Peru and Brownville neighborhood. Both communities have eateries. The route takes in Peru's Mount Vernon 3 state overlook and roughly parallels the Steamboat Trace hiking / biking trail and the Missouri River. See if you can spot the genuine "swimming hold" (private)



on the west side of the road a little north of Brownville. To get an up-close feel for the bluffs, drive through the cutbank road just east of 646 Avenue on 730 Road. You can still find country schools here: one serves as a museum at the entrance to the Peru State College campus; another has been converted to a private residence just west of Highway 67 at 733 Road, the third is still a function elementary school on Highway 136, about one mile west of Brownville.



At the cross-roads of the county is Auburn. Anything you need can be obtained here. For a visual counterpoint to the pastoral and sometimes wild scenery of the country, take a drive up the brick-paved Courthouse Avenue (turn west onto 14th Street from Highway 75 and then South onto the Avenue.) At 19th Street, turn west to face the native limestone Courthouse, surrounded by beautiful native plantings and manicured lawn in the traditional town square style.