

The Great River Road is a three-thousand mile network of federal, state and county roads that parallel the Mississippi River on both sides from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

The upper Mississippi River area offers wonderful attractions, museums, interpretive centers, and diverse recreation activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, and boating, as well as key opportunities for business and economic development. Visit the Iowa Great River Road communities and enjoy our fine attractions, lodging facilities, restaurants and opportunities for shopping and antiquing.



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

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Federal Highway Administration's
National Scenic Byways Program.



Iowa Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Iowa Department of Transportation
Office of Systems Planning
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

PLACE
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IOWA GREAT RIVER ROAD

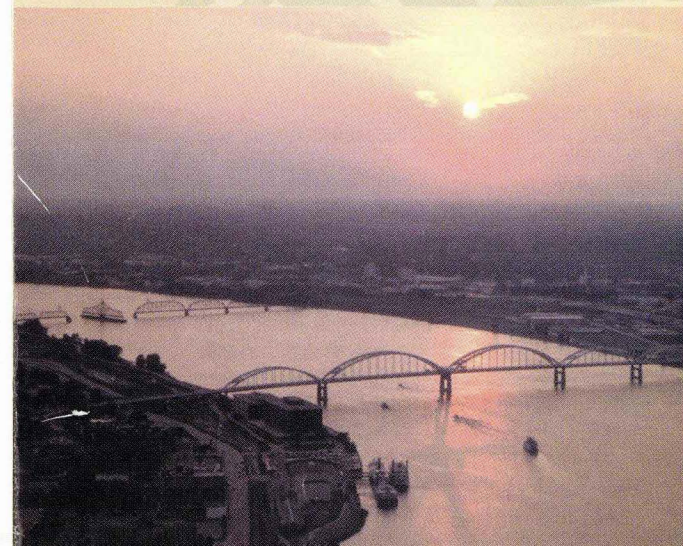


Photo by John Freiband

Join the Adventure Along
the Mighty Mississippi River

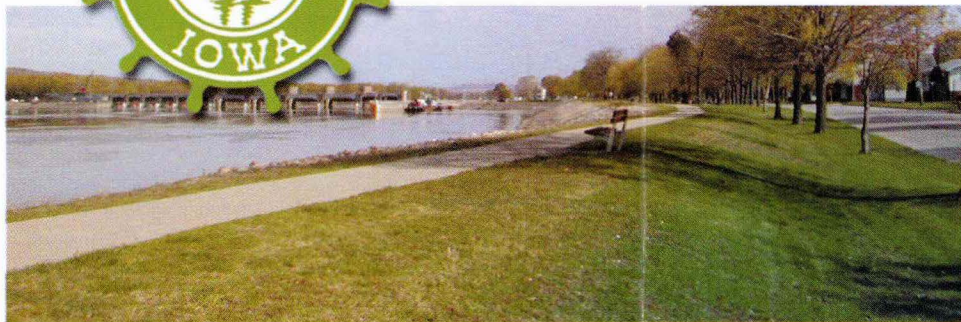


AMERICA'S
BYWAYS

STATE LIBRARY OF IOWA
East 12th & Grand
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319



So much to see and do!



Clayton County

Drive south visiting Iowa's only National Monument – Effigy Mounds. Try your luck at the casino in Marquette. McGregor has charming historic homes and businesses, with several antique stops. Enjoy Pike's Peak State Park overlooking the Mississippi where explorers Marquette and Joliet landed. The road, with bike path, now winds through magnificent bluffs and valleys to Guttenberg, the home of German stone buildings restored as restaurants and a riverfront inn. Visit the Lockmaster's House Heritage Museum along the mile-long river front park and walkway. En-route is the historic fishing village, Clayton.

Guttenberg River Walkway

Dubuque County

Don't miss the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, Spirit of Dubuque Excursions, Arboretum, Museum of Art, Five Flags and Grand Theaters, Sundown ski area, trolley and carriage rides, Field of Dreams, and National Farm Toy Museum. Ride the Fenelon Place cable car and tour the Mathias Ham House. Enjoy the Victorian House tour and Progressive Dinner, Diamond Jo Casino, Dubuque Greyhound Park and Casino and Crystal Lake Cave.

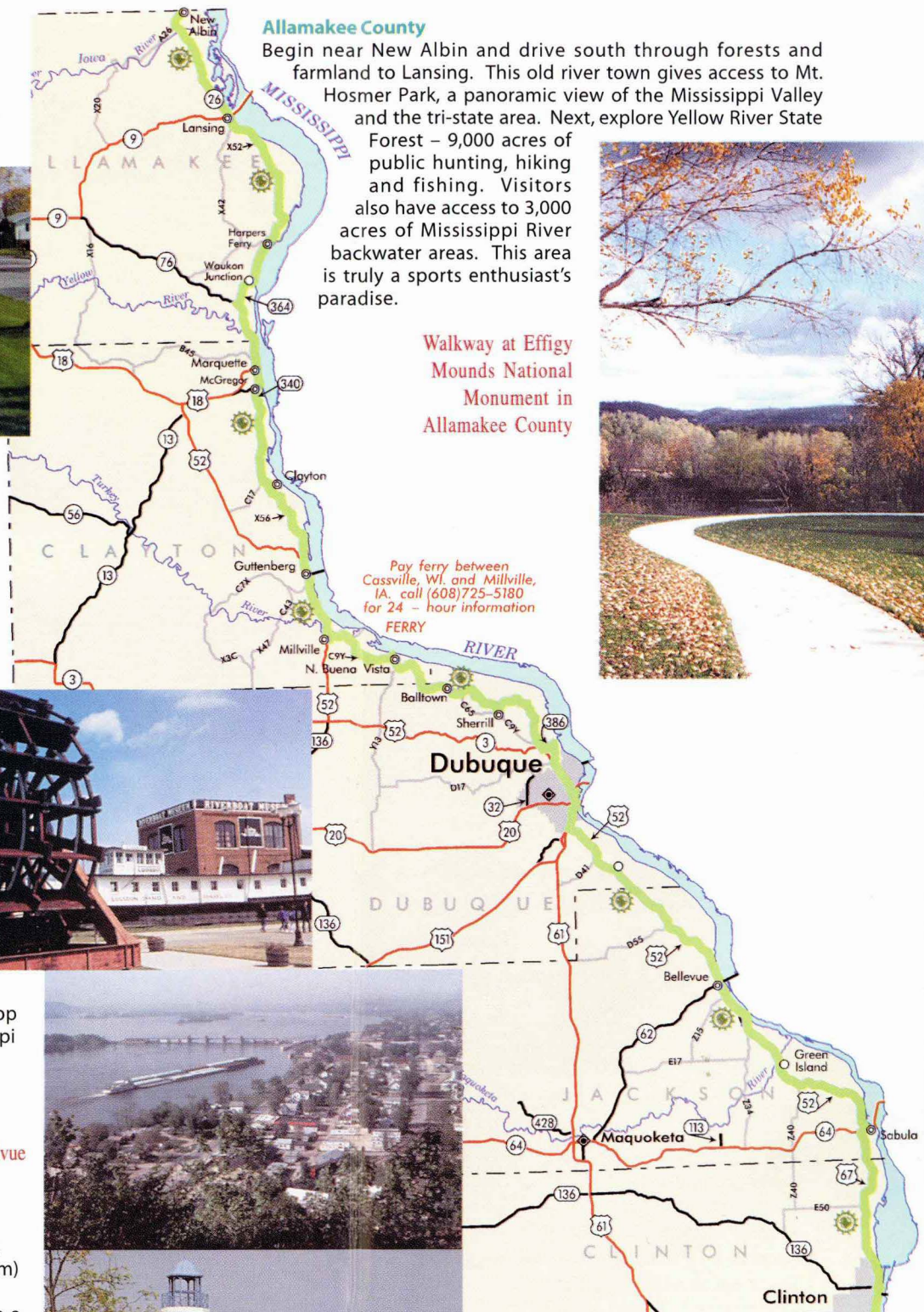
National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque

Jackson County

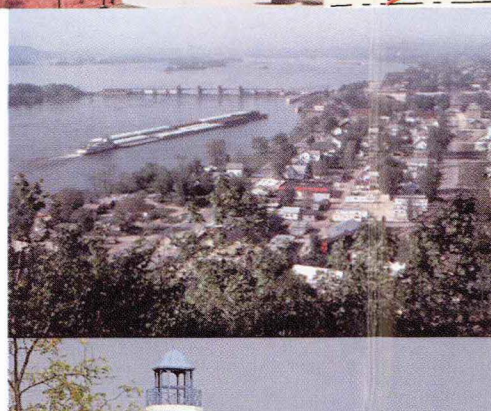
South of Dubuque visit St. Donatus founded by skilled stone masons from Luxembourg. Stop at Bellevue where from its refurbished park you have an unobstructed view of the Mississippi with towboats "locking through" and eagles feeding below the dam. Other sites include a historical museum, three bed and breakfast inns and the Bellevue State Park with its renowned butterfly garden.

Clinton County

Where the By-way meets the Lincoln Highway (U.S. 30), you will find Clinton...on the Mississippi. Our Riverview Park with a 1,000 passenger, turn of the century paddlewheeler gaming boat, the Mississippi Belle II, the Lillian Russell Showboat Theatre, aquatic center, marina, band shell and Alliant Stadium, home to the LumberKings, (class 1A baseball team) sits on the majestic Mississippi River ready to entertain a wide and diverse range of guests. Just north on Highway 67, you can view the widest point of the Mississippi from a



City of Bellevue



historical society museum and the relocated River Art Center are open for tourism activity. Come share with us our "Things To Do...With A Riverview."

Clinton Riverview Park

Scott County

Visit the new IMAX® Theatre & Putnam Museum, Bettendorf Family Museum for children, Buffalo Bill Museum, and Fejervary Children's Zoo. Try your luck on the Isle of Capri Casino-Bettendorf or Rhythm City Casino-Davenport or take a cruise on the Channel Cat Water Taxi, Celebration Belle or Twilight. View agricultural exhibits at John Deere Commons. Enjoy festivals – Bix Beiderbecke weekend with Bix 7 and Junior Bix 7 road race, Jazz festival and street fair, and Mississippi Valley Blues Fest, Quad City Festival of Trees, Beaux Arts Fair. Shop at historic Village of East Davenport, quaint antique boutiques and two major shopping malls.

IMAX Theater and Putnam Museum in Davenport

IMAX photo - Courtesy of Don Retherford

Muscatine County

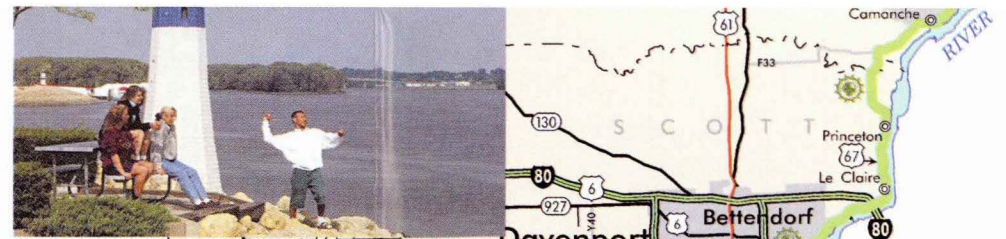
Following the road to Muscatine is a camper's and boater's delight. Try Buffalo Shores, Clarks Ferry, Wild Cat Den State park, Shady Creek, Fairport Campsite and Weed Park with its municipal pool. The bend in the Mississippi River here naturally collected clam shells and at the turn of the century, button making flourished. Muscatine features the only Pearl Button Museum in the world. Mark Twain Lookout offers a fine view of the River and towboat activity. Drive up "West Hill" to see historic homes. Visit Muscatine Art Center, Riverview Park and Lock & Dam 16.

Cherry Street Lookout in Muscatine

Louisa County

Louisa County is located at the confluence of the Iowa and Cedar Rivers. The Iowa River flows mostly southeast to near Oakville where it joins the Mississippi River. Naturally, the area is characterized by broad floodplains containing many wetlands and marsh areas including the Mark Twain Wildlife Refuge. The adjacent wooded bluffs were favorite sites for Native Americans because of the abundance of nearby forage, fish, wildlife and waterfowl. Toollesboro has a series of Indian mounds and a fine visitor center.

Lake Odessa Toollesboro Bluff

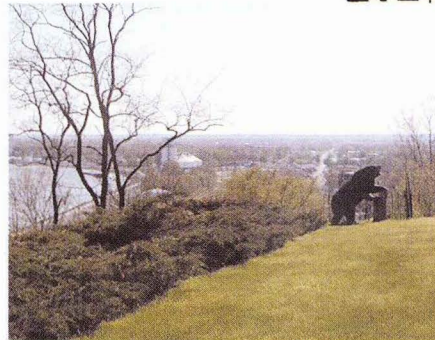


Des Moines County

Burlington played an active role in the development of the region; it was the first Iowa Territorial Capitol, as well as the second Wisconsin Territorial Capitol. History and beauty meet along the bluffs of Burlington. There are many parks found here, Crapo, Dankwardt and Mosquito to name a few. Tour one of the three Des Moines County Historical Society Museums, the Port of Burlington Welcome Center and of course stop and take your turn on curvy Snake Alley!



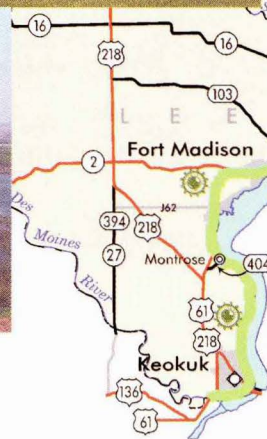
Snake Alley in Burlington



Lee County

The river widens by Fort Madison and catches its breath. The Santa Fe Railroad Bridge, the world's largest double-decker swingspan bridge, ever so slowly opens to let the big boats through. Catfish Bend Riverboat Casino offers the perfect blend of 19th century splendor and exhilarating casino action. Whether you're shooting hot dice or just relaxing on a morning cruise, you're always in for a good time. Explore America's first fort on the upper Mississippi, Living History Old Fort Madison. Don't miss the 1993 Flood Museum, Art Center and a "working" railroad museum. Victorian architecture prevails in historic downtown, where you'll find many specialty shops.

Living History Old Fort Madison



Visitor Centers

Osborne Nature Center, Iowa Welcome Center
Hwy 13, 5 miles south of Elkader, IA 319-245-1516

Guttenberg

323 S. River Park Dr.,
Guttenberg, IA 563-252-2323

Port of Dubuque Iowa Welcome Center
3rd St. & Ice Harbor, Dubuque, IA 563-556-4372

Jackson County Welcome Center
60488 Hwy. 64, Sabula, IA 563-687-2237

Mississippi Valley Welcome Center
Hwy 67 & Interstate 80
900 Eagle Ridge Road, LeClaire, IA 563-289-3009

Mississippi River Visitors Center
Arsenal Island
Davenport, IA/Rock Island, IL 309-794-5338

Burlington
400 Front Street
Burlington, IA 319-752-8731

Convention & Visitors Bureaus

Dubuque CVB
770 Town Clock Plaza
Dubuque, IA 52001 800-798-4748

Clinton Area CVB
333 4th Ave. S.
Clinton, IA 52732 800-828-5702

Quad Cities CVB
102 S. Harrison St.
Davenport, IA 52801 800-747-7800

Muscatine CVB
319 E. 2nd St.
Muscatine, IA 52761 800-25-PEARL

Burlington CTB
807 Jefferson St.
Burlington, IA 52601 319-752-6365

Fort Madison CVB
933 Ave. H
Fort Madison, IA 52627
319-372-5471

Keokuk Area CTB
401 Main St., Suite 1
Keokuk, IA 52632 800-383-1219

Interpretive Centers

Effigy Mounds National Monument
Harpers Ferry, 563-873-3491

Upper Mississippi River Hatchery
Guttenberg, 563-252-1156

National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium
Dubuque, 800-226-3369

Mississippi Valley Welcome Center
LeClaire, 563-289-3009

Putnam Museum of History & Natural Science
Davenport, 563-324-1933

Nahant Marsh Education Center
Davenport, 563-323-5196

Toolesboro Indian Mounds
National Historic Landmark
Wapello, 319-523-8381

Old Fort Madison "Living History Fort"
Fort Madison, 319-372-6318

Keokuk River Museum
Keokuk, 319-524-5599

Other Sources of Information

National Mississippi River Parkway Commission
P.O. Box 59159
Minneapolis, MN 55459-8207
612-449-2560
Web site: <http://mississippi-river.com/mrpc/>
e-mail: mrpc@mississippi-river.com

Division of Tourism
Iowa Department of Economic Development
200 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-242-4705 or 800-345-IOWA
Web site: www.state.ia.us

Eastern Iowa Tourism Assn.
216 W. 4th St., Vinton, IA 52349
319-472-5135 or 800-891-EITA
Web site: www.easterniowatourism.org
e-mail: eita@easterniowatourism.org

IA Department of Transportation
Office of Systems Planning
800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010
515-239-1664

Visit the Iowa MRPC Website at: <http://www.mississippiriverinfo.com/iowa.htm>

