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SPRING/SUMMER 2023

## What's New in 2023:

Museums, thrilling rides and  
a celebration of Iowa food.

### Plus:

RAGBRAI TURNS 50  
EXPLORE THE LOESS HILLS  
A "HOLE" LOT OF FUN

Rail Explorers, Boone

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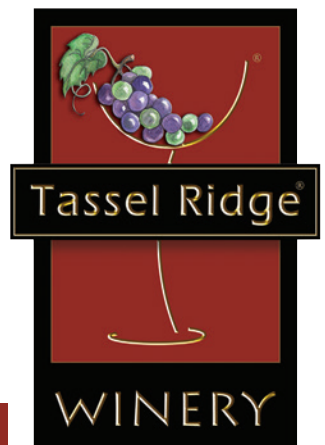
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*CATCH*  
**DES MOINES**  
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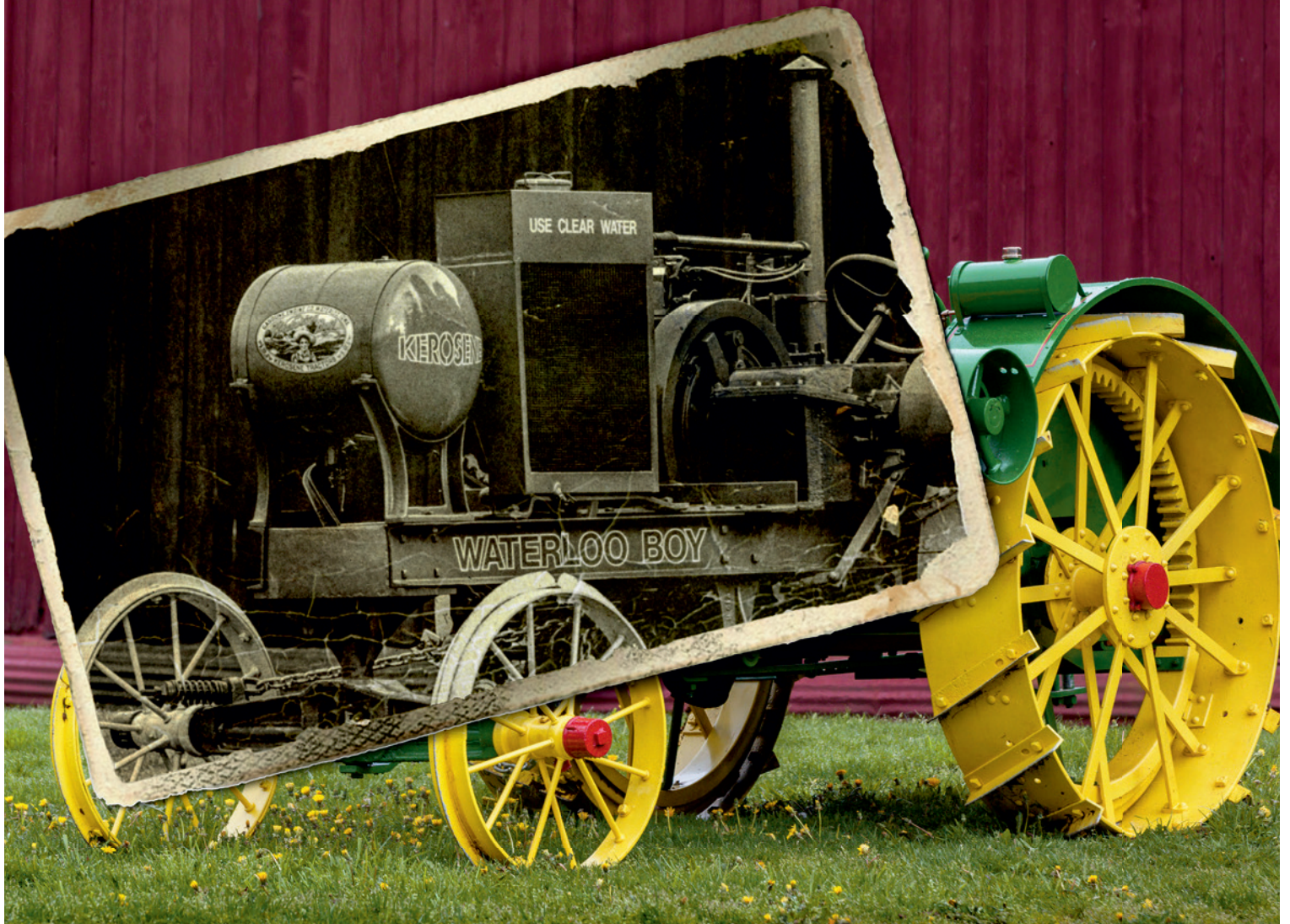


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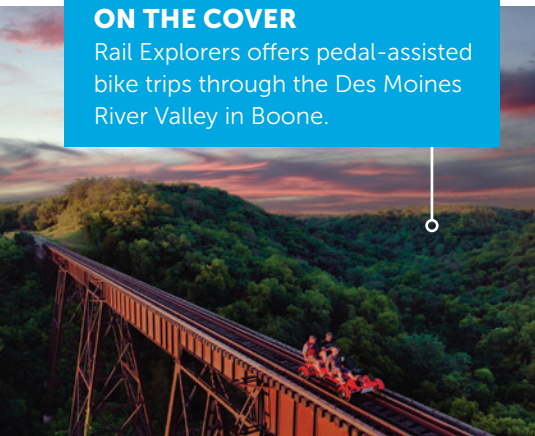
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319-292-6126





### ON THE COVER

Rail Explorers offers pedal-assisted bike trips through the Des Moines River Valley in Boone.



### TOURISM INFORMATION

Iowa Tourism Office /  
Iowa Economic Development Authority  
800.345.IOWA  
traveliowa.com

### DINING

Iowa Restaurant Association  
515.276.1454  
dineiowa.org

### LODGING

Iowa Bed & Breakfast Guild  
800.743.IOWA  
ia-bednbreakfast-inns.com

Iowa Bed & Breakfast  
Innkeepers Association  
800.888.4667

Iowa Hotel & Lodging Association  
515.276.1454  
hotellodgingiowa.com

### OUTDOOR RECREATION

Iowa Bicycle Coalition  
515.309.2867  
iowabicyclecoalition.org

Iowa's County Park System  
515.963.9582  
mycountyparks.com

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
515.725.8200  
iowadnr.gov

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation  
515.288.1846  
inhf.org

### HISTORIC SITES

State Historical Society of Iowa  
515.281.5111  
iowahistory.org

### TRANSPORTATION / ROAD CONDITIONS

Iowa Department of Transportation  
800.288.1047 or 511  
iowadot.gov or 511ia.org

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### COVID-19 INFORMATION

An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and people with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. By visiting Iowa, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19. Please check individual attraction and business websites for updated guidelines and safety procedures before visiting.

The Iowa Tourism Office published this travel guide using the best and most timely information available from Iowa's tourism attractions. Although accuracy is our main goal, we cannot be responsible for changes, omissions or errors in the information published herein. Phone numbers are listed with each entry. Please call ahead to the business to confirm business hours or other information before making travel plans. Travel Iowa Spring/Summer 2023 is published at Business Publications Corporation Inc., an Iowa corporation, at The Depot at Fourth. All rights reserved. Reproduction or other use, in part or in whole, of the contents of the magazine without written permission of the publisher is prohibited. The information in the publication has been compiled carefully to ensure maximum accuracy at the time of the publication. It is intended for general guidance only and can be subject to change. Business Publications Corporation Inc. cannot guarantee the accuracy of all information or be responsible for any errors or omissions.



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# Iowa Facts & Figures

**RANKED #1 STATE FOR OPPORTUNITY**

by U.S. News and World Report

**DATE OF STATEHOOD** December 28, 1846

**NUMBER OF COUNTIES** 99

**NUMBER OF CITIES** 947

**STATE BIRD** Eastern Goldfinch

**STATE CAPITAL** Des Moines

**STATE FLAG** Red, white and blue banner with an eagle and Iowa's motto

**STATE FLOWER** Wild Rose

**STATE MOTTO** Our liberties we prize, and our rights we will maintain.

**STATE NICKNAME** The Hawkeye State

**STATE ROCK** Geode

**STATE SEAL** A citizen soldier surrounded by farm and industry, land and water images.

**STATE TREE** Oak

**HIGHEST ELEVATION** 1,671' at Hawkeye Point near Sibley

**LOWEST ELEVATION** 480' near Keokuk


**AVERAGE HIGH TEMPERATURE** 60 degrees

**AVERAGE LOW TEMPERATURE** 42 degrees

**POPULATION** 3,190,369 (*US Census Bureau, 2020*)

**MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME** \$65,600

**Mines of Spain Recreation Area, Dubuque**

 @pavoelker





# ESCAPE TO ELITE CASINO RESORTS

24 HOUR CASINO | SPORTS BOOK | LUXURIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS  
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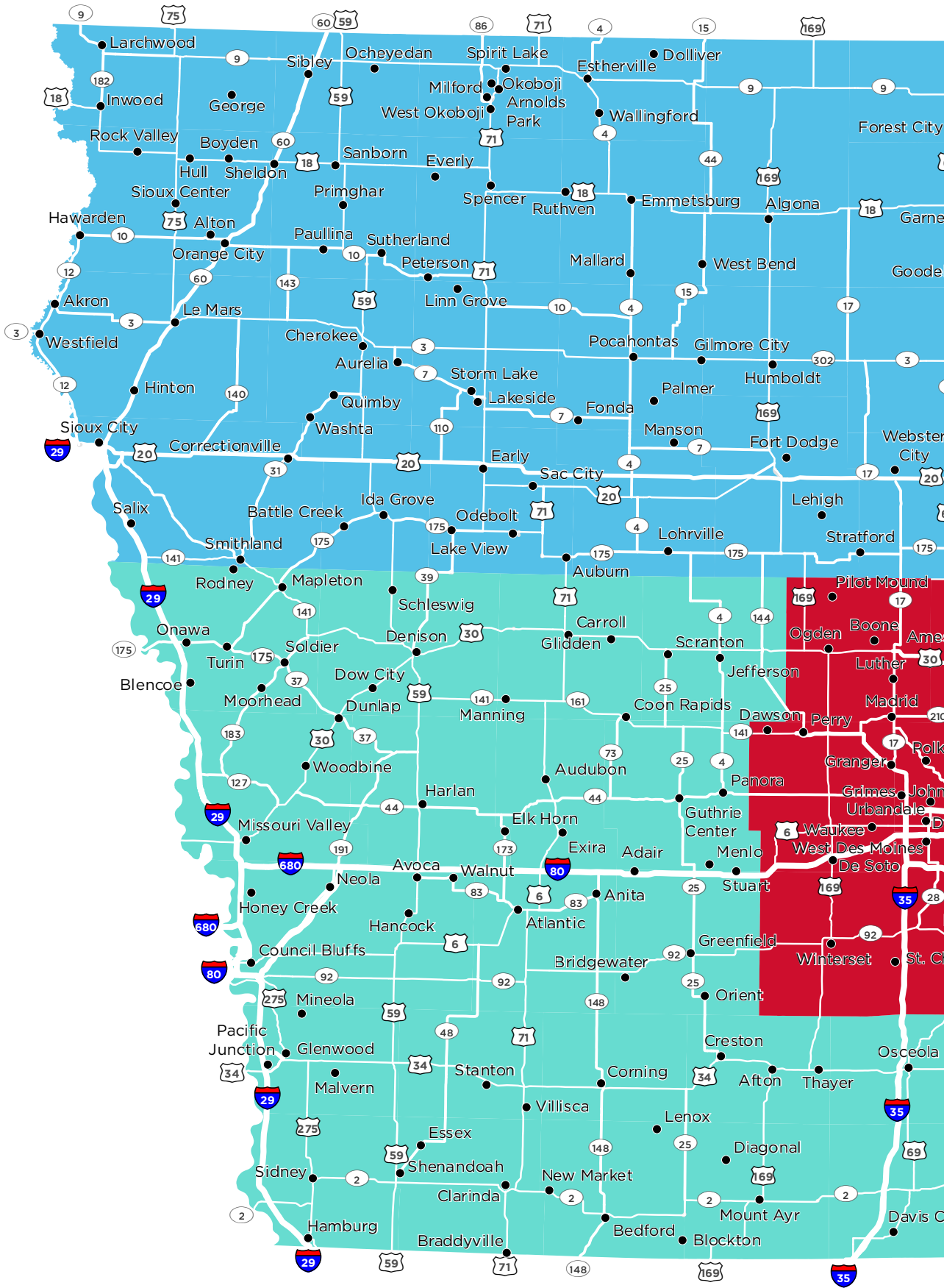
## ELITE CASINO RESORTS



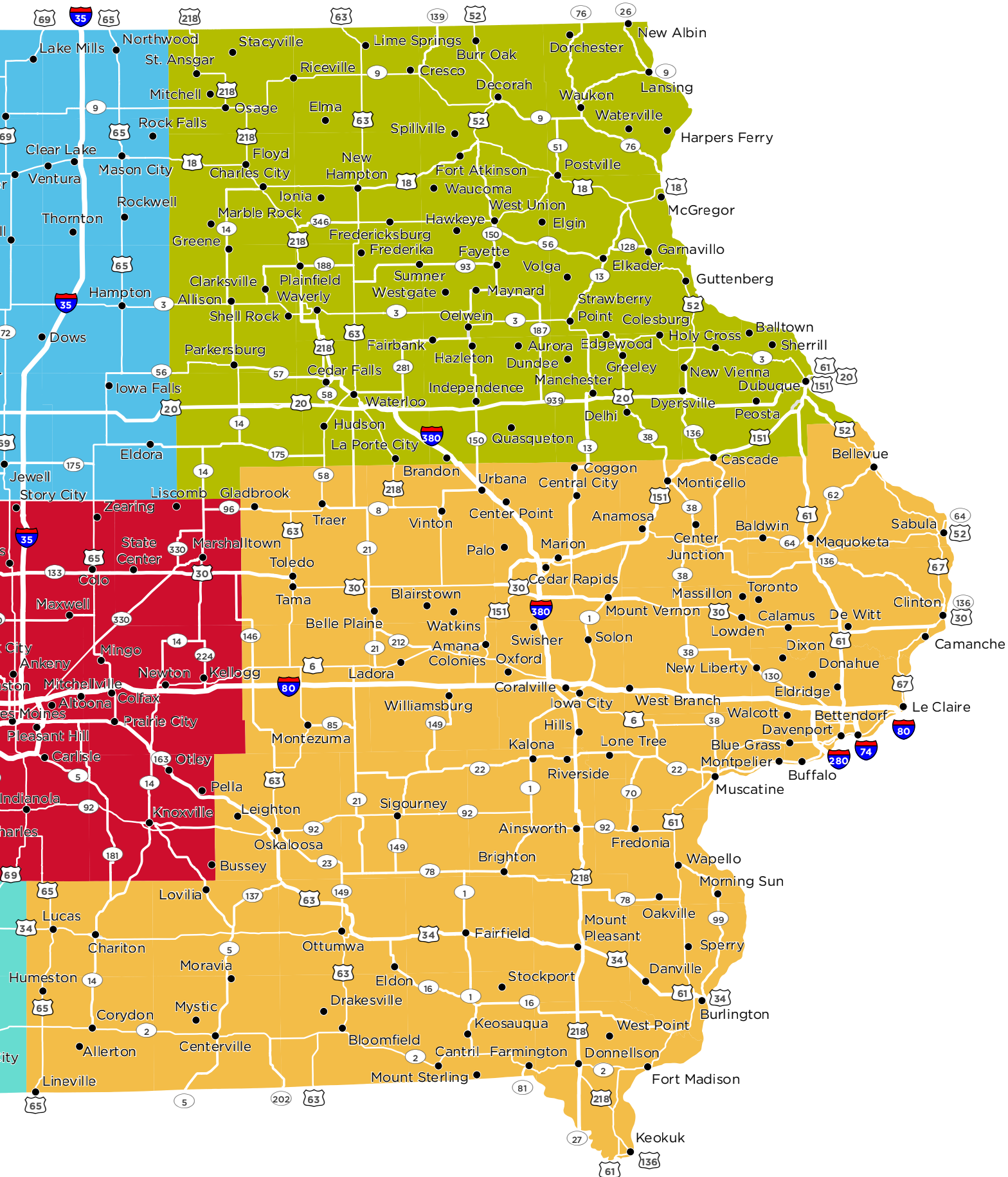
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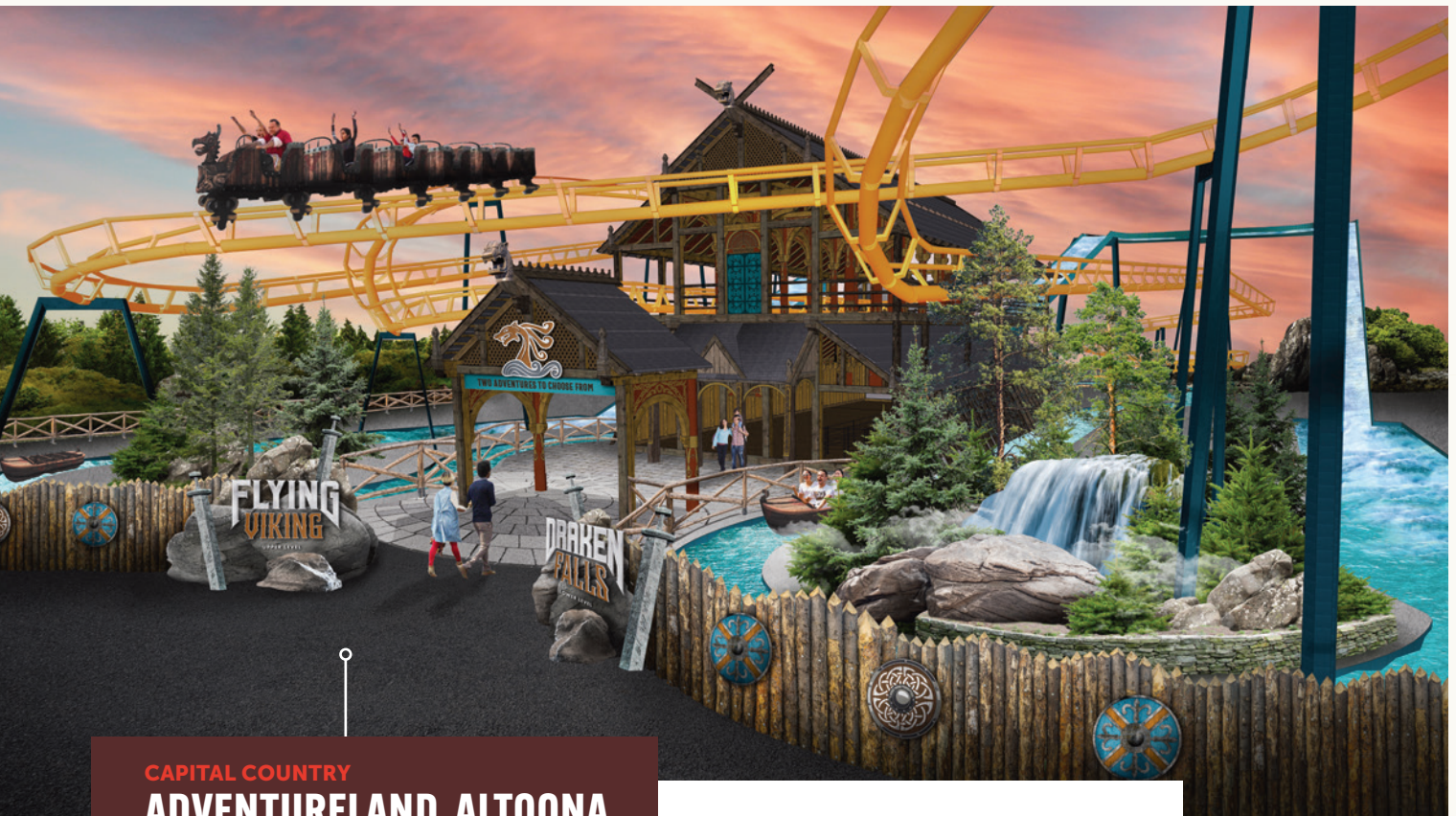




# NEW YEAR = NEW OPPORTUNITIES



See what's new for thrill-seeking adventurers, curious history buffs, serious foodies and every traveler in between.



## CAPITAL COUNTRY ADVENTURELAND, ALTOONA

Adventureland, an amusement park with rides, shows and events for the whole family, will be bringing new thrills to visitors in 2023. The Flying Viking is a family-friendly coaster, spanning 1,200 feet and offering just the right amount of excitement for adults and children alike. Draken Falls is a log flume, voyaging riders through a river and plunging them down two waterfalls. The two rides will be intertwined, making for a unique experience that all members of the family can enjoy. In addition to the two new rides, the resort is investing millions of dollars in refurbishments ahead of its upcoming 50th anniversary (in 2024). [adventurelandresort.com](https://adventurelandresort.com)



STORIED & SCENIC

## IRON TEE GOLF, BETTENDORF



Guests of the new three-level golf entertainment venue will experience TopTracer Range technology in climate-controlled outdoor hitting bays, chef-driven menu items, top-shelf drinks, music and year-round entertainment. The facility will also include a 10,000-square-foot state-of-the-art video gaming space with an immersive virtual reality platform. Estimated completion: Fall 2023.



STORIED & SCENIC

## AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM OF IOWA, CEDAR RAPIDS

Celebrate the grand reopening and 30th anniversary of the African American Museum of Iowa (AAMI). Educating more than 30,000 people each year, AAMI is the only statewide museum devoted to preserving, exhibiting and teaching African American history and culture. Following an extensive \$5 million renovation project, AAMI plans to reopen in fall 2023. The museum will feature a new and welcoming façade that complements the community aesthetic, a redesigned lobby and main level with added accessibility and a vapor barrier to improve the environment for exhibits. These changes represent a chance to solidify AAMI's place in the future of the state and region. [blackiowa.org](https://blackiowa.org)





**STORIED & SCENIC**  
**INDIAN CREEK NATURE CENTER 50TH ANNIVERSARY,  
CEDAR RAPIDS**

Indian Creek Nature Center promotes sustainability for the future by nurturing individuals through environmental education. Visitors explore miles of trails through 200 acres of wetlands, riparian forests, maple sugarbush, tallgrass prairies and oak savannas. Across the different habitats, guests enjoy hiking, trail running, bird watching, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, fishing and more. As part of the 50th anniversary, Indian Creek will host a Bio Blitz — a week-long deep dive by dozens of volunteers to discover and catalog the complete biodiversity of the grounds. Fully understanding which plants and animals share the ecosystem will better inform plans to responsibly manage the land. In October, the anniversary celebration culminates with a gathering of volunteers, members, staff, supporters and community members. [indiancreeknaturecenter.org](http://indiancreeknaturecenter.org)

**STORIED & SCENIC**  
**THE LAST PICTURE  
HOUSE, DAVENPORT**



Spearheaded by Iowa-bred filmmakers Scott Beck & Bryan Woods, who created the critically acclaimed \$640 million global franchise "A Quiet Place," the European-inspired cinema and social lounge will blend mainstream, arthouse, cult, classic and social important cinema programming with a high-end cocktail lounge, rooftop bar and exclusive social events. Target opening date: March 2023.

**DRIFTLESS AREA**  
**VESTERHEIM COMMONS,  
DECORAH**



Vesterheim, The National Norwegian-American Museum and Folk Art School, is preparing the campus for an exciting new building, called Vesterheim Commons, that will offer an inspiring community gathering space, a beautifully integrated museum campus on the city block and a connection to folk-art traditions. Completion is anticipated in early 2023. [vesterheim.org](http://vesterheim.org)



**CAPITAL COUNTRY**

**SINGLE SPEED BREWING, DES MOINES**



The third location for the brewery, to be located in a renovated Tire and Auto Repair Shop along the Des Moines River, will serve as both a satellite taproom and a research and development brewery. The facility will also include a kitchen, dining room, beer hall and large trailside outdoor space. The facility plans to be open in Summer 2023. [singlespeedbrewing.com](http://singlespeedbrewing.com)



**DRIFTLESS AREA**

**NATIONAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM AND AQUARIUM, DUBUQUE**

Part aquarium, part museum and part science center, the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium has been a family favorite for generations, known for entertaining and educating visitors with innovative and interactive exhibits. To celebrate the 20th anniversary, the museum and aquarium will have even more exciting surprises and experiences in store for guests. A reimagining of the Rivers to the Sea Gallery will open in time for spring break in 2023, highlighting 100 new animal species and the global connections between the rivers of America and the one big ocean. In summer 2023, the museum welcomes “POPnology,” a fantastic blend of science fiction and science fact from pop culture — featuring icons like R2D2, the DeLorean and more. This interactive experience encourages visitors to explore how innovative thinking, inspired by popular stories and movies, has led to technological advances that revolutionize the way we live and work. [rivermuseum.com](http://rivermuseum.com)



LAKES & LAND

**BIKE NORTH IOWA, MASON CITY** 

Projects include new single track trail areas that will add many miles of new riding to existing mountain bike trails, a new large bike park and pump track, plus multiple connector sections and a pedestrian bridge. Trail projects will open on a rolling basis starting in Spring 2023.



STORIED & SCENIC

**ALSOP ART GALLERY, OSKALOOSA**

The Alsop House, a Frank Lloyd Wright property designed for the Alsop family in 1947, was recently purchased by Mia Reed, founder of The Art Deck LLC. With the mission of returning the house to its former glory, Reed has restored the original flooring, windows, doors and more. Even the unique and rare original furniture designed specifically for the house by Wright is being cleaned and returned to the home. In fall 2023, the house will open to the public for the first time, serving as The Alsop Art Gallery, with Usonian recognition, featuring architectural archives of Frank Lloyd Wright, and Charles C. Reed, Jr., Mia's father and a contemporary of Wright. The Alsop Art Gallery will also highlight well-known one-person art exhibits.





LAKES & LAND

## AMERICAN STATE BANK SPORTS COMPLEX, SIOUX CENTER

A joint venture between the City of Sioux Center and Dordt University, the American State Bank (ASB) Sports Complex debuted January 2, 2023. The 75-foot-high dome includes a 118,000-square-foot indoor turf facility and is the second largest facility of its kind in Iowa. The ASB Sports Complex is the perfect anchor to Sioux Center, which offers a great variety of local eateries, retail and lodging. The facility serves as a place for the community to come together and enjoy various sports and recreation activities. Events planned range from youth baseball and softball tournaments to adult league soccer, as well as concerts, expos and other community celebrations. [asbsportscomplex.com](https://asbsportscomplex.com)



## RAGBRAI 50TH ANNIVERSARY, STATEWIDE

The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) will celebrate the 50th anniversary of bringing people from all over the world together for an epic annual eight-day rolling festival of bicycles, music, food, camaraderie and community. Founded by Des Moines Register reporters who decided to go on a bicycle ride across Iowa and write about their experience, the event has turned into the oldest, largest and longest recreation bicycle touring event in the world. The ride always starts in Western Iowa, with eight communities hosting the riders on their journey to Eastern Iowa. The event runs July 22-29 with exciting surprises in store for this anniversary year – like pop-up concerts at each stop, special anniversary memorabilia and much more to be announced leading up to the event. [ragbrai.com](https://ragbrai.com)





**DRIFTLESS AREA**  
**IOWA EATS FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL,  
 WATERLOO**

The Iowa Eats Food & Drink Festival will premiere on April 1 at the newly renovated Waterloo Convention Center. Presented by Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area, the festival is a one-day celebration featuring all Iowa food and drink products, chefs, artisans and agriculture-related products. Attendees will enjoy food and beverage tastings, cooking demos, live entertainment and more. [iowaeatsfestival.com](http://iowaeatsfestival.com)

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**215,868 acres**  
**Iowa's County Park System**



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 75 Nature Centers, 11,111 campsites,  
 Selfie Stations & more!**

**mycountyparks**  
**.com**

[info@mycountyparks.org](mailto:info@mycountyparks.org)

**IOWA PBS**  
 Meredith Willson  
**AMERICA'S  
 MUSIC MAN**

**COMING MARCH 2023!**

When the River City boys band marched on Broadway, Meredith Willson caught the whole world's ear.



# AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

in Iowa's Downtown and Main Street Districts



Shop Small | Explore Architecture | Unique Experiences | Indulge Your Taste Buds | Create Memories



[iowaeda.com/main-street-iowa](http://iowaeda.com/main-street-iowa)



For travel inspiration,  
follow Travel Iowa  
on social media.



[traveliowa.com](http://traveliowa.com)



# Iowa's Ultimate **BIKING ADVENTURE**

The Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) started in 1973. The summer staple crosses the state from west to east every July along a new route. Learn more about the legendary ride with these 50 fun facts.





1. RAGBRAI started in 1973. John Karras, copy writer/ feature writer, challenged Don Kaul, columnist, to ride his bicycle across the state and write columns about what he saw from that perspective. Don agreed but only if John joined him. They received approval from their editors and the rest, as they say, is history.
2. Karras and Kaul invited readers to join them on their bicycle ride across the state six weeks before the start of the first ride. It is estimated that 300 showed up at the start and 114 rode the whole distance the first year.
3. **The name RAGBRAI wasn't conceived until the third year of the ride.** It was initially called the Great Six-Day Bicycle Ride followed by SAGBRAI, Second Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, before it was officially named RAGBRAI, Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa in 1975.
4. In 1981, on the second day of riding, riders faced 40-degree temperatures (in July!), headwinds and pouring rain. Most riders didn't make it far and were bused into the overnight town where the campgrounds were under water. Residents opened their homes, garages and high schools to keep the riders dry. The day was later named, "Soggy Monday" and the Register made a patch to commemorate the day.
5. The ride always goes west to east, starting at the Missouri River and ending at the Mississippi with celebratory tire dips to mark rider's accomplishments at each end.
6. **RAGBRAI is the oldest, largest and longest recreational multi-day bicycle ride in the WORLD!**
7. More than 200 bicycle rides have been established over the years taking their inspiration from RAGBRAI.





8. A bronze statue was commissioned and installed in 2020 to honor the legacy and vision of John Karras and Don Kaul. The interactive RAGBRAI Founder's Statue can be seen at Water Works Park near downtown Des Moines.
9. RAGBRAI was originally held in August but by RAGBRAI V it was moved to the last full week in July to accommodate school schedules and the Iowa State Fair. This is also when the prevailing winds in Iowa go from west to east providing the most likely chance for tailwinds.
10. The first RAGBRAI began in Sioux City and ended in Davenport, with overnight stops in Storm Lake, Fort Dodge, Ames, Des Moines and Williamsburg. Year One's overnight towns had the largest average population of any RAGBRAI through RAGBRAI XXIV.
11. Among the many interesting people the first ride attracted was Clarence Pickard of Indianola. This 83-year-old gentleman, who hadn't ridden a bicycle much in recent years, showed up for that first ride with a used ladies Schwinn and rode all the way to Davenport, including the 100-degree plus day from Des Moines to Williamsburg, a 110-mile trek. Pickard's attire for the ride was a long-sleeved shirt, trousers, woolen long underwear and a silver pith helmet.
12. The SAGBRAI route went from Council Bluffs to Dubuque with stops in Atlantic, Guthrie Center, Camp Dodge (north of Des Moines), Marshalltown, Waterloo and Monticello. Approximately 2,700 riders showed up that Sunday morning in early August. The Howard Johnson motel in Council Bluffs was packed and an adjacent golf course was filled with campers.
13. In 2013 RAGBRAI passed by a large sinkhole – at least 20' wide by 5' deep in Springbrook State Park near the infamous Mockingbird Hill. The sinkhole occurred due to what at the time was Iowa's wettest spring on record. Mockingbird Hill is one of the steepest hills RAGBRAI has ridden.
14. Of course, some hills stand out more than others in RAGBRAI history. Possibly the most notorious is Potter Hill near Dubuque – it's a 6% grade, more than a mile and about 1,400 feet of climb. That may not seem so bad until you try it yourself! Other infamous hills include Boone Hill and Twister Hill.
15. **Twister Hill, located near Pilot Mound, is both difficult to cycle and apparently difficult to handle in a tornado.** The hill was featured in the 1996 movie "Twister" (featuring Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton) as the characters attempt to get the DOROTHY sensors into the eye of the tornado. The hill is only 300' of riding but the twists, turns and elevation change are an F5!
16. 872. Number of towns that have hosted riders since 1973.
17. 90%. The percentage of incorporated towns that RAGBRAI has passed thru since 1973.
18. 22,313. Number of miles ridden since 1973.
19. **445,899. Number of riders who have ridden since 1973.**
20. 45,000. Largest daily rider count was in 2019 when riders went from Winterset to Indianola.











21. **In 2022, RAGBRAI had eight riders over the age of 90!**

22. RAGBRAI has visited each of Iowa's 99 counties. There are still a few towns the ride hasn't visited yet, but it will get to those in the next 50 years!

23. Fourteen communities have served as RAGBRAI starting points, 12 have hosted the finish, and 108 communities have been overnight hosts.

24. Under ideal conditions RAGBRAI bikers average about 10 miles an hour, including stops. Many bikers can ride faster but RAGBRAI is for fun and is not a race!

25. **In 1985, RAGBRAI XIII hit 10,000 riders and have registered at least that many ever since.**

26. After the 1982 ride, co-founder and co-host Donald Kaul decided he had ridden across Iowa plenty of times and quit the ride. He later also left The Register. "Iowa Boy" columnist Chuck Offenburger joined John Karras as co-host in 1983.

27. In the winter of 1982, Clarence Pickard was struck and killed by a car while walking across a street in Indianola, his hometown. Although he had only ridden a complete RAGBRAI the first year of the ride and on just one day the following year, he had become a legend. The 1983 event, RAGBRAI XI, was named the "Clarence Pickard Memorial Ride" in his memory, and the commemorative patch The Register designed that year was similar to the shape of the helmet he wore.

28. **The first RAGBRAIs included mandatory century (100 mile) days.** RAGBRAI XIV in 1986 introduced a Century Loop, making the full 100-mile distance optional.

29. Many of the early RAGBRAIs had mandatory sections of gravel. In fact, both John Karras and Jim Green were notorious for this. The first optional Gravel Loop was in 2015. Steve Hed pitched the idea to RAGBRAI officials at the 2014 Interbike conference. One month later he tragically passed away. So when the first Gravel Loop was held in 2015 it was in Hed's honor, with his family members handing out stickers and patches.





30. Jim Green was the RAGBRAI Director from 1992 through 2003. He is known for steering RAGBRAI to become a more family-friendly ride that anyone could feel comfortable joining.
31. Jim Green is the co-founder of the Dream Team, a RAGBRAI team that pairs youth with mentors. Youth who complete the program can earn a new bicycle by keeping good grades, training regularly and riding the entire RAGBRAI route.
32. **RAGBRAI has been featured in Sports Illustrated magazine**, The Saturday Evening Post, CBS This Morning, NPR, The Wall Street Journal, CNN, The New York Times, Bicycling Magazine, TIME Magazine, Reader's Digest, Ford Times, Smithsonian, National Geographic's Traveler, SHAPE, VELO Tonic (France), Sportrad (Germany), ESPN's "Sports Center," NBC's "Tonight Show," "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," "Jeopardy," and of course the ride's namesake, The Des Moines Register.
33. Mr. Pork Chop (Paul Bernhard) is probably RAGBRAI's most famous food vendor. He is known for his pink bus painted to look like a pig, and his "PORK CHOOOOOOOOOOOP" call to riders. These days the pork chop stand is run by his son, Pork Chop Jr. Mr. Pork Chop began in 1985 and is still on the route today.
34. Another long-time favorite RAGBRAI food vendor is Beekman's Homemade Ice Cream. Based out of Cherokee, Iowa, they have been with the ride since 1986. You'll know you're riding up to their stand because you'll hear the CHUG CHUG of their ice cream makers, driven by an IHC Famous Titan engine (built in 1913).
35. Other famous food vendors along the RAGBRAI route have included Root Beer Man, the Dove Barn, Pastafari and so many more.
36. **Of course, the most famous RAGBRAI vendors are those from the communities of Iowa.** 4-H clubs, scout troops and the famous "church ladies" come out to serve riders as they bike – and eat – their way across the state. Favorite foods include scotcheroos, pork tenderloins, pie, walking tacos and cinnamon rolls.
37. Since the 1980s, every year's RAGBRAI has had cyclists from each of the 50 states, and US territories like Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands and more.
38. In 2022, RAGBRAI had riders from Australia, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and England.
39. In 2016, The Register received a photo of a rider wearing a RAGBRAI hat in Antarctica. With that, RAGBRAI riders have visited all seven continents!
40. **Lance Armstrong has occasionally brought his famous friends to RAGBRAI including Matthew McConaughey, Jimmy Johnson and Jake Gyllenhaal.**
41. Other famous riders on RAGBRAI include Tour de France winner Greg LeMond, former pro football player and actor Ben Davidson, columnist Dave Barry, actor Tom Arnold, 2004 Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean and Iowa Governor Terry Branstad.
42. It has been rumored that actors Ashton Kutcher, Brandon Routh and Jason Momoa have ridden RAGBRAI but they are unsubstantiated. Everyone looks a little different in lycra and a helmet!
43. Nelson "The Cheetah" Vails rides RAGBRAI nearly every year. Nelly is the first African American to win a medal in cycling during the 1984 Summer Olympics. He's also in the US Bicycle Hall of Fame and in the film "Quicksilver".



Lance  
Armstrong





The Spazmatics

44. Another frequent RAGBRAI rider is the Fastest Cyclist on Earth, Denise Mueller-Korenek. She rode her bicycle 183 mph on the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah in 2018 – on RAGBRAI she rides a little slower than that!
45. In 2013, 2,300 of the riders visiting Fairfield set the Guinness World Record for Largest Gathering of People Wearing Fake Moustaches.
46. The ride couldn't happen without the hard work of over 3,500 volunteers from the communities across the state. Some of the things they do range from helping at the beer garden, to setting campers in their sites to planning the layout of the festivities.
47. **RAGBRAI donates \$15,000 to each overnight host town along the route.** Each Meeting Town, where support vehicles can meet up with riders, receives \$10,000 apiece.
48. In 2012, Counting Crows headlined RAGBRAI Cedar Rapids for a 40th Anniversary Bash.
49. **Some towns really go all out for RAGBRAI. Mason City hosted Poison front man Bret Michaels in 2014;** the opening act was Warrant of "Cherry Pie" fame. When RAGBRAI returned to Mason City again in 2022, they hosted Don Felder of the Eagles and Sugar Ray.
50. RAGBRAI must-have bands include Hairball, Johnny Holm Band, The Pork Tornadoes, Spazmatics, Pop Rocks, the Nadas and David Zollo. It wouldn't be RAGBRAI without rocking to a handful of these favorites.



Hairball





**COME SEE**  
WHAT IOWA HAS TO OFFER

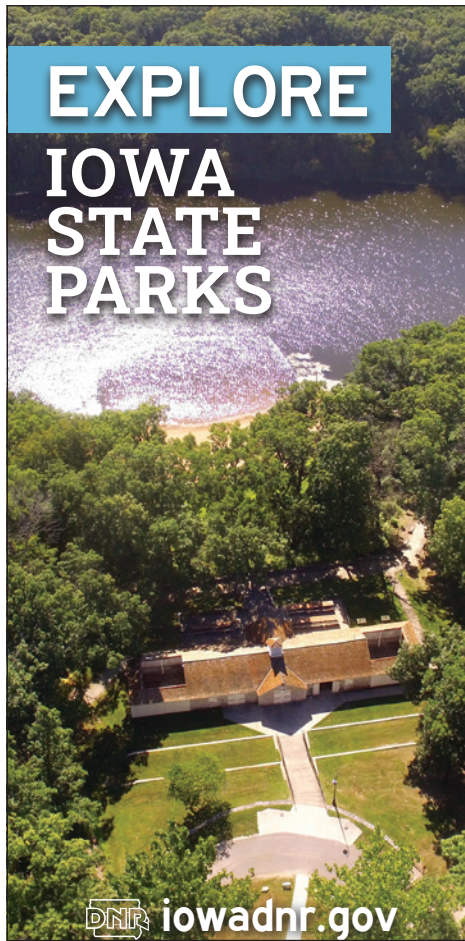


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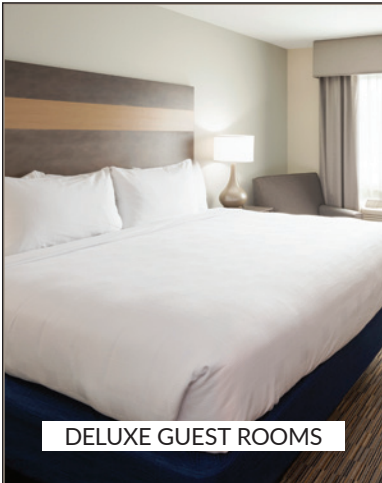


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# THINGS TO DO WITH KIDS *at the* IOWA STATE FAIR

*Emily Counts, Small Stuff Counts*

I look forward to the Iowa State Fair each and every year. I used to give speeches and perform on the stage in the 4-H Exhibits Building in middle and high school and practically lived at the Fair during two college internships. So as a mom with young kids, I'm excited to make new State Fair traditions as a family.

The Iowa State Fair, August 10-20, 2023, features 11 full days packed with food and fun for the whole family. The Fair can be overwhelming, so I'm sharing my best tips for making the most of a day trip to the Iowa State Fair with younger kids in tow.



## TOP TIPS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- 1. Go on a weekday:** If you can make it to the Fair on a weekday, I highly recommend it over the extra-busy weekends. Going earlier in the morning is also a good way to beat the crowds.
- 2. Make a plan:** It's impossible to see everything in one day, so I recommend going in with a plan. Having a list of your group's must-sees, must-dos and must-eats will be useful. Study the map and plan a general route so you can get to the things you're interested in without having to backtrack.
- 3. Wear walking shoes:** The Fair requires a lot of walking, so wear your best walking shoes. You will be on your feet the majority of your time so plan accordingly. I also recommend closed-toe shoes or your feet will be filthy by the end of the day!
- 4. Wear comfortable clothes:** Check the weather forecast and dress accordingly. We normally have some of our hottest weather during the Fair, so wear short sleeves and shorts and be prepared for a sweaty day. But if you go earlier in the morning or on an unusually cool day, you may find yourself wanting a light jacket. Ponchos are also a smart idea if rain is in the forecast.
- 5. Bring cash:** Debit/credit cards are accepted at most places, but it tends to be easier and faster to pay with cash. Especially if your family is splitting up into lines at different food stands, having smaller bills to give to each family member for food can be helpful. There are ATMs available.
- 6. Bring the stroller:** Definitely bring the stroller or a wagon for younger kids because it will be a long day of walking. Strollers are also nice to have for stashing diaper bags, sunscreen, water bottles, etc. Strollers and wagons are also available to rent inside Gate #11 and Gate #15.
- 7. Bring a water bottle & snacks:** Outside food and water bottles are allowed, so definitely bring water. You may also want to pack a few snacks, especially for little kids. Many of the buildings around the Fairgrounds have water fountains where you can refill your water. They can be a little tough to find sometimes so keep an eye out and ask Fair workers or volunteers if they know where you could refill your water.
- 8. Don't forget sun protection:** You'll be spending a lot of time outdoors, so don't forget to apply sunscreen! Hats, sunglasses and covered wagons/strollers are helpful to have for the kids.
- 9. Pack the essentials:** You will not want to walk back to your car during the day, so bring all the essentials with you. A backpack/diaper bag is a great idea for keeping water bottles, sunscreen, etc. handy.



## GETTING THERE

**Location:** For GPS and online mapping services, use the address 3000 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50317

**Hours:** The grounds are open 8 a.m. to midnight, and the buildings are open 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Most of the rides open at either 9 or 10 a.m.

**Admission costs:** At the gate, adults (12 and up): \$16 and children (6-11): \$10. Advance admission tickets are available prior to the Fair for \$11 and \$7, respectively. Check the Fair's website, [iowastatefair.org](http://iowastatefair.org), for locations to purchase.

**Parking:** Parking is available on the Fairgrounds for \$10. Many residents in the area offer parking on their lawns as well. In my experience, traffic can get very heavy and slow, and parking lots tend to fill up, so I like to save myself some headaches and utilize the DART Park & Ride. With this option, you park at one of three locations and ride the DART bus to the Fairgrounds. This is very economical, helps you avoid traffic, and often saves you some walking since the bus drops you off right at the gate. Find details on the Fair's website.

**Fairgrounds Map:** It's helpful to familiarize yourself with the Fairgrounds map before your visit so you have an idea of where the parking lots are located. And I keep this pulled up on my phone to reference during the Fair.

Visit [iowastatefair.org/visit](http://iowastatefair.org/visit) for the most up-to-date visitor information.



**10. Bring extra clothes:** This is one more thing to carry with you, but you'll probably be glad you brought them. There's a chance your kids will be running through sprinklers in the splash pad or spilling their ice cream down their shirts.

**11. Restrooms:** The largest, nicest restrooms are in the newer air-conditioned buildings.

**12. Diaper changing/nursing stations:** There are stations in the Animal Learning Center and Walnut Center. If you'll need to use these, locate them on the Fair map in advance so you know where they are.

**13. Make safety plans:** Kids wander off or get separated from their group every Fair so it's smart to be prepared. Kid Find bracelets are typically handed out at the information booths. You can tuck a piece of paper in their pocket with their name, your name and your phone number. It's also a good idea to take a current photo of your child(ren) right before you go to the Fair and teach them to look for a police officer or Fair staff if they get lost.

## THINGS TO DO

### FAIR FOOD

Food is one of the main attractions of the Fair, so let's talk about all the good food first! There are so many food vendors around the Fairgrounds ranging from your classic corndogs and fried Oreos to more interesting items like the chicken bacon ranch waffle on-a-stick and deep-fried meatballs on-a-stick.

Some of my must-have foods are the hot beef sundae, fried cheese curds, and Barksdale's warm chocolate chip cookies (I usually buy a bucket when I'm leaving to take home). I also like the tater ribbon fries, fresh-squeezed lemonade, caprese salad on-a-stick and the peppermint bar from Bauder's Ice Cream.

It's always fun to look at the list of new Fair foods in advance and pick out a couple of things you'd like to try. They give awards to the top new foods each year so those are good ones to seek out, too. Everything you need to know about Fair food is on their website. There are also details about healthy choices and gluten-free options.

### LITTLE HANDS ON THE FARM

This is a must-do activity with your kids! Children ages 2 to 10 get to pretend they're farmers in this interactive exhibit. Kids are given a basket to collect various foods along the path, like harvesting vegetables from the garden, picking apples from the orchard, gathering eggs in the chicken coop, etc. Then at the end, they get to sell their items at the market for play money that can be redeemed for a small treat in the grocery store. It's so fun and totally free!

### GIANT SLIDE

The Giant Slide has been a State Fair staple since 1971 and a favorite for Fairgoers of all ages. You grab a mat, climb up the steps of the 45-foot-high slide and slide down the iconic yellow and green slide. The cost is \$3. Very young kids can ride with their parents.

### PAUL R. KNAPP ANIMAL LEARNING CENTER

Stop here to see adorable baby animals like newborn piglets and tiny chicks. There are also usually a few baby calves born during the fair so you might get lucky and see a cow and her new baby. **Quick tip:** This is a nice building with air conditioning, water fountains and good restrooms.



### FREE ENTERTAINMENT

There's free entertainment, shows and demonstrations sprinkled throughout the Fairgrounds. Look at the daily schedule for free shows on the various stages and free activities taking place that day. For example, the 4-H Exhibits Building often has make-and-take craft activities and the Anne & Bill Riley stage hosts all sorts of free shows. The Fun Forest Stage has live kid-friendly entertainment throughout the day and a playground area nearby.





## ANIMALS

Your kids will have fun seeing all the livestock around the Fairgrounds. There are opportunities to see cute baby animals and even pet some of them:

- Avenue of Breeds • Boulevard of Dairy Breeds
- Cattle Corner • Horse Haven
- I Milked A Cow • Milking Parlor/Milking Experience
- Paul R. Knapp Animal Learning Center • Pig Place • Sheep Stop

You can walk around the livestock barns and see lots of animals, and I also recommend walking through the Richard O. Jacobson Exhibition Center to see if there are any horse shows to watch. Some shows require paid admission, but earlier in the day there's often something that's free to watch. The building has great seats and air conditioning, so it's a nice spot to take a break!

## CARNIVAL RIDES

There are three thrill parks at the Iowa State Fair. If you plan to ride a lot of rides, consider getting a wristband. Discounted wristbands can be purchased online in advance.



## BUTTER COW

The Butter Cow is one of those Iowa State Fair traditions that you have to stop and see. It's exactly what it sounds like, a cow carved out of butter.

The Butter Cow is located in the Agriculture Building where you can usually find free hard-boiled eggs on-a-stick and buy a cup of honey lemonade from the Iowa Honey Producers upstairs. There are also giant pumpkins on the lawn in front of the building.



## SKYGLIDER

The Skyglider is a ski lift that gives you a bird's-eye view of the Fairgrounds. It's a fun way to see the Fair and give your feet a break. The \$4 one-way ticket is a nice shortcut to get to the other side of the Fairgrounds or do the \$7 round-trip for a relaxing ride.



# MORE FUN FOR FAMILIES

## COUNTRY SCHOOL

Learn what it was like to go to school in a one-room schoolhouse. Throughout the Fair there are various activities where children can pretend to be a student in an old school. This is a fun and interactive way to learn about history at the Fair.

## AWARD-WINNING LARGEST ANIMALS AND PLANTS

See the biggest of the big award-winning competition entries. Travel to various locations around the Fairgrounds to see the biggest boar, largest pumpkin and more. There is truly nothing bigger and better than these large animals and plants.

## LIVESTOCK AND HORSE SHOWS

From cattle and pigs to pigeons and rabbits, see and enjoy Iowa's livestock industry! Showtimes and locations can be found in the daily schedule on the Iowa State Fair app and website.

## BLUE RIBBON KIDS CLUB

Join the Blue Ribbon Kids' Club Monday through Saturday for a variety of activities such as meet and greets, crafts, Q & A sessions and more.

## CRAFTS IN THE CULTURAL CENTER

The Patty and Jim Cownie Cultural Center has make-and-take crafts for people of all ages. You can make things like personalized name bracelets, candles and even get your face painted.

## CONTESTS

Every year, thousands of Fairgoers and exhibitors compete to get first place. Contests range from the Ugliest Cake in the Elwell Family Food Center to the bubble gum blowing contest on the Anne and Bill Riley stage.

## FAIR SIGHTS

Need a relaxing break? Look over the vast expanse of land from Expo Hill or enjoy water features in the Pella or Ruan Plazas. The Polk County Master Gardener's Discovery Garden is also a beautiful setting to see outdoor flower displays.





# A Hole LOT OF FUN

**18 GOLF COURSES TO PLAY**

There's no shortage of golfing opportunities in Iowa. From challenging mini golf obstacles and gorgeous golfing greens to a variety of disc golf courses, this recreation is one of the best ways to experience the great outdoors.





Monaleo Adventure Golf, Waterloo

## MINIATURE GOLF

Designed to harmonize with the tropical flavor of Waterloo's Lost Island Waterpark and Theme Park, **Monaleo Adventure Golf** features two challenging 18-hole courses lined with native vegetation, volcanoes, rapids, dinosaur fossils and a skull pit. For a full day of adventures, pair your mini golf endeavors with a race around the go-kart track, some exhilarating water slides or thrilling roller coasters. [thelostisland.com](http://thelostisland.com); *Driftless Area*

For another water-themed course, head over to **Pirate's Pointe**, located within Storm Lake's King's Pointe Waterpark Resort. The course offers an intimidating shipwreck with towering masts and billowing sails that would make Blackbeard quake in his boots. Do you dare to accept the challenge and walk the plank? [kingspointeresort.com](http://kingspointeresort.com); *Lakes & Land*

Enjoy a game of classic mini golf featuring obstacles, full loops and plenty of angles alongside lights to allow evening rounds at **Pla-Mor Mini Golf** in Clear Lake. Open seasonally with no set hours, it's a good idea to call before you play, but the course will stay open for you as long as you need. *Lakes & Land*

**Toad Valley's Field of Green Mini Links** in Pleasant Hill provides the most real-world application of putting techniques than any other mini golf course in Iowa. The challenging course follows the contour of the land and features long-distance putts, real sand traps and water hazards. The beautiful greenery and babbling waterfalls and streams make this a worthy visit. [toadvalleygolfcourse.com](http://toadvalleygolfcourse.com); *Capital Country*

Paying homage to its name, **Li'l Mississippi** in Davenport offers players unique course features such as a winding stream that rushes throughout the course, a large waterfall and several splash ponds. For more summer fun, join in on the course's Water Wars, a water balloon game that leaves both sides laughing. [lilmississippigolf.com](http://lilmississippigolf.com); *Storied & Scenic*

**Council Bluffs' Pirate Putt** indoor golf course (perfect for a rainy day!) offers two 18-hole courses with warped walls, ramps and a spring-loaded cannon that will shoot your ball onto the course. The course is decorated with life-size pirates, sunken treasure and a pirate ship. *Loess Hills & Beyond*





Pirate's Pointe, Storm Lake

## PUBLIC GOLF COURSES



Known as the oldest municipal golf course west of the Mississippi River, **Waveland Golf Course** is a parkland-style course built in the heart of Des Moines. Accuracy is a necessity because of the mature, tree-lined fairways. [golfwaveland.com](http://golfwaveland.com); *Capital Country*

The Audubon-certified **The Preserve** on Rathbun Lake at Honey Creek Resort in Moravia features a perfect blend of great golf and natural landscapes, meandering more than 7,000 yards through prairies and oak savannas. The course is designed to suit golfers of every age and skill level, and also offers PGA golf lessons and club fittings. [honeycreekresort.com](http://honeycreekresort.com); *Storied & Scenic*

Named the state's best public course for 2022 by Golfweek magazine, **Spirit Hollow** in Burlington requires a tremendous test of skills set in the rolling hills and meandering streams of Southeast Iowa. [spirithollowgolfcourse.com](http://spirithollowgolfcourse.com); *Storied & Scenic*

Sprawling more than 7,100 yards, **The Falls** at Grand Falls Casino & Golf Resort in Larchwood boasts views of country landscapes and a 30-foot-tall waterfall flowing into a 12-acre lake. (Check their website for details on dress code.) [thefallsgolfcourse.com](http://thefallsgolfcourse.com); *Lakes & Land*

**Lake Panorama National Resort** in Panora offers two courses – an 18-hole championship course and a par-3 course. Other amenities at the resort include an outdoor swimming pool, pickle ball and basketball courts and access to private beaches and boating on the namesake lake. [lakepanoramanaional.com](http://lakepanoramanaional.com); *Loess Hills & Beyond*

Since opening in 1976, **Bellevue Golf Club** has developed a reputation as a challenging, but fun, nine-hole course. Set on hilly terrain north of Bellevue, the course offers scenic views of the Mississippi River. [facebook.com/bellevueiagolfcourse](https://facebook.com/bellevueiagolfcourse); *Storied & Scenic*



The Preserve, Moravia





## DISC GOLF

Recognized as one of the top 50 courses in the world, **Wildcat Bluff** in Urbana is a tough 21-hole disc golf course that challenges players with a variety of obstacles. With tightly wooded fairways, a variety of elevation and long layouts, the course is a challenge for even advanced players. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com); *Storied & Scenic*

**Sunnyside Disc Golf Course** in Atlantic offers some of the best "empty your bag" disc golfing in the state. The 18-hole course features a variety of wide-open fairways and holes closely wooded by mature trees, moderate distances, lots of elevation and a creek that comes into play. [atlanticiowa.com](http://atlanticiowa.com); *Loess Hills & Beyond*

Home to a variety of disc golf tournaments each year, **Pickard Park** in Indianola provides a challenging but scenic course for amateur players featuring rolling hills, ponds, creeks and a long hike around a beautiful property. Each hole includes a pro and amateur tee pad for all skill levels to enjoy. [indianolaiowa.gov](http://indianolaiowa.gov); *Capital Country*

With 21 holes spread throughout two city parks divided by the Winnebago River, the **Forest City Disc Golf Course** offers a variety of terrain. Along with the river and ponds, the course in Forest City also features a swinging bridge with scenic views of the water. Most holes include two tee pads, elevation and trees. *Lakes & Land*

Located next to the Cedar River near downtown Waterloo, the long and scenic course at **Waterloo Exchange Park** features a variety of technical forest and water shots, offering the ultimate challenge for skilled players. Players will find themselves throwing for 27 holes over creeks, ponds and next to the river as well as down narrow and heavily wooded fairways. [waterlooleisureservices.org](http://waterlooleisureservices.org); *Driftless Area*

Located in beautiful **Maytag Park**, Newton's 18-hole course winds around an amphitheater, bike trails and swimming pool. Players can expect mostly long and open, hilly shots with some trees and brush. A local disc golf league takes this course over on Thursday nights, so plan accordingly. [newtongov.org](http://newtongov.org); *Capital Country*



# SPIN YOUR WHEELS

EXPERIENCE IOWA BY BIKE, SKATEBOARD OR GO KART



Trout Run Trail, Decorah



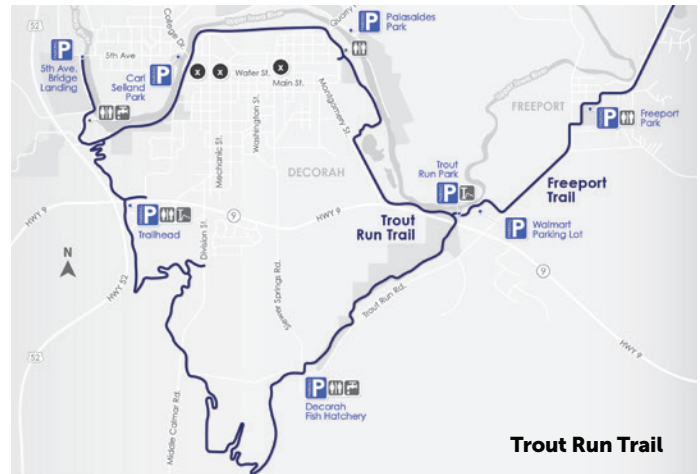
## BIKING



Head to Decorah and spend a relaxing afternoon exploring the community from the **Trout Run Trail** ([mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com)). This 11-mile+ route follows the Upper Iowa River, several beautiful trout streams and passes by some of the community's best staples.

### Driftless Area

- Start at the trailhead by Bowstring Bridge, just northeast of Trout Run Park, and head south along Trout Run, which is the most handicapped accessible coldwater trout stream in the Midwest.
- Stop by the **Decorah Fish Hatchery** ([decorahfishhatchery.org](http://decorahfishhatchery.org)) to learn about the rearing process. You can feed fish of all sizes for just a quarter.
- Hop back on your bike and prepare for the most challenging trail section filled with switchbacks, underpasses, a unique bridge, a dramatic limestone cut and the oldest part of the trail, a beautiful stretch called "Doug Road" that overlooks the Upper Iowa River.
- At the end of Doug Road, exit the trail and bike a few blocks through city streets to Decorah's historic downtown. Refuel at places like **Mabe's Pizza** ([mabespizza.com](http://mabespizza.com)) with a classic pie, **Rubaiyat's** ([rubaiyatrestaurant.com](http://rubaiyatrestaurant.com)) refined seasonal American dishes, or a little further out, but still bikable, steak or seafood along a trout stream at **Twin Springs Supper Club** ([twinspringsupperclub.com](http://twinspringsupperclub.com); *reservations recommended*).
- Take a break from biking and stroll through **Vesterheim, The National Norwegian-American Museum and Folk Art School** ([vesterheim.org](http://vesterheim.org)). Learn about the lives of the people who settled our nation through artifacts like elaborate costumes, a historic cabin and even a boat that sailed the Atlantic Ocean.



- Power up for the remainder of the trail by stopping for a treat. According to locals, **Whippy Dip** serves up some of the best ice cream around. Or choose a delicious brew from **Pulpit Rock Brewing Company's** ([pulpitrockbrewing.net](http://pulpitrockbrewing.net)) rotating tap list featuring a wide range of beer styles.
- When you're ready to complete your adventure, hop on your bike and ride to see the waterfall at **Dunning's Spring Park** ([parks.decorahia.org](http://parks.decorahia.org)) before you get back on the Trout Run Trail loop to return to your starting point.



## OTHER LOOP TRAILS

**Iowa Great Lakes Trail System**  
[mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com); *Lakes & Land*

**Fairfield Loop Trail**  
[jeffersoncountytrails.org](http://jeffersoncountytrails.org); *Storied & Scenic*

**Raccoon River Valley Trail**  
[raccoonrivervalleytrail.org](http://raccoonrivervalleytrail.org); *Capital Country*

**Cedar Valley Trails**  
[cedarvalleytrails.org](http://cedarvalleytrails.org); *Driftless Area*





## SKATEBOARDING



### Lauridsen Skate Park, Des Moines

This 88,000-square-foot skatepark in Des Moines is the largest in the country, and features courses for all skill levels.

One especially unique feature is a sculpture spelling out the word "Wow," with each curve of the letters made to be skateable. [dsmskatepark.com](http://dsmskatepark.com); *Capital Country*



### Flora Skatepark, Dubuque

[cityofdubuque.org](http://cityofdubuque.org); *Driftless Area*

### Skateboard Park, Iowa City

[icgov.org](http://icgov.org); *Storied & Scenic*

### Cook Park Skate Park, Sioux City

[sioux-city.org](http://sioux-city.org); *Lakes & Land*

### Riverside Skatepark, Cedar Rapids

[cedar-rapids.org](http://cedar-rapids.org); *Storied & Scenic*

### Ray Rorick Skatepark, Mason City

[masoncity.net](http://masoncity.net); *Lakes & Land*

### Broadway Skate Park, Council Bluffs

[councilbluffs-ia.gov](http://councilbluffs-ia.gov); *Loess Hills & Beyond*

Shop for intricately designed skateboards at **Des Moines' Street Plant** ([streetplant.com](http://streetplant.com)), owned by former professional skateboarder Mike Vallely. *Capital Country*

Or head to **Volition Skate** ([volitionskate.com](http://volitionskate.com)) in Fairfield to shop a colorful variety of roller skates along with a small collection of skateboards and rollerblades. *Storied & Scenic*

Whiterock Conservancy, Coon Rapids

## MOUNTAIN BIKING



### Whiterock Conservancy, Coon Rapids

Host to some of the best mountain biking in western Iowa, Whiterock Conservancy boasts a collection of 16 miles of single track and a 12-mile multi-use trail. Centered around the scenic Middle Raccoon River, the trails follow the flow of the hills and offer a great riding experience for all skill levels. A trail pass is required for all mountain bikers (\$5/day or \$25/year). Mountain bikes and helmets available to rent for \$15/day. [whiterockconservancy.org](http://whiterockconservancy.org); *Loess Hills & Beyond*

### Sugar Bottom Recreation Area, Solon

[recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov); *Storied & Scenic*

### Memorial Park, Ottumwa

[ottumwa.us](http://ottumwa.us); *Storied & Scenic*

### Banner Lakes, Carlisle

[iowadnr.gov](http://iowadnr.gov); *Capital Country*

### Ingawanis Woodland, Waverly

[mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com); *Driftless Area*

### Lewis and Clark Monument Park, Council Bluffs

[councilbluffs-ia.gov](http://councilbluffs-ia.gov); *Loess Hills & Beyond*





Slideways, Knoxville

## GO KARTS



### Slideways, Knoxville

Experience the Sprint Car Capital of the World by getting behind the wheel of a mini sprint car and sliding around the 1/16th mile slick concrete track. Famed race car drivers Jeff Gordon, Tony Stewart, Kyle Larson and McKenna Haase have all driven karts on the track. Races start at \$15. [slidewayskartingcenter.com](http://slidewayskartingcenter.com); *Capital Country*

### Pole Position Raceway, Grimes

[polepositionraceway.com](http://polepositionraceway.com); *Capital Country*

### Speedeezz Indoor Karting, Cedar Rapids

[speedeezzindoorkarting.com](http://speedeezzindoorkarting.com); *Storied & Scenic*

### Joe's Indoor Karting Center, Council Bluffs

[joeskarting.com](http://joeskarting.com); *Loess Hills & Beyond*

### Michael's Fun World, Davenport

[michaelsfunworld.com](http://michaelsfunworld.com); *Storied & Scenic*

### Fort Frenzy, Fort Dodge

[fortfrenzy.com](http://fortfrenzy.com); *Lakes & Land*

## FERRIS WHEELS



Get a bird's eye view of Iowa from these Ferris wheels:

### Adventureland, Altoona

[adventurelandresort.com](http://adventurelandresort.com); *Capital Country*

### Modern Woodmen Park, Davenport

[milb.com/quad-cities](http://milb.com/quad-cities); *Storied & Scenic*

### Lost Island Theme Park, Waterloo

[thelostisland.co](http://thelostisland.co); *Driftless Area*

### Arnolds Park Amusement Park, Arnolds Park

[arnoldspark.com](http://arnoldspark.com); *Lakes & Land*

### Iowa State Fair, Des Moines

[iowastatefair.org](http://iowastatefair.org); *Capital Country*







# The Loess Hills

LEARN MORE ABOUT IOWA'S FAMOUS GEOLOGICAL GEM

## What are the Loess Hills?

Though the Loess (rhymes with "bus") Hills are one of Iowa's most famous landscapes, many natives and visitors alike are unaware of what makes this area in Western Iowa so special. In fact, this is one of the only places in the world with such deep deposits of loess soil, a silt-like sediment formed by the accumulation of wind-blown dust. The only place with deeper and more expansive deposits is China's Loess Plateau. Along with its unique compilation, the region also includes some of the largest public conservation and recreation areas in the state, preserving an important ecosystem of plant and animal species that can't thrive anywhere else. Finally, the Loess Hills are home to some of the longest and most rugged trails in the Midwest, along with views that maintain the legacy of the land.

Loess Hills State Forest, Pisgah



# One Woman's Journey Through the Hills

Though the Loess Hills do have some longer isolated hiking trails, there has been talk of creating a continuous route that spans their entire length, from Plymouth County all the way down to the Missouri border. So, local hiker and nature enthusiast Kelly Madigan set out to try it herself. It was something she'd been thinking about doing for nearly 20 years as she explored the area and learned more about the Loess Hills. Then, when COVID-19 hit, she figured it was time to bring her plans to life.

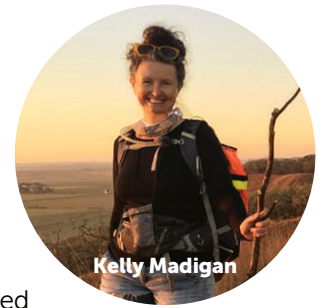
**“I wanted to understand the landscape that I was connected to and understand things at a human pace.** I had driven I-29 and taken some of the scenic byway routes, but still didn't really understand the landform until I walked it,” Madigan said.

In the fall of 2020, she set off on her adventure. After initially planning her route, along with scouting on the spot, she walked about 270 miles through stretches of public conservation and recreation areas, as well as along gravel, dirt and paved roads in between. Family and friends helped along the way, bringing her food and supplies. Every day looked different – sometimes she'd camp on the trail; sometimes she'd have loved ones shuttle her to and from routes; sometimes she'd even have friends and family join her as she continued walking south.

Kelly quickly coined the term LoHi Trail to describe the path, combining the name of the hills with its elevation changes and steep slopes. As the hills, their scenery and small towns continued to amaze her, she created a Facebook page to document her journey, starting it by saying, “Many have dreamed of a continuous walking trail through the Iowa Loess Hills. I'm trying to move that forward by walking it.”

Before she knew it, hundreds of people were following the page, providing ideas for navigation or areas of interest and asking questions about her route as they brainstormed their own undertaking.

Six weeks later, Kelly finally reached the Missouri border. While her journey could have ended there, it was only the beginning.



Kelly Madigan

“I've always been drawn to wilderness and how it corresponds to the wildness in us,” Kelly said. “When I discovered the Loess Hills and all these pockets of remote valleys and ridges where you can be away from big cities, it spoke to me like it does to a lot of people.”

As her Facebook group's following continued to grow, Kelly realized there were more people like her who wanted to connect with Iowa's natural beauty in the most intimate way – on foot. She partnered with Golden Hills RC&D, and together they arranged a summer hiking event in June 2021 called the LoHi Trek. They soon learned there was ample demand for the four-day, 40-mile hike of the Loess Hills – the 30 registration slots were quickly filled while additional names were placed on a waiting list. Hikers were responsible for bringing their own camping gear but, thanks to a shuttle system, they didn't have to carry it and food was provided.

The next spring, they held another LoHi Trek where they camped at Little Sioux Scout Ranch and had shuttle drivers take them out for a hike back. They completed 25 miles in three days. A hike in the fall of 2022 also utilized a shuttle out and hike back system, this time with camping at Kelly's home.

Throughout these guided hikes, Kelly also invited local experts to incorporate educational presentations about conservation efforts, the landscape's importance and protecting its wildlife and prairie. The most recent hike even included a visit to **Tuuli Farm**, ([tuulifarm.com](http://tuulifarm.com)) where they learned about the sheep's rotational grazing process and its benefit for the livestock and conservation efforts.

As the LoHi Trek continues to evolve and more people are introduced to Iowa's Loess Hills, interest continues to grow inside and outside Iowa's borders. For the 2022 hikes, people came from 53 zip codes and 10 states, including New York, California, Texas and Colorado. Today, there are endless ways to experience the Loess Hills by car, foot or bike, inviting nature enthusiasts, outdoor recreation enthusiasts and sightseers alike to appreciate Iowa's natural landscape.



# How to Experience the Loess Hills

## EVENTS / GUIDED HIKES

### **The LoHi Trek 2023** ([visitloesshills.org/lohi.html](http://visitloesshills.org/lohi.html))

Join Kelly Madigan and Golden Hills RC&D over Memorial Day weekend for the third annual LoHi Trek. This hiking event will explore wild areas in Plymouth and Woodbury Counties, including portions of Broken Kettle Grassland, Five Ridge Prairie State Preserve, Heendah Hills State Preserve, Stone State Park and more. Each day's hike will average six to 10 miles, with options for shortening the distance each day. Participants are responsible for bringing their own tent and sleeping gear but will not need to carry them as the hike returns to the campsite every evening. Meals, water stations, charging stations, morning coffee, camaraderie, support and educational components are all included.

### **GRASS (Great Race Against Shrubs and Shade)**

Held the morning before the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar, this volunteer-dependent event welcomes people of all ages to help local organizations cut and clear invasive brush to help the hillside prairies thrive. Volunteers are encouraged to bring loppers, work/leather gloves, sturdy boots or shoes, safety glasses, a water bottle and sunscreen.

### **Loess Hills Prairie Seminar** ([loesshillsprairieseminar.com](http://loesshillsprairieseminar.com))

Save the date for this annual educational event, featuring the 2023 theme of "Head for the Hills." Held June 2-4, join conservationists, nature enthusiasts and curious explorers as they hike and camp in the heart of the Loess Hills and enjoy presentations on everything from local history and archaeological discoveries to plant identification and wildlife explanations. Primitive and car camping are available, though there are no electrical hookups or running water. A solar-powered phone charging station and food are provided. Come for a day with the family or camp to enjoy the full experience.



## PUBLIC HIKING TRAILS

### **Loess Hills State Forest Trails**

Scan the QR code to discover trails through the Loess Hills as well as primitive camping areas. One of the most popular routes in this system is Brent's Trail, a 13-mile stretch of dirt trail featuring unique topography. It's deemed one of the most challenging and scenic backpacking trails in the Midwest.



## DRIVING / BIKING TRAILS

### **Loess Hills National Scenic Byway**

With 220 miles for the main route and 185 extra miles of excursion loops, this scenic byway provides one of the easiest ways to enjoy Iowa's Loess Hills. The route passes through dozens of charming small towns and past even more unique Iowa attractions.

### **Wabash Trace Nature Trail**

Spanning 60+ miles and crossing over 70 bridges, this scenic trail is relatively flat, making it a relaxing way to experience the Loess Hills. The trail runs from Council Bluffs to Blanchard, featuring various trailheads in between.



## SCENIC OVERLOOKS / POINTS OF INTEREST

### Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Climb to the top of the observation tower for a bird's eye view of the breath-taking scenery or hike the nature trails to experience the views on foot. Then, head inside to enjoy a series of interpretive displays, exhibits and programs. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com); *Loess Hills & Beyond*

### Waubonsie State Park, Hamburg

In addition to fantastic views, the park also features rustic camping cabins, hiking and multi-use trails. [iowadnr.gov](http://iowadnr.gov); *Loess Hills & Beyond*

### Stone State Park, Sioux City

With several scenic overlooks, Sioux City's portion of the Loess Hills proves just as stunning. Visitors can also relax with a picnic at one of the shelters, explore the **Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center** ([mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com)) and book a stay at one of three camping cabins. [iowadnr.gov](http://iowadnr.gov); *Lakes & Land*

### Southwood Conservation Area, Smithland

Along with great views of the hills, Southwood's overlook features a selfie stand to create the perfect photo opp. The area also includes two stocked ponds, hiking and equestrian trails, picnic areas and a playground along with two one-bedroom cabins. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com); *Lakes & Land*

### Vincent Bluff Nature Preserve, Council Bluffs

Experience a quiet and primitive spot among the rolling hills. This designated preserve features expansive views of the city along with picnic shelters and several nature trails. [councilbluffs-ia.gov](http://councilbluffs-ia.gov); *Loess Hills & Beyond*

### Lewis & Clark Monument and Scenic Overlook, Council Bluffs

This spot honors the famous expedition and its meeting with the Otoe and Missouri Indians. The overlook features an expansive westward view and includes restrooms and a picnic area. *Loess Hills & Beyond*

### Mile Hill Lake, Glenwood

Located right off Hwy 34, this 39-acre park includes an accessible scenic overlook, hardwood forest and a 10-acre fishing lake. Drive through the park and discover a series of interpretive panels, restored prairies, flowerbeds and various hiking trails. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com); *Loess Hills & Beyond*

### Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve, Westfield

Offering a sweeping reminder of nature's beauty, this preserve features some of the best views of the Loess Hills, including a herd of bison roaming the grounds. Though there are no hiking trails, visitors are allowed to wander or check their calendar for upcoming events. [nature.org](http://nature.org); *Lakes & Land*

## LOESS HILLS LODGING

### Kelly Madigan's Tent Airbnbs, Onawa

Book a stay on Kelly's property, which is surrounded by 1,100 acres of wildlife area. Scout's Point and Basecamp Tent offer the perfect mix of wilderness and comfort. [airbnb.com](http://airbnb.com); *Loess Hills & Beyond*

### Grain Bin Getaway, Missouri Valley

Nestled at the foot of the hills, this repurposed grain bin can sleep up to six guests and features a large bathroom, full kitchen, laundry and wi-fi along with a cozy outdoor space. [airbnb.com](http://airbnb.com); *Loess Hills & Beyond*

### Loess Hills Hideaway Cabins, Moorhead

These comfortable cabins are located just minutes away from Preparation Canyon State Park and public access to nearly 12,000 acres of hiking and hunting. Each cabin features a modern interior with a full kitchen, private bathroom, TV and heat/AC. [loesshillshideaway.com](http://loesshillshideaway.com); *Loess Hills & Beyond*

### Pony Creek Cabins, Pacific Junction

This 83-acre park offers two cabins that can sleep up to 10 people each. Each one is equipped with a kitchen and bathrooms, offering the perfect getaway for families. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com); *Loess Hills & Beyond*

### Arrowhead Park Cabins, Neola

These rustic cabins offer a fine balance between primitive camping and glamping. Each cabin can sleep up to six people and features heat/AC, a refrigerator and microwave. Just steps out the front door, guests have access to a hydrant, picnic table, fire ring and grill. Modern restrooms and showers are located in the adjoining campground. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com); *Loess Hills & Beyond*

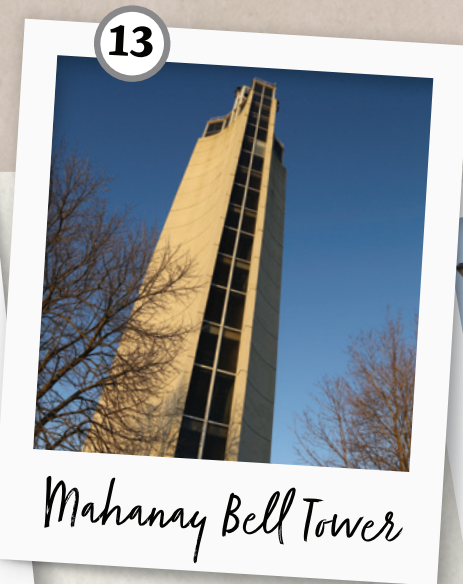
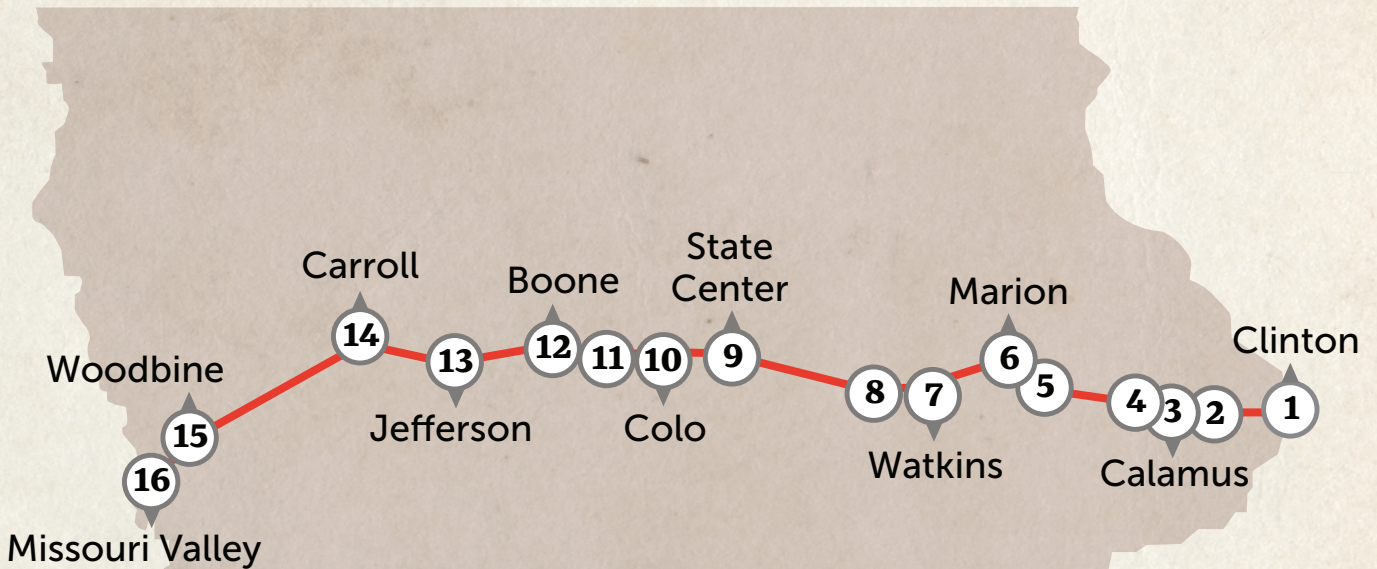
### Cabins at Willow Lake Recreation Area, Woodbine

Choose from six cabins to experience the Loess Hills in comfort. All cabins are handicap accessible and include a kitchen and bathrooms. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com); *Loess Hills & Beyond*



# 16 STOPS ALONG THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY

**ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO**, the fastest way across the country was by train, and roads were only a way of traveling locally. The Lincoln Highway changed that when it was announced in 1913, eventually becoming the first transcontinental road stretching from Times Square in New York City to San Francisco, California. Today, the route is celebrating its 110th anniversary of leading travelers to the nation's charming small towns and stunning rural landscapes. Take a tour of Iowa's portion of the Lincoln Highway with these 16 must-stop attractions.





1. **THE LYONS-FULTON BRIDGE, CLINTON**

Start your journey by crossing into Iowa on the Lyons-Fulton Bridge, which was once one of the highway's most stunning bridges. Opened in July of 1891, the original bridge connected the cities of Lyons, Iowa (which merged with Clinton) and Fulton, Illinois. Back then, it was the only way to cross that section of the Mississippi and therefore the main reason the Lincoln Highway was routed there.

*Storied & Scenic*

2. **LINCOLN PARK, DE WITT**

This park marks the historic crossing of two original transnational highways, the Lincoln Highway and the Blues Highway (Hwy 61). The notable crossing is marked at an intersection next to Lincoln Park, which features a crossroads emblem on the road and placard in the park. Today, the park includes modern amenities such as picnic shelters, playground equipment and public restrooms, making for a perfect stopping point on your journey west.

*parks.cityofde Wittiowa.org; Storied & Scenic*

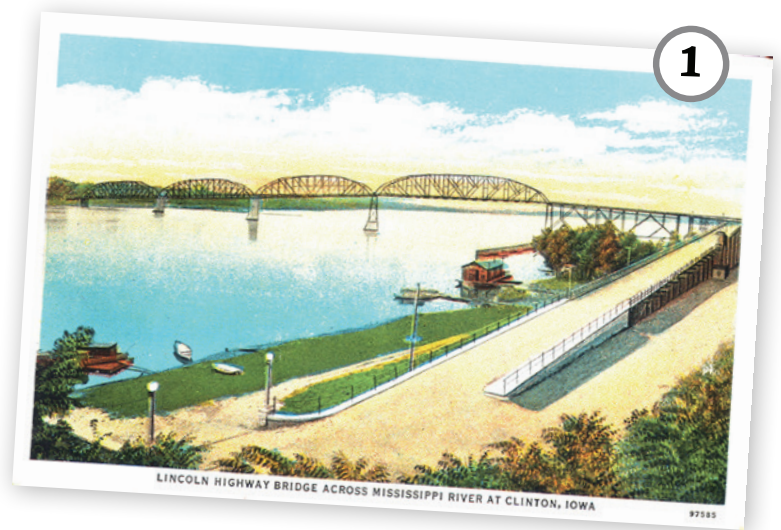
3. **ABANDONED SECTION OF HIGHWAY, CALAMUS**

Between Calamus and Clarence, you can quite literally get off the beaten path and experience an abandoned section of the Lincoln Highway. This specific stretch was removed from the route in 1956 when a new two-lane road was built. Though the original road is not drive-able, it makes for a peaceful place to take a stroll. *Storied & Scenic*

4. **HISTORIC LINCOLN HOTEL B&B, LOWDEN**

Take a break from your travels with an overnight stay at the Historic Lincoln Hotel B&B, which marks the crossroads of the Lincoln Highway with the Hoover Highway. Built in 1915 then renovated in 1996, the hotel has since been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and won the residential Preservation at Its Best Award from the Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance. Today, the hotel offers four modern suites along with a small-town setting and beautiful rural scenery.

*lincolnhoteliowa.com; Storied & Scenic*



5. **UNION PACIFIC BRIDGE, MOUNT VERNON**

Built in 1910, this historic bridge has since been restored to its original pony truss structure. Located on 10th Avenue NW between Prairie Park and Van Metre Field, you can drive a short stretch of the road's original brick path up to the bridge, then walk across it to enjoy the views and historic structure.

*Storied & Scenic*

6. **FIRST PAVED SECTION OF THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY, LINN COUNTY**

The first major metropolitan area on the route features Iowa's first paved mile of the Lincoln Highway called the "Seedling Mile." Located halfway between Marion and Mount Vernon on what is now Mount Vernon Road, a mile-long stretch was paved in 1918-19 as a demonstration for the benefits of concrete roadways and road travel before the entire highway was paved by 1931. Though the original concrete Seedling Mile was paved over in 2002 as part of a reconstruction project, a memorial plaque maintains the Seedling Mile's legacy. The original Lincoln Highway used to route through Marion, which was then the Linn County seat, but the current route takes travelers directly from Mount Vernon to Cedar Rapids. *Storied & Scenic*



7. **THE YOUNGVILLE CAFÉ, WATKINS**

Built in the 1930s as a one-stop filling station/eatery, Youngville was started by a father and his widowed daughter in response to the heavily traveled highway and operated until 1967. Located on the corner of Hwys 30 and 218, the café once served all traveler needs from providing hearty meals, stocking general grocery items, housing slot machines and offering cabins for overnight stays. Though the cabins and other items are long gone, Youngville's family-friendly atmosphere and meals remain. After going through a restoration project, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the café offers a unique seasonal attraction from June – September, during which they serve lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays and host weekly farmers' markets.

*Storied & Scenic*

8. **LINCOLN CAFÉ, BELLE PLAINE**

If you love soup or chili, then the Lincoln Café is a must stop along old Lincoln Highway. Opened in 1928, the café has since gone through several owners and renovations to today offer a small-town dining experience paired with modern seating and great service. They serve breakfast all day along with an impressive lunch and dinner menu, though their homemade soups continue to be the most popular. Belle Plaine is also home to more historic sites, including the Belle Plaine Museum, the Herring Hotel and King Theatre. *Storied & Scenic*

9. **WATSON'S GROCERY STORE MUSEUM, STATE CENTER**

Built in 1895 and in business until 1989, Watson's Grocery Store has remained virtually unchanged and has since become a recognized landmark and museum. Step inside to see stocked oak shelves, roll-top bins and ice boxes. Sturdy benches and chairs still await farmers who once stopped there to trade fresh produce for grocery items. The museum is open Memorial Day – Labor Day on weekends from 1–4 p.m. *Capital Country*

10. **REED/NILAND CORNER, COLO**

Another one-stop shop along the Lincoln Highway, the Reed/Niland Corner was run by two local families to provide gas, food and lodging to travelers on the Lincoln and Jefferson Highways. Today, visitors can still enjoy a hearty meal from Niland's Café or enjoy a night in a room at the Colo Hotel, both owned by a local family who are passionate about preserving the community's history. The café and surrounding areas also include original Lincoln and Jefferson Highway markers. *Capital Country*

11. **AMES HISTORY MUSEUM, AMES**

As you wander through Ames, be sure to stop by the Ames History Museum, which shares area history including historic photos of the Lincoln Highway and important figures from the community. You can also stretch your legs with a visit to Reiman Gardens and the Brunnier Art Museum. Or stroll through Iowa State's campus and visit the Durham Center to learn about the creation, history and development of the first electronic digital computer.

*ameshistory.org; Capital Country*

12. **BOONE & SCENIC VALLEY RAILROAD, BOONE**

Get off the roads and enjoy the sights from the Lincoln Highway's predecessor - railroads! This railway started in 1893 and has since been reclaimed as The Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad to offer visitors a variety of rail adventures. Hop aboard the train for a 15-mile trip through the Des Moines River Valley and over the stunning Bass Point Creek High Trestle Bridge. Or pay a visit to the site's new addition, the Rail Explorers, which takes you along the same route, but on a rail bike. *bsvrr.com; Capital Country*

9



Watson's Grocery Store





7

The Youngville Café

**13. MAHANAY BELL TOWER, JEFFERSON**

After enjoying views from bridges and railroads, it only makes sense to add a bird's eye option to the list. Stop by the Mahanay Bell Tower in Jefferson to take in the sights and unique sounds. Located on the town square, the 14-story carillon features an enclosed observation deck where visitors can admire the community and its collection of rooftop murals. The tower's 47 bells chime throughout the year and carillon concerts are performed by local musicians, so you're likely to catch some tunes on your visit. The tower is open daily from Memorial Day – September and weekends in May and October. [mahanaybelltower.org](http://mahanaybelltower.org); *Loess Hills & Beyond*

**14. CHICAGO AT NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD DEPOT & PARK, CARROLL**

Dive into railroad history at Carroll's historic train depot. Built in 1896 and used for passenger service until 1959, the depot has since been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the building and its exterior grounds are open for self-guided tours to learn more about railroad and community history. [carrolliowa.com](http://carrolliowa.com); *Loess Hills & Beyond*

**15. LONGEST INTACT BRICK PORTION OF THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY, WOODBINE**

Experience true 1900s views along Woodbine's portion of the Lincoln Highway. Recognized as the longest intact portion of the route left, the tree-lined route features picturesque homes and restored canopy gas stations. Choose one to stop at for lunch or a snack along with local history and Lincoln Highway memorabilia. Other area historic sites include the Woodbine Carnegie Public Library, Merry Brook Rural School Museum and the Harrison County Genealogy Office. *Loess Hills & Beyond*

**16. HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL VILLAGE AND WELCOME CENTER, MISSOURI VALLEY**

This Lincoln Highway/Loess Hills Interpretive Center offers Lincoln Highway exhibits, a welcome center and farmers' market throughout its five-building complex. Outside, you can find a Lincoln Highway marker in its original location, then grab a seat in the theatre for a media presentation to learn all about the famous route. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com); *Loess Hills & Beyond*





Clear Lake  
@kolton\_52



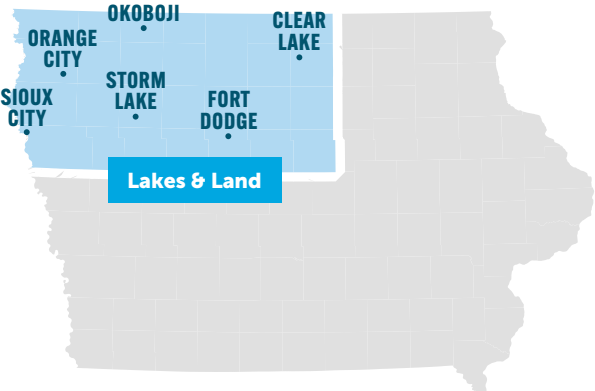
Lake Okoboji



Sauk Rail Trail

**Iowa's lake life is underrated. Northwest Iowa has abundant opportunity for year-round water adventures.** Okoboji, Clear Lake, Storm Lake, Lake View – all are home to boating in the summer and ice fishing (or ice golfing!) when winter settles in. Inland, experience breathtaking natural landscapes, awe-inspiring architecture and historic museums and landmarks.

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Check out our annual events at  
[www.lakeviewlifestyle.com](http://www.lakeviewlifestyle.com)







# Do

There are endless outdoor recreation opportunities around **Iowa's Great Lakes**. Okoboji's popular blue waters and sandy beaches welcome boaters, swimmers and kayakers to enjoy all types of summer fun. Or head inland and explore the area by bike on the Iowa Great Lakes Trail. [vacationokoboji.com](http://vacationokoboji.com)

Home to over 30 rides and attractions, the classic **Arnolds Park Amusement Park** is one of the best ways to spend a summer day in Arnolds Park. Race along the wooden tracks of the historic Legend Roller Coaster, stroll the midway to play games, try the iconic hand-dipped Nutty Bar and visit the museum to race down a 90+-year-old wooden slide. [arnoldspark.com](http://arnoldspark.com)

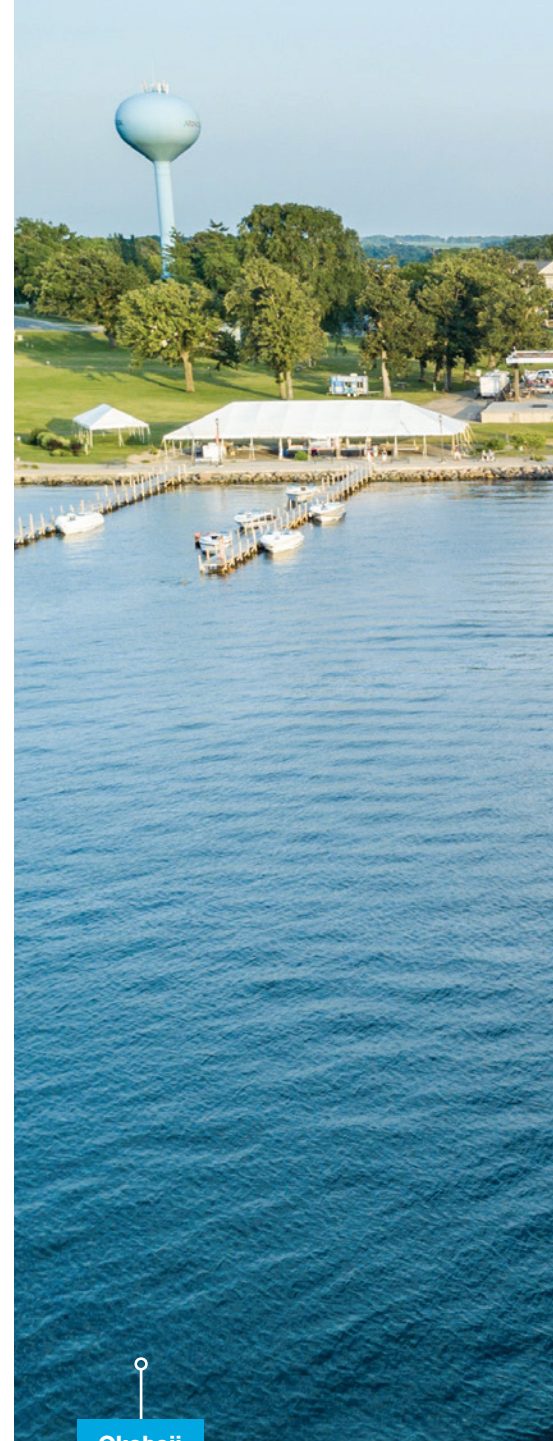
Experience ice cream like never before from one of the world's top ice cream producers – Wells Enterprises' Blue Bunny. The **Wells Visitor Center & Ice Cream Parlor** in Le Mars includes an ice cream parlor, museum and gift shop. Try their collection of sweet flavors, learn about how ice cream is produced and packaged, then take home a piece of Blue Bunny's legacy. [ilovewells.com](http://ilovewells.com)

Explore the outdoors at the **Emmet County Nature Center** in Wallingford. Hike the trails, fish for walleye and bullheads or explore the adjacent Wolden Recreation Area featuring seven acres of restored prairie. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com)

Sioux Center's **Siouxnami Water Park** is home to Iowa's only aqua zipline, making it one of the most exciting places to beat the summer heat. You'll love racing down three outdoor waterslides, relaxing along the lazy river or taking a dip in the zero-depth entry pool. [siouxcenter.org](http://siouxcenter.org)

The 20,000-square-foot **Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center** in Sioux City was built to commemorate a history of encounters that occurred before, during and after Lewis and Clark's famous expedition. Experience their journey with the interactive museum or take a stroll along their outdoor paths along the Missouri River. [siouxcitylcic.com](http://siouxcitylcic.com)

Frequently referred to as the "Eighth Wonder of the World," the **Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption** in West Bend features nine separate grottos. Each portrait displays a different scene in the life of Christ using stones and gems from around the world. [westbendgrotto.com](http://westbendgrotto.com)



Okoboji

Located on the southeast corner of Fort Dodge, the 800-acre **Gypsum City OHV Park** is home to 60 miles of trails for use by ATVs, side by sides and off-road motorcycles. It also includes a 1.5-mile motocross track, a 0.4-mile kids track and a beginner circle track. Trail riders must have an Iowa DNR registration. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com)





Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, Sioux City



Gypsum City OHV Park, Fort Dodge







Archie's Waeside, Le Mars

**Archie's Waeside** in Le Mars has earned its reputation as one of the best steakhouses not only in Iowa, but the nation. Opened in 1949, the James Beard award-winning restaurant has perfected the dry-aging technique that adds exceptional flavor to their steaks. Their menu also includes an extensive wine list, seafood and mouthwatering appetizers. [archieswaeside.com](http://archieswaeside.com)



Milwaukee Wiener House, Sioux City



Established in 1918, the **Milwaukee Wiener House** is a Sioux City staple. The family-owned hot dog shop serves up classic Coney Island-style chili dogs alongside homemade chili and retro bottled sodas. [facebook.com/Milwaukeewiener](https://facebook.com/Milwaukeewiener)



Northwestern Steakhouse, Mason City

An Okoboji legend since 1966, the **Taco House** serves up more than tacos. Their authentic made-from-scratch dishes feature amazing flavors and portions, all for a fair price. [facebook.com/tacohouseboji](https://facebook.com/tacohouseboji)

Step inside **Northwestern Steakhouse** in Mason City and enjoy a casual atmosphere accompanied by dishes served with USDA top choice beef, made with a special blend of Greek seasonings. Be sure to also try their spaghetti. [northwesternsteakhouse.com](https://northwesternsteakhouse.com)



Taco House, Okoboji

A unique little carry out deli, **Starboard Market in Clear Lake** offers a wide variety of homemade soups, salads, sandwiches and desserts. Grab a meal then head to a lakeside park for a relaxing picnic. [facebook.com/starboardmarket](https://facebook.com/starboardmarket)

**Aspen Leaf Café** in Pocahontas provides delicious food, seasonal coffee specials and baked goods inside a cozily renovated building. Open daily for breakfast and lunch, the menu also includes teas and smoothies.

Stop by the unique **Tom Thumb Drive In** in Fort Dodge for breakfast, lunch or dinner in a diner-style atmosphere and drive through.

Home to some of the area's best comfort foods, **BozWellz in Storm Lake** is known for its freshly baked bread, steaks, pasta and world-famous Reuben. Their menu includes kid's meals, gluten-free and vegetarian options. [bozwellz.com](https://bozwellz.com)



# Events



Orange City  
Tulip Festival



## MAY 13-14

Join the Clear Lake Fishing Club for the **Spring Walleye Classic** in Clear Lake. Put together a team or watch from the banks as the area's top anglers race to catch the largest walleye. [clearlakefishingclub.com](http://clearlakefishingclub.com)

## MAY 18-20

Every Spring, thousands of visitors from near and far flock to the **Orange City Tulip Festival**. Join the Orange City community as they perform Dutch music and dances, put on two daily parades and serve Dutch delicacies and dishes, all surrounded by thousands of tulips. [octulipfestival.com](http://octulipfestival.com)

## MAY 25-29

Mason City's **North Iowa Band Festival** is the largest free marching band competition in the Midwest and a Memorial Day weekend event staple. In addition to the big parade, you'll find free live entertainment, a carnival and marketplace. [masoncityia.com](http://masoncityia.com)

## JUNE 1-3

The exciting three-day-long **Cherokee PRCA Rodeo** is held the first weekend of June in Cherokee and offers a thrilling lineup of events. Kick it off with a family night featuring a kids' rodeo, then enjoy a weekend filled with professional rodeo performances, kids' activities, pony rides and great food. [cherokeeroдео.com](http://cherokeeroдео.com)



### JUNE 15-17

June is the best time of year for ice cream, and there's no better place to embrace this sweet treat than **Le Mars' Ice Cream Days**. This three-day event features vendors, activities and of course, lots of ice cream from Wells Enterprise's world-famous Blue Bunny brand. [icecreamdays.com](http://icecreamdays.com)

### JULY 1

**Saturday in the Park** is a free annual music festival held in Sioux City's Grandview Park every year on the Saturday closest to the 4th of July. Over 25,000 visitors come from all over the Midwest to enjoy its eclectic mixture of musical traditions. [saturdayinthepark.com](http://saturdayinthepark.com)

### JULY 30-AUGUST 6

Check a county fair off the summer bucket list after checking out the **Kossuth County Fair** in Algona in August. With free admission, all visitors can enjoy live music, games and contests. For a full experience, combine a day at the fair with Kossuth County Speedway competitions held every Thursday evening in the summer. [kossuthcountyfair.com](http://kossuthcountyfair.com)

### AUGUST 18-20

Merge chainsaw carving with wine samples, music, food and crafts, and the result is **Wood, Wine + Blues** in Storm Lake. Held every August, visitors can watch local artists transform trees into works of art while sipping some of Iowa's best wines. [facebook.com/woodwineandblues](https://facebook.com/woodwineandblues)



Le Mars' Ice Cream Days

North Iowa Band Festival, Mason City







# Stay



**King's Pointe Waterpark Resort,  
Storm Lake**

Storm Lake's **King's Pointe Waterpark Resort** features an indoor and outdoor waterpark, so you can enjoy the water no matter the weather. Race down the waterslides or relax in the lazy river while the kids explore the water playgrounds. [kingspointeresort.com](http://kingspointeresort.com)



**The Warrior Hotel** in Sioux City underwent meticulous renovations to offer a stunning 1930s Art Deco lodging opportunity. Pamper yourself in the spa, relax at the bar, challenge friends to a round of bowling, darts or pool, or head to the rooftop bar for savory drinks and spectacular views. [thewarriorhotel.com](http://thewarriorhotel.com)

Book a room at **Bridges Bay Resort** in Okoboji for a perfect vacation getaway. Without even leaving the resort, you can choose between two restaurants for a lavish dinner, race down a zipline, relax at the pool's swim-up bar or zoom down a waterslide. [bridgesbayresort.com](http://bridgesbayresort.com)

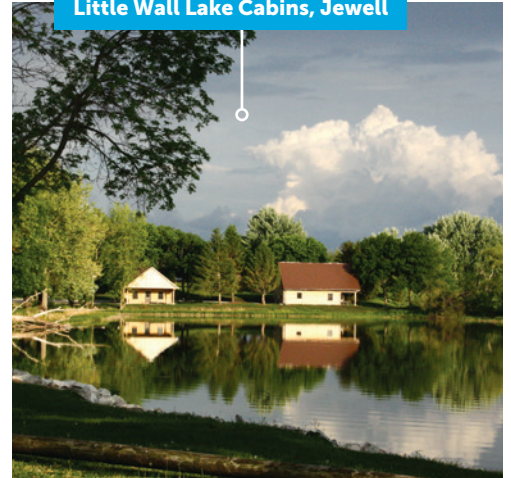
As the last remaining Frank Lloyd Wright-designed hotel in the world, the **Historic Park Inn** in Mason City has become an internationally renowned architectural wonder. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the property offers a unique blend of beauty along with modern amenities and 27 guest rooms. [historicparkinn.com](http://historicparkinn.com)

Calling all glamping fans! Dog Creek Park's converted **Grain Bin Cabins** in Sutherland offer the perfect way to experience the park's breathtaking beauty in complete comfort. The two bins house six queen-sized beds each, handicap accessible full bathrooms, kitchenettes and an outdoor space overlooking the picturesque lake. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com)

The **Inn on Central** allows you to stay right in downtown Le Mars. Located on the upper level of the Central Event Center, you can choose from four stylish rooms overlooking the Main Street. Each suite has its own unique style and décor, plus a full kitchen and bathroom. [innoncentral.com](http://innoncentral.com)

Choose from four **Little Wall Lake Cabins** of varying sizes to create the perfect family getaway or reunion gathering in Jewell. The largest cabin sleeps up to 15 guests, while the others sleep up to eight. Each cabin is complete with a full kitchen, wi-fi, heat/AC, TVs, a deck overlooking the lake, a fire ring and charcoal grill. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com)

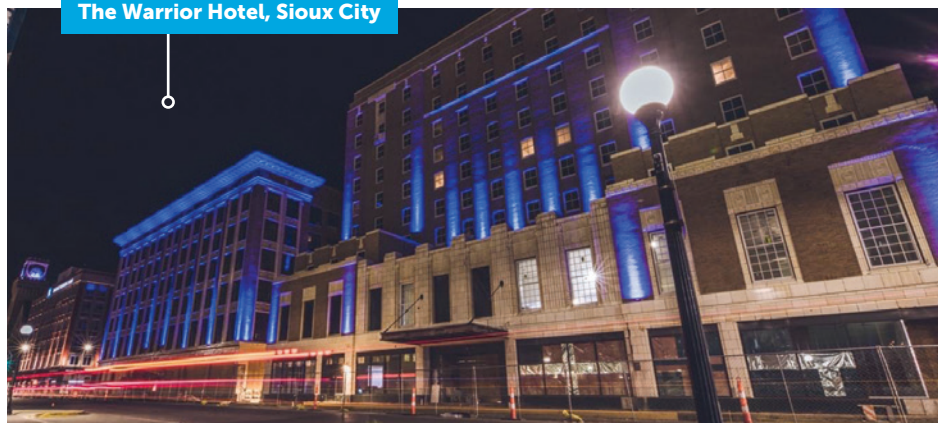
Little Wall Lake Cabins, Jewell



Grain Bin Cabins, Sutherland



The Warrior Hotel, Sioux City



**WINN-WORTH BETCO**

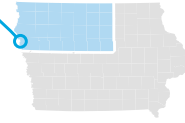
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# 48 HOURS IN Sioux City



Sioux City Art Center

## DAY ONE

Head to **Cone Park** ([coneparksiouxcity.com](http://coneparksiouxcity.com)) to race down the summer tubing hill, cool off in the splash pad, hike the two-mile loop trail, attend a yoga class or compete in a cornhole competition.

Admire beautiful landscapes at **Trinity Heights Queen of Peace** ([trinityheights.com](http://trinityheights.com)). This attraction features 16 acres of beautifully maintained grounds and gardens alongside stunning 30-foot-tall sculptures of Mary and Jesus and a life-size wood carving depicting "The Last Supper."

Feast on homemade burgers, sandwiches, hot dogs, onion chips and ice cream at **Tastee Inn and Out** ([tasteeinnandout.com](http://tasteeinnandout.com)). They're especially known for their loose meat sandwiches, which have been a staple since the restaurant opened in 1955.

Check in to a night of luxury at **The Chocolate Mansion** ([chocolatemansionsiouxcity.com](http://chocolatemansionsiouxcity.com)). The immaculate boutique hotel welcomes guests into the 1894 Victorian family estate, which is included on the National Register of Historic Places for both architecture and historic categories.



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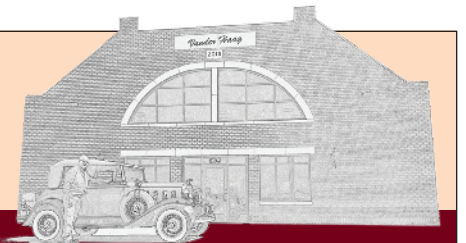
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YESTERDAY'S MEMORIES  
VanderHaag's Truck Museum

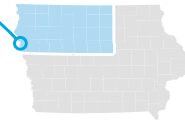


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# 48 HOURS IN Sioux City



The Chocolate Mansion



Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center



SweetWater Café



Palmer's

## DAY TWO

Start the day off right with a coffee and breakfast from **SweetWater Café** ([sweetwatercafe.net](http://sweetwatercafe.net)). The menu includes a collection of signature specialty coffees, hearty soups, savory sandwiches, fresh salads and sweet baked goods. Keep an eye out for delicious daily specials.

Expend some energy on more than two miles of hiking trails at the **Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center** ([mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com)). Find even more trails at nearby **Stone State Park** ([iowadnr.gov](http://iowadnr.gov)). Catch a natural history program or explore hands-on exhibits about the Loess Hills geological formation, native plants and animals displays.

Stop by the award-winning **Sioux City Art Center** ([siouxcityartcenter.org](http://siouxcityartcenter.org)) to admire a collection from Iowa and world-renowned artists. Permanent collections are accompanied by rotating exhibits to ensure every visit offers something a little different.

Before heading home, stop by **Palmer's Olde Tyme Candy Shoppe** ([palmercandy.com](http://palmercandy.com)). This unique attraction shares the history of the Palmer Candy Company and retired candy making equipment in its museum. The shop sells popular treats like homemade brittle, gourmet truffles, roasted nuts, chocolate snorkels and the legendary Twin Bing.





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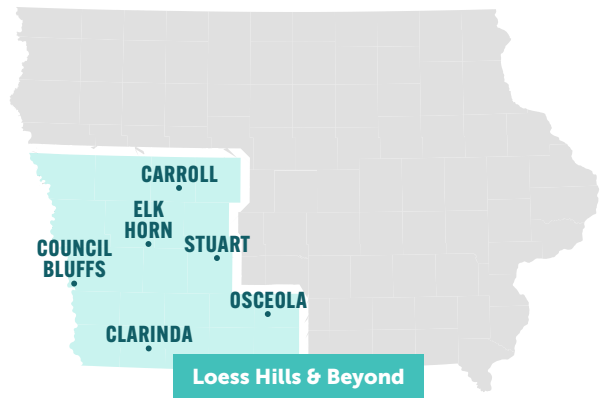
Lake Manawa



West Nishnabotna River

**The renowned Loess Hills are as breathtaking as they are unexpected – it’s the only place in the western hemisphere you can see these amazing landforms.** Embark on a hiking or biking trip surrounded by a sea of rolling hills and billowing prairie grasses. Explore charming small towns and agricultural attractions. Visit Council Bluffs, home to railroad history.

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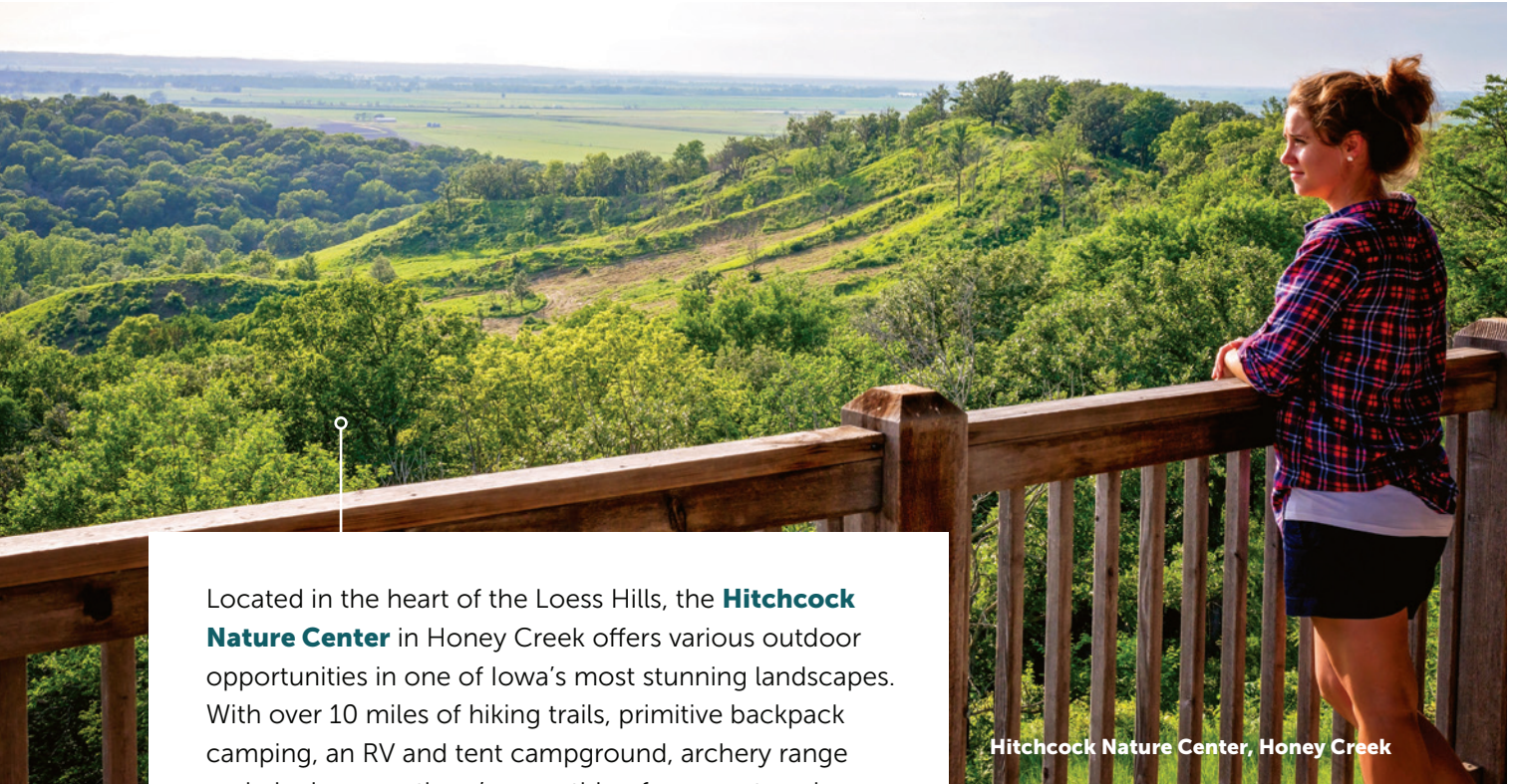
[uprrmuseum.org](http://uprrmuseum.org)

200 Pearl Street  
Council Bluffs, Iowa





# Do



Located in the heart of the Loess Hills, the **Hitchcock Nature Center** in Honey Creek offers various outdoor opportunities in one of Iowa's most stunning landscapes. With over 10 miles of hiking trails, primitive backpack camping, an RV and tent campground, archery range and picnic areas, there's something for every traveler. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com)

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek



Albert the Bull, Audubon

Recognized as the "World's Largest Bull," **Albert the Bull** has been guarding Audubon's peaceful streets since 1964. He weighs 45 tons, stands 28 feet tall and welcomes nearly 20,000 visitors every year. [auduboncountya.gov](http://auduboncountya.gov)

Discover Manning's German heritage with a visit to **Manning Hausbarn Heritage Park**. Explore an authentic 1660 German Hausbarn, the 100-year-old Trinity Church and the Leet/Hassler Farmstead. [germanhausbarn.com](http://germanhausbarn.com)





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to see Pottawattamie County



Explore the West Nishnabotna River Water Trail.

[WattaWayIA.com](http://WattaWayIA.com)







Dive into railroad history at the **Watson Steam Train & Depot Museum**, a miniature railroad station. That's right, miniature. Built in Missouri Valley's city park, the complex includes a 1700-foot-long miniature 12-gauge park railroad along with a restored steam train and a diesel replica. Both trains are in operation May-October. [cityofmissourivalley.com](http://cityofmissourivalley.com)

Located on the town square, the 14-story-tall **Mahanay Bell Tower** carillon marks the heart of Jefferson. Open for tours Memorial Day-September, enjoy the views from its observation deck, admire its rooftop murals and listen to its 47 bells chime. [mahanaybelltower.org](http://mahanaybelltower.org)

Opened in 2008, the 3,000-foot-long **Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge** spans the Missouri River to connect Council Bluffs and Omaha as well as 150 miles of trails. Don't forget to go "bobbing"—striking a pose while standing (or lying down) in two states at the same time! [unleashcb.com](http://unleashcb.com)

This year marks 40 years of the **Museum of Danish America's** celebration of Elk Horn's Danish roots and American dreams. It features an extensive collection of over 35,000 artifacts, ranging from family heirlooms from Denmark and remarkable examples of handicrafts to the tools of early immigrant tradesmen and memorabilia from Danish-American organizations. Outside, visitors can learn even more by strolling through the prairie restoration park outside featuring interpretive signage and an early 1900s homesteader's cabin. [danishmuseum.org](http://danishmuseum.org)

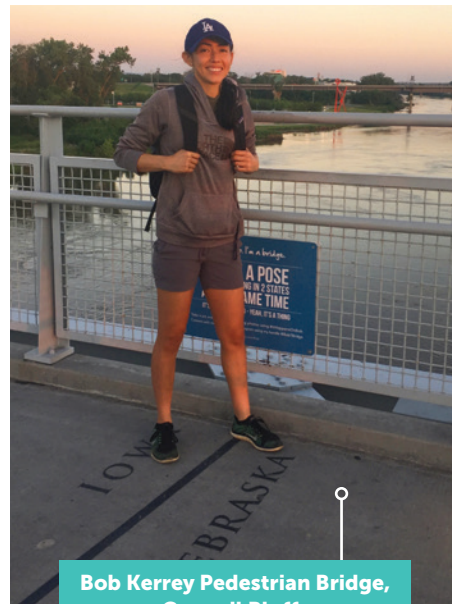
The **Union Pacific Railroad Museum** in Council Bluffs explores the origins of the nation's first transcontinental railroad. Its interactive exhibits take visitors from the railroad's beginning in 1862 all the way to the advanced technology of today's railroad systems. [uprrmuseum.org](http://uprrmuseum.org)



Watson Steam Train & Depot Museum, Missouri Valley



Mahanay Bell Tower, Jefferson



Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge, Council Bluffs



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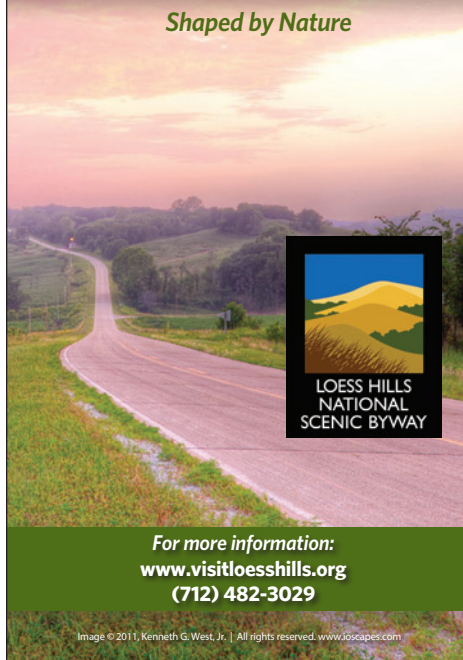
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email: [tourism@crestoniowachamber.com](mailto:tourism@crestoniowachamber.com)

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Wallace Farm, Orient

Head to the **Wallace Farm** near Orient on Friday nights for delicious made-from-scratch brick oven pizzas packed with local meats and veggies straight from the farm. Known as Pizza on the Prairie, this farm-to-table summer series offers one of the best ways to enjoy fresh food alongside relaxing music, yard games and walking paths through the prairie. *June-September; reservations required; [wallace.org](http://wallace.org)*



Since starting out solely as a pizza joint in 1965, **Pizza King** in Council Bluffs has evolved to also offer steaks, seafood and pasta dishes. Their pizza remains a local favorite, featuring homemade dough topped with freshly sliced cheese and savory toppings. [pizzaking1101.com](http://pizzaking1101.com)

**Milk & Honey** in Harlan combines farm-to-table freshness with small town comfort. Their made-from-scratch breakfast and lunch menus feature everything from pancakes and skillet to salads, sandwiches and burgers.

[milkandhoneyiowa.square.site](http://milkandhoneyiowa.square.site)

**Grace on Main** is especially known for serving comfort food that feeds the soul. Family-owned and -operated, their hand-tossed pizzas, pastas and salads are the perfect addition to any Elk Horn itinerary.

[graceonmainelkhorn.com](http://graceonmainelkhorn.com)

Stop by Onawa's **Downtown Coffee & Cream** to enjoy specialty coffee and espresso drinks, healthy smoothies or premium hand-dipped ice cream. Be sure to keep an eye on their seasonal flavors to try something new. [facebook.com/downtowncoffeandcream](https://facebook.com/downtowncoffeandcream)

**Brothers on Main** in Carroll is more than a small-town pub. Step inside and indulge in their delicious burgers, pizza and appetizers paired with savory brews. [facebook.com/brothersonmain](https://facebook.com/brothersonmain)



Step inside a restored 1878 Odd Fellows Lodge building in Woodbine's historic district to enjoy a pleasant meal at **Good Fellows**. Open for lunch and dinner, their menu features daily specials alongside fresh, local ingredients. [goodfellows501.com](http://goodfellows501.com)

Enjoy a great meal in an upscale casual setting at **Iron Horse Neighborhood Grill** in Osceola. Using fresh, quality ingredients, their chefs thoughtfully prepare each sandwich, burger and salad they serve. [ironhorseneighborhoodgrill.com](http://ironhorseneighborhoodgrill.com)



# Events

Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn



## MAY-OCTOBER

Starting in May, the **Taco Ride** takes place every Thursday night on the Wabash Trace Nature Trail. Riders follow the trail from Council Bluffs to Mineola and back, totaling about 20 miles, stopping to eat at Tobey Jack's Mineola Steakhouse. [wabashtrace.org](http://wabashtrace.org)

## MAY 26-27

Join Elk Horn in celebrating the community's Danish-American heritage. Held every Memorial Day weekend, **Tivoli Fest** includes free admission to the Museum of Danish America and features a craft fair, live music and lots of food. [danishvillages.com](http://danishvillages.com)

## JUNE 8-11

Clarinda holds the **Glenn Miller Festival** the second weekend of June. The event celebrates the Clarinda-native bandleader, trombonist, composer and arranger who disappeared while directing the Glenn Miller AAF Band during World War II. Enjoy the Glenn Miller Birthplace Museum and Home, bands from around the world, dances and historical displays. [glennmiller.org](http://glennmiller.org)

## JUNE 9-11

Experience the way of life at the time of Lewis and Clark's expedition. Held every June, the **Lewis & Clark Festival** in Onawa includes adventure trails, tomahawk throwing competitions, re-enactments, live demonstrations, souvenirs, kids' activities and food. [onawachamber.com](http://onawachamber.com)

## JUNE 16-18

Since 1982, the **Walnut Antique Show** has attracted antique vendors and shoppers from around the world to Walnut. Shop antiques from over 300 dealers while also enjoying the community's year-round antique shops and historic buildings every June. [walnutantiqueshow.com](http://walnutantiqueshow.com)



**JULY 20-22**

Founded in 1945, the **Lenox Stock and Saddle Club Rodeo** in Lenox has been thrilling major crowds for over 75 years. The event is held in July and includes a parade alongside exciting rodeo competitions. [facebook.com/lenoxrodeo](https://facebook.com/lenoxrodeo)

**AUGUST 11-12**

Combining live music and bike riding, the **Rooster Tail Ride** features a 34-mile route with live music stops, overnight camping and doing it all over again the next day. The ride starts on the Wabash Trace Nature Trail in Mineola on the second weekend of August. [facebook.com/roostertailride](https://facebook.com/roostertailride)

**AUGUST 1-5**

In 1923, the Tackett brothers came to Sidney from Wyoming and crashed a community event, deciding to show the lowans some real western action. The crowd formed a circle with Model T cars and makeshift fencing, brought in the most ill-behaved horses, and the **Sidney Rodeo** was born. One hundred years later, the rodeo has received many accolades, including its induction into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2015. Join in on the August fun, starting with a parade followed by thrilling rodeo competitions, music, dances and more. [sidneyiowarodeo.com](https://sidneyiowarodeo.com)



Walnut Antique Show

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& MORE!**

Visit **DENISON**  
& Crawford County  
[VISITDENISON.COM](http://VISITDENISON.COM)



Art Church, Malvern



The **Art Church**, built in 1873 as a Presbyterian Church, has been transformed into a gorgeous artist studio and Airbnb. The downstairs Airbnb space features a collection of original oil paintings and eclectic art, as well as room for up to five guests, all within walking distance of Malvern businesses and bike trails. Guests can also visit the upstairs artist's studio. [airbnb.com](https://www.airbnb.com)

Taylor Hill Lodge, Audubon



Spend a night or two surrounded by historical charm and contemporary comfort at **Mitzi's Place**. This fully renovated 1880s Victorian Cottage boasts five bedrooms, three baths and a full kitchen. It's also located just steps away from Woodbine's Main Street and the beautiful Loess Hills. [mitzisplace.com](https://www.mitzisplace.com)

The strong desire to save a family farm's classic red English-style barn resulted in the charming **Taylor Hill Lodge** in Audubon. Guests can choose from six themed rooms, two of which have private bathrooms. The other pairs share bathrooms, making them a great space for families. [thlodge.com](https://www.thlodge.com)

Built in 1940 for travelers on the Lincoln Highway, the Spanish Colonial Revival-style **Historic Park Motel** in Denison offers casual rooms paired with modern amenities. Upgraded rooms also include individual themes, whirlpool tubs and wet bars. Continental breakfast is included. [theparkmotel.com](https://www.theparkmotel.com)





Experience lake life while staying at the **Lake Icaria Cabins** in Corning. Each cabin includes heat/air conditioning, microwave, refrigerator, two bunk beds, a fold-out couch and outdoor space with picnic tables, a fire ring and grill. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com)

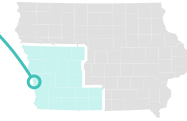
Lake Icaria Cabins, Corning

Enjoy a one-stop vacation spot when booking a room at the **Ameristar Casino and Hotel** in Council Bluffs. Between the casino, three dining options and four bars, you'll have everything you need for a weekend getaway without leaving the hotel. [ameristarcouncilbluffs.com](http://ameristarcouncilbluffs.com)

The **Rookery Cottage** in Coon Rapids offers a quiet retreat in the heart of the Middle Raccoon River Valley. Access 40+ miles of hiking or mountain biking trails or float the nearby river. The Airbnb sleeps six and includes a kitchenette, grill and firepit. Dogs are welcome with a small pet fee. [airbnb.com](http://airbnb.com)

Located next to the Lake Panorama National Golf Course, the **Lake Panorama National Inn & Suites** in Panora offers a variety of lodging experiences. Book a two-bedroom, two-bathroom townhome, studio or motel unit and enjoy amenities such as the fitness center, outdoor pool, tennis and pickleball courts, beaches and playgrounds. [lakepanoramanational.com](http://lakepanoramanational.com)





Molecule Man

## DAY ONE

Explore the community's impressive collection of **public art** ranging from a beautifully restored cast-iron 1890 fountain to bronze sculptures and murals. Brochures available for self-guided tours ([iowawestfoundation.org](http://iowawestfoundation.org)).

Experience a unique piece of Iowa history by visiting the **Historic Squirrel Cage Jail** ([thehistoricalsociety.org](http://thehistoricalsociety.org)). This rare 1885 three-story Victorian Gothic-style brick jail is one of only three rotary cell jails left in existence. Step inside to learn about the jail's beginnings and noteworthy inmates and to see the rare pie-shaped cells.



Historic Squirrel Cage Jail



Sit down to an amazing meal at **Harrah's 360 Steakhouse** ([caesers.com](http://caesers.com)). Rated one of OpenTable's Top 100 Scenic Restaurants in America, the menu consists of appetizers, steaks, seafood and house specialties, along with stunning views of the Omaha-Council Bluffs skyline.

Check into the **Ameristar Casino and Hotel** ([ameristarcouncilbluffs.com](http://ameristarcouncilbluffs.com)) to enjoy a night in luxurious comfort. Grab a drink at one of the three bars, relax in a King Spa suite's whirlpool and enjoy panoramic views of the Missouri River.

## DAY TWO

Start with some mini donuts and coffee from **J's Coffee & Donuts** ([facebook.com/jscoffeanddonuts](https://facebook.com/jscoffeanddonuts)). The local favorite serves hot and iced coffees as well as energy drinks and flavored lemonades.

Head to **Joe's Indoor Karting Center** ([joeskarting.com](http://joeskarting.com)) for a thrilling ride on European indoor karts that go up to 45 miles per hour. Challenge friends and family to a race and see who can record the best times.

Tour the **Bregant House** (*by appointment only; [thehistoricalsociety.org](http://thehistoricalsociety.org)*) for a one-of-a-kind experience. Built in 1912 for former Vaudeville performers Jean and Inez Bregant to accommodate their heights of 42" and 39", the home's miniature features amaze visitors year-round. It features a shorter fireplace mantle, four-foot-long bathtub, lowered light switches and thermostat along with photos and artifacts.

Grab a sweet treat for the road at **Sugar Makery** ([sugarmakery.com](http://sugarmakery.com)). This family-owned sweet shop satisfies all sweet teeth with its collection of popcorn, candy, ice cream and more than 200 glass bottle soda varieties along with homemade chocolate, butter and cream fudge.



Bayliss Park



Bregant House



Joe's Indoor Karting Center





Iowa State Capitol Law Library  
@jennnmead



Terra Park

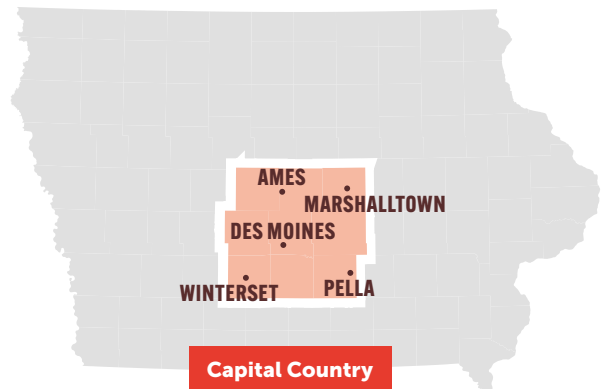


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[visitpella.com](http://visitpella.com)



📍 Reiman Gardens

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DISCOVER *Ames* IA







Do

All aboard! This year, the **Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad** in Boone is celebrating its 40th anniversary of offering travelers a unique way to enjoy Iowa's stunning scenery. Open Memorial Day weekend-October, the railroad features a variety of excursions, from a classic ride and dinner or lunch trains to seasonally themed expeditions.

**Rail Explorers**, operating on the same track, provides an up-close experience on rail bikes, including a jaw-dropping crossing of the 156-foot-high, 750-foot-long historic Bass Point Creek High Trestle bridge. [bsvrr.com](http://bsvrr.com)

Looking for a scenic drive in Iowa's relaxing rural landscape? Head to Winterset and spend the day admiring the community's six world-famous **Bridges of Madison County**, the inspiration behind and setting of the book and movie "The Bridges of Madison County." Guided tours are available through the local Chamber. [madisoncounty.com](http://madisoncounty.com)

Calling all flower enthusiasts! **Reiman Gardens** in Ames features 17 acres filled with vibrant outdoor gardens, a cozy indoor tropical plant conservatory and a butterfly wing with hundreds of live butterflies in flight. [reimangardens.com](http://reimangardens.com)



**Bridges of Madison County, Winterset**

Recognized as one of Iowa's best thrill destinations, **Adventureland** in Altoona includes 100+ rides, shows and attractions alongside the Adventure Bay waterpark. [adventurelandresort.com](http://adventurelandresort.com)

Experience views of Iowa before society by hiking or driving through the 6,000-acre **Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge** in Prairie City. Established in 1990, the area is home to native prairie, oak savanna and sedge meadow among rolling hills, making for great summer scenery. [fws.gov](http://fws.gov)

Enjoy a blast from Iowa's agricultural past with a visit to **Living History Farms** in Urbandale. The 500-acre interactive history museum, open May-October, features an up-close experience with rural life and agricultural innovation dating back to the 1870s via historical buildings, descriptions of agricultural practices and live demonstrations. [lhf.org](http://lhf.org)

Opened in 2021, the 88,000-square-foot **Lauridsen Skatepark** in Des Moines is the country's largest. It's Olympic-caliber features include a 15-stair set with handrails, snake run, junior flow bowl and competitive street and park courses along with the skateable "WOW" sculpture and great views of the Des Moines River. [dsmskatepark.com](http://dsmskatepark.com)



Home to the tallest working windmill in the U.S., Pella is one of Iowa's best historical gems. Visitors can step back in time with a tour of the **Vermeer Windmill and Historical Museum** which includes the grist mill, general store and the boyhood home of Wyatt Earp. [pellahistorical.org](http://pellahistorical.org)



Vermeer Windmill and Historical Museum, Pella



Reiman Gardens, Ames



Adventureland, Altoona





Hickory Park, Ames



Lucky Pig, Ogden

Situated just off Hwy 17, **Watcha Smokin?** in Luther serves mouth-watering, slow-smoked meats, homemade sides and made-from-scratch desserts. Their delicious menu is served inside a historic renovated gas station, making it a one-of-a-kind Iowa eatery. [whatchasmokinbbq.com](http://whatchasmokinbbq.com)

**Goldie's Ice Cream Shoppe** in Prairie City pairs one of Iowa's best breaded pork tenderloins with specialty ice cream treats. Come hungry! [goldiesicecreamshoppe.com](http://goldiesicecreamshoppe.com)

An Ames tradition since 1970, **Hickory Park** is famous for its hickory-smoked selections, ice cream parlor desserts and generous portions paired with exceptional service. With over 100 menu selections, even the pickiest eaters will leave satisfied. [hickoryparkames.com](http://hickoryparkames.com)

Another front-runner in the pork tenderloin competition, Ogden's **Lucky Pig** features everything from salads and desserts to pizza, sandwiches and steak dishes. [facebook.com/luckypig.ogden](https://facebook.com/luckypig.ogden)

Voted the 2022 Best Burger in Iowa, the **Flying Elbow** in Marshalltown offers an eating experience unlike anywhere else. The wrestling-themed bar and restaurant serves appropriately named gourmet burgers, hot dogs and sides. [flyingelbowfood.com](http://flyingelbowfood.com)





# Discover Iconic America

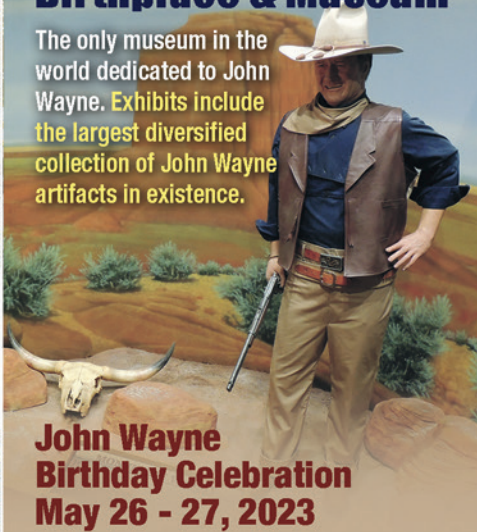


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### Upcoming Exhibits

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December 20, 2022 -  
March 23, 2023

*Timestamps by Ricky Tims*  
March 14, 2023 - June 18, 2023

*Come To Our (Patchwork) House*  
June 20, 2023 - September 10, 2023

Winterset, IA  
[www.iowaquiltmuseum.org](http://www.iowaquiltmuseum.org)

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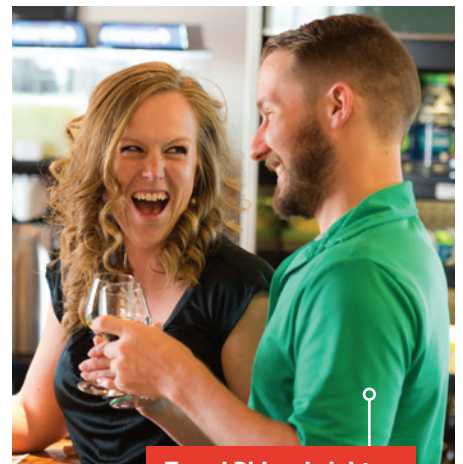
With its combination of Chinese décor, Tiki drinks, beers and handmade pizzas, it's no wonder **Fong's** has been featured on The Food Network. Their famous crab Rangoon and Thai Chicken pizzas continue to surprise and delight. Locations in Ankeny and downtown Des Moines. [fongspizza.com](http://fongspizza.com)



**Fong's, Ankeny and Des Moines**

Don't be scared off by the décor! Known for its inventive flavor combinations, **Zombie Burger** offers delicious burgers and unique milkshakes for lunch, dinner and late-night dining. Locations in downtown Des Moines and Jordan Creek Town Center in West Des Moines. [zombieburgerdm.com](http://zombieburgerdm.com)

One of Iowa's largest wineries, **Tassel Ridge** boasts 30+ award-winning wines alongside delicious food nights in Leighton. Stop by for an in-depth look at their wine-making process and Iowa's grape growing history. [tasselridge.com](http://tasselridge.com)



**Tassel Ridge, Leighton**





# BUSINESS TO CELEBRATIONS

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# Events

## MAY 4-6

Every May, Pella comes alive to celebrate its Dutch heritage during **Pella Tulip Time**. As colorful tulips brighten the town square, Pella's residents walk the streets wearing Dutch attire, entertaining visitors with a parade, dance performances, historic tours and Dutch foods. [visitpella.com](http://visitpella.com)

## MAY 5, JUNE 7, AUGUST 11, SEPTEMBER 1 AND OCTOBER 6

The **Nights on the Green** summer series offers a free family-friendly event every month May-October in downtown Boone. Each event is centered around a specific theme and features kid-gear activities and live music. [facebook.com/visitboonecountyia](https://facebook.com/visitboonecountyia)

## JUNE 17

Biking and bacon enthusiasts unite! The **BACoon Ride**, held in June, combines two passions to create a 70-mile outdoor adventure. The ride starts and ends in Waukee and features bacon snacks and samples and drink specials along the way. *Registration required; [baconride.com](http://baconride.com)*

## JUNE 23-25

Presented as part of the Des Moines Art Festival, the **Interrobang Film Festival** is held each June and features a part juried, part public screening competition and workshop. Film enthusiasts and newcomers alike experience curated screenings from Iowans and international filmmakers. [desmoinesartsfestival.org](http://desmoinesartsfestival.org)

## JULY 28-AUGUST 5

One of the most premier hot air balloon events in the Midwest, the **National Balloon Classic** in Indianola offers nine days of festivities in late July and early August. Over 100 balloons come from across the country to vie in a variety of competitions. Visitors watch from below enjoying food trucks and live music. [nationalballoonclassic.com](http://nationalballoonclassic.com)

## AUGUST 4-6

Join thousands of music fans at one of Iowa's largest music festivals! The three-day **Hinterland Music Festival** in St. Charles features nearly 25 artists and a great variety of genres including pop, folk, blues, rock, country and alternative. This is known as a camp-centric event, so pack a tent to enjoy the full experience. [hinterlandiowa.com](http://hinterlandiowa.com)



National Balloon Classic, Indianola

## AUGUST 9-12

Welcome to the National Sprint Car Capital of the World! Join visitors and racers from around the world during the exciting four-day **Knoxville Nationals** in Knoxville. [knoxvillraceway.com](http://knoxvillraceway.com)





### **AUGUST 10-20**

The internationally acclaimed **Iowa State Fair** in Des Moines is the state's largest event. Every August, Iowans and visitors alike flock to the fairgrounds to enjoy a never-ending collection of fried foods, live performances and demonstrations, rides and carnival games, agriculture and industrial exhibitions, plus the best people-watching around.

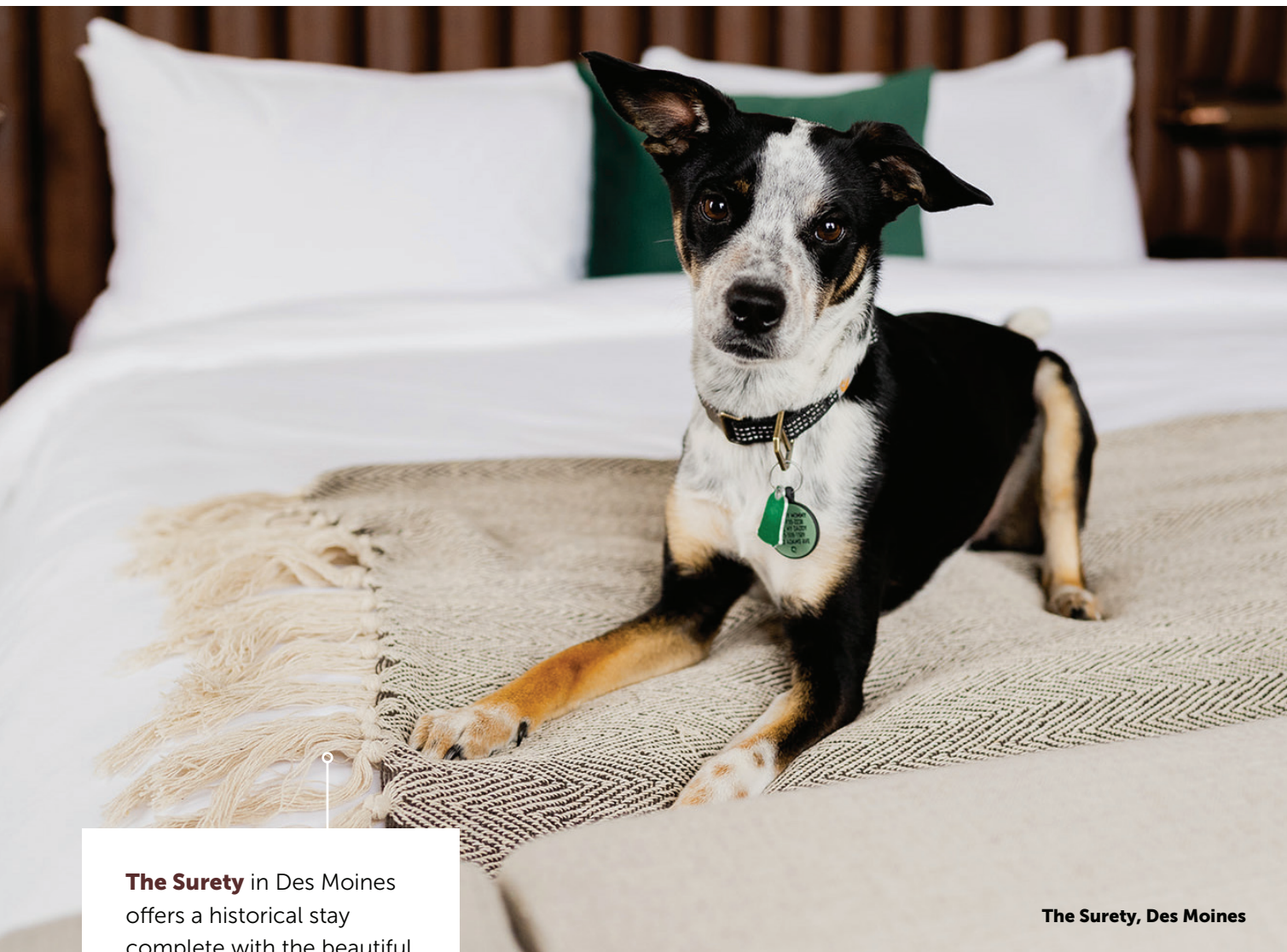
[iowastatefair.org](http://iowastatefair.org)







# Stay



**The Surety** in Des Moines offers a historical stay complete with the beautiful Mulberry Street Tavern and cozy outside courtyard. The pet-friendly, twelve-story Beaux-Art gem will delight history and architecture enthusiasts alike. [suretyhotel.com](http://suretyhotel.com)

**The Surety, Des Moines**

Listed on the National Registry for Historic Hotels, the **Hotel Savery** in downtown Des Moines offers a chic stay right in the center of the city's attractions. Book a room and walk to events at Wells Fargo Arena, the Iowa Events Center and more via the skywalks. [marriott.com](http://marriott.com)

Enjoy a true European lodging experience at Pella's historic **Royal Amsterdam Hotel**. Its modern amenities pair perfectly with the community's charming boutiques, restaurants, bakeries and meat markets, all of which are within walking distance. [royalamsterdam.com](http://royalamsterdam.com)



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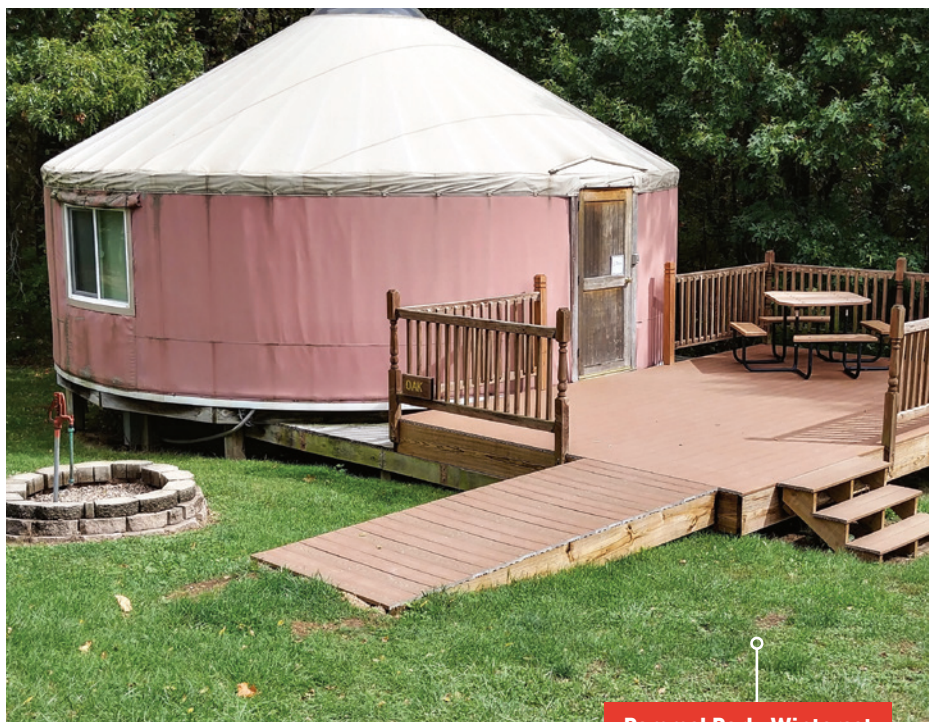
**RACCOON RIVER VALLEY TRAIL**

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# Stay



Pammel Park, Winterset

Choose from a collection of cabins at **Cordova Park** in Otley, all overlooking beautiful Lake Red Rock. With seven cabins to choose from, there's something to suit every family getaway. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com)

Located just minutes from the Des Moines metro, **Jester Park Cabins** in Granger offer the perfect combination of seclusion and urban attractions. The four modern cabins can sleep up to eight people. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com)

For a unique camping experience, check out **Pammel Park's** yurts in Winterset! The two rounded cabins offer modern amenities and are available April-October. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com)



Hotel Pattee, Perry

Originally the heart of a dairy farmstead, the **Cheesemaker's Inn** near Pella is a beautiful Craftsman-style home. Choose from four themed rooms and enjoy old-school personalized service and homecooked Dutch meals served by the owners. [cheesemakersinn.com](http://cheesemakersinn.com)

**Hotel Pattee** in Perry is celebrating its 110th anniversary this year. Home to 40 individually decorated and themed guest rooms, a state-of-the-art bowling center, full-service dining room and lounge, a café, a courtyard, its own dedicated library and a full-service spa, this lodging destination is one of Iowa's most famous treasures. Each room tells a story around Iowa's noteworthy residents to preserve Iowa's history, celebrate ethnicity and honor the building's stunning craftsmanship. [hotelpattee.com](http://hotelpattee.com)



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Greater Des Moines  
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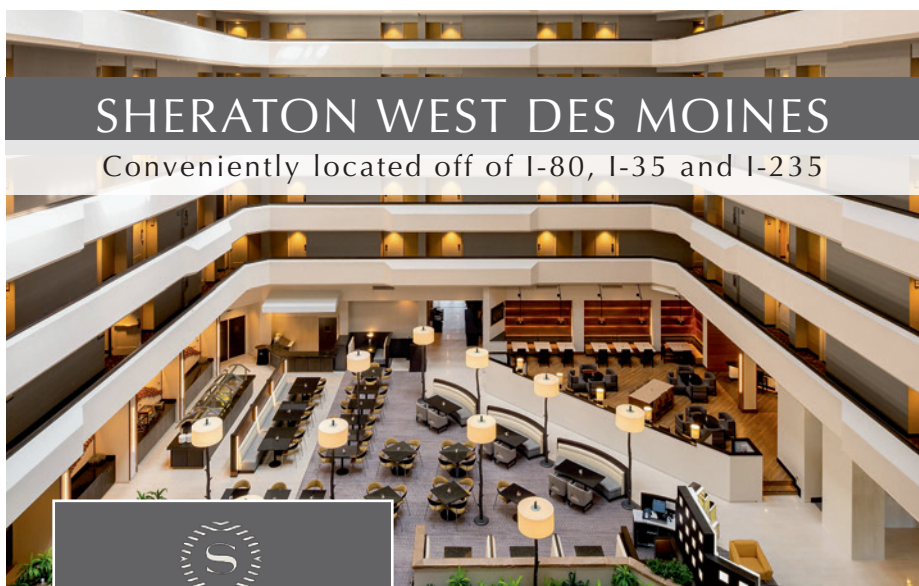
# JOY IN FULL BLOOM



[dmbotanicalgarden.com](http://dmbotanicalgarden.com)

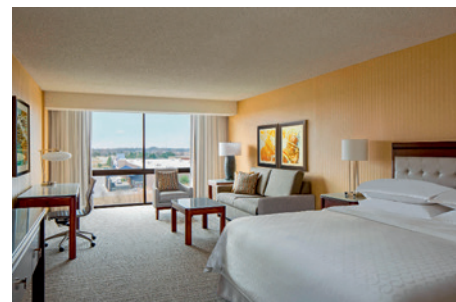
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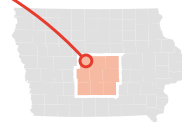






48 HOURS IN

# Boone County



Seven Oaks Recreation

High Trestle Trail

## DAY ONE

Start the weekend adventure with a visit to one of Iowa's most famous attractions, the **High Trestle Trail** ([inhf.org](http://inhf.org)). Running for 25 miles through five towns and four counties, Boone County's portion features the High Trestle Trail bridge near Madrid. Grab your bike or walking shoes and cross the bridge for some of Iowa's best river valley views.

For more outdoor adventures, head to **Seven Oaks Recreation** ([sevenoaksrec.com](http://sevenoaksrec.com)) located just outside of Boone and enjoy their collection of summer activities. Sign up for a two- to four-hour river tubing or kayaking/canoeing expedition, or challenge your friends to an intense competition in the paintball field.

For lunch or dinner, grab a reservation aboard one of the **Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad's** ([bsvrr.com](http://bsvrr.com)) meal trains to enjoy elegant dining on the rails and amazing views of the Des Moines River Valley.

Check in at Boone's **Cobblestone Inn & Suites** ([staycobblestone.com](http://staycobblestone.com)) for a restful night and prepare for another day of fun.



## DAY TWO

Pop into family-owned and -operated **Van Hemert's Dutch Oven Bakery** ([dutchovenbakeryiowa.com](http://dutchovenbakeryiowa.com)) for their famous Dutch letters, Dutch apple bread or any of their delicious pastries.

Head to **Ledges State Park** ([iowadnr.gov](http://iowadnr.gov)), home to some of the most unique and inspiring natural resources in the state, to get your daily steps in. Hop on the trails to admire the diverse vegetation and abundant wildlife.

Dine at the **Lucky Pig** ([facebook.com/luckypig.ogden](https://www.facebook.com/luckypig.ogden)) for lunch. Try their famous pork tenderloin or indulge in a different selection from the extensive menu.

Visit the **Madrid Historical Society Museum** ([madridiamuseum.com](http://madridiamuseum.com)) to learn about the area's history. Their large collection features everything from doll houses and toys, to mining history and stories behind the construction of the High Trestle Trail Bridge.

Stop by **Snus Hill Vineyard and Winery** ([snushillwine.com](http://snushillwine.com)) to take home a piece of Iowa. This award-winning, family-owned winery not only boasts amazing rural views, but also a collection of delicious American and French-American wines, all to be enjoyed on their expansive decks and tree-shaded lawns.



Ledges State Park



Snus Hill Vineyard and Winery



DISCOVER  
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Designated as one of Iowa's "Great Places," Perry boasts a combination of unique shops, destination dining, and local art within its walkable historic downtown. Whether just for a day or as an extended stay, Perry will welcome and wow you!







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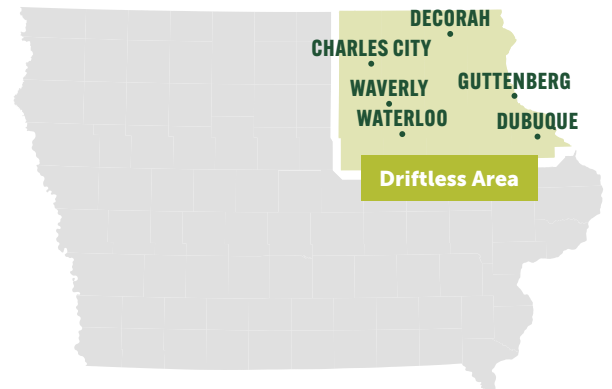
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# Do



Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum, Waterloo

Whether a baseball enthusiast or a fan of the movie, the **Field of Dreams Movie Site** in Dyersville is an exciting Iowa destination. Tour the house or grab a ball and glove for a friendly game on the field. [fieldofdreamsmoviesite.com](http://fieldofdreamsmoviesite.com)

Choose an island to explore and dive into an exciting tropical adventure at **Lost Island Theme Park** or **Waterpark** in Waterloo. These sister sites create a thrilling summer destination with five themed realms and 11 major waterslides. [thelostisland.com](http://thelostisland.com)

Fight off the summer heat with a tour of **Spook Cave** in McGregor. The 35-minute guided boat tour shares the wonders of the cave, which maintains a year-round temperature of 47 degrees. Camping and cabin facilities are also available, along with hiking trails for more outdoor fun. [spookcave.com](http://spookcave.com)

Experience an interesting piece of Iowa history by admiring **Effigy Mounds National Monument's** prehistoric American Indian burial and ceremonial grounds in Harpers Ferry. See 200+ mounds and learn about the mound builders while enjoying some of the Mississippi River's most picturesque views. [nps.gov](http://nps.gov)

The **Bily Clocks Museum** in Spillville started in 1913 when the Bily brothers spent the cold and idle winter days on their family farm perfecting their woodcarving skills. Their intricately carved clocks depict scenes of history, art, religion and culture. The second floor features an exhibit on world-famous musician Antonin Dvorak who spent the summer of 1893 in Spillville, where he composed the widely known "American Quartette." [bilyclocks.org](http://bilyclocks.org)



Step into the stories of service and sacrifice of Iowa's veterans, from the Civil War to present day at the **Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum** in Waterloo. Opened in 2008, the museum celebrates 15 years of sharing important Iowa history through interactive exhibits, an electronic Wall of Honor and over 1,500 interviews collected for the Voices of Iowa Oral History Project. [groutmuseumdistrict.org](http://groutmuseumdistrict.org)

Located on Lansing's Main Street, **Horsfall's Variety Store** opened in 1974 and has served the community ever since. Today, its shelves are stocked with modern amenities alongside rare collector items. [facebook.com/HFVariety](https://facebook.com/HFVariety)



Effigy Mounds National Monument, Harpers Ferry

Home to Frank Lloyd Wright's only signature home in Iowa, **Cedar Rock State Park** near Independence is a unique architectural gem. Constructed of steel, glass and concrete, the Usonian-style home was specially designed for the Walter family, complete with a river pavilion, council fire and formal entrance gate. The home is open for tours Memorial Day weekend-mid-October. [iowadnr.gov](http://iowadnr.gov)



Cedar Rock State Park, Independence





NORTHEAST

# Eat



Recognized as Iowa's oldest food and drinking establishment, **Breitbach's Country Dining** in Balltown has served homemade goodness through six generations. They are just a short walk away from one of the best overlooks of the Mississippi River Valley. [breitbachscountrydining.com](http://breitbachscountrydining.com)


Breitbach's Country Dining, Balltown

Voted one of the "Top 100 Places to Eat in Iowa Before You Die," **Mabe's** is a must-stop pizza shop in Decorah. They offer carry out and delivery along with a menu that also includes chicken, pasta dinners, sandwiches and salads. [mabespizza.com](http://mabespizza.com)

After receiving first place for the Best of the Best Breakfast award, **Morg's Diner** in Waterloo continues to wow guests with their massive, plate-sized pancakes. The extensive menu features other breakfast items plus sandwiches, burgers, homemade soups and ice cream sundaes.

Located along the mighty Mississippi River, **Picket Fence Café** in Guttenberg offers delicious food inside a quaint 1846 rock warehouse building on the riverbank. They're best known for their homemade pies and German potato salad. [picketfencecreamery.net](http://picketfencecreamery.net)





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It's a short drive on Highways 13 and 56 to Elkader, a charming town nestled in the Turkey River valley.

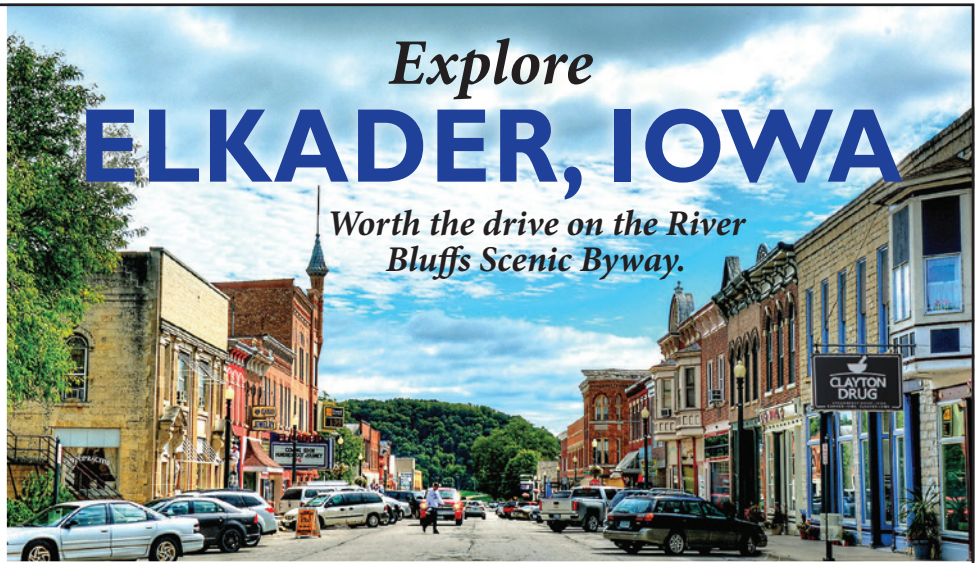
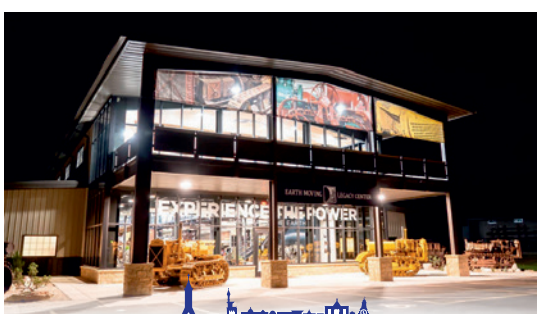
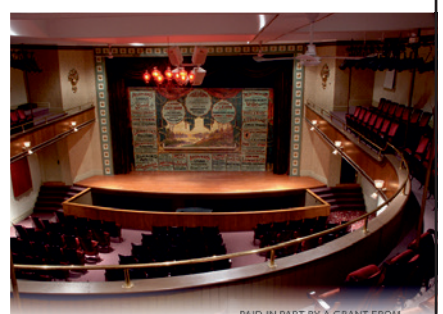
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[www.claytoncountyiowa.com](http://www.claytoncountyiowa.com)  [www.elkader-iowa.com](http://www.elkader-iowa.com)

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NORTHEAST

# Eat

Locally owned **Brazen Open Kitchen** in Dubuque offers some of the area's best food and cocktails. Chef Kevin Scharpf, who appeared on "Top Chef," uses locally sourced ingredients and made-from-scratch recipes. [brazenopenkitchen.com](http://brazenopenkitchen.com)

Founded in 2009, it took less than a decade for **Toppling Goliath** in Decorah to become a world-renowned brewery. Sip an award-winning brew in the beer garden, enjoy an extravagant meal at their restaurant or bring your furry friends for an evening on the outdoor patio. [tgbrews.com](http://tgbrews.com)

Don't overlook the **Buttermilk Café** in Independence. The small-town family restaurant offers delectable homestyle dishes for every meal of the day from exciting breakfast specials to dinner entrees. [facebook.com/buttermilkcafe1](https://facebook.com/buttermilkcafe1)

A stop by **Gear Elkader**, a full-service espresso bar in Elkader, means more than enjoying a delicious coffee. The menu also includes waffles, eggs made to order, fresh baked goods and lunch items alongside a full outdoor adventure retailer featuring USA-made kayaks and gear. [gearelkader.com](http://gearelkader.com)

Brazen Open Kitchen, Dubuque



Toppling Goliath, Decorah



allamakeecounty.com



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NORTHEAST

# Events

## MARCH 10-12

Head to the **Maple Syrup Festival** at the Hartman Reserve Nature Center in Cedar Falls to indulge in unlimited pancakes topped with delicious maple syrup produced at the local sugar shack, along with a side of sausage and coffee. Held every March, this festival's amazing food is accompanied by exciting raffle prizes and hiking trails. [hartmanreserve.org](http://hartmanreserve.org)

## APRIL 26-30

Every April, Dubuque's **Julien Dubuque International Film Festival** brings filmmakers and storytellers together to offer an inspiring program of documentaries, features and shorts. Be sure to also hop into a panel discussion, evening events and musical performances to get the most out of the experience. [julienfilmfest.com](http://julienfilmfest.com)

## JUNE 23-25

Celebrate a famous Iowa story with **Laura Days**, held every June in Burr Oak. Participate in a 5K run, enjoy a parade, play children's pioneer games, attend craft demonstrations and enjoy delicious food. The Ingalls family managed The Masters Hotel in town from 1876-1877. [lauraingallswilder.us](http://lauraingallswilder.us)

## JUNE 24

Join the fun on the Cedar River as a spectator or competitor during the **Charles City Whitewater Weekend** every June in Charles City. The event invites whitewater paddlers to show off their skills in kayak and SUP events, while the riverbanks buzz with a variety of family-friendly activities. [ccwhitewater.com](http://ccwhitewater.com)



## JULY-AUGUST (SELECT SUNDAYS)

Visitors to Dyersville can join the **Field of Dreams Ghost Players** in enjoying America's favorite pastime. Watch as the players emerge from the corn to the movie soundtrack, meet the players then watch them play baseball and joke around with whoever wants to step onto the field. [fieldofdreamsmoviesite.com](http://fieldofdreamsmoviesite.com)



Field of Dreams Ghost Players, Dyersville





#### Charles City Whitewater Weekend

#### JULY 27-29

Decorah's annual Scandinavian celebration, **Nordic Fest**, welcomes more than 10,000 visitors for three days of delicious feasting. Held in late July, the food is accompanied by traditional crafts, cultural sporting events and a thrilling firework display along with activities for the whole family. [nordicfest.com](http://nordicfest.com)

#### AUGUST 4-6

**Iowa Irish Fest**, the state's largest Irish celebration, floods the streets of downtown Waterloo each year during the first weekend of August. The fest provides attendees the unique opportunity to participate in a variety of cultural events, contests and classes alongside energizing music, dances, rides, races and rallies. [iowairishfest.com](http://iowairishfest.com)

#### AUGUST 11-13

Grab a fishing pole and show off some skills at Lansing's **Fish Days**, held each August. Watch or participate in fishing and bags tournaments, relax to live music, peruse the food booths and enjoy a variety of kid-friendly activities. [facebook.com/lansingfishdays](https://facebook.com/lansingfishdays)





# Stay



Escape the Cedar Falls metro and enjoy a breath of fresh air with a stay in **Three Pines Farm**'s luxurious glamping tent. Tucked back in the farm's remnant prairie, the Australian-made tent features a stargazer roof, linen bedding, a handcrafted English stove and beautifully curated vintage and local artisan-made pieces. [threepinesfarm.org](http://threepinesfarm.org)

Three Pines Farm, Cedar Falls

For an exceptional lodging experience, be sure to check out the beautifully restored **Hotel Winneshiek**, a full-service hotel in the heart of downtown Decorah. With 34 guest rooms and jaw-dropping architecture, there's no better place to spend a relaxing weekend. [hotelwinn.com](http://hotelwinn.com)

**Hotel Julien** offers the area's most elegant accommodations in the heart of Dubuque's Old Main District. Rumor has it Al Capone used to stay when things got "hot" in Chicago and he needed to escape. [hoteljuliendubuque.com](http://hoteljuliendubuque.com)

Spend the night in the **Jail House Inn**, a former 1870s jail and sheriff's home in Elkader. Choose from three suites that include luxurious amenities like soaker tubs, scenic views and full breakfast. [elkaderjailhouseinn.com](http://elkaderjailhouseinn.com)



Sleep among the dairy cows at **New Day Dairy** in Clarksville. The guest loft includes two large windows overlooking the cow's grazing area, making this Iowa's only farm-stay on a working dairy farm. Your stay includes introductory and farewell tours, complimentary breakfast and farm activities. [newdaydairy.com](http://newdaydairy.com)

Nestled among the Mississippi River Valley's rolling hills, **Grumpsters Log Cabins** near McGregor offer a relaxing retreat. The diverse cabin features and modern amenities make them ideal for honeymoons, reunions or simply a relaxing escape. [grumpsterslogcabins.com](http://grumpsterslogcabins.com)

Crafted from a salvaged barn and corn crib that were torn down and moved piece by piece to its current location, the **Little House on the Farm & Guest Barn B&B** in Postville features high ceilings and repurposed materials throughout. The property can accommodate up to six people. [littlehouseonthefarm.com](http://littlehouseonthefarm.com)

The **Sustainable Living Cabins** at Fontana Park in Hazleton combine overnight comfort with eco-friendly practices. The off-grid solar system and other considerations provide a live-in display of sustainability techniques. [mycountyparks.com](http://mycountyparks.com)



Jail House Inn, Elkader



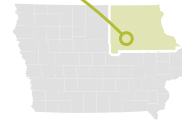
Hotel Julien, Dubuque





NORTHEAST

# 48 HOURS IN THE Cedar Valley



Hansen's Farm Fresh Dairy

## DAY ONE

Start the day off learning about the Iowa company that grew to become a global leader in agricultural equipment at the **John Deere Tractor and Engine Museum** ([deere.com](http://deere.com)). Dive into hands-on displays that feature tractors and engines, rare artifacts, antique machinery and more.

For more farm fun, head to **Hansen's Farm Fresh Dairy** ([hansendairy.com](http://hansendairy.com)). Join a tour to learn about the processes of the dairy farm and production, milk a cow, bottle feed calves and even pet and feed the farm's kangaroos!

Indulge in a delicious meal and late-night fun at **Whiskey Road Tavern & Grill** ([whiskeyroadcf.com](http://whiskeyroadcf.com)). Enjoy an American fusion dish accompanied by a selection from over 100 whiskey options and more great drinks.

Check in to the **Black Hawk Hotel** ([theblackhawkhotel.com](http://theblackhawkhotel.com)) to rest, relax and enjoy a piece of Iowa history. This locally owned boutique hotel is the second longest continuously operating hotel in the country! Its 28 guest rooms offer a perfect balance between historic charm and local amenities. The hotel is also surrounded by downtown Cedar Falls' shops, restaurants and recreation.



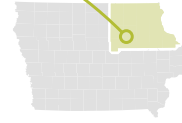






NORTHEAST

# 48 HOURS IN THE Cedar Valley



## DAY TWO

Grab breakfast, brunch or lunch at **Barn Happy** ([barnhappy.net](http://barnhappy.net)), part tearoom, part café and part gift shop. Kickstart the day with a fresh-brewed coffee and made-from-scratch pastries and quiche or prepare for the afternoon with their soups and sandwiches. After eating, shop Iowa produce and goods, or head up to the loft to discover an assortment of antiques and gently used furniture.

Learn about the unique industry of ice cutting at the **Ice House Museum** ([cfhistory.org](http://cfhistory.org)). Built to hold 16 million pounds of ice, this is the only museum in the U.S. that tells the story of ice harvesting in an original ice house. The 1921 round structure features tools once used to cut ice from the Cedar River, exhibits explaining the international ice cutting industry and how the once-common business transformed our culture and daily lives.



Barn Happy

Burn off some energy at **Palmer's Family Fun** ([palmersfamilyfun.com](http://palmersfamilyfun.com)). Play 36 holes of mini golf, show off some skills at the driving range, challenge the family to a race on the go karts or enjoy the jumping pillow and batting cages.

Stop by **Scratch Cupcakery** ([scratchcupcakery.com](http://scratchcupcakery.com)) and revel in their colorful cupcake collection that features over 350 flavors. Or try their giant cookies, edible cookie dough, cakes, cupcake shakes, fruit smoothies or fresh-squeezed lemonade.



John Deere Museum



Visit the Cedar Falls Historical Society's  
• Ice House Museum  
• Little Red Schoolhouse  
• Victorian House Museum

[www.cfhistory.org](http://www.cfhistory.org)

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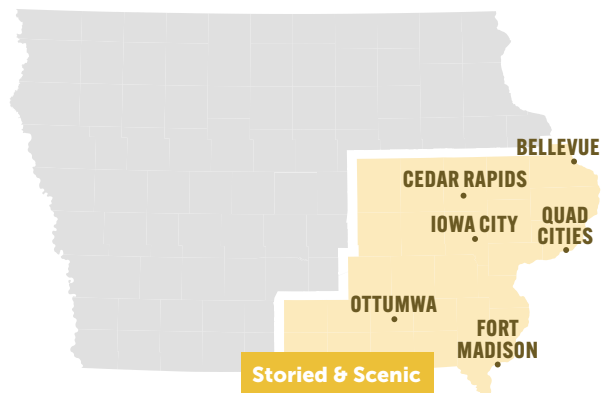


Bellevue State Park

### Get to know some of Iowa's most creative minds

by exploring Iowa City – a UNESCO City of Literature – and the house that inspired Grant Wood's "American Gothic." Dive into more history and culture at diverse museums in the Quad Cities and Cedar Rapids. The heritage and charm of the Amana Colonies and Villages of Van Buren make for unforgettable, story-worthy memories.

Visit [traveliowa.com/routemap](http://traveliowa.com/routemap) to create a custom itinerary.







# MAIN STREET ROAD TRIP



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shop your way through 44 retail destinations</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Enjoy any one of 14 annual festivals and events</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dine at 10 Main Street restaurants and cafes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stroll through art galleries, studios and landscaped parks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Experience history along the Lincoln Highway, Sutliff Bridge or a one-of-a-kind Gettysburg boulder</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>visitmvl.com</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Visit Pinicon Ridge for hiking, fishing, paddle boating &amp; more</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Grab a bite to eat at Montana's, Foxys Chill+Grill or BIT Brewery</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Golf at Meadowview Golf &amp; Country Club</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Check out an event at The Family Room</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shop The Family Pharmacy for a cute selection of retail options</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ccmainstreet.org</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stay at one of 12 Airbnb's &amp; Dine your way through the day</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ride a Bikeshare Electric Bike or Scooter to tour The DISTRICT</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Selfie time at The Giant Cherry or Czech Village Mucha Mural</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shop both sides of the River</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Explore and Learn at: African American Museum of Iowa National Czech &amp; Slovak Museum</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>crmainstreet.org</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Experience the Uptown Artway</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Catch a show at Giving Tree Theater</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Get dessert at The Chocolate Shop or Frydae Ice Cream Shop</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Take in the shopping, nightlife, &amp; dining</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Check out the events; farmers markets, live music, dog fashion show and more!</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>uptownmarion.com</b></p> |





# Do

SOUTHEAST



Antique Archaeology, Le Claire

Tucked away in the historic Mississippi River town of Le Claire, **Antique Archaeology**'s two-story former fabrication shop was made famous by the TV show "American Pickers." The shop houses some of the antiques duo's best picks alongside a new merchandise store. [antiquearchaeology.com](http://antiquearchaeology.com)





Bellevue State Park

In 1958, two local farming brothers donated their family homestead to the Mahaska County Historical Society, resulting in the **Nelson Pioneer Farm & Museum** in Oskaloosa. The complex has grown into a pioneer village featuring 15 historic buildings dating from 1840 to 1970, two large barns to house and display an expansive agricultural collection, a traditional museum with a genealogy library, a nature trail and rental spaces. Together, these collections tell the story of Mahaska County, from its first inhabitants and early settlements to Prohibition stories, modern medicine, art and railroading. [nelsonpioneer.org](http://nelsonpioneer.org)

The **Kinze Innovation Center** in Williamsburg welcomes visitors of all ages to explore the fascinating stories of Kinze's agricultural innovation. Take a tour to see their farming equipment and learn about the research process that is always looking forward. [kinze.com](http://kinze.com)

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon in Iowa's countryside at **Miss Effie's Country Flowers**, a beautiful you-pick flower farm near Donahue. Choose from a large selection of annuals, perennials and herbs to create a personalized bouquet. [misseffies.com](http://misseffies.com)

One of the newest drive-in theaters in the country, the **Blue Grass Drive-In** was opened in 2014 by a local family wanting to bring back this classic experience. The theater includes a giant cube and two elevated screens that show a double feature. Guests can also enjoy an 18-hole mini golf course. [bgdrive.in](http://bgdrive.in)

Strap on some hiking boots and explore **Bellevue State Park** in Bellevue, home to rich archaeological, historical and natural beauty. The park features beautiful overlooks of the Mississippi River, a nature center and open butterfly sanctuary along with camping opportunities. [iowadnr.gov](http://iowadnr.gov)

**Harvestville Farm**, a fifth-generation farm in Donnellson, welcomes visitors all summer long for everything farm fun. Items range from plants, annuals, seeds, fresh produce, plus home and garden décor. The facility is also home to a farm-to-table dinner series and sunflower festival. [harvestvillefarm.com](http://harvestvillefarm.com)

At **The Iowa Children's Museum** in Coralville, kids are encouraged to play and learn about the world around them through interactive exhibits. They can shop for groceries, create a masterpiece in the art studio, harvest vegetables from a farm and learn about physics through skateboarding. [theicm.org](http://theicm.org)



The Iowa Children's Museum, Coralville





# Eat

SOUTHEAST



Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery, Swisher

With a mission of supporting local entrepreneurs and artists, **NewBo City Market** in Cedar Rapids offers a rotating collection of unique food and retail start-ups. Choose from wood-fired pizza, Caribbean dishes, charcuterie and more delicious options, then browse products like gourmet pet treats, candies, soaps, yarn, art and jewelry. [newbocitymarket.org](http://newbocitymarket.org)

**Flatted Fifth Blues & BBQ** in Bellevue blends jazz, Southern food, blues and BBQ inside a beautifully restored 170-year-old grist mill. Sit down to a scrumptious meal from ribs and pulled pork to jambalaya and gumbo. [pottersmill.net](http://pottersmill.net)

**Lagomarcino's** has been a Quad Cities staple for more than 100 years. Their old-fashioned soda fountain drinks, handmade chocolates and award-winning hot fudge sundaes are all made in-house by fourth generation Lagomarcinos. [lagomarcinos.com](http://lagomarcinos.com)

There's nothing quite like an old-fashioned loose meat sandwich, and the **Canteen in the Alley** makes some of the best in Iowa. Founded in 1936, this small eatery has been in Ottumwa for so long, they built a parking garage around it! [canteenottumwa.com](http://canteenottumwa.com)

The family-owned **Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery** is nestled in the beautiful Iowa countryside outside of Swisher. Stop by for a distillery tour, live music events and to enjoy a gourmet seasonal menu alongside award-winning wines and internationally recognized spirits. [crwine.com](http://crwine.com)

Hot strong coffee, all-day breakfast, lunch and dinner menus paired with beer, wine and cocktails makes the **Bluebird Diner** a must-stop in Iowa City. Not to mention its old café atmosphere. [bluebird.cafe](http://bluebird.cafe)





Bluebird Diner, Iowa City



NewBo City Market, Cedar Rapids



Istanbul Grill, Fairfield

The **Kalona Brewing Company** offers local goodness in downtown Kalona. Their brunch, lunch, dinner and kids' menu are sure to please and their brews are known as "heavenly beers brewed by mere mortals." [kalonabrewing.com](http://kalonabrewing.com)

Fairfield's **Istanbul Grill** offers a unique combination of home-cooked Mediterranean and American foods, creating the perfect place to try something new. Local favorites include their kebab or falafel plates or their deep-dish pizzas.





# Events

SOUTHEAST



## MAY 6-7

Head to the Amanas to celebrate the arrival of spring! Every May, the Amana Colonies embrace the German tradition of welcoming warmer weather with a parade, performances by the Amana Maipole Dancers, food trucks, other cultural dances and more during **Maifest**. [amanacolonies.com](http://amanacolonies.com)

## JUNE 2-4

The award-winning **Iowa Arts Festival** brings more than 100 local and national artists to downtown Iowa City. Held the first weekend in June, the event also features music performances, food vendors, kids' fun and creative, education activities. [summerofthearts.org](http://summerofthearts.org)

## JUNE 14-JULY 3

Cedar Rapids' three-week-long **Freedom Festival** starts in mid-June and goes through the 4th of July. In 2023, it marks 40 years of bringing Iowans together to honor our nation's birthday. Each year, hundreds of thousands of people attend, taking part in over 70 events which lead up to the grand finale fireworks show, the largest in Iowa. Activities include everything from a balloon glow, kite flying, live music and art to competitions, parades, a car show, food vendors and more. [freedomfestival.com](http://freedomfestival.com)

## JUNE 21-25

Every June, Ottumwa welcomes professional hot air balloonists to compete in the **Ottumwa Pro Balloon Races**. Admire the pilots' precision as they drop objects onto targets, grab money off the top of poles and play blackjack from the air. At night, the balloons land for a night glow and fireworks. [ottumwaproballoonraces.com](http://ottumwaproballoonraces.com)

## JULY 19-23

Once the social event of the year for rural families, the **Great Jones County Fair** in Monticello now attracts people from across the country to view livestock shows, ride carnival rides and take in big-name Grandstand acts every July. [greatjonescountyfair.com](http://greatjonescountyfair.com)



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# Events

## JULY 13-15

Join truckers and curious travelers alike in Walcott's **Truckers Jamboree**, a celebration of America's truck drivers. Activities include antique truck displays, a truck beauty contest, exhibits, cookout, competitions and fireworks, all located at the World's Largest Truck Stop. [iowa80truckstop.com](http://iowa80truckstop.com)

## JULY 29

Founded in 1975 by a Davenport runner who wanted to recreate the Boston Marathon experience at home, the **Bix 7** race features a seven-mile course. Held the last weekend of July, the race starts at the base of the Brady Street Hill and is lined with live bands and cheering crowds. [bix7.com](http://bix7.com)

## AUGUST 10-13

Held the second full weekend of August each year, the Meskwaki Annual Pow Wow in Tama welcomes visitors to the only Indian Settlement in Iowa. The four-day festival features native dancing and singing performances along with arts and crafts vendors, games and food. [meskwakipowwow.com](http://meskwakipowwow.com)



Truckers Jamboree, Walcott



Bix 7, Davenport



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# Stay

Celebrating its 20th anniversary under current ownership this year, the **Inn of the Six-Toed Cat** is a turn-of-the-century bed and breakfast that invites guests to take life a little slower. Started in 1909, the inn was built to accommodate travelers coming and going from Allerton's railroad depot. They hired a local architect to design it, and his work deemed the inn one of the finest hotels in the state. Today, guests can enjoy a relaxing stay paired with historical pieces scattered throughout the inn. The building still has the original stairs banister and tin ceilings plus a massive ballroom chandelier. Check out their stay packages for a unique experience. [6toedcat.com](http://6toedcat.com)



Highlander Hotel,  
Iowa City



Built in 1846, the **Mason House Inn** in Bentonsport has been used as a hospital (three times!) and as a station on the Underground Railroad during the Civil War. Each of the eight rooms contain a cookie jar. An authentic 1952 railroad caboose houses the adjacent Caboose Cottage. [masonhouseinn.com](http://masonhouseinn.com)

With exceptional views of the Mississippi River, passing trains and Old Fort Madison, the **Kingsley Inn** is a one-of-a-kind destination. Full of history, hospitality and charm, the 1860s building welcomes train enthusiasts, families and couples alike to explore Fort Madison's history and enjoy a luxurious stay. They also have pet-friendly rooms. [kingsley-inn.com](http://kingsley-inn.com)



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# Stay

SOUTHEAST



Hotel Blackhawk, Davenport

Located in the heart of downtown Davenport, the **Hotel Blackhawk** features 130 luxurious rooms, many of which offer views of the Mississippi River. Guests have full access to its indoor pool and sun deck, fitness center, spa and bowling alley. [hotelblackhawk.com](http://hotelblackhawk.com)

Head to the Pearl Button Capital of the World and relax at the AAA Four Diamond **Merrill Hotel** in downtown Muscatine. It features a variety of room options, a saltwater swimming pool, on-site restaurant and sweeping views of the Mississippi River. [themerrill.com](http://themerrill.com)

The **Hotel Millwright** was transformed from part of an eight-acre woolen mill complex into a hotel centered around sustainability and local history. Explore the Amana Colonies or relax at the hotel's on-site restaurant, bars, outdoor picnic and music space. [hotelmillwright.com](http://hotelmillwright.com)

What started as a top Iowa City destination in the late 1960s and 70s has been transformed into an urban resort. Reopened in 2020, the **Highlander Hotel** features a bohemian-themed experience where each room includes a patio and a record player upon request. Take a dip in the pool or relax in the outdoor courtyard. [highlanderhotel.us](http://highlanderhotel.us)

Built in 1893 with panoramic views of the Mississippi River, **Mont Rest Inn** in Bellevue features a wrap-around porch and rooftop observation deck to experience some of the best scenery in Iowa. Choose from 13 guest suites with private bathrooms, enjoy a full gourmet breakfast and explore area attractions. [montrest.com](http://montrest.com)



Kingsley Inn, Fort Madison



See the inspiration for Grant Wood's iconic piece of American art...

# American Gothic House & Center

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[americangothichouse.org](http://americangothichouse.org)

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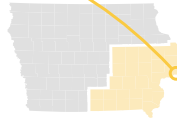
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# 48 HOURS IN THE Quad Cities



SOUTHEAST



Isabel Bloom



Harris Pizza

## DAY ONE

Dive into the area's rich history and handcrafted art with a behind-the-scenes tour at **Isabel Bloom** ([ibloom.com](http://ibloom.com)). Located near the banks of the Mississippi River and the heart of Davenport, the free studio tour tells the story behind Isabel's art career, her connection with Grant Wood's Art Colony and her award-winning ceramics.

Take to the water and experience a relaxing ride on the Mississippi River aboard the **Channel Cat Water Taxi** ([gogreenmetro.com](http://gogreenmetro.com)). The company offers three open-air passenger ferryboat rides Memorial Day-Labor Day from several locations.

Head to **Harris Pizza** ([harrispizza.com](http://harrispizza.com)) to taste the legendary Quad City-style pizza. Food & Wine magazine dubbed it the "Best Pizza You've Never Tried." The pizza starts with a crust flavored with malt syrup or molasses, then adds a spicy red tomato sauce before topping with finely crumbled sausage, usually flavored with fennel.





End the day at **The Current Iowa** ([thecurrentiowa.com](http://thecurrentiowa.com)), a Marriott Rewards Autograph Collection Hotel located in the heart of downtown Davenport. Home to the Quad Cities' first rooftop bar/restaurant, this art-inspired hotel features Midwest artists throughout its rooms and common areas. It's also within walking distance of bike trails and downtown attractions.



The Current Iowa

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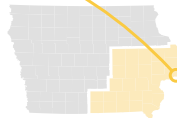


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## DAY TWO

Start the day of right with breakfast from **Toasted** ([staytoastedqc.com](http://staytoastedqc.com)). The menu includes several egg benedict options, avocado toast, classics like pancakes and French toast plus a cinnamon roll waffle. The Art Deco-inspired interior adds to the atmosphere.

Take a peaceful stroll through the **Vander Veer Botanical Park and Conservatory** ([davenportiowa.com](http://davenportiowa.com)). Admire their nationally recognized rose garden, hosta glade, outdoor gardens and conservatory. Admission is free, but tickets are required for access to the conservatory. If the timing works out, catch one of their summer concert series' free music concerts, held once a month on Thursdays.

Spend the afternoon exploring the **Palmer Museum of Chiropractic History** ([palmer.edu](http://palmer.edu)), where D.D. Palmer performed the first adjustments in his pursuit into the healing arts and study of the human body. The museum's skeletal collection is devoted to pathological conditions, one of the few places in the world to see such a collection. Exhibits extend into the Palmer Family Residence, which was built in 1912 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

Make a memorable stop at **Whitey's Ice Cream** ([whiteysicecream.com](http://whiteysicecream.com)), which was named "Best in the Midwest" by Midwest Living magazine. Their quality ice cream has been making customers smile since 1933. With over 40 ice cream flavors, including seasonal additions, dips, sundaes, shakes and malts, multiple visits are required to taste it all.

Whitey's Ice Cream



Palmer Museum



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### APPANOOSE COUNTY HISTORICAL & COAL MINING MUSEUM

Learn about Appanoose County's history in this 1903 Georgian-style former post office, with a floor dedicated to the history of coal mining in Centerville, Iowa. [www.appanoosehistory.com](http://www.appanoosehistory.com)



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# CABINS AND CAMPGROUNDS



Loess Hills Hideaway Cabins, Moorhead



Backbone State Park



Brian Gibbs

Yellow River State Forest

- 128 Lakes & Land
- 130 Loess Hills & Beyond
- 132 Capital Country
- 134 Driftless Area
- 136 Storied & Scenic



## LAKES & LAND

Locations listed below have varying months of operation. Please check availability before traveling. 🏠 = Cabin rentals available.

|                 |                                     |                                  |              |                                |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Akron           | Lazy H Campground 🏠                 | 701 IA 12                        | 712.568.5299 | lazyhcampground.com            |
|                 | River's Bend Wildlife Area          | 11826 180th St                   | 712.947.4270 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Algona          | Ambrose A. Call State Park          | 2007 Call Park Dr                | 641.581.4835 | iowadnr.gov                    |
|                 | Smith Lake Campground               | 2407 Hwy 169                     | 515.295.2138 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Alton           | Alton Roadside Park                 | 1506 N 3rd Ave                   | 712.552.1047 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Auburn          | Grant Park                          | 1.5 miles NW of Auburn           | 712.662.4530 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Aurelia         | Larson Lake                         | 5434 10th Ave                    | 712.225.6709 | cherokeecountyparks.com        |
| Battle Creek    | Crawford Creek Recreation Area      | 3 miles S of Battle Creek on L51 | 712.364.3300 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Boyden          | Bruce Schomaker Recreation Area     | 2752 Kennedy Ave                 | 712.552.1047 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Cherokee        | Martin's Access                     | 5495 Martin Access Rd            | 712.225.6709 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                 | Silver Sioux Recreation Area        | 5954 Silver Sioux Rd             | 712.225.6709 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Clear Lake      | Clear Lake State Park               | 2730 S Lakeview Dr               | 641.357.4212 | iowadnr.gov                    |
|                 | Hidden Lakes Campground             | 3001 Willow Creek Ct             | 641.494.4595 | hiddenlakescampgroundia.com    |
|                 | Oakwood RV Park                     | 5419 240th St                    | 641.357.4019 | oakwoodrvpark.net              |
|                 | PM Park Cabins & Apartments 🏠       | 15297 Raney Dr                   | 641.357.1991 | pmpark.net                     |
| Correctionville | Little Sioux Park 🏠                 | 1746 O'Brien Ave                 | 712.372.4984 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Dolliver        | Tuttle Lake Recreation & Campground | 4926 110th St                    | 712.867.4422 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Dows            | Dows City Campground                | 513 S Burrows Ave                | 515.852.4327 |                                |
| Early           | Reiff Park                          | 2441 Hwy 71                      | 712.662.4530 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Eldora          | Pine Lake State Park                | 22620 Hwy S56                    | 641.858.5832 | iowadnr.gov                    |
|                 | Rock-n-Row Adventures Campground    | 23539 1st St                     | 641.751.3418 | rock-n-row-adventures.com      |
| Emmetsburg      | Wild Rose RV Park                   | 777 Main St                      | 712.852.3400 | emmetsburg.wildroseresorts.com |
| Estherville     | Fort Defiance State Park Campground | 3642 174th St                    | 712.337.3211 | iowadnr.gov                    |
| Everly          | Scharnberg Park                     | 3430 145th Ave                   | 712.262.2187 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Fonda           | Straight Park Campgrounds           | 214 S Main St                    | 712.288.4466 | fondaiaowa.com                 |
| Forest City     | Crystal Lake Park 🏠                 | 1045 320th St                    | 641.565.3560 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                 | Lake Catherine Cabin 🏠              | 34496 110th Ave                  | 641.565.3390 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                 | Pilot Knob State Park               | 2148 340th St                    | 641.581.4835 | iowadnr.gov                    |
|                 | Thorpe Park Campground              | 34496 110th Ave                  | 641.565.3390 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                 | Three Fingers Campground 🏠          | 35604 135th Ave                  | 641.590.6653 | threefingerscampground.com     |
| Fort Dodge Area | Brushy Creek Recreation Area        | 2802 Brushy Creek Rd, Lehigh     | 515.543.8298 | iowadnr.gov                    |
|                 | Dolliver Memorial State Park        | 2757 Dolliver Park Ave, Lehigh   | 515.359.2539 | iowadnr.gov                    |
|                 | Camp WaNoKi 🏠                       | 2400 Wanoki Camp Rd, Fort Dodge  | 515.576.4258 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                 | John F. Kennedy Memorial Park       | 1415 Nelson Ave, Fort Dodge      | 515.576.4258 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                 | Gypsum City OHV Park 🏠              | 2390 Mill Rd, Fort Dodge         | 515.576.4258 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                 | Webster County Fairgrounds          | 22770 Old Hwy 169, Fort Dodge    | 515.955.3764 | webstercountyfairgroundsia.com |
| Garner          | 99 Bottles Winery Hills             | 2695 Quail Ave                   | 641.425.6003 | hipcamp.com                    |
| George          | George Campground                   | 409 S Wilhelm                    | 712.475.3612 | georgeiowa.com                 |
| Gilmore City    | Lizard Lake Access                  | 56231 320th Ave                  | 712.335.4395 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Goodell         | Eldred Sherwood Park                | 2185 120th St                    | 641.923.2720 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Hampton         | Beeds Lake State Park               | 1422 165th St                    | 641.456.2047 | iowadnr.gov                    |
| Hawarden        | Big Sioux Recreation Area           | 84 W 10th St                     | 712.552.1047 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                 | Oak Grove Park 🏠                    | 4051 Cherry Ave                  | 712.552.1047 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Hinton          | Hillview Recreation Area 🏠          | 25601 Hwy C60                    | 712.947.4270 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Humboldt        | Joe Sheldon Park                    | 2210 Sheldon Rd                  | 515.890.7097 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Ida Grove       | Moorehead Pioneer Park              | 299 Jasper Ave                   | 712.364.3300 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Inwood          | Lake Pahoja Recreation Area         | 1831 Buchanan Ave                | 712.753.2313 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Iowa Falls      | Cabin Cove 🏠                        | 820 Indiana Ave                  | 641.373.4546 | thecabincove.com               |
| Jewell          | Little Wall Lake Park 🏠             | 3540 Little Wall Lake Rd         | 515.832.9570 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Lake Mills      | Dahle Park Campground               | 21179 485th St                   | 641.565.3390 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Lake View       | Black Hawk State Park               | 228 S Blossom St                 | 712.657.8712 | iowadnr.gov                    |
|                 | Camp Crescent                       | 1109 3rd St                      | 712.657.2189 | lakeviewlifestyle.com          |
| Lakeside        | Lakeside Marina and Campground      | 96 Lakeshore Dr                  | 712.732.7465 |                                |
|                 | Sunrise Campground                  | 1001 Sunrise Rd                  | 712.732.8023 | stormlake.org                  |
| Le Mars         | Willow Creek Campground             | 445 Park Ln                      | 712.546.8360 | lemarsiowa.com                 |
| Linn Grove      | Linn Grove Dam Area                 | 201 Main St                      | 712.295.7985 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Lohrville       | University 40 🏠                     | 2950 370th St                    | 712.297.7131 | mycountyparks.com              |
| Mallard         | Meredith Park                       | 40273 250th Ave                  | 712.335.4395 | mycountyparks.com              |



|                     |   |                               |              |                           |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Manson</b>       | Featherstone Memorial Park                        | 8803 Twin Lakes Rd            | 712.297.7131 | mycountyparks.com         |
| <b>Mason City</b>   | MacNider Campgrounds                              | 901 Birch Dr                  | 641.421.3679 | visitmasoncityiowa.com    |
| <b>Northwood</b>    | Silver Lake County Park                           | 497 500th St                  | 641.324.1524 | mycountyparks.com         |
| <b>Ocheyedan</b>    | Ocheyedan Pits                                    | 6351 180th St                 | 712.758.3709 | mycountyparks.com         |
| <b>Odebolt</b>      | Odebolt Memorial Walk RV Park                     | 6th and Willow                | 712.668.2231 | odebolt.net               |
| <b>Okoboji Area</b> | Elinor Bedell State Park                          | 1619 260th Ave, Spirit Lake   | 712.337.3211 | iowadnr.gov               |
|                     | Emerson Bay State Recreation Area                 | 3100 Emerson St, West Okoboji | 712.337.3211 | iowadnr.gov               |
|                     | Gull Point State Park                             | 1500 Harpen St, Milford       | 712.337.3211 | iowadnr.gov               |
|                     | Layton Vick                                       | 2048 Hwy 9, Okoboji           | 712.336.5602 | vickscorner.com           |
|                     | Marble Beach State Recreation Area                | 12320 240th Ave, Spirit Lake  | 712.337.3211 | iowadnr.gov               |
| <b>Orange City</b>  | Veteran's Memorial Park                           | 125 Central Ave SE            | 712.707.4885 | orangecityiowa.com        |
| <b>Palmer</b>       | Cooper's Cove Park                                | 59415 330th Ave               | 712.335.4395 | mycountyparks.com         |
| <b>Paullina</b>     | Mill Creek Park                                   | 5660 460th St                 | 712.295.7200 | prairieheritagecenter.org |
| <b>Peterson</b>     | Buena Vista County Conservation Park              | 377 440th St                  | 712.295.7985 | mycountyparks.com         |
| <b>Primghar</b>     | Tjossem Park                                      | 5949 400th St                 | 712.295.7200 | prairieheritagecenter.org |
| <b>Quimby</b>       | Stieneke Area                                     | 1010 628th St                 | 712.225.6709 | mycountyparks.com         |
| <b>Rock Falls</b>   | Wilkinson Pioneer Park                            | 21425 Vine Ave                | 641.423.5309 | mycountyparks.com         |
| <b>Rockwell</b>     | Linn Grove Park                                   | 518 Madison St W              | 641.423.5309 | mycountyparks.com         |
| <b>Ruthven</b>      | Lost Island - Huston Park Campground              | 3267 350th St                 | 712.837.4866 | mycountyparks.com         |
| <b>Sac City</b>     | Hagge County Park                                 | 2970 280th St                 | 712.662.4530 | mycountyparks.com         |
|                     | Riverside Campground                              | 302 Park Ave                  | 712.662.4295 | saccity.city              |
| <b>Salix</b>        | Brown's Lake-Bigelow Park                         | 722 Bigelow Park Rd           | 712.946.7114 | mycountyparks.com         |
|                     | Snyder Bend Park 🏡                                | 2924 Snyder Bend Rd           | 712.941.5622 | mycountyparks.com         |
| <b>Sanborn</b>      | Douma Park  | 3351 Polk Ave                 | 712.295.7200 | prairieheritagecenter.org |
| <b>Sheldon</b>      | Hills Park Campground                             | 415 N 2nd Ave                 | 712.324.4651 | sheldoniowa.com           |
| <b>Sibley</b>       | Hawkeye Point Campground                          | 5463 130th St                 | 712.758.3709 | mycountyparks.com         |
| <b>Sioux Center</b> | Sandy Hollow Recreation Area                      | 3395 400th St                 | 712.552.1047 | mycountyparks.com         |
| <b>Sioux City</b>   | Stone State Park                                  | 5001 Talbot Rd                | 712.255.4698 | iowadnr.gov               |
| <b>Smithland</b>    | Southwood Conservation Area 🏡                     | 3402 330th St                 | 712.899.2215 | mycountyparks.com         |
| <b>Spencer</b>      | Clay County Fairgrounds & Events Center           | 800 W 18th St                 | 712.580.3000 | claycountyfair.com        |
|                     | Leach Park Campground                             | 305 4th St SE                 | 712.580.7260 | spenceriowacity.com       |
| <b>Stratford</b>    | Bell's Mill Park                                  | 3100 Bells Mill Rd            | 515.832.9570 | mycountyparks.com         |
| <b>Sutherland</b>   | Dog Creek Park 🏡                                  | 4901 Warbler Ave              | 712.295.7200 | prairieheritagecenter.org |
| <b>Thornton</b>     | Ingebretson Park                                  | 203 Ash St E                  | 641.423.5309 | mycountyparks.com         |
| <b>Ventura</b>      | McIntosh Woods State Park                         | 1200 E Lake St                | 641.829.3847 | iowadnr.gov               |
| <b>Washta</b>       | Ranney Knob Area                                  | 760 650th St                  | 712.225.6709 | mycountyparks.com         |
| <b>Webster City</b> | Briggs Woods Park 🏡                               | 2490 Briggs Woods Trl         | 515.832.9570 | mycountyparks.com         |
| <b>West Bend</b>    | Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption Campground | 208 1st Ave NW                | 515.887.2371 | westbendgrotto.com        |
| <b>Westfield</b>    | Five Ridge Prairie Camping Cabin 🏡                | 15561 260th St                | 712.947.4270 | mycountyparks.com         |



Brian Gibbs

Spring Lake County Park, Jefferson



## LOESS HILLS & BEYOND

Locations listed below have varying months of operation. Please check availability before traveling. 🏠 = Cabin rentals available.

|                        |   |                                  |              |                                   |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Adair</b>           | Adair City Park                             | 1000 Park                        | 641.742.3751 | cityofadair.com                   |
| <b>Afton</b>           | Three Mile Lake Recreation Area 🏠           | 3 miles N of Afton on P53        | 641.347.5100 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Anita</b>           | Lake Anita State Park                       | 55111 750th St                   | 712.762.3564 | iowadnr.gov                       |
| <b>Audubon</b>         | Albert the Bull Campground                  | 1108 E Division St               | 712.563.3269 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Avoca</b>           | Pottawattamie County Fairgrounds Campground | 300 W Lincoln St                 | 712.482.6220 |                                   |
| <b>Bedford</b>         | Lake of Three Fires State Park              | 2303 Lake Rd                     | 712.523.2700 | iowadnr.gov                       |
| <b>Blencoe</b>         | Huff-Warner Access Area                     | 29998 Filbert Ave                | 712.433.2400 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Blockton</b>        | Sand's Timber Recreation Area               | 2881 Yellowstone Ave             | 712.523.2852 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Braddyville</b>     | Ross Park & Recreation Area                 | 300th and V Ave                  | 712.542.3864 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Bridgewater</b>     | Mormon Trail Park                           | 2828 Delta Ave                   | 641.743.6450 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Carroll</b>         | Swan Lake State Park 🏠                      | 22676 Swan Lake Dr               | 712.712.4614 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Clarinda</b>        | Nodaway Valley Park                         | 1954 US Hwy 71                   | 712.542.3864 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Coon Rapids</b>     | Riverside Park                              | 32907 Walnut St                  | 712.792.4614 | mycountyparks.com                 |
|                        | Whiterock Conservancy 🏠                     | 1436 Hwy 141                     | 916.304.4578 | airbnb.com                        |
| <b>Corning</b>         | Lake Icaria Cabins 🏠                        | 1688 Lake Icaria Rd              | 641.322.4793 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Council Bluffs</b>  | Lake Manawa State Park                      | 1100 S Shore Dr                  | 712.366.0220 | iowadnr.gov                       |
| <b>Creston</b>         | Green Valley State Park                     | 1480 130th St                    | 641.782.5131 | iowadnr.gov                       |
|                        | McKinley Campers Campground                 | 601 S Lakeshore                  | 641.782.2000 | crestoniowa.gov                   |
|                        | McKinley Park                               | Adams and Park Sts               | 641.782.2000 | crestoniowa.gov                   |
| <b>Davis City</b>      | Nine Eagles State Park                      | 23678 Dale Miller Rd             | 641.442.2855 | iowadnr.gov                       |
| <b>Denison</b>         | Yellow Smoke Park 🏠                         | 2237 Yellow Smoke Rd             | 712.263.2748 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Diagonal</b>        | Kokesh Recreation Area                      | 1743 170th Ave                   | 641.464.2787 | mycountyparks.com                 |
|                        | Marlin E. Fogle Recreation Area 🏠           | 803 N Madison St                 | 641.734.5491 |                                   |
| <b>Dow City</b>        | Dow City Park                               | 108 S Franklin St                | 712.674.3350 |                                   |
|                        | Nelson Park 🏠                               | 1450 Nelson Park Rd              | 712.263.2748 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Dunlap</b>          | Schaben Park                                | 3345 141st Ln                    | 712.647.2785 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Essex</b>           | Pierce Creek Recreation Area                | 1148 140th St                    | 712.542.3864 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Exira</b>           | Littlefield Recreation Area                 | 2672 Littlefield Dr              | 712.268.2762 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Glidden</b>         | Dickson Timber                              | 16249 Velvet Ave                 | 712.792.4614 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Greenfield</b>      | Nodaway Lake                                | 2066 250th St                    | 641.743.2183 | iowadnr.gov                       |
| <b>Guthrie Center</b>  | Springbrook State Park                      | 2437 160th Rd                    | 641.747.3591 | iowadnr.gov                       |
| <b>Hamburg</b>         | Waubonsie State Park                        | 2585 Waubonsie Park Rd           | 712.382.2786 | iowadnr.gov                       |
| <b>Hancock</b>         | Botna Bend Park Campground                  | 42926 Mahogany Rd                | 712.741.5465 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Harlan</b>          | Nishna Bend Recreation Area 🏠               | 516 Maple Rd                     | 712.744.3403 | mycountyparks.com                 |
|                        | Prairie Rose State Park                     | 680 Co Rd M47                    | 712.773.2701 | iowadnr.gov                       |
| <b>Honey Creek</b>     | Hitchcock Nature Center 🏠                   | 27792 Ski Hill Loop              | 712.545.3283 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Jefferson</b>       | Spring Lake Park                            | 1847 195th St                    | 515.738.5069 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Lenox</b>           | Wilson Lake Park                            | 1432 Utah Ave                    | 712.523.2852 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Manning</b>         | Great Western Park                          | 31203 Birch Ave                  | 712.792.4614 | mycountyparks.com                 |
|                        | Heritage Park                               | 130 Heritage Dr                  | 712.655.3131 | germanhausbarn.com                |
| <b>Mapleton</b>        | Gray's Landing                              | 38852 245th St                   | 712.433.2400 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Mento</b>           | Menlo City Campground                       | 417 Sherman St                   | 641.524.2411 | cityofmenloia.com                 |
| <b>Missouri Valley</b> | Wilson Island State Recreation Area         | 32801 Camp Ground Ln             | 712.642.2069 | iowadnr.gov                       |
| <b>Moorhead</b>        | Loess Hills Hideaway 🏠                      | 33774 Plum Ave                   | 402.660.3267 | loesshillshideaway.com            |
|                        | Preparation Canyon State Park               | Preparation Canyon State Park Rd | 712.456.2924 | iowadnr.gov                       |
| <b>Mount Ayr</b>       | Fife's Grove Park                           | 2120 220th Ave                   | 641.464.2787 | mycountyparks.com                 |
|                        | Poe Hollow Park                             | 2434 Hwy 2                       | 641.464.2787 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Neola</b>           | Arrowhead Park 🏠                            | 29357 310th St                   | 712.485.2295 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>New Market</b>      | Windmill Park                               | 1533 220th St                    | 712.523.2852 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Onawa</b>           | Lewis & Clark State Park                    | 21914 Park Loop                  | 712.423.2829 | iowadnr.gov                       |
|                        | On-Ur-Wa RV Park                            | 1111 28th St                     | 712.423.1387 | onurwarvpark.com                  |
| <b>Orient</b>          | Lake Orient Recreation Area                 | 3103 Orange Ave                  | 641.743.6450 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Osceola</b>         | East Lake Park                              | 2451 Hwy 34                      | 641.342.3960 | mycountyparks.com                 |
|                        | Lakeside Hotel Casino RV Park               | 777 Casino Dr                    | 641.342.9511 | lakesidehotelcasino.com           |
| <b>Panora</b>          | Lenon Mill Park                             | 206 W South St                   | 641.755.3061 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Rodney</b>          | Peters Park                                 | 10740 Oak Ave                    | 712.433.2400 | mycountyparks.com                 |
| <b>Schleswig</b>       | Schleswig City Park                         | 618 Birch St                     | 712.676.3361 | schleswigia.com                   |
| <b>Scranton</b>        | JV Vineyard and Retreat                     | 343 180th St                     | 712.652.3760 | ju-vineyard-retreat.business.site |



|                   |                               |                              |              |                          |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Shenandoah</b> | Pioneer Park                  | 1849 Hwy 2                   | 712.542.3864 | mycountyparks.com        |
|                   | Rapp Park & Recreation Area   | 1769 Hwy 48                  | 712.542.3864 | mycountyparks.com        |
| <b>Sidney</b>     | Horse Creek Adventures        | 2048 Horse Creek Rd          | 712.314.0648 | horsecreekadventures.com |
| <b>Soldier</b>    | Oldham Recreation Area        | 38852 245th St               | 712.433.2400 | mycountyparks.com        |
| <b>Stanton</b>    | Viking Lake State Park        | 2780 Viking Lake Rd          | 712.829.2235 | iowadnr.gov              |
| <b>Stuart</b>     | Nations Bridge Park           | 2997 Wagon Rd                | 515.523.1789 | mycountyparks.com        |
| <b>Thayer</b>     | Thayer Lake                   | 3132 Thayer Lake Rd          | 641.347.5100 | mycountyparks.com        |
| <b>Turin</b>      | R.T. Reese Homestead Cabin 🏠  | 22171 Larpenteur Memorial Rd | 712.433.2400 | mycountyparks.com        |
| <b>Villisca</b>   | Hacklebarney Woods Park       | U Ave                        | 712.623.4753 | mycountyparks.com        |
| <b>Woodbine</b>   | Willow Lake Recreation Area 🏠 | 2725 Easton Trl              | 712.647.2785 | mycountyparks.com        |





## CAPITAL COUNTRY

Locations listed below have varying months of operation. Please check availability before traveling. 🏠 = Cabin rentals available.

|                        |   |  |                   |                          |
|------------------------|---|--|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Bussey</b>          | Countryside Cabins 🏠                    | 1760 Hwy G76                             | 641.891.3153      |                          |
| <b>Colfax</b>          | Quarry Springs Park & Recreational Area | 200 N Park Rd                            | 515.478.6272      | quarryspringspark.com    |
| <b>Colo</b>            | Hickory Grove Park                      | 67464 250th St                           | 515.232.2516      | mycountyparks.com        |
| <b>Dawson</b>          | Sportsman Park 🏠                        | 13821 130th St                           | 515.465.3577      | mycountyparks.com        |
| <b>De Soto</b>         | Kuehn Conservation Area                 | 32828 Houston Trl                        | 515.465.3577      | mycountyparks.com        |
| <b>Des Moines Area</b> | Acorn Valley at Saylorville Lake        | 9615 NW Beaver Dr, Johnston              | 515.276.0429      | mvr.usace.army.mil       |
|                        | Adventureland Campground                | 2600 Adventureland Dr, Altoona           | 515.265.7321      | adventureland-inn.com    |
|                        | Bob Shetler at Saylorville Lake         | 5600 NW 78th Ave, Johnston               | 515.276.0873      | mvr.usace.army.mil       |
|                        | Cherry Glen at Saylorville Lake         | 4338 NW 94th Pl, Des Moines              | 515.964.8792      | mvr.usace.army.mil       |
|                        | Griff's Valley View RV Park             | 6429 NE 46th St, Altoona                 | 515.967.5474      | griffsvr.com             |
|                        | Iowa State Fair Campgrounds             | E 30th and E University, Des Moines      | 515.262.3111      | iowastatefairgrounds.org |
|                        | Prairie Flower at Saylorville Lake      | 10498 NW Lake Dr, Polk City              | 515.984.6925      | mvr.usace.army.mil       |
|                        | Walnut Woods State Park                 | 3155 SE Walnut Woods Dr, West Des Moines | 515.285.4502      | iowadnr.gov              |
|                        | Yellow Banks Park                       | 6801 SE 32nd Ave, Pleasant Hill          | 515.266.1563      | mycountyparks.com        |
|                        | <b>Granger</b>                          | Jester Park 🏠                            | 12130 NW 128th St | 515.323.5300             |
| <b>Indianola</b>       | Lake Ahquabi State Park                 | 16510 118th Ave                          | 515.961.7101      | iowadnr.gov              |
| <b>Kellogg</b>         | Rock Creek State Park                   | 5627 Rock Creek East St                  | 641.236.3722      | iowadnr.gov              |
| <b>Knoxville</b>       | Elk Rock State Park                     | 811 146th Ave                            | 641.842.6008      | iowadnr.gov              |
|                        | Horn's Ferry Hideaway Cabins 🏠          | 1136 198th Pl                            | 641.780.9440      | hornsferryhideaway.com   |
|                        | Ivan's Campground                       | 1125 198th Pl                            | 641.828.7522      | lakeredrock.org          |
|                        | Marion County Park                      | 306 Willetts Dr                          | 641.828.2214      | mycountyparks.com        |
|                        | North Overlook Campground               | 1007 Hwy T15                             | 641.828.7522      | lakeredrock.org          |
|                        | Whitebreast Campground                  | 971 Hwy S71                              | 641.828.7522      | lakeredrock.org          |
| <b>Liscomb</b>         | Grammer Grove Wildlife Area             | 2030 127th St                            | 641.752.5490      | mycountyparks.com        |
| <b>Madrid</b>          | Ledges State Park                       | 1515 P Ave                               | 515.432.1852      | iowadnr.gov              |
|                        | Swede Point Park                        | 1601 322nd Ln                            | 515.795.2809      | mycountyparks.com        |
| <b>Marshalltown</b>    | Riverview Park Campground               | 402 Woodland St                          | 641.754.5715      | ci.marshalltown.ia.us    |
|                        | Shady Oaks RV Campground                | 2370 Shady Oaks Rd                       | 641.752.2946      | bigtreehouse.net         |
|                        | Timmons Grove County Park               | 1.5 Miles S of Albion on Hwy 330         | 641.752.5490      | mycountyparks.com        |
| <b>Maxwell</b>         | Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt             | 8700 NE 126th Ave                        | 515.967.2596      | mycountyparks.com        |
| <b>Mingo</b>           | Ashton Wildwood Park                    | 8755 W 122nd St N                        | 641.792.9780      | mycountyparks.com        |
| <b>Mitchellville</b>   | Thomas Mitchell Park                    | 10509 NE 46th Ave                        | 515.967.4889      | mycountyparks.com        |
| <b>Ogden</b>           | Don Williams Recreation Area            | 610 H Ave                                | 515.353.4237      | mycountyparks.com        |
| <b>Otley</b>           | Cordova Cabins 🏠                        | 1387 Hwy G28                             | 641.627.5935      | mycountyparks.com        |
|                        | Roberts Creek Park                      | 1617 Fillmore Dr                         | 641.627.5507      | mycountyparks.com        |
| <b>Pella</b>           | Howell Station                          | 1081 198th Pl                            | 641.828.7522      | lakeredrock.org          |
|                        | Wallashuck Campground                   | 890 190th Ave                            | 641.828.7522      | lakeredrock.org          |
| <b>St. Charles</b>     | Wildwood Hills Ranch Luxury Cabins 🏠    | 2552 Union Ln                            | 515.343.6320      | wildwoodhillsranch.org   |
| <b>Winterset</b>       | Criss Cove County Park                  | Hwy 169 and G61                          | 515.462.3536      | mycountyparks.com        |
|                        | Pammel State Park 🏠                     | 1900 Pammel Park Rd                      | 515.462.3536      | mycountyparks.com        |
|                        | Winterset City Park Campground          | 1000 E Court Ave                         | 515.462.3258      | cityofwinterset.org      |
| <b>Zearing</b>         | Dakins Lake Park                        | 70613 130th St                           | 515.232.2516      | mycountyparks.com        |





Jester Park, Granger



Lake Wapello State Park, Drakesville



## DRIFTLESS AREA

Locations listed below have varying months of operation. Please check availability before traveling. 🏠 = Cabin rentals available.

|                       |   |                                 |              |                                |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Allison</b>        | Wilder Park                                   | 22301 Hwy 3                     | 319.267.2245 | visitwilderpark.com            |
| <b>Aurora</b>         | Jakway Forest Area                            | 2791 136th St                   | 319.636.2617 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Brandon</b>        | Lime Creek Area                               | 3205 Brandon Diagonal Blvd      | 319.636.2617 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                       | Red Cedar Cabin 🏠                             | 2318 Benton Buchanan Rd         | 319.560.9802 |                                |
| <b>Cascade</b>        | Fillmore Recreation Area                      | 21655 Hwy 151                   | 563.556.6745 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                       | Riverview Ridge Campgrounds and Recreation    | 24224 Riverview Rd              | 563.543.1258 | riverviewridgencampgrounds.com |
| <b>Cedar Falls</b>    | Antique Acres                                 | 7610 Waverly Rd                 | 319.987.2380 | antiqueacres.org               |
|                       | Big Woods Lake Campground                     | 1501 E Lake St                  | 319.433.7275 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                       | Black Hawk Park                               | 2410 W Lone Tree Rd             | 319.433.7275 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                       | Riverview Conference Center                   | 439 N Division St               | 319.268.0787 | cedarfallsbibleconference.com  |
| <b>Charles City</b>   | Colwell Park                                  | 2962 140th St                   | 641.756.3490 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                       | R Campground                                  | 1910 Clark St                   | 641.257.0549 | rcampground.com                |
| <b>Clarksville</b>    | Heery Woods State Park                        | 19195 Hwy 188                   | 319.278.4237 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Colesburg</b>      | Twin Bridges Park                             | 2638 Hwy 3                      | 563.927.3410 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Cresco</b>         | Chimney Rock Camp Ground 🏠                    | 3312 Chimney Rock Rd            | 563.735.5786 | chimneyrockrvcampground.com    |
|                       | Howard County Fairgrounds                     | 220 7th Ave E                   | 563.547.3400 | mhcfair.com                    |
|                       | Kendallville Park and Campground              | 3480 K Park Rd                  | 563.534.7145 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                       | Turkey River Campground & Vernon Springs Park | 11562 Valley Ave                | 563.547.3634 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                       | Decorah High Point Cabins 🏠                   | 248 Old Spruce Dr               | 563.277.0049 | decorahhighpoint.com           |
|                       | Twin Springs Lodge 🏠                          | 2152 Twin Springs Rd            | 563.380.0685 | twinspringslodge.com           |
|                       | Whispering Pines Cabin 🏠                      | 1824 Canoe Ridge Rd             | 563.380.0136 | whisperingpinesdecorah.com     |
| <b>Delhi</b>          | Big G's Campground                            | 2540 Pioneer Rd                 | 563.920.8012 | biggscampground.com            |
| <b>Dorchester</b>     | Joe's Campground                              | 351 Willow Dr                   | 563.497.3500 |                                |
|                       | Upper Iowa Resort & Rental Campground 🏠       | 578 Lonnings Ln                 | 563.568.3263 | upperiowaresort.com            |
| <b>Dubuque Area</b>   | Heritage Campground                           | 11330 Rupp Hollow Rd, Dubuque   | 563.556.6745 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                       | Lorelei Cabins 🏠                              | 11823 Lorelei Ln, Dubuque       | 563.599.9916 | loreleicabins.com              |
|                       | Massey Marina Park                            | 9526 Massey Station Rd, Dubuque | 563.556.3416 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                       | Mud Lake Park                                 | 22132 Golf Lake Rd, Dubuque     | 563.556.6745 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                       | Swiss Valley Campground                       | 9483 White Top Rd, Peosta       | 563.556.6745 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Dundee</b>         | Backbone State Park                           | 1347 129th St                   | 563.924.2000 | iowadnr.gov                    |
| <b>Edgewood</b>       | Morning Mist Cabins 🏠                         | 34228 Hilton Rd                 | 563.387.7171 | vacationrentals411.com         |
| <b>Elgin</b>          | Gilbertson Conservation Education Area        | 1810 Agate Rd                   | 563.426.5740 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Elkader</b>        | Big Spring Campground                         | 16212 Big Spring Rd             | 563.245.1516 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                       | Deer Run Resort & RV Park                     | 501 High St SE                  | 563.245.3337 | deerrunresort.net              |
|                       | Elkader City Park                             | Hwy 13 and High St SE           | 563.245.2098 | elkader-iowa.com               |
|                       | Frieden's County Park                         | 16723 Chariot Rd                | 563.245.1516 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                       | Motor Mill Historic Park                      | 23002 Grain Rd                  | 563.245.1516 | motormill.org                  |
| <b>Elma</b>           | Maple Heights Campground                      | 200 Wood St                     | 641.393.2120 | golfelma.com                   |
| <b>Fairbank</b>       | Siggelkow Park                                | 9905 Fairbank Rd                | 319.433.7275 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Fayette</b>        | Twin Bridges Park                             | 13112 O Ave                     | 563.426.5740 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                       | Volga River Recreation Area                   | 10225 Ivy Rd                    | 563.425.4161 | iowadnr.gov                    |
| <b>Floyd</b>          | West Idlewild Park                            | 1376 Quarry Rd                  | 641.756.3490 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Fort Atkinson</b>  | Lake Meyer Park and Campground                | 2546 Lake Meyer Rd              | 563.534.7145 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Fredericksburg</b> | Split Rock Park                               | 3090 Pembroke Ave               | 641.394.4714 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Frederika</b>      | Alcock Park                                   | 1171 Midway Ave                 | 319.882.4742 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Garnavillo</b>     | Buck Creek County Park                        | 30286 232nd St                  | 563.245.1516 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Greeley</b>        | Fountain Springs Park                         | 2511 Oak Rd                     | 563.927.3410 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Greene</b>         | Camp Comfort Recreation Area                  | 23525 Camp Comfort Rd           | 319.278.4237 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                       | Wunsch Memorial Park                          | 201 S Water St                  | 319.278.4237 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Harpers Ferry</b>  | Andy Mountain Cabins 🏠                        | 2335 Andy Mountain Ln           | 563.586.2123 | andymountaincabins.com         |
|                       | Brown's Riverside Court & Marina 🏠            | 137 N 1st St                    | 563.586.2607 |                                |
|                       | Burr Oak Cabin 🏠                              | 1882 Trophy Run Ln              | 305.978.3715 | iowacabinrentals.com           |
|                       | Cedar Valley Lodges 🏠                         | 617 Downing Ln                  | 563.586.2125 | cedarvalleylodge.com           |
|                       | Paint Creek Lodge 🏠                           | 2154 Railroad Junction Ln       | 305.978.3715 | iowacabinrentals.com           |
|                       | Sunset Ridge 🏠                                | 1826 Buck Ln                    | 305.978.3715 | iowacabinrentals.com           |
|                       | The Natural Gait                              | 1878 Old Mission Dr             | 563.535.7314 | thenaturalgait.com             |
|                       | Yellow River State Forest                     | 729 State Forest Rd             | 563.586.2254 | iowadnr.gov                    |
| <b>Hawkeye</b>        | Gouldsburg Park                               | 18649 Sunset Rd                 | 563.426.5740 | mycountyparks.com              |



|                         |                                  |   |              |                                |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Hazleton</b>         | Fontana Park 🏠                   | 1883 125th St                               | 319.636.2617 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Holy Cross</b>       | Bankston Park                    | 17826 Bankston Park Rd                      | 563.556.6745 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Ionia</b>            | Twin Ponds Nature Center         | 1811 240th St                               | 641.394.4714 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>La Porte City</b>    | Hickory Hills Park               | 3338 Hickory Hills Rd                       | 319.342.3350 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                         | McFarlane Park                   | 13619 King Rd                               | 319.342.3844 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Lansing</b>          | Red Barn Resort & Campground     | 2609 Main St                                | 563.538.4956 | redbarnresortandcampground.com |
|                         | Wexford Valley Campground        | 1418 Great River Rd                         | 563.586.2005 |                                |
| <b>Lime Springs</b>     | Lidtko Park & Campground         | 3425 Oak Ave                                | 563.547.3634 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Manchester</b>       | Bailey's Ford Park               | 2379 Jefferson Rd                           | 563.927.3410 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                         | Coffins Grove Park               | 1387 Early Stagecoach Rd                    | 563.927.3410 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                         | Turtle Creek Park                | 6 Miles SE of Manchester on Maquoketa River | 563.927.3410 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Marble Rock</b>      | Ackley Creek Park                | 2775 Indigo Ave                             | 641.756.3490 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                         | Gates Bridge Access              | 2920 Kirkwood Rd                            | 641.756.3490 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                         | Tosanak Recreation Area 🏠        | 2543 Glass Rd                               | 641.756.3490 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Maynard</b>          | Maynard City Park Campground     | 475 1st St N                                | 563.637.2269 |                                |
| <b>Mc Gregor</b>        | Bloody Run County Park           | 29857 Bloody Run Dr                         | 563.245.1516 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                         | Grumpsters Log Cabins 🏠          | 535 Ash St                                  | 563.873.3767 | grumpsterslogcabins.com        |
|                         | Pikes Peak State Park            | 32264 Pikes Peak Rd                         | 563.873.2341 | iowadnr.gov                    |
|                         | Spook Cave Campground 🏠          | 13299 Spook Cave Rd                         | 563.539.4114 | spookcave.com                  |
| <b>Mitchell</b>         | Interstate Park                  | 650 W Commercial St                         | 641.732.5204 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>New Albin</b>        | Clear Creek Cabin 🏠              | 2861 Blair Rd                               | 888.640.7927 | vrbo.com                       |
| <b>New Hampton</b>      | Airport Lake Park                | 2047 190th St                               | 641.394.4714 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                         | Boy Scouts Troop 48 Campground   | 4th Ave and E Hamilton                      | 641.394.5464 | chickasawtourism.com           |
| <b>New Vienna</b>       | New Wine Park                    | 15971 New Wine Park Ln                      | 563.556.6745 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Oelwein</b>          | City Park                        | 2400 S Frederick Ave                        | 319.283.5440 | cityfoelwein.org               |
| <b>Osage</b>            | Cedar Bridge Park                | 1876 Hwy 9                                  | 641.732.5204 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                         | Pioneer Park                     | 400th St and Shadow Ave                     | 641.732.5204 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                         | Spring Park                      | 3540 Spring Park Rd                         | 641.732.3709 | osageia.org                    |
| <b>Parkersburg</b>      | Beaver Meadows Park              | 32078 Hwy 14                                | 319.278.4237 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Plainfield</b>       | North Cedar Park                 | 1163 140th St                               | 319.882.4742 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Quasqueton</b>       | Veterans Memorial Park           | 101 River Dr                                | 319.934.3340 | quasky.com                     |
| <b>Riceville</b>        | Lake Hendricks Park & Campground | 9850 Addison Ave                            | 563.547.3634 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Saint Ansgar</b>     | Halvorson Park                   | 40801 Foothill Ave                          | 641.732.5204 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                         | Otranto Park                     | 1233 480th St                               | 641.732.5204 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Shell Rock</b>       | Shell Rock Recreation Area       | 22562 Willow Ave                            | 319.278.4237 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Sherrill</b>         | Finley's Landing Park            | 24709 Finleys Landing Rd                    | 563.556.6745 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Stacyville</b>       | Riverside Park                   | 2275 465th St                               | 641.732.5204 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Strawberry Point</b> | Joy Springs County Park          | 37771 Alpha Ave                             | 563.245.1516 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Sumner</b>           | North Woods Park                 | 1249 Yuma Ave                               | 319.882.4742 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Volga</b>            | Volga U Campground               | Cass St                                     | 563.767.3511 | volgacityiowa.com              |
| <b>Waterloo</b>         | George Wyth State Park           | 3659 Wyth Rd                                | 319.232.5505 | iowadnr.gov                    |
| <b>Waterville</b>       | Pine Bluff Camp Sites            | 36 E Main St                                | 563.535.7256 | pinebluffcampsites.com         |
|                         | Scenic View Campground           | 420 Old Sixteen Rd                          | 563.535.7347 |                                |
| <b>Waucoma</b>          | Little Turkey River Campground   | 206 3rd St SE                               | 319.334.0135 |                                |
| <b>Waukon</b>           | Waukon City Park - Campground    | 1013 Rossville Rd                           | 563.568.0081 | cityofwaukon.com               |
| <b>Waverly</b>          | Cedar Bend Park                  | 1267 205th St                               | 319.882.4742 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>West Union</b>       | Dutton's Cave Park               | 25218 Ironwood Rd                           | 563.426.5740 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                         | Echo Valley State Park           | 9672 Echo Valley Rd                         | 563.426.5740 | mycountyparks.com              |
|                         | Goeken Park                      | 28191 Lincoln Rd                            | 563.426.5740 | mycountyparks.com              |
| <b>Westgate</b>         | Downing Park                     | 23008 78th St                               | 563.426.5740 | mycountyparks.com              |



## STORIED & SCENIC

Locations listed below have varying months of operation. Please check availability before traveling. 🏠 = Cabin rentals available.

|                        |   |  |              |                                  |
|------------------------|---|--|--------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Ainsworth</b>       | Marr Park                               | 2943 Hwy 92                            | 319.657.2400 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Allerton</b>        | Bobwhite State Park                     | 2301 Bob White Rd                      | 641.873.4670 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Amana</b>           | Amana RV Park & Event Center            | 3850 C St                              | 319.622.7616 | amanarvpark.com                  |
| <b>Anamosa</b>         | Wapsipinicon State Park                 | 21301 Co Rd E34                        | 319.462.2761 | iowadnr.gov                      |
| <b>Baldwin</b>         | Eden Valley Wildlife Refuge             | 1415 50th Ave                          | 563.673.2021 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Bellevue</b>        | Bellevue State Park Campground          | 21466 429th Ave                        | 563.872.4019 | iowadnr.gov                      |
|                        | It's A Wonderful Life at Spruce Haven 🏠 | 39749 308th St                         | 563.593.0484 | sprucehaven.net                  |
|                        | Spruce Creek Park                       | 30711 396th Ave                        | 563.652.3783 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Blairstown</b>      | Hannen Park 🏠                           | 1949 Benton Iowa Rd                    | 319.454.6382 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Bloomfield</b>      | Davis County Fairgrounds                | 20471 Old Hwy 2                        | 641.664.3712 | daviscountyfair.org              |
|                        | Pioneer Ridge Nature Area 🏠             | 1339 Hwy 63                            | 641.682.3091 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Brighton</b>        | Lake Darling State Park                 | 111 Lake Darling Rd                    | 319.694.2323 | iowadnr.gov                      |
| <b>Burlington</b>      | Welter Recreation Area                  | 16839 Skunk River Rd                   | 319.753.8260 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Calamus</b>         | Sherman Park                            | 2776 160th Ave                         | 563.847.7202 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Camanche</b>        | Rock Creek Marina and Campground 🏠      | 3942 291st St                          | 563.259.1876 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Center Junction</b> | Central Park 🏠                          | 12515 Central Park Rd                  | 563.487.3541 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Center Point</b>    | Lazy Acres RV Park                      | 5486 32nd Ave                          | 319.443.4000 | lazyacresrv.com                  |
| <b>Centerville</b>     | Lelah Bradley Park & Reserve            | 25100 520th St                         | 641.856.8528 | mycountyparks.com                |
|                        | Prairie Ridge Park                      | 12815 Prairie Ridge Pl                 | 641.647.2464 | recreation.gov                   |
| <b>Central City</b>    | Matsell Bridge Natural Area             | 3742 Matsell Park Rd                   | 319.892.6450 | mycountyparks.com                |
|                        | Pinicon Ridge Park 🏠                    | 4962 Valley Farm Rd                    | 319.892.6450 | mycountyparks.com                |
|                        | Red Oak Cabin 🏠                         | 50 Range Ln                            | 319.892.6450 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Chariton</b>        | Country Cabins 🏠                        | 25119 Hwy 34                           | 641.217.0534 | country-cabins.com               |
|                        | Red Haw State Park                      | 24550 Hwy 34                           | 641.774.5632 | iowadnr.gov                      |
|                        | Stephens State Forest Campground        | 1111 N 8th St                          | 641.774.5632 | iowadnr.gov                      |
| <b>Clinton</b>         | Bulger's Hollow                         | 4686 170th St                          | 815.259.3628 | mycountyparks.com                |
|                        | Riverview RV Park                       | 511 Riverview Dr                       | 563.242.3600 | cityofclintoniowa.us             |
| <b>Coggon</b>          | Buffalo Creek Park                      | 5034 Buffalo Creek Park                | 319.892.6450 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Corydon</b>         | Corydon Lake Park                       | 2178 Corydon Lake Park Rd              | 641.873.4670 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Danville</b>        | Geode State Park                        | 3333 Racine Ave                        | 319.392.4601 | iowadnr.gov                      |
| <b>Dixon</b>           | Kestrel Cabin 🏠                         | 31555 52nd Ave                         | 563.328.3286 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Donnellson</b>      | Wilson Lake Campground 🏠                | 2195 220th St                          | 319.463.7673 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Drakesville</b>     | Drakesville Park                        | Railroad St                            | 641.722.3859 | drakesvilleiowa.com/             |
|                        | Lake Wapello State Park                 | 15248 Campground Rd                    | 641.722.3371 | iowadnr.gov                      |
| <b>Fairfield</b>       | Jefferson County Park                   | 2003 Libertyville Rd                   | 641.472.4421 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Fort Madison</b>    | Duck Haven Campground                   | 2748 241st St                          | 319.572.1014 | fortmadison-ia.com               |
|                        | Fort Madison City Campground            | 2134 302nd Ave                         | 319.372.7700 | fortmadison-ia.com               |
|                        | Fort Madison RV Park                    | 2103 303rd Ave                         | 319.372.7700 | fortmadison-ia.com               |
| <b>Fredonia</b>        | River Forks Access                      | 1001 Main St                           | 319.523.8381 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Gladbrook</b>       | Union Grove State Park                  | 1217 220th St                          | 641.473.2556 | iowadnr.gov                      |
| <b>Hills</b>           | Hills Access                            | 4210 520th St SE                       | 319.645.2315 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Humeston</b>        | Lakeside Park                           | 2301 Bobwhite Rd                       | 641.873.4670 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Iowa City Area</b>  | Dam Complex Campgrounds                 | 2850 Prairie Du Chien Rd NE, Iowa City | 319.338.3685 | recreation.gov                   |
|                        | Lake Macbride State Park                | 3525 Hwy 382 NE, Solon                 | 319.624.2200 | iowadnr.gov                      |
|                        | Sandy Beach Campground                  | 3369 Sandy Beach Rd NE, Solon          | 319.848.4400 | recreation.gov                   |
|                        | Sugar Bottom Campground                 | 2192 Mehaffey Bridge Rd NE, Solon      | 319.642.2102 | recreation.gov                   |
| <b>Keokuk</b>          | Chatfield Park Campground               | 3592 Iowa Rd                           | 319.463.7673 | mycountyparks.com                |
|                        | Hickory Haven Campground                | 2413 353rd St                          | 319.795.4822 | hickoryhavencampgroundkeokuk.com |
|                        | Hubinger Landing                        | 711 Mississippi Dr                     | 319.524.7122 |                                  |
|                        | Mississippi Hillside Cabin 🏠            | 3503 Mississippi River Rd              | 319.795.2570 | homeaway.com                     |
|                        | Victory Park                            | 311 Mississippi Dr                     | 319.524.3553 | cityofkeokuk.org                 |
| <b>Ladora</b>          | Lake Iowa Park 🏠                        | 2550 G Ave                             | 319.655.8465 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Lineville</b>       | Moore-Gosch Park                        | 1228 Birch Rd                          | 641.873.4670 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Lone Tree</b>       | River Junction Access                   | 6051 River Junction Rd SE              | 319.645.2315 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Lovilia</b>         | Lake Miami Park 🏠                       | 1270 635th Ave                         | 641.455.4778 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Lucas</b>           | Crossroads Ranch, LLC                   | 50526 Hwy 65                           | 641.217.1188 | crossroadsranchlucasiowa.com     |
| <b>Maquoketa</b>       | Maquoketa Caves State Park              | 9688 Caves Rd                          | 563.652.5833 | iowadnr.gov                      |
| <b>Marion</b>          | Wanatee Park                            | 1600 Banner Dr                         | 319.892.6450 | mycountyparks.com                |
| <b>Massillon</b>       | Massillon Park                          | 207 Hoover Hwy                         | 563.886.6930 | mycountyparks.com                |



|                              |   |                                |                      |  |                   |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|----------------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>Montezuma</b>             | Diamond Lake Park   | 4896 Stagecoach Rd             | 641.623.3191         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
|                              | Fun Valley Camping  | 1066 500th Ave                 | 641.660.5668         | funvalleyeventcenter.com                 |                   |
| <b>Monticello</b>            | Blue Inn Campground   | 250 N Main St                  | 319.462.0770         | atblueinn.com                            |                   |
| <b>Montpelier</b>            | Clark's Ferry Recreation Area                               | 3860 Sunset Beach              | 563.419.7594         | missriver.org                            |                   |
| <b>Moravia</b>               | Bridge View Park  | 11516 Bridgeview Pl            | 641.647.2464         | recreation.gov                           |                   |
|                              | Buck Creek Park   | 13770 Crappie Cir              | 641.647.2464         | recreation.gov                           |                   |
|                              | Foxtail Cabins 🏠  | 17155 Hwy J18                  | 877.736.9824         | foxtailcabins.com                        |                   |
|                              | Honey Creek Resort 🏠  | 12633 Resort Dr                | 641.724.9100         | honeycreekresort.com                     |                   |
|                              | Honey Creek State Park                                      | 12194 Honey Creek Pl           | 641.724.3739         | iowadnr.gov                              |                   |
| <b>Morning Sun</b>           | Virginia Grove Recreation Area                              | 20406 55th St                  | 319.523.8381         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
| <b>Mount Pleasant</b>        | Oakland Mills Park  | 2593 Nature Center Dr          | 319.986.5067         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
| <b>Mount Vernon</b>          | Palisades-Kepler State Park                                 | 700 Kepler Dr                  | 319.895.6039         | iowadnr.gov                              |                   |
| <b>Muscatine</b>             | Fairport State Recreation Area                              | 3280 Hwy 22                    | 563.263.4337         | iowadnr.gov                              |                   |
|                              | Saulsbury Bridge Recreation Area                            | 2007 Saulsbury Rd              | 563.264.5922         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
|                              | Shady Creek Recreation Area                                 | 3550 Hwy 22                    | 563.419.0857         | missriver.org                            |                   |
|                              | Wildcat Den State Park                                      | 1884 Wildcat Den Rd            | 563.263.4337         | iowadnr.gov                              |                   |
| <b>Mystic</b>                | Island View Park  | 19357 Island View Pl           | 641.647.2464         | recreation.gov                           |                   |
| <b>New Liberty</b>           | Camp Liberty Lodge 🏠  | 4415 295th St                  | 563.823.9940         | camplibertylodge.org                     |                   |
| <b>Oakville</b>              | 4th Pumping Plant Recreation Area                           | 2073 Pumping Station Rd        | 319.753.8260         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
| <b>Oskaloosa</b>             | Eveland Access Campgrounds 🏠                                | 1681 290th St                  | 641.673.9327         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
|                              | Lake Keomah State Park                                      | 2720 Keomah Ln                 | 641.673.6975         | iowadnr.gov                              |                   |
|                              | Quercus Wilderness Area                                     | Quercus Wilderness Area        | 641.673.9327         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
| <b>Ottumwa</b>               | Greater Ottumwa Park  | Teal Dr                        | 641.682.1307         | greaterottumwacvb.org                    |                   |
| <b>Oxford</b>                | F.W. Kent Park  | 2048 Hwy 6 NW                  | 319.645.2315         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
|                              | Sleepy Hollow RV Park & Campground                          | 3340 Black Hawk Ave NW         | 319.828.4900         | sleepyhollowia.com                       |                   |
| <b>Palo</b>                  | Morgan Creek Park   | 7515 Worcester Rd              | 319.892.6450         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
|                              | Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area                        | 4530 McClintock Rd             | 319.436.7716         | iowadnr.gov                              |                   |
| <b>Quad Cities Area</b>      | Buffalo Shores  | 1433 Front St, Buffalo         | 563.328.3281         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
|                              | Scott County Park 🏠   | 18850 270th St, Eldridge       | 563.328.3280         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
|                              | West Lake Park 🏠  | 14910 110th Ave, Davenport     | 563.328.3280         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
| <b>Sabula</b>                | South Sabula Lake Park                                      | 1516 South Ave                 | 563.652.3783         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
| <b>Sigourney</b>             | Lake Belva Deer Park  | 242nd Ave                      | 641.622.3757         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
| <b>Sperry</b>                | Big Hollow Recreation Area                                  | 18853 152nd Ave                | 319.753.8260         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
| <b>Toledo</b>                | Otter Creek Lake & Park                                     | 2283 Park Rd                   | 641.484.2231         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
| <b>Toronto</b>               | Walnut Grove Park   | 1847 188th Ave                 | 563.847.7202         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
| <b>Traer</b>                 | T.F. Clark Park and Addition                                | 2687 150th St                  | 641.484.2231         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
| <b>Urbana</b>                | Wildcat Bluff   | 3150 57th St Trl               | 319.560.9802         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
| <b>Villages of Van Buren</b> | A Frame Lacey Trail   | 23634 Lacey Trl, Keosauqua     | 515.290.5179         | keocabins.com                            |                   |
|                              | Austin Park   | 19178 Eagle Dr, Keosauqua      |                      | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
|                              | Bentonsport Campground                                      | 22098 Hawk Dr, Keosauqua       | 319.293.3589         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
|                              | Douds Park  | N Walnut St, Keosauqua         | 319.293.3589         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
|                              | Indian Lake Park 🏠  | 28163 Willow Ave, Farmington   | 319.878.3706         | farmingtoniowa.com/                      |                   |
|                              | Keosauqua Riverfront Cabins 🏠                               | 903 Front St, Keosauqua        | 319.293.3232         | villagesofvanburen.com                   |                   |
|                              | Lacey-Keosauqua State Park                                  | 22895 Lacey Trl, Keosauqua     | 319.293.3502         | iowadnr.gov                              |                   |
|                              | Lake Sugema Campgrounds                                     | 19640 250th St, Cantril        | 319.293.3589         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
|                              | Lazy Bee Log Cabin 🏠  | 23807 Lacey Trl, Keosauqua     | 319.293.6255         |  |                   |
|                              | Lost Lake Cabin 🏠   | 26726 Lark Ave, Mount Sterling | 641.919.0856         | lostlakecabinrental.com                  |                   |
|                              | Morris Memorial Park  | 19038 Timber Rd, Stockport     | 319.796.2148         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
|                              | Pine Ridge Retreat & Lodging 🏠                              | 24120 Lacey Trl, Keosauqua     | 641.919.7829         | pineridgeretreat.com                     |                   |
|                              | Red Fox Lodging Company 🏠                                   | 25092 Jersey Ave, Keosauqua    | 877.293.3041         | redfoxlodging.com                        |                   |
|                              | River Valley Lodge Campground 🏠                             | 29080 Hawk Dr, Farmington      | 319.878.3888         | rivervalleylodgeandcampground.com        |                   |
|                              | Shimek State Forest   | 33653 Rte J56, Farmington      | 319.878.3811         | iowadnr.gov                              |                   |
|                              | Waubonsie Trail Campground & Park 🏠                         | 601 W North St, Cantril        | 319.397.2193         | cantrilia.com                            |                   |
|                              | <b>Vinton</b>   | Benton City - Fry Campground   | 5899 29th Avenue Dr  | 319.560.9802                             | mycountyparks.com |
|                              |   | Hoefle-Dulin Campground        | 5901 27th Ave        | 319.560.9802                             | mycountyparks.com |
|                              |   | Minne-Estema Campground        | 5261 24th Avenue Dr  | 319.560.9802                             | mycountyparks.com |
|                              |   | Rodgers Park                   | 2113 57th Street Trl | 319.560.9802                             | mycountyparks.com |
| <b>Wapello</b>               | Flaming Prairie Park  | 14624 Co Rd X61                | 319.523.8381         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
|                              | Snively Campground  | 9246 Co Rd X61                 | 319.523.8381         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
| <b>West Branch</b>           | Cedar Valley Park   | 660 255 St                     | 563.886.6930         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
| <b>West Point</b>            | Pollmiller Park 🏠   | 1678 Pollmiller Park Rd        | 319.463.7673         | mycountyparks.com                        |                   |
| <b>Williamsburg</b>          | Adventures in Tipi Camping At Walking Stick Adventures Farm | 2347 L Ave                     | 319.329.9821         | walkingstickadventures.com.wordpress.com |                   |





# Flavors of the Farm

## CHEF TURNS IOWA PRODUCE INTO PLATED ART

Des Moines-based chef Aaron Holt, a culinary consultant for Sysco and the chef of farm-to-table meals across the state, knows just where to find all the best ingredients: Iowa's small farms.

Aaron learned the value of fresh ingredients from a young age after a childhood of cooking made-from-scratch meals with ingredients from his mom's garden. His love for food drew him into the restaurant industry at age 15, when he started as a dishwasher and worked his way up over the years to server, line cook and general manager.

After working at various restaurants in the Des Moines area and being named the Iowa Restaurant Association Chef of the Year in 2018, Aaron finally started making a name for himself as a self-taught chef. While he was excited to land the corporate job with Sysco, he was still searching for a more creative outlet.

Now, Aaron is working toward creating his own scenic venue at his mom's family farm, Doolittle Farm in Story City, which was built by his great grandfather in 1905 and includes a historic farmhouse and barn, nine acres of timber and, of course, a vegetable and herb garden. As the land's fourth-generation owner, he strives to invite guests to admire his family's land and run the venue full-time hosting rustic dinners in the house and barn, eventually offering a farm Airbnb experience and cooking demonstrations.

Until then, he continues delighting Iowans and visitors alike with his delightful creations, from seared duck with fall risotto to spring toast with beet-cured deviled egg. As his farm-to-table meals branch into Minnesota and other neighboring states, his support will always lie with small Iowa farms.



"Bringing this kind of good food and local produce to small Iowa towns that may not have a lot of healthy options, and putting it in a beautiful setting, just adds to the value and appeal," Aaron said. "And I want to bring that value to our family farm. My mom was floored by the fact that I wanted to keep the land, but I decided that's where I want to set my roots."

**Find farm-to-table dinners across the state.**





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