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📍 Field of Dreams, Dyersville

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THEBROWNSTHEATER.COM

The Brown's Theater
Live Music



ILOVEWELLS.COM

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ICECREAMDAYS.COM

Ice Cream Days Festival
June 17-20, 2026



EXPLORE LE MARS

- Ice Cream Sculptures
- Willow Creek Golf Course
- Alley Art
- Art Center
- Plymouth County Historical Museum
- Farmer's Market (seasonal)
- Le Mars Recreational Trail
- PlyWood Bike Trail
- Le Mars Community Theater



CHRISTMASINLEMARS.COM

Christmas in Hometown Le Mars
November 28, 2026

For community events visit
LEMARSIOWA.COM

life is sweet in le mars!



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THINK
YOU
KNOW

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and a food scene made for
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319-857-4300 | 1441 Marak Road, Swisher, IA | CedarRidgeDistillery.com



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 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
history.iowa.gov

TRANSPORTATION / ROAD CONDITIONS

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



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📍 **Field of Dreams, Dyersville**



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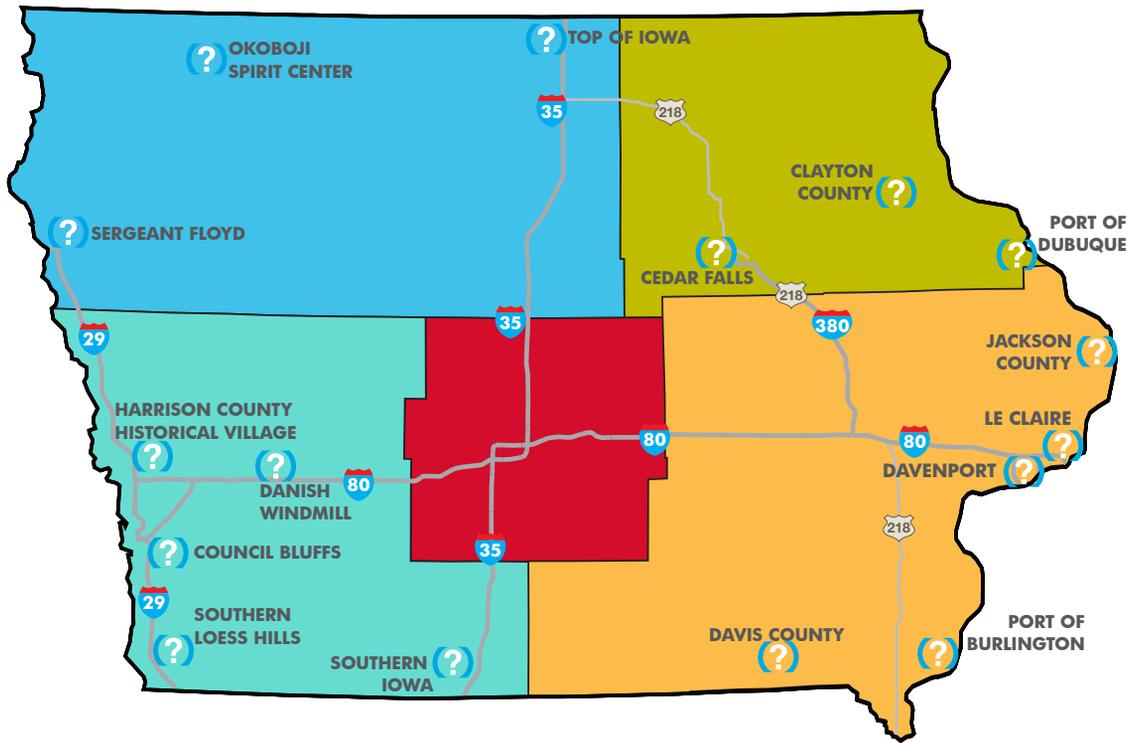
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Iowa Partnership Welcome Centers

Travel counselors available to provide brochures, maps and personal assistance to visitors.



Burlington Welcome Center

400 N Front St, Burlington
319.752.8731

Cedar Falls Tourism & Visitor Center

6510 Hudson Rd, Cedar Falls
319.268.4266

Clayton County Welcome Center

29862 Osborne Rd, Elkader
563.245.1516

Council Bluffs Welcome Center

509 23rd Ave, Council Bluffs
712.256.2577

Danish Windmill Welcome Center

4038 Main St, Elk Horn
712.764.7472

Davis County Welcome Center

301 N Washington, Bloomfield
641.664.1104

Dubuque Welcome Center

280 Main St, Dubuque
563.556.4372

Harrison County Welcome Center

2931 Monroe Ave, Missouri Valley
712.642.2114

Jackson County Welcome Center

305 South Ave, Sabula
563.687.2825

LeClaire Information Center

117 S Cody Rd, LeClaire
563.289.4242

Okoboji Spirit Center

243 W Broadway St, Arnolds Park
712.332.6550

Sgt. Floyd Welcome Center

1000 Larsen Park Rd, Sioux City
712.279.0198

Southern Iowa Welcome Center

109 Spruce Dr, Lamoni
641.784.4800

Southern Loess Hills Welcome Center

2083 Crossroads Dr, Percival
712.385.8449

Top of Iowa Welcome Center

4705 Wheelerwood Rd, Northwood
641.324.3184

Visit Quad Cities Welcome Center

102 S Harrison St, Davenport
309.736.6834

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We know creating an itinerary can be a daunting task, so we've crafted a tool that makes it easier than ever.

BUILD A TRIP allows you to enter your starting and ending destination and explore a variety of Iowa attractions, restaurants and lodging opportunities along your route. Simply add them to the list and complete your trip by emailing it to yourself.

Enter your starting and ending destination to discover all of Iowa's amazing attractions, restaurants and lodging opportunities along your route, and add them to your itinerary.

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Q Where do I begin to plan my trip?

Hi there! I'm Goldie - your own personal Iowa travel guide. Whether you're seeking the best farm-fresh eats, outdoor adventures, hidden gems or just wondering why everyone waves at you (it's an Iowa thing), I've got you covered. Tell me what you're interested in, and I can help you find it.

2026 Events

📍 Rock at the Grotto,
West Bend

From lively music festivals and charming small-town parades to outdoor adventures and mouthwatering culinary events, Iowa offers a full calendar of experiences that showcase the state's vibrant culture and scenic beauty. Below is a sample of the thousands of celebrations that happen annually in Iowa.

Discover even more events and start planning your trip at [traveliowa.com](https://www.traveliowa.com).

Lakes & Land

JANUARY

The fictional **University of Okoboji** marks the 45th anniversary of its annual **Winter Games**. The three-day event includes food, music and family fun. Watch or participate in a variety of activities, from broomball and bags to human dogsled races and a polar plunge. [uofowintergames.com](https://www.uofowintergames.com)

FEBRUARY

Bring your golf clubs out of hibernation and compete in the unique **Arctic Open** tournament on frozen Black Hawk Lake in Lake View. Teams of three compete in a Best Ball competition followed by prizes and free chili. [lakeviewlifestyle.com](https://www.lakeviewlifestyle.com)

Recognized as the Midwest's largest and most colorful winter kite festival, **Color the Wind** is a must-see extravaganza. Join the crowd on the frozen waters of Clear Lake and admire inflatable kites of all shapes, sizes and colors as they soar in the sky. [clearlakeiowa.com](https://www.clearlakeiowa.com)

MAY

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. [ortulipfestival.com](https://www.ortulipfestival.com)

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](https://www.masoncityia.com)

JUNE

Rock at the Grotto is a family-friendly event in West Bend that supports the restoration of the Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption. Enjoy food trucks, homemade pies, kids' games, entertainment and tours of the largest grotto in the country. [westbendgrotto.com](https://www.westbendgrotto.com)

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](https://www.icecreamdays.com)



📍 Wood, Wine + Blues, Storm Lake

JULY

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](https://www.saturdayinthepark.com)

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

Billed as "The World's Greatest County Fair," the **Clay County Fair** in Spencer features blue-ribbon competition, entertainment, family-friendly activities and your favorite fair foods. [claycountyfair.com](https://www.claycountyfair.com)

Loess Hills & Beyond



MARCH

The **Iowa Nebraska Heartland Film Festival** showcases films with a strong connection to either state. Categories include documentaries, dramas, horror, comedies and more. Films will be shown at the Corning Opera House in Corning. corningoperahouse.com/filmfestival

MAY

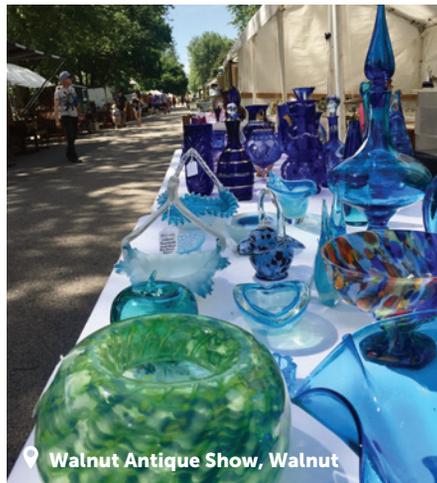
Railroad Days is an annual celebration of all things train and track. The 2026 edition will feature a public display of the Louisiana Purchase Proclamation at the Union Pacific Railroad Museum, part of Council Bluffs' celebration of America's 250th birthday. unleashcb.com

Join Elk Horn for **Tivoli Fest**, a weekend filled with Danish fun to celebrate the arrival of the holiday season. Sample Danish pastries, breads and open-faced sandwiches alongside other specialties and visit over 15 vendors selling one-of-a-kind gifts. danishvillages.com

JUNE

BedfordFest brings big fun to Main Street Bedford with a vendor fair, food trucks and family-friendly activities. Visitors can shop for antiques, books and clothing from charming local businesses.

Held annually on the second weekend of June, the **Glenn Miller Festival** 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



Walnut Antique Show, Walnut

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. walnutiowa.org

SEPTEMBER

What started in 2014 as an effort to elevate local artists has since grown into the three-day **Southwest Iowa Art Tour**. Admire the works from more than 70 artists between 16 gathering places and 11 communities. swiarttour.com

Join the fun of the **Southwest Iowa Hot Air Balloon Days**. Creston's ballooning event is recognized as the second largest rally in the state and welcomes more than 50 balloonists to compete in a series of races. crestoniowachamber.com

NOVEMBER

Beginning in November and running through February, Manilla's **Christmas Animated Extravaganza** includes more than 600 animated figures from Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus to Disney figures and others.

DECEMBER

Watch fireworks over Atlantic's Historic Rock Island Depot, then snuggle up and admire the glow of floats as they drive down Chestnut Street during the **Lighted Christmas Parade**. Arrive early to take a horse-drawn carriage ride or visit with Santa in his cabin. atlanticiowa.com

Capital Country



JANUARY

Botanical Blues has been the best bet for a Sunday afternoon of warmth, local music and a kicked-back vibe for 20 years. The 2026 lineup will include beloved musicians from the last two decades and some fresh new sounds. Concerts are each Sunday, January through March, at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden in Des Moines. dmbotanicalgarden.com

APRIL

Experience the vibrant traditions of the Balkans at the **2026 Folklore Festival** in Des Moines. The event features traditional dance performances by at least ten groups.

MAY

Pella commemorates its European heritage during the annual **Tulip Time Festival** with street scrubbing, Dutch dancers, tulip gardens and Dutch foods. visitpella.com

JUNE

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. facebook.com/baconrideiowa



Botanical Blues, Des Moines

JULY

One of the 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 compete in a variety of competitions. Visitors watch from below enjoying food trucks and live music. nationalballoonclassic.com

AUGUST

The three-day **Hinterland Music Festival** in Saint 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

The internationally acclaimed **Iowa State Fair** in Des Moines is the state's largest event. Iowans and visitors alike enjoy a smorgasbord of fried foods, live performances, agriculture exhibitions and the best people-watching around. iowastatefair.org

OCTOBER

Night Eyes at the Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines marks 35 years as a merry, not scary event. Children enjoy enchanted lighting displays and live entertainment and games while trick-or-treating through the zoo. blankparkzoo.com

NOVEMBER

Held annually on Small Business Saturday, Pleasantville's **Christmas on the Square** includes free hot chocolate and popcorn, carriage rides, visits with Santa and a tree-lighting ceremony. pleasantvillechamber.org

DECEMBER

Featuring more than 150,000 dazzling lights throughout 17-acres of outdoor gardens, Reiman Garden's **Winter Wonderscape** walk-through light show includes captivating tunnels that surround visitors with color, massive laser-lit disco balls, dynamic light strands dancing across a frozen lake, a colorful neon jungle and so much more. reimangardens.com

Driftless Area



APRIL

Every April, Dubuque's **Julien Dubuque International Film Festival** brings filmmakers and storytellers together to offer an inspiring program of documentaries, features and shorts. Hop into a panel discussion, evening events and musical performances to get the most out of the experience. julienfilmfest.com

JUNE

Originating from Cedar Falls' 1976 Bicentennial Celebration, **Sturgis Falls** marks 50 years in 2026. Named after the town's first settler, William Strugis, the festival includes live entertainment, a parade and kids' activities. sturgisfallscf.com

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



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

JULY

Decorah's annual Scandinavian celebration, **Nordic Fest**, welcomes more than 10,000 visitors for three days of delicious feasting, traditional crafts, cultural sporting events and a thrilling firework display. nordicfest.com

On select days during July and August, 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

AUGUST

Grab a fishing pole and show off some skills at Lansing's **Fish Days**. 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

SEPTEMBER

The 50th annual **Rendezvous Days** will be held the last full weekend of September. The free, family-friendly event is unique amongst similar historic-reenactment type events because of its location at an actual retired military fort, Fort Atkinson State Preserve in Fort Atkinson.

An Oktoberfest-style celebration, Guttenberg's **Germanfest** centers around Biergartens, German music, dancing, wiener dog races and more. Running enthusiasts can also compete in the 5K. guttenbergiowa.net

NOVEMBER

Join over 8,000 attendees in admiring a vast collection of farm toys from 300+ vendors at the **National Farm Toy Show**, the largest show of its kind in the world. The event is spread out between various locations in Dyersville and offers visitors the chance to add to their own collections. nationalfarmtoymuseum.com

Storied & Scenic



MARCH

Celebrate global storytelling at the **Ottumwa International Film Festival** in Ottumwa. This two-day event features a dynamic lineup of short and feature films from gripping dramas to innovative experimental works alongside filmmaker Q&As and awards honoring cinematic excellence. ottumwafilmfest.com

APRIL

The **Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival** celebrates the work of filmmakers from across the state, the country and the world, all with connections to Iowa. Films will be shown at the Collins Road Theatres in Cedar Rapids. crifm.org

The annual **Kalona Quilt Show & Sale** in Kalona marks 55 years in 2026. More than 200 new and antique quilts will be on display and for sale during the three-day event. facebook.com/kalonaquiltshow

MAY

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



Lighted Christmas Parade, Oskaloosa



RAGBRAI, Statewide

JUNE

The **Cedar Rapids Marathon Weekend** debuts in June. The inaugural event will feature a Boston-qualifier marathon, half-marathon, marathon team relay, 10K, 5K and kids run. Routes will showcase Cedar Rapids' downtown, trails, riverfront and surrounding neighborhoods. cedarrapidsmarathon.com

JULY

The **Sweet Corn Serenade** in downtown Oskaloosa is a beloved summer tradition celebrating community, flavor and farm life. Visitors enjoy fresh sweet corn off the cob, live music, displays of classic and modern farm equipment, along with plenty of family-friendly entertainment throughout the day.

mahaskachamber.org/mainstreet

Held each summer in Davenport, the **Bix Jazz Festival** honors the legendary cornetist with a weekend of live jazz performances, dancing and community celebration. Honoring the Iowa-born musician, the festival draws jazz enthusiasts from across the country to enjoy top-tier talent and pay tribute to Bix's enduring influence on American music. bixsociety.org

AUGUST

Watch hundreds of local and migrating American white pelicans in large flocks in the sky and on the water during **Pelican Festival** at the Hawkeye Wildlife Management Area near Swisher. iowacitybirdclub.org

OCTOBER

Spread throughout the 12 quaint Villages of Van Buren, the **Scenic Drive Festival** is definitely road-trip-worthy. The festival includes arts, crafts and antique vendors alongside art shows, live music, garage sales, kids' activities, a parade, car and motorcycle shows and delicious food. villagesofvanburen.com

DECEMBER

Oskaloosa's **Lighted Christmas Parade** is one of Iowa's largest and most festive holiday parades, featuring a dazzling display of lighted floats. A highlight of the event is the "Painting with Lights" display, where historic downtown buildings are adorned with over 200,000 lights, creating a magical and vibrant holiday atmosphere. mahaskachamber.org/mainstreet/

Statewide

Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (**RAGBRAI**) brings people from all over the world together for an epic annual eight-day rolling festival of bicycles, music, food, camaraderie and community. It is the oldest, largest and longest recreation bicycle touring event in the world. ragbrai.com

Billed as the world's longest relay, **Relay Iowa** is a 339-mile adventure run across Iowa for teams of up to 12. Runners begin in Sioux City on a Friday morning and take turns running through three days and two nights to reach Dubuque. relayia.org

WHAT'S NEW IN 2026

TOP EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS



📍 Sioux City Distilling Company, Sioux City



SIOUX CITY SIOUX CITY DISTILLING COMPANY

Local entrepreneur Austin Foster is leading the restoration of Sioux City's Ogden Building, originally opened in 1892, into the **Sioux City Distilling Company**. The transformed space will become a vibrant restaurant and event venue. Foster will use juniper grown on land in the nearby Loess Hills to create the distillery's gin. siouxcitydistillingco.com



WEST BRANCH HERBERT HOOVER PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM

Step into history at the newly revitalized **Herbert Hoover Presidential Library & Museum** in West Branch, slated to reopen summer 2026. This reimagined national treasure brings Hoover's extraordinary journey to life: from his humble Iowa beginnings to his global impact as a humanitarian, engineer and President. Immersive exhibits, powerful media experiences and rarely seen artifacts reveal Hoover's belief in service, innovation and the power of community. Visitors can also explore the story of Lou Henry Hoover, a pioneering First Lady whose intellect and leadership shaped the nation. hoover.archives.gov

📍 Herbert Hoover Presidential Library & Museum, West Branch





📍 Wanderwood Gardens, Dubuque



DUBUQUE WANDERWOOD GARDENS

Coming in summer 2026, **Wanderwood Gardens** in Dubuque will be a magical forest of make believe for adventurers of all ages to explore, play and find joy and inspiration in nature. Adventurous visitors can dig for treasure, fill mine carts with sand, or duck into a cool tunnel, climb a whimsical tree play set with slides and interactive features and visit homes of the Wanderwood fairies and elves. The garden will be located next to the Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens. wanderwoodgardens.com



📍 T12 Distillery, Bondurant



BONDURANT T12 DISTILLERY

Owner Scott Turczynski, a paraplegic entrepreneur, is designing **T12 Distillery** in Bondurant as the country's only fully wheelchair-accessible distillery inside an abandoned grain elevator. The distillery is named after the injury to his T12 vertebra, and each beverage's name will relate to spinal injury education. The first phase of the project, a tasting room, speakeasy and a cigar patio, plans to open in spring 2026. t12project.us

DYERSVILLE FIELD OF DREAMS

Major League Baseball returns to Iowa in August 2026 when the Minnesota Twins and Philadelphia Phillies meet at the **Field of Dreams** game in Dyersville. The game will take place on a field next to the famed movie site. fieldofdreamsmoviesite.com

CORNING OAKWOOD RETREAT

Located in the Loess Hills near Corning, **Oakwood Retreat** offers the perfect blend of comfort and nature. Choose from a bell tent, an A-frame or a geodesic dome and savor the serene sights and sounds of the area. oakwoodretreat.org

NORTH LIBERTY HY-VEE AMPHITHEATER AT CENTENNIAL PARK

The **Hy-Vee Amphitheater at Centennial Park** in North Liberty will debut in May 2026 and host a variety of free and ticketed seasonal events for all ages. The new outdoor venue is an exciting addition for regional entertainment and completes the first of a four-phase development of the park. Future amenities will include a premier splash pad, year-round pavilion with expanded plaza space and an honor garden. northlibertyiowa.org/centennialpark



 **Field of Dreams, Dyersville**



 **Oakwood Retreat, Corning**

Hy-Vee Amphitheater at Centennial Park, North Liberty





📍 Bally's Marquette, Marquette



CLINTON WORLD-RENOWNED TROLLS

Clinton will soon welcome "The Iowa Dambo Trolls," a captivating public art installation by world-renowned artist Thomas Dambo. Known for transforming discarded materials into large-scale sculptures, the Denmark-based artist brings his imaginative creations to Iowa for the first time. The trolls will become a permanent part of Clinton's cultural landscape, with installations near the Sawmill Museum and the Bickelhaupt Arboretum. thesawmillmuseum.org



SIoux CITY SIouxLAND SPLASH

Spanning 10 acres, **Siouxland Splash** in Sioux City, will feature a towering 50-foot-tall slide structure with multiple slides cascading from its peak. Visitors can unwind in a relaxing lazy river, dive into the activity pool and enjoy a variety of water-based experiences perfect for all ages. Families will love the expansive kids' play zone, complete with interactive splash elements designed for endless fun.



COUNCIL BLUFFS MIDAMERICAN ENERGY ADVENTURE TOWER

The 138-foot-tall **MidAmerican Energy Adventure Tower** at River's Edge Park in Council Bluffs will take visitors above the trees to experience panoramic views of the Missouri River. An adventure course includes an outdoor 50-foot-tall climbing wall (designed to meet the standards for a pre-Olympic speed climbing site), simulated caving experiences and two 480-foot-long roll-glide tracks. councilbluffs-ia.gov



MARQUETTE BALLY'S MARQUETTE

Casino Queen Marquette will be renamed **Bally's Marquette** as part of its highly anticipated move to a newly developed permanent landside facility in Marquette, set to open in early 2026. The name change will coincide with a comprehensive \$21 million transformation project, which includes relocating the gaming floor ashore and introducing new dining, gaming and entertainment experiences.

13 STOPS ALONG THE HISTORIC LINCOLN HIGHWAY



📍 Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad, Boone

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THE FASTEST WAY ACROSS THE COUNTRY WAS BY TRAIN,

and roads were only a way of traveling locally. In 1913, a group of businessmen suggested a planned and improved automobile route stretching from Times Square in New York City to Lincoln Park in San Francisco, California. The route became the Lincoln Highway, the first improved transcontinental roadway. Iowa's portion was designated a Heritage Byway in 2006 and a National Scenic Byway in 2021. Don't miss these 13 attractions along the route.

1. Great Revivalist Brewery, Clinton 🏰

Located inside Clinton's beloved Gothic Revivalist church, the brewery offers a one-of-a-kind experience. Step inside to admire the church's repurposed materials such as tables crafted from its pews, stunning architecture and famous artwork lining the walls. Grab a table to sip on craft brews or sodas and enjoy freshly made breakfast and lunch menu items.

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. (Bonus: Find a 1727 German Hausbarn moved all the way from Schleswig-Holstein, Germany in 2007 also in the park.)

3. 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 and completely rehabilitated in 1996, the hotel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, it offers four modern suites along with a small-town setting and beautiful rural scenery.

4. Lincoln Wine Bar, Mount Vernon 🏰

Named one of the 22 best pizzerias in the United States by The New York Times. The establishment is an old-school bar and restaurant where the menu is driven by seasonal produce provided by local farmers including morel mushrooms, asparagus, Iowa pepperoni and hot honey. The pizzas are then baked in an Italian-made, wood-fired oven.

5. Lincoln Café, Belle Plaine 🏠

If you love soup or chili, then the Lincoln Café is a must stop. Opened in 1928, the café offers a cozy small-town dining experience with a mix of modern seating, historic charm and service that can't be beat. Breakfast is served all day along with an impressive lunch and dinner menu, though the homemade soups continue to be the most popular.

6. Meskwaki Cultural Center & Museum, Tama 🏠

The Meskwaki Nation works hard to preserve its history. Tribal members may be most well known for their service to the United States: eight of the 27 tribe members who volunteered for service after the attack on Pearl Harbor went on to become "code talkers." The Meskwaki tribe were among 25 Indigenous tribes that later received the Congressional Gold Medal for their service. A display at the museum provides more information about the Code Talkers.

7. Watson's Grocery Store Museum, State Center 🏠

Built in 1895 and in business until 1989, Watson's Grocery Store has remained virtually unchanged. 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. This museum is open Memorial Day through Labor Day on weekends from 1-4 p.m.

8. Reed/Niland Corner, Colo 🏠

The Reed-Niland Corner is the last remaining "one-stop" in Iowa that still has a gas station (museum), a working cafe and a working motel. Located at the crossroads of two transcontinental highways, the Lincoln Highway and the Jefferson Highway, the Corner has survived the relocation of both roadways, and the building of the first separated road intersection in Iowa. Today, visitors can still enjoy a hearty meal from Niland's Café or enjoy a night in a room at the Colo Motel. Take the walking tour around the corner to learn the history and find original Lincoln Highway and Jefferson Highway markers.

9. 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. Rail Explorers takes you along the same route, but on a rail bike.

10. Mahanay Bell Tower, Jefferson 🚪

Located on the town square, the 14-story carillon features an enclosed observation deck where visitors can admire the Lincoln Highway from above 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 may catch some tunes on your visit. The tower is open daily from Memorial Day through September and weekends in May and October.

11. Chicago at North Western 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 is listed 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.

12. Iowa's Longest Intact Brick Portion of the Lincoln Highway, Woodbine 🚪

Woodbine is proud to have one of the longest original brick stretches of the historic Lincoln Highway. Together with the Brick Street Historic District, several blocks of buildings and roads were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1913. Enjoy lunch while admiring the art, architecture and train history of this quaint Main Street Community.

13. 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 legendary route.

TAKE AN ADVENTURE ACROSS IOWA'S HIGHWAYS

and enjoy the historic sites, unique attractions and natural beauty along the way. In season three, Road Trip Iowa follows Highway 141, from Western Iowa to the High Trestle Trail; explores surprising stops along the Avenue of the Saints; and travels Highway 60 to the "Ice Cream Capital of the World." With Dutch traditions in Pella and Orange City, ziplining in Dubuque, dirt racing in Oskaloosa and fossil hunting near Mason City, Iowa PBS is plotting a course to discover the best Iowa has to offer. Learn more at iowapbs.org/roadtrijiowa.



📍 Lincoln Wine Bar, Mount Vernon



SIPS WITH A TWIST:
Iowa's Craft Scene
Gets Creative

 The Cellar Winery, Madrid

Iowa's wineries, breweries and distilleries aren't just pouring drinks – they're pouring on the creativity.

Across the state, you'll find live tunes drifting through tasting rooms, products with uniquely Iowa names and even craft sodas made in-house for a family-friendly twist, creating scenes where local flavor meets local flair.

SIPS WITH A SOUNDTRACK

In Ankeny, grab a craft brew and turn your focus to center stage, where **Firetrucker Brewery's** Inferno series ensures a Friday night packed with local bands, cold beer and food trucks. Each week's fiery lineup is free to enjoy and features everything from 90s throwbacks to acoustic jams and gypsy jazz. firetrucker.com

From laid-back courtyard shows to open-mic nights, Calmar's **Pivo Brewery** always has live music and delicious craft beers on tap. The events calendar is packed with a mix of free and ticketed events highlighting rotating artists as well as opportunities for locals to show off their talents. pivobrew.com

With a culture that encourages patrons to connect, **Carroll Brewing Co.** in Carroll has cultivated a vibrant live music scene. Most Saturday evenings throughout the year, you'll find the taproom filled with tunes from local and regional talent, offering the perfect accompaniment to the handcrafted beers and intimate venue. carrollbrewing.com

Live music is always in the mix at **BIT Brewery** in Central City – from scheduled gigs most weekends throughout the year to pop-up showcases and BIT O' Talent events. There's a song for every moment alongside wood-fired pizzas and delicious craft brews.



A tasting experience at **Iowa Distilling Company** in Cumming involves more than a sample of the handcrafted spirits. Recurring events also introduce visitors to local artists and food trucks. Live music takes over the space most weekends and includes piano bar nights, singer-songwriter showcases and more. iowadistilling.com

Known just as much for its music as its wine, **Jasper Winery** in Des Moines is a go-to spot for lively summer fun in Des Moines. Its Summer Concert Series transforms Thursday nights into a free, open-air music fest with local and regional bands, food trucks and plenty of wine and cider to go around. jasperwinery.com

Transform your summer evenings into musical outings at **Park Farm Winery** near Durango. Local musicians perform at the vineyard's stage every weekend, May through August. Each lineup pairs perfectly with a glass of wine, wood-fired pizzas and artisan bites plus stunning views of the area's rolling hills. parkfarmwinery.com

The Cellar Winery near Madrid is all about good vibes. The Sunday Music Series and Fire Pit Fridays ensure every weekend (well, May through September) is a good one. Each concert is open-air, cover-free, all-ages and even dog-friendly. Just bring your own chair or blanket to relax on with wine glass in hand. thecellarwinery.com

Keep the wine and music flowing at **Fireside Winery** in Marengo. Local musicians bring the patio to life most Saturday and Sunday afternoons during the summer. And when the weather turns cool, intimate acoustic sets keep things cozy in the indoor taproom. firesidewinery.com

Cedar Ridge Winery & Distillery near Swisher is all about spirited fun. The taproom and patio cheers are almost constantly accompanied by vibrant music. Pair your wine or craft cocktail with weekend acoustic sets, lively festival-style performances and even full-blown festivals with Cedar Ridge's year-round event calendar. cedarridgedistillery.com

No matter the weather, **Revelton Distillery** in Osceola keeps the tunes flowing year-round. The taproom comes alive every Saturday night with a rotating mix of local and regional artists. During the warmer months, food trucks join the entertainment mix. reveltondistillery.com



A TASTE OF PLACE

“Pseudo Sue” from **Toppling Goliath**, Decorah: Named for Sue the T. Rex fossil, which was discovered in the Midwest, it also symbolizes the pale ale’s unique taste and formidable presence in the craft beer world. tgbrews.com

“Ruthie” from **Exile Brewing**, Des Moines: Offering a taste of Iowa folklore in pint form, this iconic lager is named after Ruthie Bisignano, the 1950s beer-stein-balancing sensation of Des Moines. exilebrewing.com

“Loesscato” from **Oscar Carl Vineyard**, Sioux City: This cleverly named sweet white wine makes a friendly toast to Iowa’s Loess Hills and offers unique spin on the classic Moscato. oscarcarlvineyard.com

“Tipsy House” from **West O Beer**, Milford: Named after the legendary Tipsy House attraction at Arnolds Park Amusement Park and brewed to support its restoration, this tasty West Coast-style IPA features aromas and flavors of pine and citrus. westobeer.com

📍 **Exile Brewing, Des Moines**

“Hawkeye Point Pilsner” from **Drink Me Brewing Company**, Sibley: This pilsner takes the classic style to new heights—literally—by paying homage to the nearby Hawkeye Point, which marks Iowa’s highest elevation point. facebook.com/drinkmebrewing

“Slipknot No. 9 Iowa Whiskey” from **Cedar Ridge Distillery**, Swisher: Made in collaboration with Iowa’s world-famous metal band Slipknot, this whiskey is a smooth blend of Iowa corn, rye and bourbon that’s mashed, fermented, distilled and aged all at Cedar Ridge. cedarridgedistillery.com

“Gable” from **SingleSpeed Brewing**, Waterloo: This clean, crisp and golden lager pays direct homage to Dan Gable, Iowa’s wrestling legend and Olympic gold medalist. singlespeedbrewing.com



📍 **Cedar Ridge Distillery, Swisher**



📍 Fireside Winery, Marengo

CRAFT WITHOUT THE BUZZ

Amana's **Millstream Brewing's** Old-Time Root Beer and house-made sodas are just as famous as its award-winning handcrafted brews. The soda lineup includes sugar-free root beer, cream soda, orange cream soda, black cherry soda, ginger beer, grape soda and sarsaparilla. millstreambrewing.com

Housed inside a beautifully converted church, **7 Hills South** in Clinton offers carefully crafted sodas that complement the beer selection. Pair a root beer, grape soda, apple soda or orange cream with a wood-fired pizza, sandwich or smash burger for the perfect outing. 7hillsbrew.com/clinton

In addition to specializing in small-batch, craft-fermented ciders, **South Porch Cider** in Grundy Center also partners with local organizations to offer handcrafted sodas. Choose a cherry limeade, sparkling spice cider, sarsaparilla or ginger ale, or order a flight to try four-ounce pours of all four.

Bringing new life to an old Main Street building, **Ten Wasp Brewing** in Sumner welcomes drinkers and nondrinkers alike to enjoy the inviting space. The menu includes three house-made sodas – Root 93, a traditional creamy root beer; Sassy Frass Root Beer, an old-school sarsaparilla; and Cherry Favorite, a black cherry soda. There is also the option to make each soda a float by adding vanilla ice cream. facebook.com/tenwaspbrewing



📍 South Porch Cider, Grundy Center

FISHING IOWA'S LAKES AND WATERWAYS: Advice for Anglers of all Skill Levels

Whether wading into cool trout streams or trolling well-stocked lakes, the best fishing spots get you closer to your goals. We've asked an accomplished Iowa angler to suggest some favorite locations.

Meet the Expert

MIKE STEUCK

Mike recently retired from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Bureau after over 35 years working on Iowa's rivers and streams.



A native of the Driftless Area, Mike is an avid angler and loves targeting trout, walleye and smallmouth bass. Recognized for his outstanding contribution to the fisheries profession by the Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, he also volunteers on the Iowa Coldwater Conservancy Board.





HOW TO GET STARTED

Fishing gear doesn't need to be fancy or expensive. Stop into your local outdoor sports store to find the basics.

1. Simple pole and reel with a light (6-pound test) line.
2. Small hook (size 4 or 6) with a small split shot crimped 4-6 inches above the hook.
3. Bait for the hook. Try small redworms, night crawlers wax worms, or other bait.
4. Small bobber.
5. Fishing license for Iowa residents 16 years old or older.

(Licenses required for non-residents 14 years old or older.) Anglers need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. The daily limit is five trout per licensed angler with a possession limit of 10. Children age 15 or younger can fish for trout with a properly licensed adult, but they must limit their catch to one daily limit. The child can purchase a trout fee which will allow them to keep their own limit. Visit iowadnr.gov for more information on fishing licenses and fishing regulations and laws.

FUN FISHING DATES

What's more al-lure-ing than fishing in romantic company? Reel in a catch at one of these cozy spots:

Pack a picnic and head to Little Paint Creek, a hidden gem in the **Yellow River State Forest** near Harpers Ferry. This scenic stream is stocked weekly from April through October with catchable 10-12" rainbow trout and provides anglers with opportunities for wild brook and brown trout. Recent habitat improvement collaborations between the Iowa DNR and several nonprofit partners enhanced the aquatic ecosystems. New plunge pools are prime holding lies for trout.

Add sunset fishing to the list of activities you can enjoy during a Central Iowa getaway by booking a cabin at **Jester Park**, just 30 minutes northwest of Des Moines in Granger. This beautiful 1,675-acre park is home to three ponds packed full of bass, bluegill, green sunfish and crappie. Plus, equestrian stables offer romantic winter sleigh rides.

Paddle to a quiet cove on **Lake Macbride** to fish for the prized Kentucky spotted bass. Walleye, channel catfish and musky are also popular finds that can be caught using the lake's accessible fishing pier or a fishing jetty. Overnight at the stylish Literary Hotel in Solon and treat your significant other to breakfast pastries from The Eat Shop bakery.

PLACES TO TAKE KIDS FISHING IN IOWA

Fishing offers youth a rewarding lesson in patience and persistence. Spend some screen-free time on family-friendly fishing trips at these top spots:

Big Spring Fish Hatchery Kid's Fishing Pond in Elkader, near the Turkey River, is reserved for youth 15 years old or younger. (Kids must be accompanied by a licensed adult).

At the **Decorah Fish Hatchery** in Decorah, see how trout are raised, feed fish of all sizes for 25 cents, then go fishing. Bonus: the whole family will enjoy a relaxing afternoon by the Siewers Springs waterfall.

Rathbun Fish Hatchery, located at the southeast end of Rathbun Lake near Moravia, inspires kids with mounts of state record catches and fishing gear displays. Stay and splash at the nearby Honey Creek Resort indoor waterpark after outdoor fishing adventures.

Big Sioux River or Turtle Pond at **Stone State Park** in Sioux City provides kids a gateway to the Loess Hills. The Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, playgrounds and several scenic overlooks add to the draw.

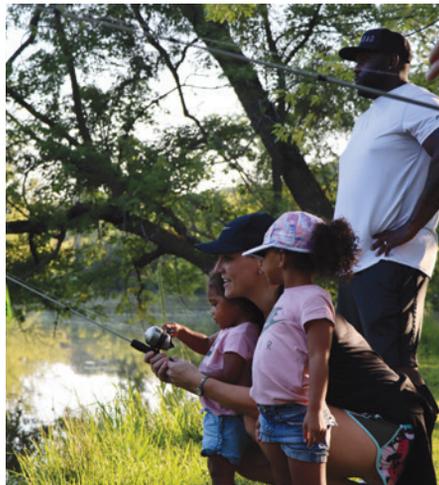
Richmond Springs at **Backbone State Park** is among the numerous Iowa streams stocked April-October. With easy access to the creek, little ones can try for trout at many places throughout the park.

BEST PLACES IN IOWA TO FISH FROM A BOAT

Go beyond the banks and jetties to fish deeper waters in these spots:

Formed by creating a dam on a branch of the Nishnabotna River, **Lake Anita State Park** near Anita features two boat ramps, a kayak launch and dock space for pontoons. When lily pads make fishing along the shoreline tricky, boat anglers have an advantage. An underwater roadbed running north and south also provides good habitat for the bluegill, crappie and channel catfish populations. Skilled anglers can try for walleye here, too.

In **Green Valley State Park** near Creston, conservation efforts on the 390-acre lake improved habitat for bluegill and crappie. Two ADA-compliant fishing piers, jetties and boat ramps offer plenty of access points. Night fishing between 10:30 p.m. and 4 a.m. is permitted on the shoreline adjacent to Green Valley Road. Drop a line along the dam embankment or near the spillway. Lights on your boat draw the bugs, bugs draw the minnows and minnows draw big fish.



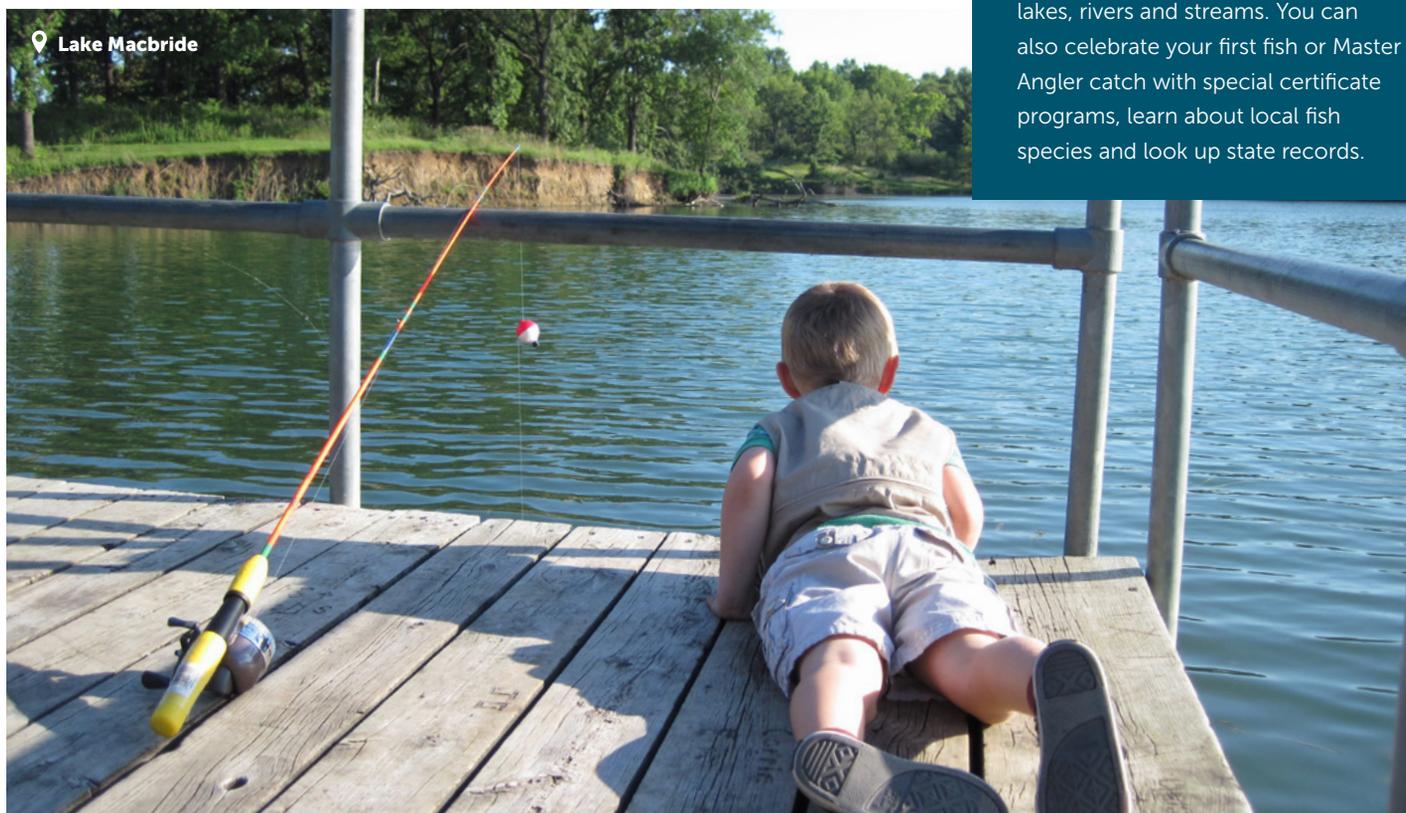
Summer is fun for pleasure boating in the Okoboji area, but the less crowded spring and fall “shoulder seasons” make for better fishing. **Spirit Lake** is Iowa’s largest, at 5,684 acres. Boat rentals abound in one of Iowa’s most popular vacation destinations, and numerous guide services get you out on the water with all the equipment and expertise you need. Try for walleye, smallmouth bass, musky, bluegill and crappie. Guides know their bodies of water and local baits well. They take you straight to the most productive spots, optimizing your on-the-water time.

Blooming redbud trees at **Red Haw State Park** near Chariton signal the best time to fish for bluegill and crappie (typically mid-April to early May). Dig up some earthworms and cut them into small sections before casting into a nesting area around Red Haw Lake. Largemouth bass are also abundant here. To hook them, target shorelines and the edge of the lily pads with spinners or plastics. An ADA-accessible kayak launch and dock make getting on the water easy.

The **Village Creek** boat landing in Lansing is an ADA-accessible public boat launch managed by the Allamakee County Conservation Board. Use this spot as your gateway to the Mississippi River and set off in search of walleye, smallmouth bass, bluegill and crappie. Amenities include a paved boat landing, fishing floats, courtesy dock, kayak launch and information kiosk around a large parking lot. Look for snags off the channel with deep water nearby.

RESOURCES

At iowadnr.gov, you'll find maps, regulations and the best spots for fishing with reports specific to Iowa's lakes, rivers and streams. You can also celebrate your first fish or Master Angler catch with special certificate programs, learn about local fish species and look up state records.



📍 Lake Macbride

Fantastically Fresh FARM STORES



There's something special about knowing exactly where your food comes from, meeting the farmers producing it and seeing the land where the magic happens. These farm stores across the state make fresh produce, dairy and meat products easily accessible. (Note: Hours vary, so verify before traveling.)

 Harvestville Farm, Donnellson



Wilson's Orchard, Iowa City

Fueled by the motto "health is wealth," **Black's Heritage Farm** in Ames has been carefully cultivating its land, growing produce and raising animals for five generations. What started as a small roadside sweet corn operation has since grown into an on-farm store that sells a variety of fresh vegetables plus eggs and farm-raised broilers. blacksheritagefarm.com

Conveniently located in Uptown Ankeny and downtown Greene, **West Forty Market** is a one-stop shop for all kinds of meat and fresh produce. You'll find more than 120 different cuts of beef, pork, chicken, bison, lamb and turkey – all raised hormone- and antibiotic-free on local farms and handled by local lockers. Beyond the meat counter, shelves feature products from 30 more Iowa-based businesses. westforty.com

A fifth-generation family farm, **Purple Ribbon Beef** in Britt takes pride in its sustainability practices and the high level of care it provides its herd, both of which contribute to the high-quality beef products. These products, plus a wide variety of goods from other local producers, can be found in their on-farm store. purpleribbonbeef.com



Hansen's Dairy, Hudson

You'll find **Cinnamon Ridge Dairy Farm's** charmingly named Country Cupboard farm store at the end of a half-mile driveway near Donahue. Step inside to discover an array of the dairy's award-winning cheeses made on the farm, including cheddar, Gouda, alpine, muenster and more, beef and pork products, homemade baked goods, breads, cookies and fudge. The collection also includes goods from other local producers, including soaps, popcorn. tourmyfarm.com

Harvestville Farm in Donnellson is a fifth-generation operation that invites families to lose track of time on its fun-filled acreage. Mixed in among the pumpkin patches, vegetable gardens, flower fields, play areas and corn maze is a stunning retail barn. Inside, its shelves are lined with an extensive collection of seasonal home and patio décor plus locally made products from nearby producers. harvestvillefarm.com

Hinterland Dairy in Donnellson offers a true glimpse into farm-to-table. They grow the crops that feed their herd, milk their cows twice a day and use the rich, creamy milk to craft high-quality cheese, cheese curds, quark and ice cream. Their shelves also stock other locally made goods like honey, salsa, jams, beef sticks and jellies to create perfect road trip snacks. hinterlanddairy.com

Owned and operated by the same family for over 150 years, **Hansen's Dairy** is an industry legend. Every day they milk 150 cows in their herd (twice!), process the milk in their farm's creamery and transform it into the products you'll love. See this process up close by booking a tour of their Hudson farm or find their products and other local goods in their stores in Waterloo and Cedar Falls. hansensdairy.com

Wilson's Orchard offers farm stores in both Iowa City and Des Moines. Each location boasts shelves stocked full of seasonal produce, ethically raised meats and dairy products, homemade treats and pantry staples both from Wilson's and other local producers. They also feature Wilson's in-house prepared foods and craft beverages, including apple cider and hard ciders made at the on-site cidery. wilsonsorchar.com



📍 Frisian Farms Cheese House, Leighton

Started by two brothers who wanted to return to their dairy farm roots and Danish heritage as adults, **Frisian Farm Cheese House** in Leighton specializes in Gouda. Shop shelves full of several ages of Gouda – from curds to sneek, or 1,000 days – in a variety of fun flavors like smoked, cumin, Italian, garden vegetable and more. frisianfarms.com

A former seasonal family farm pop-up market, **One Farm Market** has since grown into a brick-and-mortar local foods store conveniently located on Logan's main street. You'll find the farm's organic vegetables alongside herbs, produce, meats, eggs, dairy, honey, baked goods, pantry items, coffee beans and more sourced from other local producers. one-farm.com



📍 Calyx Creek Lavender, Oxford

When the owners of **Sunset Hills Bison Ranch** first brought bison to their land near Malcom, so many people randomly stopped to admire the herd that they decided to give visitors a reason to stay. They added an on-farm retail store that offers an impressive lineup of bison meats, including ground meat, breakfast links, burger patties, brats and hot dogs plus BBQ and summer sausage sticks. sunsethills.life

Sustainable Sanctuary partners with other local producers to provide chemical-free food year-round to the community of Missouri Valley. Step inside to discover a carefully curated collection of freshly harvested produce like sweet corn, cucumbers, potatoes, pumpkins, tomatoes and zucchini; fresh fruit like pears, cherries, grapes, raspberries, peaches and strawberries; plus animal products like eggs, honey, chicken, goat cheese and more. ssfarmiova.com

Built next to the owners' family farm, **Savor the Barn** in Monticello is the kind of store that catches your eye as you drive by and makes you circle back. The beautiful rustic red barn houses fresh produce and pork raised entirely without chemical or antibiotics, plus a rotating lineup of local cheese, honey, baked goods, wines and organic specialty foods.

Settled on 40 acres of rolling hills, **Rhubarb Botanicals** near Mount Vernon is a certified naturally grown flower farm focused on sustainability. The Farm Store includes colorful bouquets, therapeutic salves and balms, tinctures and elixirs alongside other local producers' organically grown vegetables and fruit, sustainably raised eggs and meat and more. rhubarbbotanicals.com

Started by two (now adult) farm kids, **SkyView Market** in Nora Springs combines their love for agriculture, their herd and their community. Housed in a renovated 1902 dairy barn, the market offers their beef, other meat products, soap and skincare products, fruits, vegetables and more goods from over 50 local vendors. skyviewmarket.net

Located east of Osceola inside a stunning 1930s barn, the **Harvest Barn Marketplace** boasts a 25-year legacy of thrilling customers with their signature food products plus other local Iowa foods. The store is packed with pasture-raised beef and pork plus beef sticks crafted from a family recipe. Other local goods include homemade fudge, salsa, jams, coffee, honey, cheese, dips, soup mixes and gift boxes. harvestbarnmarketplace.com

It's free to visit **Calyx Creek Lavender** near Oxford and wander the more than 5,000 plants and six different lavender varieties (even dogs on leashes are welcomed). Visit the café to enjoy freshly baked lavender treats, ice cream and lavender-infused drinks and stop by the store to shop for all kinds of lavender goods, from lotions and oils to syrups and lavender sugar. calyxcreek.farm

Perhaps one of the most unique farm stores in Iowa, **Early Morning Harvest's** farm near Panora includes a year-round aquaponics greenhouse and organic flour mill. The store sells everything from fresh fruits, vegetables, leafy greens and honey to eggs, wheat, grains and flours. The shelves are also stocked with goods from other local and Midwest-based producers. earlymorningharvest.com

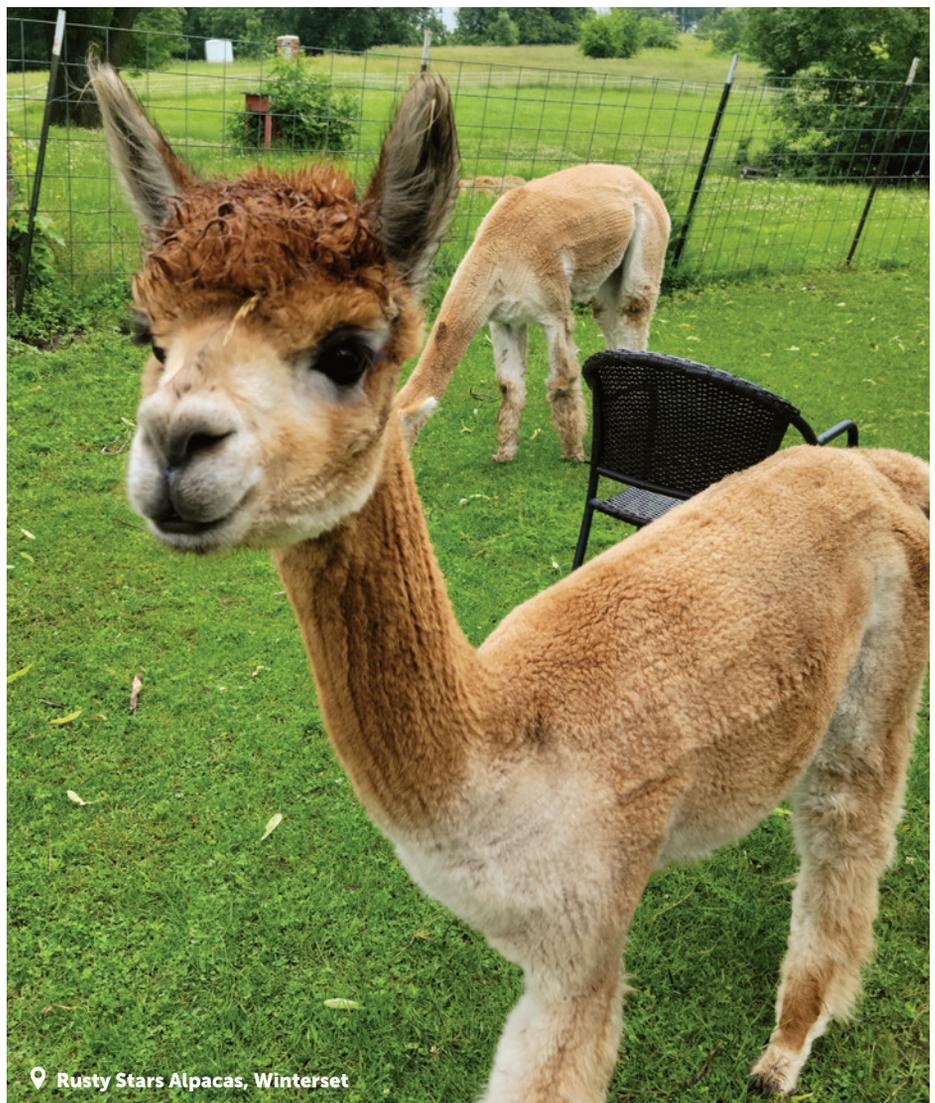
Step inside **WW Homestead Dairy's** retail store in Waukon to discover products from two local families with more than 90 years of experience in the dairy industry. Using fresh milk produced by their farms, they expertly craft cream-line milk, over 30 rotating flavors of ice cream, artisan cheese blocks, cheese curds, butter and small-batch cottage cheese. wwhomesteaddairy.com

Rusty Stars Alpacas, a small family-run farm outside of Winterset, welcomes visitors every weekend (for free!) to meet, feed and pet the friendly alpacas and shop products crafted from their wool. The on-farm store carries super soft yarn, gloves, socks and knitted hats, plus other fun items like adorable alpaca plushies, Rusty Stars merchandise, stickers and more. facebook.com/rustystarsalpacas

Goat dairy enthusiasts won't want to miss a visit to **Simple Life Farms** in Winterset, which offers an intimate experience with the milk-to-product process. Everything from fresh goat cheeses (in both chèvre, aged and curd varieties) to lotions, soaps, creams and body butters is made onsite from their own herds' milk. Farm tours are available, and the store operates by appointment only. simplelifefarms.com

Nestled among the rolling hills north of Winterset, **Speckled Hen Farms** is a foodie paradise. The stylishly remodeled shed is stocked with freshly harvested produce, a great variety of food products, olive oils, vinegars, fresh baked artisan bread, local coffee, honey, fun farm-inspired merch and more. speckledhenfarmsiowa.com

Support more than 80 Iowa farmers and families at **Picket Fence Creamery's** country store in Woodward. It's packed with the creamery's dairy delights, including fresh milk, butter, cheese curd varieties and dozens of flavors of ice cream. Pair these with beef, pork, chicken and even bison products plus eggs, produce, jams, pies and more offered from other local producers. picketfencecreamery.net



[Rusty Stars Alpacas, Winterset](https://www.facebook.com/rustystarsalpacas)

FOUR SEASONS:

ENDLESS TRAILS

IN ADDITION TO BEING THE “WORLD CAPITAL OF TRAILS,” IOWA IS A PLACE WHERE EACH OF THE FOUR SEASONS OFFER A REASON TO GET OUTSIDE.

In spring, wildflowers and prairie blooms line your route; summer offers shady green canopies; come fall, forests and river valleys ignite in a blaze of color; then winter rolls in and the landscape transforms into a frosty playground. No matter the time of year, Iowa’s trails are ready to show off the best sides of the seasons.

 **Yellow River State Forest, Harpers Ferry**



Whiterock Conservancy, Coon Rapids

SPRING

HIKING

As nature awakens in spring, **Yellow River State Forest** near Harpers Ferry transforms into a wildflower enthusiast's haven. Consisting of several units to explore, the park features an abundance of trails that wind, climb and dive into valleys. Below your feet, you'll discover a forest floor carpeted with trillium, Dutchman's breeches, Virginia bluebells and more, while the surrounding hardwoods dazzle with their first flush of green leaves overhead. iowadnr.gov

Hiking in spring at **Pony Creek Nature Center** in Pacific Junction is like walking through a living bouquet. Set off on the prairie trail to discover bursts of Pasque flowers, prairie violets, purple and gray-headed coneflowers and more spring wildflowers that are common in the Loess Hills area. Be sure to also keep an eye out for deer and fawns wandering through the prairie. mycountyparks.com

A hidden gem outside of Gladbrook, **Union Grove State Park** combines all the best aspects of nature – a lake, beaches, hiking trails, fishing docks, camping, wildlife and more. During the spring, the park's North and South hiking trails are transformed into a tapestry of wildflowers. Look for Virginia bluebells, false rue anemones, mayapple, wild ginger and more, plus wildlife like geese and their goslings. iowadnr.gov

BIKING

The 33-mile-long **Sauk Rail Trail** in Lake View offers a relaxing and scenic ride between Black Hawk and Swan Lake State Parks. Each spring, prairies along the paved trail burst with bright blooms of prairie violets, golden Alexanders and Pasque flowers and the surrounding wetlands welcome bird migrations that add music to the scene. sacountyiowa.gov

Race through a mosaic of spring ephemerals at **Whiterock Conservancy** near Coon Rapids. This 5,000+-acre nature escape boasts over 40 miles of mountain biking (and hiking) trails that wind through scenic woodlands. You'll want to slow down to admire the violets, wild phlox, coneflowers and golden Alexanders that line the singletrack routes. whiterockconservancy.org

SUMMER

HIKING

With plenty of variety, **Brushy Creek State Recreation Area** in Lehigh is an excellent summer hiking destination. It boasts over 45 miles of multi-use trails that weave through timbered valley, over prairie ridges, along lake shorelines and across creek bottoms, so you can alternate between shaded spots and open vistas – just be sure to bring plenty of water and bug spray. iowadnr.gov

As one of the largest continuous areas of timber in the state, **Shimek State Forest** in Farmington offers an immersive escape deep into the woods via an abundance of shaded trails. The Lick Creek Upper Loop trail system traverses through dense woodlands to offer ample shade and cooler temperatures that are less welcoming to bugs. iowadnr.gov

Enjoy a refreshing escape into Iowa's rugged beauty at **Bixby State Preserve** in Edgewood. Its trails meander through steep, forest slopes and along Bear Creek, offering serene views and chances to spot wildlife. The preserve's highlight is the Ice Cave, a unique geological feature where cool air flows from the cave's depths, maintaining a temperature around 52 degrees year-round and making it a natural air conditioner during the summer months. iowadnr.gov

BIKING

Winding for 26 miles through lush farmland, wooded corridors and small towns between Dubuque and Dyersville, the paved **Heritage Trail** makes for a perfect summer bike ride. Enjoy the warmth of the sun-soaked stretches paired with the coolness of shaded canopies, plus opportunities to stop for cold drinks or ice cream in the charming communities. The trail's relatively flat terrain makes for a smooth and easy ride. mycountyparks.com

Considered by many to be a hidden gem among central Iowa's trail system, the **Chichaqua Valley Trail** stretches for 26 miles between Bondurant and Baxter. The paved route features gentle curves and long shaded sections plus scenic creek crossings, lush meadows and dense woodlands, farms and many convenient access points. Keep an eye out for deer, turkey and other wildlife as you pedal, and be sure to greet the surrounding farms' cattle herds. chichaquavalleytrail.org

Escape the summer heat and crowds on southwest Iowa's **Wabash Trace Nature Trail**. It's recognized as one of the state's premier trails and runs for 63 miles between Council Bluffs and Blanchard through the Loess Hills. The paved trail features access points in almost every town along the way, plus shaded woodlands and gently rolling valleys that make summer rides perfectly enjoyable. wabashtrace.org



Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

FALL

HIKING

Few things are more magical than the fall views at **Effigy Mounds National Monument** near Harpers Ferry. The brilliant autumn colors brighten the 20+ miles of hiking trails and perfectly frame the sweeping overlooks of the Mississippi River. The ancient animal-shaped Native American mounds appear more dramatic against gold, red and orange leaves. [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov)

Discover more spectacular fall views at the **Hitchcock Nature Center** in Honey Creek. As the surrounding forested ridges and prairies shift into fall foliage, climb to the top of the 45-foot-tall observation tower for a bird's-eye view of the changing colors, then set off on the 14 miles of trails to admire the colors up close. Fall also brings bird watchers to observe the thousands of eagles, hawks and other raptors that pass through the area. [pottconservation.com](https://www.pottconservation.com)

For a more rugged, yet equally stunning, fall hiking experience, head to **Stephens State Forest** near Chariton. Spanning 15,000+ acres over five counties, the forest is divided into multiple units. The Lucas and Whitebreast Units are the best for hiking and together offer over 25 miles of trails to explore. As the oaks, hickories and maples turn rich shades of gold, orange and crimson, every mile of the narrow trails feels like a painted tunnel. [iowadnr.gov](https://www.iowadnr.gov)

BIKING

Some of the best fall views in the state can be found riding across the **High Trestle Trail**'s iconic half-mile bridge near Madrid, where sweeping views of the Des Moines River valley below are made even more breathtaking by the endless horizon of autumn colors. The rest of the 25-mile trail, running from Ankeny to Woodward, offers a perfect mix of tree-covered and exposed sections, allowing riders to admire all sides of this stunning season. [inhf.org](https://www.inhf.org)

The scenic 11-mile loop **Trout Run Trail** in Decorah is even more enchanting when the temperatures cool and the leaves glow in shades of orange, gold and scarlet. Set off on a scenic ride that includes unforgettable views of rolling farmland, trout-filled streams and wooded hillsides, plus opportunities to spot bald eagles perched on the towering bluffs above the Upper Iowa River. [visitdecorah.com](https://www.visitdecorah.com)

Step straight into an Iowa autumn postcard by biking the 13-mile **Volksweg Trail**. Dutch for "people's path," it connects Pella to Lake Red Rock and features timbered stretches that tunnel your route with fiery reds and golds during the fall season. Then it opens to spectacular views of the lake perfectly framed by rolling hills of brilliant autumn colors and bright blue skies. [visitpella.com](https://www.visitpella.com)

WINTER

HIKING

One of Iowa's oldest state parks, **Pilot Knob State Park** in Forest City is a beloved winter recreation destination. Bring your boots or snowshoes for scenic snowy strolls through woodlands, along ridges and around the lakes – the Dead Man's Lake, McGrady and Plum Alley trails are excellent options. When the ice freezes over, Pilot Knob Lake is also a popular spot for ice skating and ice fishing. iowadnr.gov

With the sparkling 24-acre Green Valley Lake as the centerpiece, **Green Valley State Park** in Creston transforms into a fantastically frozen oasis each winter. Nine miles of snowy trails weave around the shoreline, offering a perfect mix of towering trees and wide-open prairies plus endless opportunities to spot wildlife. iowadnr.gov

Lake Macbride State Park near Solon offers another frosty lake getaway. The North Shore Trail boasts sweeping views of the frozen waters, the White Pine Trail offers an escape into the oak and hickory forest and the Beach to Dam Trail offers expansive views of the icy spillway and beyond. No matter the path you choose, this park feels like your own private winter retreat. iowadnr.gov



BIKING

For biking enthusiasts, Iowa City's newer **Woodpecker Singletrack trail** is a great fat tire destination during the winter months. The six-mile loop is rated as beginner-friendly and meanders through wooded areas, over wooden bridges and alongside Clear Creek, providing a scenic backdrop. While the trail's sandy soil drains well, it's advised to ride early in the morning when temperatures are lower to avoid creating ruts and damaging the route. bikeiowacity.com

Winding through a former coal mining operation, the 5.5 miles of singletrack trails at **Sunset State Park** in Indianola transform into a snowy paradise perfect for fat tire adventures. The route winds through woodlands and prairie remnants and features gentle climbs, flowing descents and tight corners that keep riders engaged without being overly technical, allowing them to enjoy the surrounding frozen ponds and frost-covered trees. iowadnr.gov

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

A popular outdoor recreation destination year-round, **George Wyth State Park** in Waterloo welcomes snowshoes, hikers, fat tire bikers and cross-country skiers alike during the winter months. The snow-covered bike trails transform into well-maintained and popular cross-country skiing trails, boasting over 10 miles for classic and skate skiing styles to enjoy. iowadnr.gov

Winter in Okoboji gives you a chance to see the **Iowa Great Lakes** in a whole new light. Cross-country skiing enthusiasts won't want to miss the opportunity to traverse the 14-mile section of the trail from Milford to Spirit Lake, which passes the frozen Okoboji and West Okoboji Lakes and Arnolds Park. You can also venture onto the Kenue Park and Arnolds Park City Trails to add loops to your route and pass serene prairies with the potential to spot wildlife. dickinsoncountytails.com

When snow falls, **Viking Lake State Park** in Stanton becomes a playground for cross-country skiers. Set off on the six-mile loop around the icy lake to discover sweeping views of the frozen expanse, quiet woods and snow-covered prairies. For a shorter route, embark on the one-mile Burr Oak Nature Trail. iowadnr.gov

SENSORY-FRIENDLY

SPOTS TO VISIT IN IOWA



 Iowa Children's Museum, Coralville

Exploring new places floods our senses.

Bright lights, big crowds and loud sounds at exciting destinations like amusement parks are often seen as part of the fun. But the roaring roller coasters that make thrill-seekers scream with delight may cause overstimulation for others. Even the Iowa State Fair, with its smorgasbord of tastes and smells, can pose challenges for people with sensory processing disorders.

Travelers with autism, brain injuries and other sensitivities seek out spots that pay special attention to the needs of neurodivergent visitors. Thankfully, many Iowa museums, venues and activity centers offer tailored experiences and calmer environments.

We've curated this list and tips for making any family trip more inclusive with help from ChildServe, a specialty pediatric healthcare provider for children and young adults with special healthcare needs.

ChildServe presents an annual **Sensory-Friendly Morning at the Iowa State Fair** which features special spaces, programming modifications and activities. For mom Missy Haden, dedicated sensory-friendly time set her family up for a successful experience.

"One of the highlights was the [air-conditioned] calming rooms we were able to access where our son could take a break from all the activities," Missy said. "He can get overwhelmed by the surroundings and being able to stop in to give him a break allowed our family to stay at the Fair longer and enjoy it all together!"

Get out of this world with sensory-friendly showings at the **Norris Corson Family Planetarium** (groutmuseumdistrict.org) in Waterloo. Held monthly, these 30-minute stargazing shows keep the lights dimmed and mute music and sound effects. The door of the planetarium remains open, so guests can come and go as desired. Tickets are \$3.

Extend the visit with stops at other sites and exhibits within Waterloo's **Grout Museum District**. A new on-site Wellness Room offers a quiet spot for museum visitors who feel overstimulated. Fidget toys, plushies and other calming tools appeal to people of all ages who need to take a break. Additionally, sensory-friendly signage includes labeled maps to help visitors assess each exhibit environment for sound and light levels. Sensory bags are also available to check out at no extra cost.

Also in Waterloo, **Get Air Trampoline Park** (getairsports.com) turns down the music and promotes a calmer atmosphere from 8-10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month. One parent or guardian is welcome to support jumpers on the trampoline for free.



ArtHaus (arthausdecorah.org) in Decorah hosts a sensory-friendly open studio time on Saturdays from 10-11 a.m. This drop-in opportunity allows creatives to access materials and equipment for painting, paper making, mosaic, sewing and more. During this designated hour, noises are kept to a minimum and lights are off in the studio. Day passes are \$10.

Prepare your pint-sized visitor using an online photo diary of a day at the **Iowa Children's Museum** (theicm.org) in Coralville. Online images highlight the thoughtful amenities like sensory bags with headphones, quiet zones and exhibit environments. Headphones are most useful in the Take Flight, Notion of Motion and Lights Out! exhibits.

On-site staff are trained to recognize guests with sensory needs. They know how to identify sensory overload and how to support and communicate with caregivers or individuals when needed. The museum's Family Sanctuary features a quiet space for families to take a break from the excitement of museum exhibits. Admission is free during Sensory Friendly Night, held the last Sunday of each month. These events are designed for families with members who experience sensory sensitivities, are on the autism spectrum or who have any health needs that would make a quieter visit more enjoyable.

Art and accessibility intertwine at the **University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art** (stanleymuseum.uiowa.edu) in Iowa City. Famous paintings like Jackson Pollock's "Mural" and works by artists like Joan Miró, Henri Matisse and Grant Wood are a lot to take in. The Family Quiet Room on the third floor offers a secure, private and quiet space for visitors. Complimentary weighted lap pads are available upon request at the welcome desk, as well as sensory bags.



📍 Iowa Children's Museum, Coralville



📍 Autistic & Loved Sensory Gym, Davenport



📍 Iowa State Fair, Des Moines

The **National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium** (rivermuseum.org) in Dubuque offers similar support. Located between the MakerSpace and the Boat Shop of the Mississippi River Center, a Comfort Room is available for those seeking privacy and a quiet area. It features a reclining chair, outlets, headphones, a functioning sink and fidget toys.

In Davenport, **Autistic & Loved Sensory Gym** (autisticandloved.org) is a family-oriented space founded by Argrow "Kit" Evans-Ford. This Iowa mom and entrepreneur launched a line of chewable jewelry pieces for kids after her two children were diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. She opened the drop-in-friendly gym in Davenport to create more social opportunities for kids and caregivers.

"We're called Autistic and Loved, but we're open to all children," Kit said. "We have a zip line, trampolines, a turbo slide and sensory stations. We just want to be a safe space for all kids, and especially kids who are neurodiverse."

Pair your visit with a trip to the **Family Museum** (familymuseum.org) in Bettendorf, which is designated as a Certified Autism Center™ by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards. Ask about quarterly after-hours sensory-friendly nights, which cap capacity at 100 visitors and often include therapy dogs on-site.

Many of the major attractions in the Des Moines metro, including **Blank Park Zoo** (blankparkzoo.com), **Des Moines Children's Museum** (dsmchildrensmuseum.com) and **Science Center of Iowa** (sciowa.org) all host sensory-friendly opportunities. The Science Center of Iowa also provides a sensory guide with coded maps that indicate audio, visual and tactile stimuli in each space throughout the building.

The **LaunchPAD Children's Museum** (launchpadmuseum.com) in Sioux City offers Sensory-Friendly Nights once a quarter, where children and families can enjoy the exhibits and activities in a quieter atmosphere at no cost. Lights are dimmed, capacity is limited and exhibits that create extra noise are turned off.

The **Le Mars Arts Center** (lemarsarts.com) in Le Mars offers sensory-friendly options including low-stim hours/tours, flexible lighting, quiet spaces and simple comfortable tools like earplugs or gloves. Staff is always happy to accommodate specific needs to ensure that every guest feels comfortable and supported while exploring the galleries, workshops and community events.

Mapping Sensory Inclusive™ places is part of the mission at KultureCity, a leading nonprofit on sensory accessibility and acceptance. Entertainment venues like the **Iowa Events Center** (iowaeventscenter.com) in downtown Des Moines and **Vibrant Music Hall** (vibrantmusicall.com) in Waukee are KultureCity certified to accommodate individuals with sensory processing disorders.

Principal Park (milb.com/iowa), home to the Iowa Cubs baseball team, is officially certified as a sensory-inclusive venue. Fans can check out sensory bags by leaving an ID with Fan Service or the front desk. Designated quiet spaces, including first aid on the concourse and a second-floor conference room are available all season long.

In Sioux City, the **Tyson Events Center** (tysoncenter.com) welcomes guests with sensory processing needs to stop by guest services located behind section 105 for KultureCity resources.

Discover Iowa. Check In. Earn Rewards.

The Travel Iowa Passports are your ticket to explore the state with exclusive deals and discounts, plus the chance to earn prizes along the way. Whether you're on the hunt for the best food and drink spots or looking for family fun, there's a passport for your adventure. Sign up for instant access to each passport on your mobile device. Get inspired by the lists of locations along Iowa's scenic byways, Iowa's 60+ State Parks, native Iowa wineries, breweries, distilleries and more.

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West O Beer, Milford

IOWA BEER PASSPORT

Iowa's breweries are HOPPY to see you! Check in at participating breweries to earn your way to an official Iowa Beer T-shirt and other prizes.



Empty Nest Winery, Waukon

IOWA WINE PASSPORT

Checking out Iowa's wineries will have you on Cloud Wine. Use the Iowa Wine Passport to earn your way to prizes that will have you shouting "Caber-yay."



Iowa Distilling Company, Cumming

IOWA DISTILLERY PASSPORT

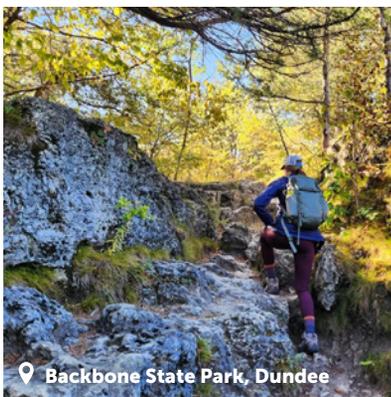
Great minds drink alike and so do we! Use the Iowa Distillery Passport to support locally owned distilleries and access a curated collection of deals.



Great River Road, Guttenberg

IOWA SCENIC BYWAY PASSPORT

Discover traveler recommendations, itineraries and discounts so you can slow down and enjoy a peaceful drive along Iowa's byways.



Backbone State Park, Dundee

IOWA STATE PARK PASSPORT

Explore Iowa's 60+ scenic state parks and track your progress to earn points toward prizes and giveaway opportunities.



Hansen's Dairy, Hudson

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TOURS & TASTINGS

Want to see farm to flask in action? Join us for a tour of Revelton's whiskey and gin production facility, where you can watch how we take Iowa's harvest and transform it into our finest spirits.

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PRIVATE EVENTS

We're proud to host regular events at our distillery. From local musicians to fellowship with our community, there's sure to be something to tempt your tastes.

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POETRY & ANTHOLOGY

INSPIRATIONAL

Booked for Adventure:

IOWA'S MUST-VISIT INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORES

There's something magical about stepping into a bookstore — you never know what wonders you'll find. These independent bookstores across the state invite you to peruse the shelves and enjoy plot twists like in-house cafes and bars, shop pets, bookish gifts and dreamy reading spots.



LATTES & LITERATURE

Picture yourself curled up in a comfy armchair, book in one hand and a specialty caffeinated beverage in the other. There's no better way to let the world melt away. Make that a reality at **By the Hearth Bookshop & Coffeehouse** in Bloomfield, where timeless stories and bestsellers meet cozy café chats complete with your favorite coffees and pastries. bythehearthbooks.com

Woman-owned and family operated, **Books and Bakery** in Carroll is all about chronicles, coffee and community. They boast a curated selection of new and used books across a variety of genres plus a coffee bar that serves specialty Guatemalan brews with a strong focus on being as low waste as possible. facebook.com/booksandbakeryllc

Located on Main Street Cedar Falls, **The Nook** pairs a thoughtfully curated collection of books, gifts and merchandise while the connected Reader's Cup serves locally roasted coffee and sweet treats. Owned by the same family, the two businesses create a cozy, story-filled escape. thenookcf.com

The Brewed Book welcomes coffee lovers and bookworms alike to Davenport's Hilltop neighborhood. This charming spot offers a delightful menu featuring coffee, smoothies and pastries alongside an extensive selection of used books and a relaxing atmosphere. thebrewedbook.com

Spread across three-and-a-half stories and complete with a second-floor café, **Prairie Lights Bookstore** has been an Iowa City literary staple since 1978. Grab a thoughtfully named cup of coffee and lose yourself among the tens of thousands of books and the constant hum of bookish conversation. prairielights.com



[The Nook, Cedar Falls](https://www.google.com/maps/place/The+Nook,+Cedar+Fall,+IA)

Blending comfy couches, honeycomb reading nooks, towering shelves, a full-service coffee bar and no Wi-Fi, **Sidekick Coffee & Books** in Iowa City makes all bookworms feel right at home. If coffee isn't your style, they also serve ice cream treats from Dan & Debbie's Creamery. Grab whatever satisfies your tastebuds, choose a book and settle into one of the nooks for a literary escape. sidekickcoffeebooks.com

Part bookstore, coffee shop, tearoom and bakery, **The Corner** in Mediapolis is the ultimate sweet escape. Grab a delicious latte, organic tea, sourdough scone or even a slice of pie to enjoy while scanning the shelves packed with used books and goods from other small local businesses.

Reading in Public is a woman- and Asian-owned indie bookstore-café in West Des Moines' historic Valley Junction that's beautifully designed with the community in mind. Its shelves are bursting with socially conscious books and titles in both English and Spanish. The café brews delicious coffee and serves vegan treats and bagels. You'll want to curl up with a book, coffee and pastry and never leave. readinginpublic.com

Home to a diverse collection of books and comics, plus games and collectibles, **Quest Haven Books & Comics** in Winterset is a, well, haven, for those seeking new adventures. Though they don't serve coffee, they do serve "Hero Haven" drinks, which include their own super soda concoctions to add a refreshing twist to your visit. questhavenbooks.com



📍 Walls of Books, Ankeny

PECULIAR PURRSONNEL

A vibrant Main Street and woman-owned store, **Dog-Eared Books in Ames** boasts over 10,000 titles plus exciting events that bring the book-loving community together. The real star, though, is the shop-dog-in-training Story, a golden retriever puppy whose working on her obedience skills so she can start greeting visitors with tail-wagging charm. dogearedbooksames.com

Living up to its name, **Walls of Books** is a homey used-and-new bookstore in Ankeny that's practically bursting at the seams with every genre imaginable. Savor a lazy afternoon browsing the shelves, trading in your old reads for new adventures and giving Isa, the best bookstore dog, a well-deserved belly rub. wallsofbooks.net

A warmly curated haven of books, gifts, toys, puzzles and even handcrafted jewelry, **The BookWorm Bookstore & More** in Bellevue is owned and operated by a passionate local, who ensures the store is open almost every day of the year. Be sure to say hello to the resident Boston Terrier, Brodie, who will gladly show you around the shelves. thebookwormbellevue.com

Step inside **Next Page Books** in Cedar Rapids and you might just find yourself being greeted by Frank, a sleek black cat whose deemed the shop's unofficial lead associate. He was rescued as a kitten and now works select days helping to create an inviting vibe that's become the hallmark of the store. He is even featured in the beloved Frank's Corner, which is filled with cat-themed books, mugs, cards and more. npbnewbo.com

Known for its whimsical charm and feline friends, **Paper Moon** is a delightful indie bookstore located in McGregor. The shop's resident cats Ruby, Popcorn and Pearl can often be found lounging among the collection of books, gifts and vintage finds, serenading visitors with soft purring while they browse. papermoonbooks.com

Tucked inside a stunning Greek Revivalist home, **The Haunted Bookshop** in Iowa City features 10 cozy rooms packed with over 40,000 used books across every genre imaginable. The beloved shop cats Aeschylus and Sophocles (nicknamed Esk and Sophie) add even more charm to the shop. [Please note the shop asks its visitors to wear masks.] thehauntedbookshop.com



Iowa City holds a literary crown as the first **UNESCO City of Literature** in the United States. This title honors the community's exceptional contributions to the literary world like the University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop, which was recognized as the first writing degree in the country. Today, Iowa City honors this legacy with the Literary Walk and Iowa City Book Festival, as well as countless local authors and reading programs. iowacityofliterature.org

READ BETWEEN THE WINES

Nestled inside Algona's historic train depot, **Volume J** combines the owner's love of books with a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Find a new book, enjoy a mimosa, Bloody Mary, glass of wine or non-alcoholic beverage, then choose one of the many cozy reading spots for a dreamy afternoon outing. volumej.com

A one-of-a-kind, woman-owned bookstore, **Prologue Books & Wine** in Charles City invites you to lose yourself among the shelves while sipping quality wines. The shop also has a dedicated play space and reading nook for kids, making it a welcoming spot for all ages to read and unwind. prologuebooksandwine.com

Find your next favorite read and even a new favorite wine at **The Latest Edition** in Creston. Make a selection from the endless shelves and curated wine collection, then curl up in the comfy chairs, chat with fellow book lovers or catch an exciting event for the ultimate bookstore visit. thelatesteditionbookstore.com

Located in the heart of downtown Humboldt, **Night Owl Books** blends new and used titles with board games, Dungeons & Dragons-related merchandise and even rotating craft beers from breweries across the state. For non-beer drinkers, they also offer wines, sodas and coffee to enjoy while you browse. facebook.com/nightowlhumboldt

Book browsing feels like happy hour at **Three Bells Books** in Mason City, where you can enjoy a glass of wine, beer or a soft drink while browsing the shelves. The community-focused indie bookstore boasts over 4,000 titles across genres, plus fun gifts, candy and cards. threebellsbooks.com



📍 Century Farm Books & Brews, Perry



📍 Dog-Eared Books, Ames

Sometimes referred to as a bookstore-meets-taproom, **Century Farm Books & Brews** in Perry offers a hand-picked selection of fiction and non-fiction books plus craft beers, wine and literary cocktails and mocktails. And their packed event calendar and resident cats make this bookstore even more visit-worthy. cfbooksandbrews.com

Step inside **The Black Rose**, a "boozy bookstore" in West Branch, to discover a beautiful blend of literature, libations and architecture. Peruse its collection of diverse, fantastic titles and merch while sipping on a craft cocktail and admiring vintage lights and stunning fireplaces. Be sure to come back for the shop's exciting events lineup. theblackrosewb.com

MORE INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORES IN IOWA

Perennial Pages

Bookshoppe, Ackley
perennialpagesbookshoppe.com

Dungeon's Gate, Ankeny
dungeonsgate.com

Sisters Books & Nooks, Cedar Rapids

The Honeyed Page Bookstore, Corning

Dragonfly Books, Decorah
dragonflybooks.com

Beaverdale Books, Des Moines
beaverdalebooks.com

The Little Book, Des Moines
thelittlebookdsm.com

Nos Books, Des Moines
nosbookstore.com

Shelf Love, Des Moines
shelflovedsm.com

Storyhouse Bookpub,
Des Moines
storyhousebookpub.com

River Lights Bookstore,
Dubuque
riverlights.com

Wandering Raccoon Books,
Grimes
wanderingraccoonbooks.com

Pageturners, Indianola
pageturnersbookstore.com

Captain's Book Shoppe,
Iowa City
captainsbookshoppe.com

Alter Ego Comics, Marion
alteregoia.com

HEA Book Boutique, Marion
heabookboutique.com

Swamp Fox Bookstore, Marion
swampfoxbookstore.com

Pella Books, Pella
pellabooks.com

Goose Feather Books,
Spirit Lake

Soul Book Nook, Waterloo
soulbooknook.com



📍 **Bent Oak Books, Fort Madison**

TOMES & TREASURES

Located on the brick streets of Bedford's charming historic district, **Hedgie's Books, Toys & More** boasts much more than books for all ages. Its shelves are also packed with educational toys and games the whole family can enjoy, plus food mixes and Iowa wines, making it a must-visit shopping destination. shophedgies.com

Get lost inside the endless **Book Shoppe** in Boone, which boasts over 45,000 new and used books, puzzles, games, coloring books, literary socks and whimsical gifts for book lovers of all ages. If you get too lost, just ask the friendly staff for a book recommendation or a point in the right direction. thebookshoppe.net

Discover a cozy hideaway in Burlington where every visit feels like a treasure hunt. **Burlington By the Book** features shelves stacked with titles for all ages, including local and regional favorites, plus games, puzzles, toys and unique gifts you didn't know you needed. burlingtonbythebookiowa.com

Locally owned, **Book People** has been a cherished Sioux City staple since 1977. This cozy shop offers a thoughtful collection of new books for all ages as well as children's toys, puzzles, gifts, greeting cards and stationery, plus friendly staff that can help you find exactly what you're looking for. bookpeoplesc.indielite.org

STORYBOOK SPACES

Housed inside a beautifully restored 1892 bank, Oskaloosa's **Book Vault** encourages every visitor to wander among its vaulted ceilings, marble walls, stained glass skylights and wood floors. You can even step inside the building's original bank vaults, which have been transformed into genre-specific book nooks.

bookvault.indielite.org

A small but wonderous store, **The Green Dragon Bookshop** in Fort Dodge specializes in fantasy, sci-fi, horror, mystery and romance stories for readers of all ages. Its floor-to-ceiling shelves are packed with endless new and used titles, plus plants and whimsical trinkets like fantasy-themed candles, 3D-printed dragons, collectibles and more.

thegreendragonbookshop.com

Tucked into a charming 1883 brick building and featuring tin ceilings, inviting chairs and well-loved shelves, **Bent Oak Books** in Fort Madison feels less like a store and more like an intimate reading lounge. Grab a cup of coffee or tea, browse the new and used titles, games and gift items then pick a spot to enjoy your next read or some quiet company.

Every visit to Mount Vernon's **Wren & Purl** feels like a warm hug. This bright and welcoming shop merges two cozy hobbies – reading and crafting – through its collection of yarns, books, kits and notions. Whether you're searching for your next read, project or simply inspiration, this is the place where creativity blooms.

wrenandpurl.com

With 15-foot-tall tin ceilings, a cozy fireplace and a mezzanine reading area, stepping into the **Book Vine** in Cherokee is like entering the literary living room of your dreams. Peruse the lively selection of bestsellers, kids' books, Iowa authors, classics and gifts, plus wines from around the world. For the ultimate bookish weekend getaway, book the Library Loft Airbnb next door. thebookvine.com



Celebrate Iowa's diverse, independent literary landscape

with the **Iowa Indie Bookshop Tour**, held July 1-September 30. Pick up your passport at one of the participating bookstores, get stamps at each location you visit and enter to win prizes. iowaindiebookshoptour.com



EXPLORE IOWA'S VIBRANT ART SCENE



📍 Art in the Park, Elkader

IOWA'S ART FESTIVALS OFFER LIVELY GATHERINGS WHERE CREATIVITY TAKES CENTER STAGE. Every festival features its own flavor, whether its nationally recognized artists showing off their best or local talent debuting fresh ideas. Add live music, food vendors and plenty of community spirit and you'll have a jam-packed day (or weekend) that offers the perfect introduction to a community and its art scene.



📍 Des Moines Arts Festival, Des Moines

The **Marion Arts Festival** is a one-day art festival that combines the best of big city events and small-town gatherings. Every May, Uptown Marion overflows with booths showcasing the creations of nationally recognized artists that guests can chat with while also enjoying live music, local food vendors and shopping at surrounding boutiques. marionartsfestival.com

A community tradition for over 40 years, the award-winning **Iowa Arts Festival** treats visitors and locals alike to a lively mix of art, music and food in the heart of downtown Iowa City. Held annually in early June, the event features over 100 artists showing off their expertise in everything from painting and pottery to handcrafted jewelry, woodworking and photography. summerofthearts.org

Winding down the historic and unbelievably crooked Snake Alley, the **Snake Alley Art Fair** in Burlington started as a small gathering of local artists over 50 years ago. Today, the one-day event welcomes artists from across the Midwest who show off an eclectic mix of handmade creations every June. btownart.com

With endless interactive activities and plenty of opportunities to engage with artists, the **Blanden Arts Festival** in Fort Dodge operates more like a community celebration of creativity. Held each June right outside the city's beloved Blanden Art Museum, it invites local artists to share their paintings, pottery, jewelry and more, musicians to share their magical tunes and food vendors to show off their iconic flavors. blanden.org

The vibrant **MacNider Arts Festival** unites art enthusiasts each June on the lawn of the MacNider Art Museum in Mason City for a day filled with creativity and community. The festivities kick off with a free pancake breakfast followed by kids' activities, an art market featuring unique pottery, jewelry, sculptures, glass art and more, plus live music. macniderart.org



📍 Snake Alley Art Fair, Burlington

Oskaloosa's **Art on the Square** is a lively festival of creativity and expression set in the heart of the historic downtown. This artful gathering occurs each June and brings together talented artists from near and far, transforming the square into an open-air gallery. The day is filled with music, flavorful fare from local food trucks, window art displays and a puppet parade. mahaskachamber.org

Internationally award winning, the **Des Moines Art Festival** draws almost 200 of the nation's top artists to the heart of Des Moines every year in late June. The three-day event transforms Western Gateway Park into a bold and impressive juried art show and also features live music, film screenings, interactive art experiences and a wide variety of food and drink vendors, all with the Pappajohn Sculpture Park as the backdrop. desmoinesartsfestival.org

Blending lakeside beauty and artistic vision, **Art in the Park** is a one-day art festival held in Clear Lake's City Park, just steps from the water. Each July, over 60 local and regional artists set up shop on the shoreline, where guests can stroll between the booths as well as enjoy live music and grab a bite from local food vendors. More fun can be found at the Clear Lake Arts Center, including free face paintings, giveaways and more art booths. clearlakeiowa.com

As balloons lift off for the National Balloon Classic in late July, artists take over Indianola's Buxton Park for the coinciding two-day **Summer Art Festival**. Admire the colorful balloons overhead while admiring the works of over 30 artists and the flavors of local food vendors. As a bonus, the weekend festivities also include the Indianola Hometown Celebration and parade, creating the ultimate blend of local culture and small-town charm. indianolaiowa.gov

DubuqueFest, a beloved staple of the local arts scene for decades, is known for taking over Washington Park the first weekend in August. The park's sidewalks are lined with booths showcasing the handmade creations of over 50 regional artists while a dynamic music lineup, diverse food vendors and hands-on activities add to the festive atmosphere and round out the event's reputation as one of Iowa's premier summer art festivals. dbqfest.com

Discover a unique blend of history and artistry at the **Amana Festival of the Arts**, held in Amana's Market Barn in early August. The vibrant one-day celebration brings together 30 local and regional artists, showcasing a dynamic mix of contemporary media and traditional German-inspired art. The community's German heritage also shines through via the event's food vendors, where items like fresh apple fritters delight visitors of all ages. amanacolony.com



Set along the scenic Turkey River, Elkader's **Art in the Park Fine Art Festival** transforms Founders' Park into a weekend destination every third weekend in August. For two days, over 50 regional artists showcase stunning paintings, jewelry, woodworking and more while food vendors delight with local flavors and wineries and breweries offer delicious samples. artintheparkelkader.com

Further enhancing the creative buzz of Cedar Rapids' Czech Village & New Bohemia District, the **NewBo Arts Fest** is held each year on the last Sunday in August. Started in 2007 as a music festival, it has evolved into a celebration of visual and performing arts. The event features a variety of works from regional artists plus live music, dances and cultural cuisine. Guests can also enjoy the vibrant neighborhood, which boasts a variety of specialty shops and boutiques. newboartfest.org

A can't-miss late-summer art event, **ArtSplash** offers two days of creative excitement every Labor Day weekend in Sioux City. Artists and art lovers alike flock to the Sioux City Art Center, where over 70 regional creators show off their works while live musicians provide entertainment and food vendors serve up exquisite flavors. Visitors can also enjoy interactive art zones for all ages plus short-film showings inside the art center. siouxcityartcenter.org



📍 ArtSplash, Sioux City

A signature fall tradition, **ARTapalooza** transforms Cedar Falls' Main Street into a colorful art gallery showcasing the creations of artists from across the region. It takes place the first Sunday in September and features a vibrant mix of paintings, pottery, fiber art, mixed media, metal work, glass art, sculptures and more, plus artist demonstrations, interactive activities for kids and live music performances. communitymainstreet.org

Located on Ames's charming main street, the **Octagon Art Festival** has been a beloved community tradition for over 50 years. On the last Sunday of September, nearly 100 artists set up booths and chat with visitors about their ceramics, paintings, photography, garden art, jewelry and other unique goods. Other fun includes live music performances and local food vendors, plus shopping at more than 50 locally owned specialty shops. octagonarts.org

Set against the scenic backdrop of the Mississippi River, the **Riverssance Festival of Fine Art** is a two-day event known as one of the Midwest's premier fine art festivals. Every September, over 90 of the region's top artists take over Davenport's Lindsay Park, where visitors can admire an endless array of artwork, as well as delicious food, beer and wine tents, live entertainment and hands-on art activities for kids. [Admission charged.] quadcityarts.com

Embark on a creative road trip during the self-guided **Southwest Iowa Art Tour**, which spotlights the rich artistic talents of the area's rural communities. Held annually the third weekend of September, this event invites participants to meander between designated Gathering Places – local venues such as galleries, studios and community centers – spread across 10 communities and featuring over 80 artists and a diverse range of works. swiarttour.com

Immerse yourself in art by participating in the **Northeast Iowa Artists' Studio Tour**, held annually in October. With Decorah acting as the central hub, this event invites participants to embark on a self-guided tour of studios, galleries and home workshops of artists within a 40-mile radius. At each location, visitors can meet the artist, watch demonstrations and purchase original paintings, ceramics, glass works, mixed media pieces and more unique creations. iowaarttour.com

Join Perry on the second weekend of November for **Art on the Prairie**, a celebration of small-town living, art, music and literature. The event takes over the historic downtown for two days of family-friendly fun, including over 50 art booths presenting everything from paintings and sculptures to ceramics, jewelry and other handmade works, plus live music, poetry readings and story times across a handful of community venues. artontheprairie.org



📍 Octagon Art Festival, Ames

DESTINATION DUPES

Why book a pricey flight when Iowa has its own passport-free adventures?

From Dutch tulip festivals and ceremonies that rival Holland's to Czech neighborhoods that feel like you're strolling through Prague, Iowa is full of cultural gems that channel far-off places. These destination dupes let you experience the sights and flavors of the world without leaving Iowa's borders.



📍 Orange City Tulip Festival, Orange City



📍 Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah

Decorah



Home to Luther College, the first U.S. college founded by Norwegian immigrants

Hosts several Norwegian events such as Syttende Mai Celebration and Nordic Fest

Must-visits: Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Seed Savers Exchange & Heritage Farm, Porter House Museum



📍 Nordic Fest, Decorah

Orange City



Founded by Dutch immigrants from Pella and named after the Dutch royal house Orange

The Orange City Tulip Festival is known for its street scrubbing ceremony, which symbolizes cleanliness and order before the festival begins

Must-visits: Windmill Park, Vogel Old Mill, Dutch American Heritage Museum

📍 Orange City





📍 Molengracht Canal, Pella

Pella

Settled by Dutch immigrants in 1847, now a treasure trove for all things Dutch



Community architecture inspired by Holland, including the musically animated Klokkenspel and Molengracht canal

Must-visits: Pella Historical Society & Museums, Jaarsma Bakery, Pella Opera House, Pella Tulip Time



📍 Tulip Time, Pella



📍 Danish Windmill, Elk Horn

Elk Horn & Kimballton



Recognized as the largest rural Danish settlement in the U.S.

Tivoli Fest shows off the best of Danish culture through Viking demonstrations, Danish folk dancing and a world eating championship

Must-visits: Danish windmill, The Museum of Danish America

Guttenberg

Settled in 1845 by German immigrants, it was named after Johannes Gutenberg, the inventor of the printing press. By 1850, the town had grown significantly, and nearly all residents were of German descent

German craftsmen built over 100 stone structures. Today, Guttenberg has more historic sites per capita than any other community in Northeast Iowa

Must-visits: GermanFest Celebration, Lockmaster House Heritage Museum, Guttenberg Gallery & Creativity Center



📍 Guttenberg



📍 Maifest, Amana Colonies

📍 Oktoberfest, Amana Colonies



Amana Colonies

Founded by German immigrants in 1855



Comprised of seven villages, which are collectively named a National Historic Landmark

Must-visits: Ox Yoke Inn, Amana Heritage Museum, Amana Furniture & Clock Shop, Maifest, Oktoberfest



Emmetsburg



Iowa's Irish Capital, official sister city to Dublin, Ireland

Home to a festive St. Patrick's Day celebration

Must-visits: Irish gift store, Kirby's Café and West End Pub



Marshalltown



Home to a large Hispanic & Latino population that shines through in the community's bi-lingual tourism marketing, restaurants and festivals

Must-visits: La Michoacana, Fisher Art Museum, Main Street shopping





📍 Sweet Mercantile, Cedar Rapids

Cedar Rapids' Czech Village & New Bohemia District



This district's roots go back to the late 1800s when many Czech, Slovak and Bohemian immigrants came to Cedar Rapids

Houby Days (meaning "mushroom" in Czech) celebrates Czech history and the arrival of spring

Must-visits: National Czech & Slovak Museum, CSPS Hall art galleries, NewBo Market

Dubuque

Named after Julien Dubuque, a 1700s French Canadian settler from Quebec



Dubuque's historic downtown area is filled with European-influenced architecture

Must-visits: Mines of Spain Recreation Area & Julien Dubuque Monument, Mathias Ham House, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium



📍 Julien Dubuque Monument, Dubuque

📍 Downtown Dubuque





NORTHWEST



Humboldt
Emily Dennis



Churdan



Gull Point State Park

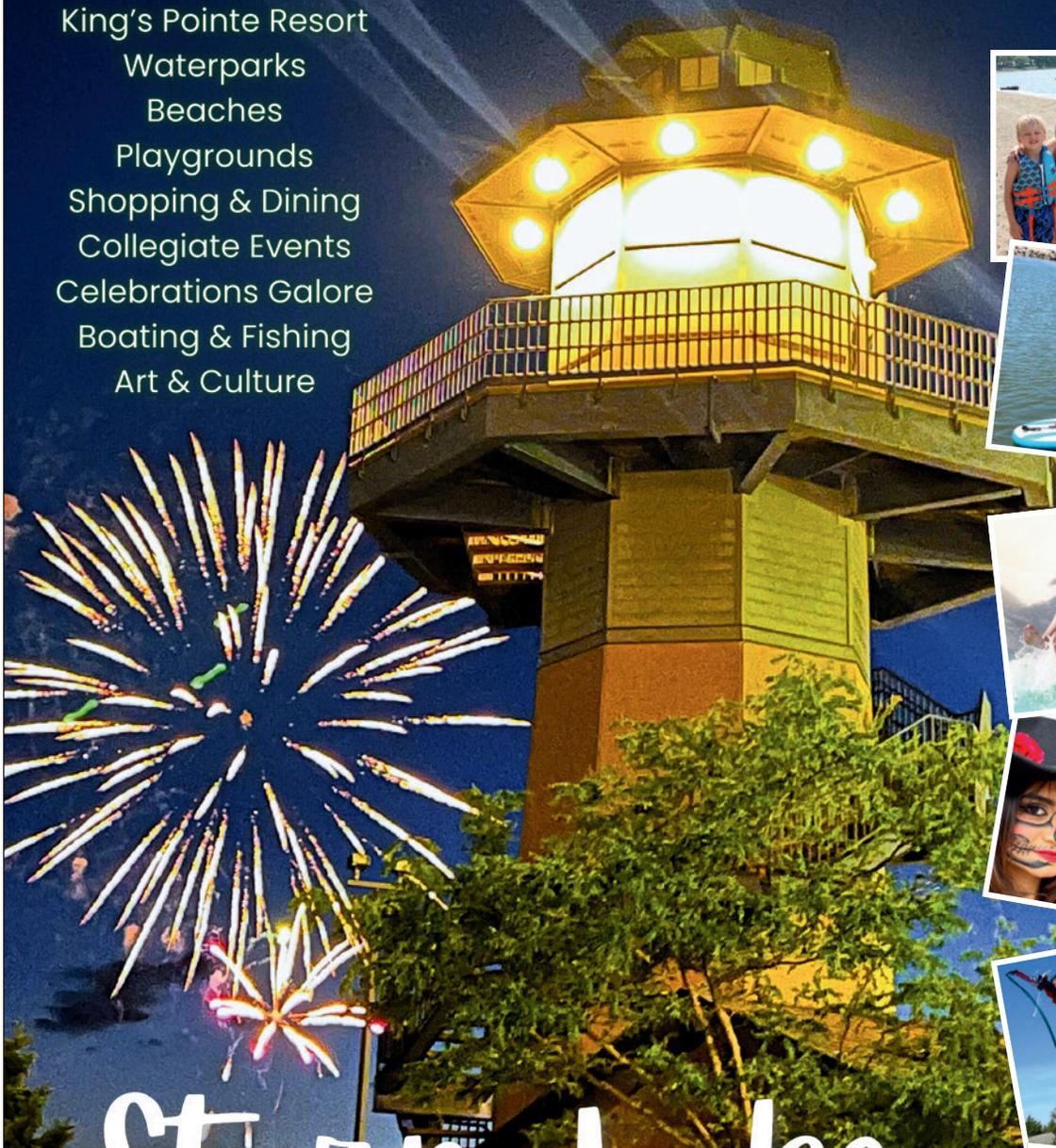
Iowa's lake life is underrated. Northwest Iowa has abundant opportunity for year-round water adventures. Okoboji, Clear Lake, Storm Lake, Lake View – all are home to boating in the summer and ice fishing (or ice golfing!) when winter settles in. Inland, experience breathtaking natural landscapes, awe-inspiring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

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Storm Lake

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Do



📍 Fort Frenzy, Fort Dodge

Fort Frenzy, the largest family event center in the area, offers endless fun in Fort Dodge. Outdoor attractions (generally open through October) include go-karts and mini golf. Indoors, enjoy laser tag or arcade games. fortfrenzy.com

Located on the site of a former Lake View laundromat, **Soak'd** is a two-story bar and live entertainment center boasting endless live music events year-round. It also serves delicious appetizers and fire-grilled pizza.

Reopened after a fire, the **Webster Theater** in Webster City now features heated recliner seats alongside exciting live performances and film showings on the area's largest screen. Visitors can admire the 1907 theater's past through the historic photos in the lobby. webstertheater.org

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Do

A year-round haven for outdoor adventure in Hinton, **Hillview Recreation Area**'s warm-weather adventures include hiking and horseback riding trails to swimming and fishing. In the winter, brave the tubing hill or snowshoe and cross-country ski the trails. mycountyparks.com

A random white elephant gift of a beermaking kit received by the owner turned into a passion and Humboldt hotspot. **TractorLift Brewery** is now celebrating five years of crafting creative brews and embracing community. facebook.com/tractorliftbrewery

Located in the heart of downtown Sioux City, the **Sioux City Public Museum** is celebrating 15 years of sharing stories about the area's past including Native American tribes, the evolution of transportation, agricultural industries and local legends. siouxcitymuseum.org

A quiet escape, **LilyLog Wildlife Area** features a 16-acre pond off the Little Rock River, offering opportunities for serene paddling or fishing. It's also a great spot for nature lovers to spot birds, enjoy peaceful waterside views and soak in a relaxing slice of rural Iowa scenery. lyoncounty.iowa.gov

Grand Falls Casino & Resort in Larchwood marks 15 years in 2006. Enjoy hundreds of slot machines, table games, live entertainment, a golf course or the state-of-the-art spa. The adjacent hotel includes indoor and outdoor pools. grandfallscasinoresort.com



📍 TractorLift Brewery, Humboldt



📍 Sioux City Public Museum, Sioux City

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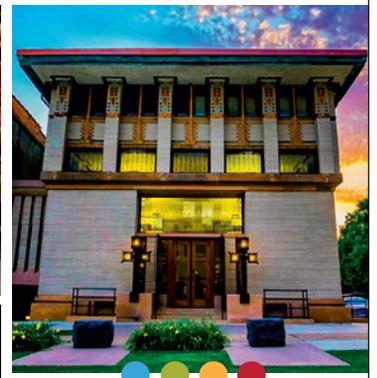
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MAIN STREET WEST BRANCH



iowaeda.com/main-street-iowa

IOWA
Economic Development



Eat

Dig into hearty farm-to-table meals at **Dreamerz** in Rock Rapids, a TV-free, music-only eatery that encourages connection through good food. The menu features house-smoked brisket and pulled pork sandwiches and wraps, local ground beef burgers, hand-pounded tenderloins, fresh salads and more, plus delicious breakfast items on the weekends.

Savor authentic Thai and Lao flavors at **Ying's Kitchen** in Storm Lake. Friendly service and accommodating spice levels make it easy to try new dishes. It's a local favorite for both dine-in and takeout meals, and is especially known for the yellow curry chicken, pad kee mao (drunken noodles) and Thai custard.

Housed inside a renovated 1890s brick building, **Feed Mill Coffee Co.** in Algona is a charming coffee shop and bakery. Its extensive food and drink menu includes homemade quiche and breakfast burritos to the popular Feed Mill Reuben, and specialty coffees like lattes, chai, energy spritzers and refreshers. feedmillcoffeeco.com

A cozy, family-run café, **Fat Annie's** is conveniently located right off Highway 3 in Remsen and boasts expertly crafted coffees. Start your day with a flavored latte, drip coffee or lotus energy drink, or try one of their seasonal specialties. facebook.com/fatanniescoffeestop



With a design that's inspired by the quaint cafés of Europe, **Juniper & Olive** in Jewell pairs European style with Iowa produce. Grab a made-from-scratch lunch, a cup of locally roasted coffee or sample Iowa wines. juniperandolive.co

📍 **Juniper & Olive, Jewell**

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Eat

Bring your childhood tea party dreams to life at **Tea Thyme and Thyme to Shop** in Fort Dodge. This upscale, yet friendly, dining experience introduces a new menu with each visit, but guests can always expect homemade soups, savory entrees and delectable desserts. The charming atmosphere is complemented by a quaint gift shop offering unique items. teathymeatsadies.com

Owned by a local mother-son duo, the **Wagon Wheel Café** in West Bend offers more than a small-town dining experience. Grab a table and enjoy daily homemade pie specials, popular menu items like burgers ground fresh daily and various sandwiches and salads. westbendwagonwheel.com



📍 Wagon Wheel Café, West Bend

Calico Skies Vineyard & Winery near Inwood boasts award-winning wines paired with amazing views and a delightful selection of wood-fired pizzas. The menu features classic options like Margherita, pepperoni and sausage plus unique creations like bacon asparagus or garlic chicken. calicoskieswine.com

📍 Calico Skies Vineyard & Winery, Inwood

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Stay



📍 Grain Bin Cabins, Sutherland

Tucked beside a serene 15-acre pond, **Scharnberg Park's** three charming cabins provide a perfect retreat for families and nature enthusiasts alike near Everly. Each cabin is equipped with modern amenities including heat/AC, kitchenettes, full bathrooms and Wi-Fi to ensure a comfortable stay year-round. Outside, guests can also enjoy the cabin's covered porch, grill and fire ring as well as the park's beach and trails. claycountyparks.com

Enjoy a peaceful escape near Webster City by staying at **Briggs Woods Park**, which has two year-round cabins for rent. The Legacy and Oak cabins overlook Briggs Woods Lake, and the park offers a trail that connects with Webster City. mycountyparks.com

Spend the night at **The Inn Hotel** in Okoboji to experience a perfect balance of luxury and history. Built in 1896 as "the hub of society," it has been renovated to reclaim its Golden Age-legacy of offering pleasure and escape through elegantly decorated rooms and amenities such as an onsite tavern, outdoor pool, fitness center and complimentary breakfast. theinnhotel.com

While known for its scenic lakeside eatery and Tiki bar, **PM Park** in Clear Lake also offers a variety of lodging options. Choose from one of the 14 hotel rooms or six two-bedroom apartments. Or book the four-bedroom Blue Cottage for a larger group getaway. There's no bad choice, all lodging is just a short walk away from a private sandy beach and local businesses. pm-park.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

As the last remaining Frank Lloyd Wright-designed hotel in the world, the **Historic Park Inn Hotel** 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

The **Warrior Hotel** in Sioux City has been meticulously renovated to join Marriott's Autograph Collection. Each guest room is uniquely designed and features elegant details that highlight the building's architecture. Enjoy a massage at Two Finches Spa, bowl in the hotel's state-of-the-art alley, take a dip in the indoor pool and hot tub or relax with a cocktail at the Crown Rooftop bar. marriott.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



📍 Scharnberg Park, Everly



📍 Historic Park Inn Hotel, Mason City



48 HOURS IN Spencer



DAY ONE

Start your Spencer adventure with a deep dive into the community's past at the **Clay County Heritage Center**. The center features two main galleries – one that hosts rotating exhibits while the other house a permanent collection of stories about settling Clay County, the Great Spencer Fire of 1931 and more. claycountyheritage.org

Just a short drive away in Milford, the **Horseshoe Bend County Wildlife Preserve** offers a wide array of outdoor activities. The preserve boasts 180 acres of land to explore along the Little Sioux River. It features an extensive trail system that winds through river valleys, forest, meadows and marshes, plus a playground, wildlife viewing blinds and picnic areas. dickinsoncountyconservationboard.com

End the day with authentic Italian cuisine at **Sammy's Italian Pasta & Pizza**. The hand-tossed pizzas, creamy pastas and hearty strombolis are all crafted with fresh ingredients and served inside a cozy atmosphere by friendly staff. sammysitalian.com

For a comfortable stay, check into a room at Spencer's **AmericInn by Wyndham**. It's located just minutes from downtown and includes amenities like a free homestyle breakfast and an indoor pool and hot tub. wyndhamhotels.com



📍 Horseshoe Bend County Wildlife Preserve, Milford



📍 Clay County Heritage Center, Spencer



Pressed

DAY TWO

Located in downtown Spencer, **Medlar Coffee Co.** is the perfect breakfast spot. They prioritize using the highest quality organic beans to craft specialty coffees of every flavor, which can perfectly pair with breakfast items like avocado toast, sausage sandwiches, oatmeal and baked goods. medlarcoffeeco.com



Spend an afternoon exploring Spencer's delightful blend of historic charm and modern retail experiences. Discover vintage treasures at **Spencer Furniture & Antiques** ([facebook.com/spencerfurnitureandantiques](https://www.facebook.com/spencerfurnitureandantiques)), handcrafted jewelry and apparel at **Pressed** (pressedcollection.com), unique curated collections at **The Lorelei Boutique** (the-lorelei.com), stunning handmade glass art at **Vermeer Glass Art Studio** (vermeerglassart.com) and more.

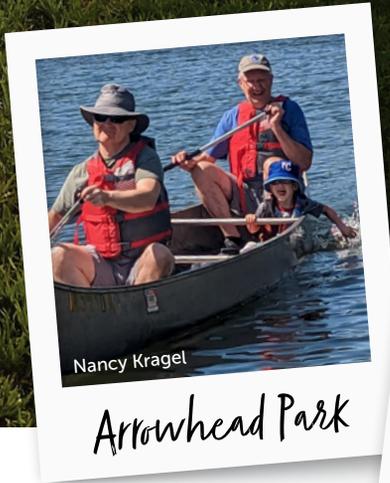
Experience a local favorite known for its hearty comfort food. **Weasy's Lounge & Grille** features a menu filled with a variety of burgers, sandwiches and daily specials. The signature dish, the "Weaser Pleaser," is a must-try and features a beef and sausage burger topped with pepper jack cheese, bacon and peanut butter. weasys.com

In its fifth generation of family ownership since 1903, **Jones Dairy** welcomes visitors to see an Iowa dairy farm in action. Stop by the visitor center during public hours to watch the milking process or schedule a guided tour to also see the barn, greet the calves and milk a cow. jonesdairyfarm.com





📍 **Waubonsie State Park, Hamburg**
📷 @a.c.garrett



Arrowhead Park



Jefferson

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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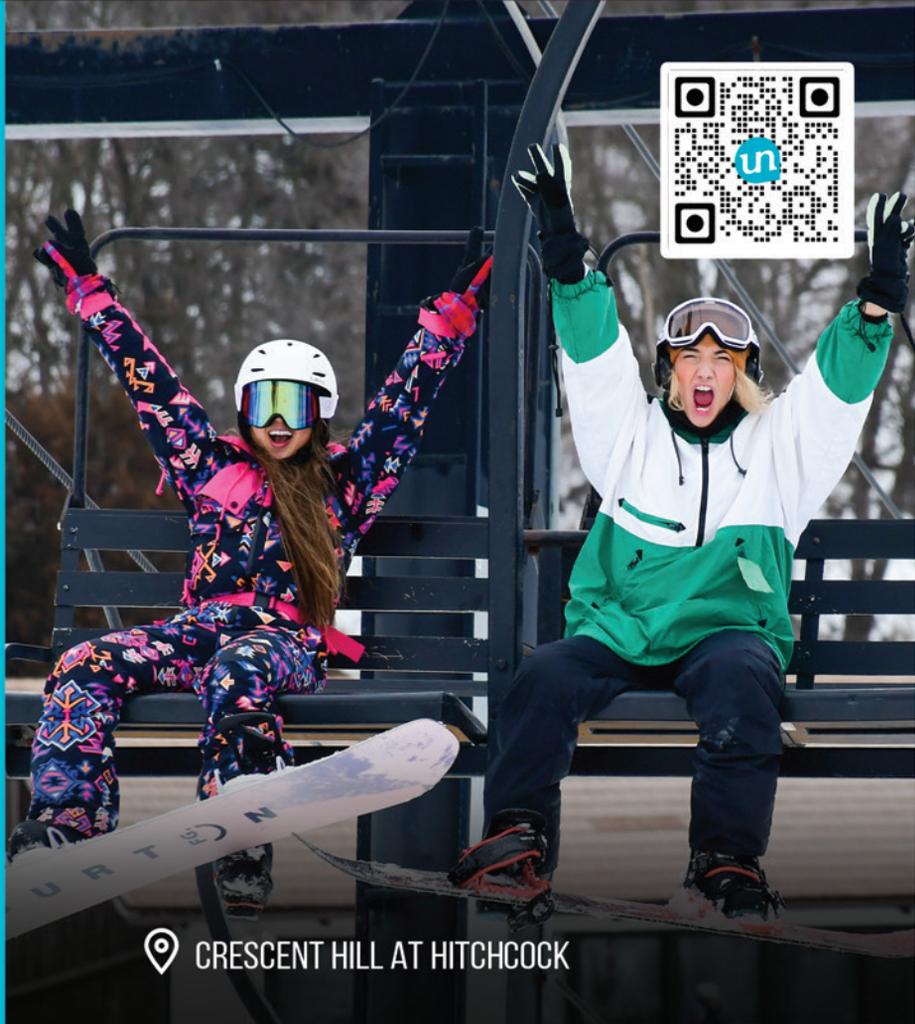
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📍 CRESCENT HILL AT HITCHCOCK

Malvern's newest attraction, **Tee'd Up Tavern** is a sports enthusiasts' haven. It's complete with a drink menu, TVs, pool, darts, billiards and even two state-of-the-art indoor golf simulators, plus an exciting calendar of events that includes live music and karaoke nights. teeduptavern.com

Fashionistas won't want to miss the stylish **Graceful Boutique** in Mapleton. It offers a curated collection of women's clothing in all sizes and styles as well as accessories, footwear and even kids' items. It also has an attached coffee shop so you can grab a coffee to enjoy while you browse. gracefulboutique.com

Located on Jefferson's town square, the 14-story carillon **Mahanay Bell Tower** has been a must-see in the community for 60 years. Take a tour to the top of the tower to admire sweeping views of the five surrounding counties and rooftop murals from the glass-enclosed viewing deck. The tower is lit with random colored lights on Friday and Saturday evenings. mahanaybelltower.org

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 restored prairie with interpretive signage and an early 1900s homesteader's cabin. danishmuseum.org



📍 Mahanay Bell Tower, Jefferson



📍 Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn



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📍 Mt. Crescent Ski Area, Honey Creek

Located in the unique terrain of the Loess Hills, **Mt. Crescent Ski Area** has been a winter destination in Honey Creek since 1961. It features 2,400 feet of slopes for all skill levels along with a Swiss-style lodge and sundeck. Master your skills by booking private or group ski and snowboard lessons. skicrescent.com

Home to the Iowa Aviation Hall of Fame, the **Iowa Aviation Museum** is located inside the active Greenfield Municipal Airport, giving visitors the opportunity to admire aircraft up close. Learn about the progress of human flight through viewing pre-WWII aircraft, one-of-a-kind models, military and acrobatic planes alongside other memorabilia. flyingmuseum.com



📍 Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge, Council Bluffs

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

Open May through October, the **Moorhead Cultural Center** in Moorhead an excellent place to stop to see rotating exhibits that share local artists' works, dive into the region's past and highlight great Iowa stories alongside eye-catching artifacts and memorabilia.



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Eat

Experience an old-time soda fountain with a visit to **Adams Street Espresso** in Creston. Grab a seat inside or outside and enjoy a wide range of specialty coffee and tea drinks. The bakery offers scones, cinnamon rolls, pastries and muffins or try something from their breakfast and lunch menus. [facebook.com/crestoncoffeeshop](https://www.facebook.com/crestoncoffeeshop)

Owned by a physician by day and a "scooperista" by night, **Sunset Scoops** in Harlan boasts a wide range of sweet treats – all nut free. Step inside the cozy, welcoming space and unwind with an ice cream scoop (or three!), sundae, sandwich, milkshake and more. [sunset-scoops.com](https://www.sunset-scoops.com)

Sample exquisite Cuban and Caribbean flavors at **Havanero** in Early through dishes like roasted pork, fried pork chops, Cuban sandwiches and sides such as yucca, black beans and plantain chips. The spot also doubles as a market, so visitors can grab cultural grocery items along with their meal to extend the full flavor experience at home. [havaneroiowa.com](https://www.havaneroiowa.com)

A can't-miss classic ice cream shop, Missouri Valley's **Dairy Den** is especially known for its Twin Bing Tornadoes alongside scoops, sundaes and floats. They don't just serve desserts – the menu also includes savory favorites like the locally famous loose meat sandwich and homemade tenderloin, making it a solid stop for lunch and dessert. [facebook.com/DairyDen1](https://www.facebook.com/DairyDen1)



Adams Street Espresso, Creston



📍 The Centennial, Jefferson

Recharge at the inviting **Tru Bru Coffee House** located just steps from Clarinda’s charming square. Tru Bru offers artisanal coffees crafted with locally roasted beans, refreshing teas and dirty sodas, plus irresistible bakery and lunch items. For a fun visit, be sure to try the coffee flights to sample a variety of brews. trubrucoffeehouse.com

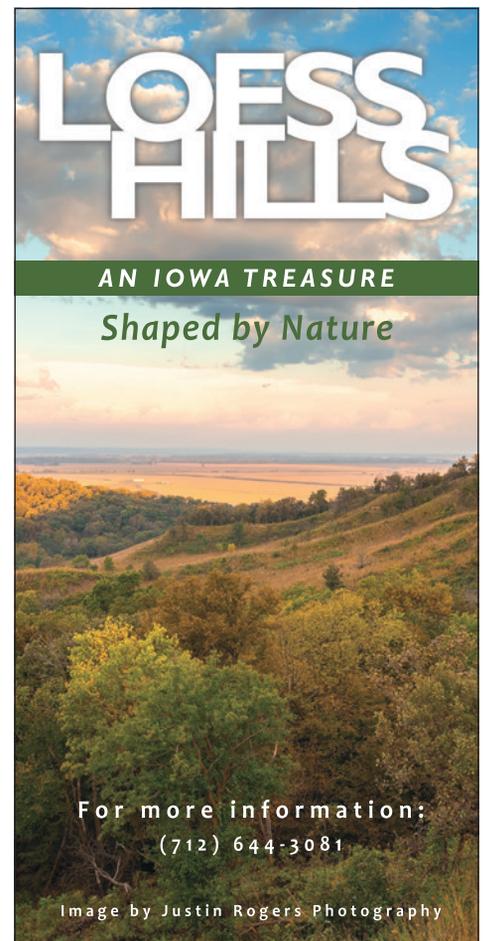
Dairy Sweet is an Iowa tenderloin legend – it was recently crowned “Best Tenderloin in Iowa” and proudly holds the distinction of being the only restaurant in the state to win the title twice. Its menu also includes juicy burgers and crispy sides, plus ice cream creations like malts, sundaes and cones. facebook.com/dunlapowadairysweet

A family-friendly spot serving authentic Mexican flavors, **El Porton** in Glenwood is known for its large portions, relaxed atmosphere and welcoming service. Sit down to sizzling fajitas, cheesy enchiladas or burritos big enough to require a strategy paired with margaritas that are just as bold.

Merging historic charm with modern flavors, **The Centennial** offers an elevated dining experience in the quaint town of Jefferson. The menu, which includes vegan and gluten-free options, rotates on a weekly basis. Save room for the delicious desserts! facebook.com/thecentennialjefferson



📍 Dairy Den, Missouri Valley



LOESS HILLS

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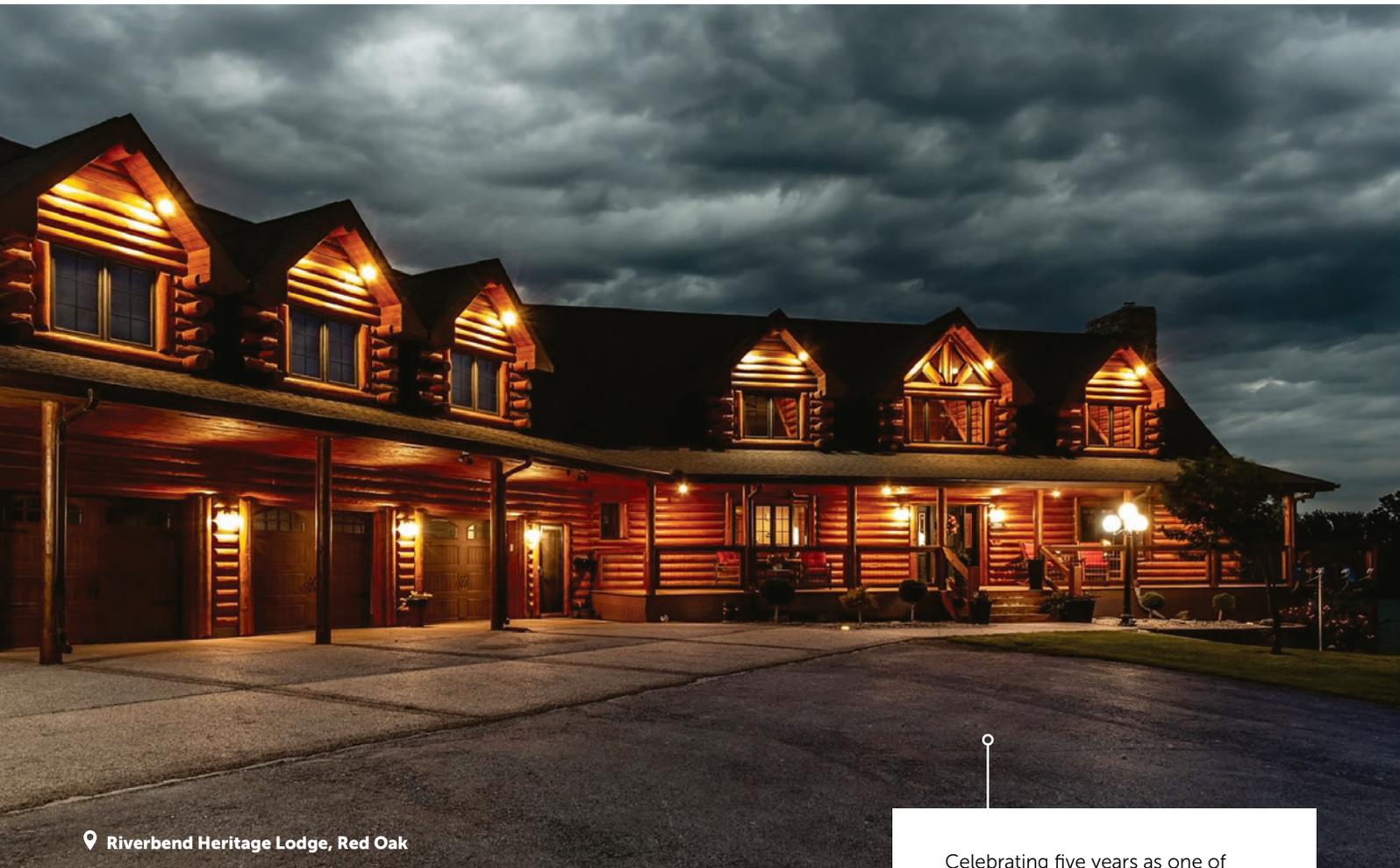
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Image by Justin Rogers Photography



Stay



📍 Riverbend Heritage Lodge, Red Oak

Elk Horn's newest lodging opportunity, **Hygge Inn & Suites** combines modern comfort with Danish charm. It offers eight Airbnb-style rooms and two suites equipped with smart TVs and free Wi-Fi, located just steps away from the community's famous Danish windmill. hyggeinn.com

Experience a night surrounded by history inside the renovated **Malvern Depot**. The facility has been transformed into a small bunkhouse that features two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchenette and a full bathroom. Bring your bike or walking shoes to explore the nearby Wabash Trace Nature Trail. airbnb.com

Celebrating five years as one of southwest Iowa's best hotels, the **Riverbend Heritage Lodge** offers typical hotel suites as well as guest houses that can accommodate up to six people and are dog friendly. Spend a weekend relaxing without a worry – each stay includes access to the free breakfast and coffee bar, a fire pit, pond and playground. riverbendheritagelodge.com

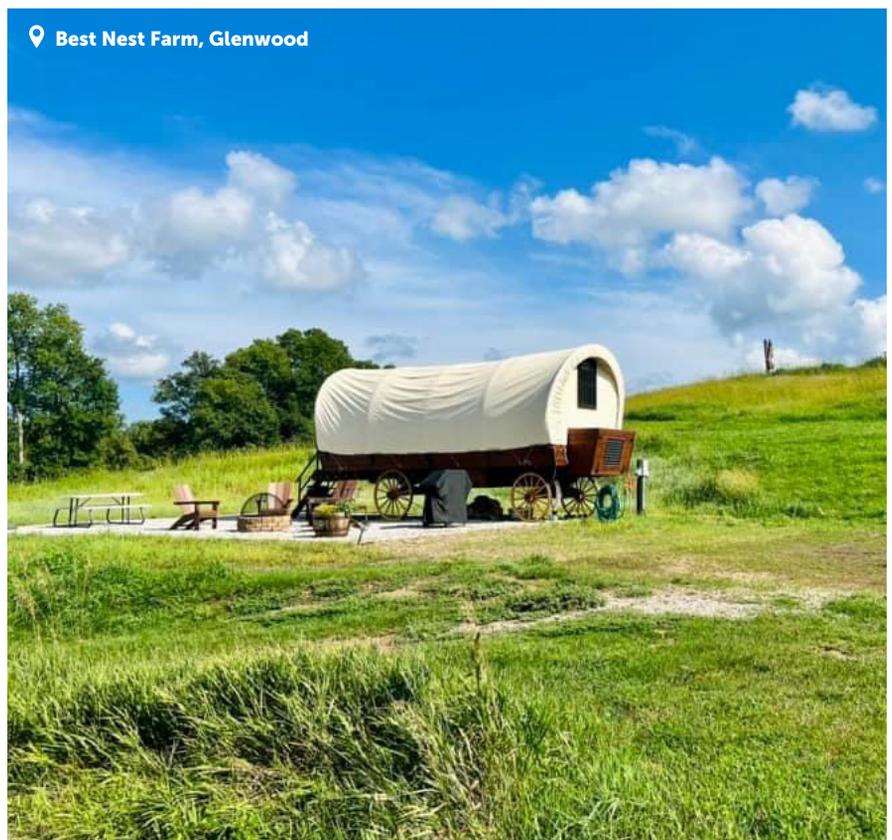
Discover the ultimate quiet family getaway with a stay at one of the **Lake of Three Fires State Park Cabins**. Each of the four modern cabins accommodate up to six people and the park contains eight miles of trails around the lake. The trails are snowmobile- and equestrian-friendly. iowadnr.gov

The original "Greenfield Hotel Company" was founded in 1919 by a group of local business owners and town boosters as a community improvement project for Greenfield. The hotel, constructed at a cost of \$65,000, held its grand opening in June 1920. The 32-room facility has been restored into the **Hotel Greenfield** and redeveloped for 21st century guests. visithotelgreenfield.com

Experience lake life while staying at one of 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

Experience the best of glamping and farm life at **Best Nest Farm**. Sleep inside an 1800s-style covered wagon that's complete with a full bathroom, AC/heat, mini fridge and microwave inside and a private firepit outside. Enjoy the farm's animals, wooded trails and private lake throughout your stay. bestnestfarm.com

Check into the **Ameristar Casino and Hotel** in Council Bluffs to enjoy a night in luxurious comfort. Grab a drink at one of the three bars, relax in a king spa suite and enjoy panoramic views of the Missouri River. ameristarcouncilbluffs.com





📍 Glenn Miller Birthplace Museum, Clarinda

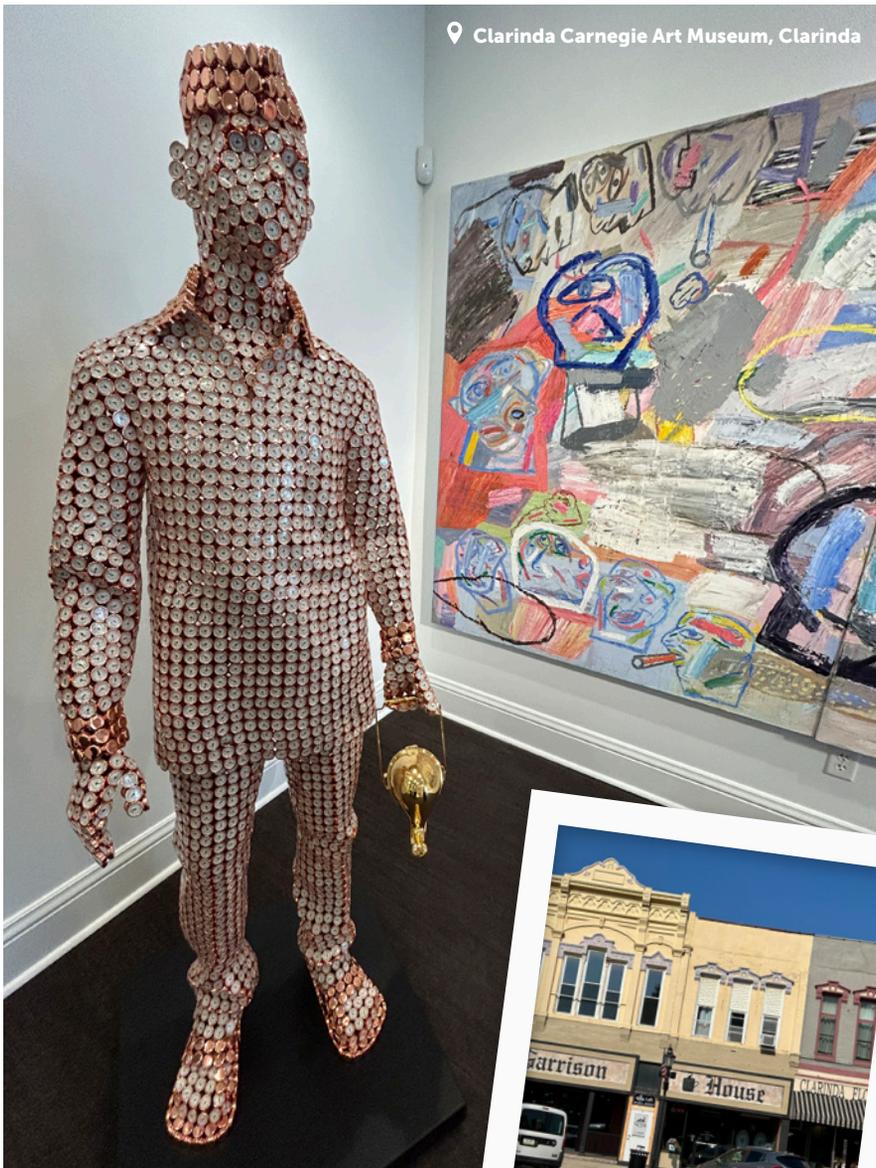
DAY ONE

You can't visit Clarinda without learning the fascinating story behind its most famous community member and America's favorite big band leader. The **Glenn Miller Birthplace Museum** shares the stories behind his rise to stardom, WWII service and the continuing impact of his music. His historic birthplace home, adjacent to the museum, is also open for tours. glennmiller.org

Set off on a self-guided **Promenade Around Clarinda** walking tour along Clarinda Boulevard, which is lined by 14 impressive historic buildings. This route marks Clarinda's original 1853 plat and features a variety of historic sites and landmarks. You can pick up a brochure with a map and additional information at the Chamber office (115 E Main St.) or at the Nodaway Valley Historical Museum. clarinda.org

J. Bruner's was established in 1983 and has maintained its reputation as one of the area's best fine dining spots. Popular menu items include mouthwatering steaks and prime ribs, freshly made onion rings and unique cocktails like the mulberry gin Moscow mule.

Located just minutes from Clarinda's downtown, the **Cobblestone Inn & Suites** is consistently praised for its cleanliness and friendly staff. Each room boasts flat screen TVs, a fridge and microwave, alongside amenities like complimentary continental breakfast and a fitness center. cobblestoneclarinda.guestreservations.com



Clarinda Carnegie Art Museum, Clarinda

DAY TWO

Starting your morning at **Garrison Coffee House** is like stepping into a cozy embrace. Housed in a historic building with exposed brick walls, tin ceilings and wood floors, it specializes in fresh ground and brewed coffee to complete the experience. Sip a flavored latte or classic cappuccino while enjoying a hearty breakfast sandwich, the beloved biscuits and gravy or freshly baked goods. garrisonhouseclarinda.com

Boasting an extensive collection of modern and contemporary art and housed in Clarinda's restored 1909 Carnegie Library, the **Clarinda Carnegie Art Museum** is a must-visit. Purchased by a local couple during a public auction in 2012, the building's bookshelves were replaced by world-class art exhibits, both permanent and rotating, as well as educational programming. visitccam.com

Dig into all your favorite lunch classics at **Robin's Nest Café**. This cozy spot merges the best of homestyle charm and hearty portions through classics like sandwiches, burgers and fresh salads. Round out your meal with a sweet pastry or dessert from the bakery. They also serve breakfast all day.

Before you leave town, spend an afternoon perusing the local shops and boutiques. The beautiful square is home to a variety of locally owned businesses. Find the latest fashion trends and home décor at **Whispering Pines Boutique** (whisperingpinesboutiquehomedecor.com); a new outfit complete with shoes at **Weil's Clothing** (weilsclothing.com); stunning flower bouquets and thoughtful gifts at **Clarinda Flower Shop** (clarindaflowershop.com); antiques, collectibles and refurbished furniture at **D&D Treasures** (ddtreasures.com) and more.



Downtown Clarinda



Garrison Coffee House, Clarinda



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Ogden

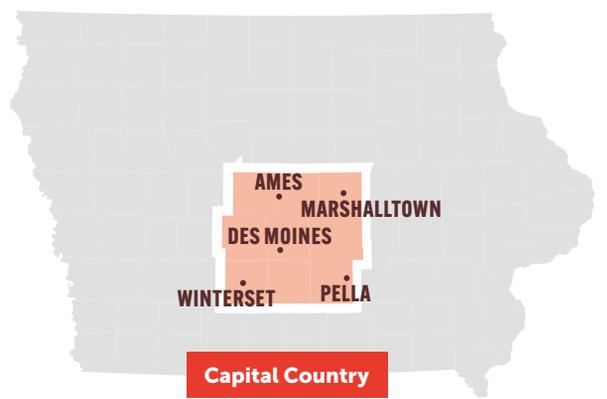


Summerset State Park

Expect the unexpected in the area home to some of Iowa's leading events like the Iowa State Fair, Pella Tulip Time and Iowa State University sports.

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DiscoverAmes.com



Admire endlessly scenic views from the **High Trestle Trail**, which is celebrating 15 years of thrilling outdoor recreationists. Stretching 25 miles from Ankeny to Woodward, the trail meanders through Iowa's stunning countryside and crosses the show-stopping High Trestle Trail Bridge near Madrid. inhf.org

Located on Winterset's charming town square, the **Iowa Quilt Museum** has celebrated quilting as an art for 10 years. It showcases rotating exhibits that highlight everything from contemporary designs and heirloom patterns to quilting traditions and even project inspiration. iowaquiltmuseum.org

Experience views of bygone Iowa 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, plus bison and elk herds. fws.gov

A gem for history buffs, Des Moines' **Woodland Cemetery** is the oldest in Iowa, predating the city's designation as the state capital. It was established in 1848 and contains 80,000 graves, including most of the city's founding fathers. The city occasionally offers historical tours, which are well worth it. dsm.city



📍 High Trestle Trail, Madrid



📍 Iowa Quilt Museum, Winterset

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Add beauty to the day's adventures at the **Newton Arboretum and Botanical Garden** in Newton. This outdoor oasis showcases a wide array of plant species, from vibrant flowers and towering trees to meticulously landscaped gardens. Enjoy an afternoon strolling along the scenic paths and appreciating nature's colors and fragrances. newtonarboretum.com

Discover the world's animals right here in Iowa! The 49-acre **Blank Park Zoo**, marking its 60th anniversary in 2026, includes exhibits such as tigers, seals, lions and even giraffes that you can feed. Add-ons like train rides, face painting, a carousel and camel rides make this even more of a worthwhile visit. blankparkzoo.com

Discover a beautiful blend of art, history and community spirit at the **Marshalltown Arts & Civic Center**. This stunning mid-century-style facility includes the Fisher Art Museum, which showcases works by renowned artists like Picasso, Matisse and O'Keeffe, and the Martha-Ellen Tye Playhouse, where performances entertain locals and travelers alike. maccia.org



Step inside **Nederlanders Tap & Golf** to perfect your golf skills no matter the weather. Its golf simulator gives you access to over 70 virtual golf courses as well as a wide array of driving ranges, target games and mini games for all skill levels. Bring your own clubs or rent a set and book a tee time to secure your spot. nederlanderstapandgolf.com



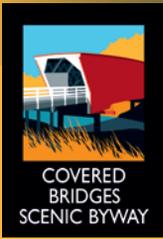
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A staple in Des Moines' craft beer and food scene, **Court Avenue Restaurant & Brewing Co.** is celebrating 30 years in 2026. Step inside the historic brick building and choose from its rotating list of house-brewed beers and a menu that blends comfort foods with creative twists. courtavebrew.com

The community's go-to spot for camaraderie and supporting their favorite sports teams, **Halftime Bar & Grill** in Pleasantville also serves some great food. The restaurant was voted as the home of Iowa's best burger in 2025, and the menu features even more favorites like fish and chips, nachos, tacos, wraps and more.

Winn's Pizza & Steakhouse in Indianola is more than a local hangout. It's known for serving pizza pies with perfectly crispy crusts and generous amounts of toppings, plus sandwiches, salads and, of course, steaks. And, their food stand at the Iowa State Fair has won the top food awards for the last two years! winnspizzaandsteakhouse.com

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Eat



Located just north of Winterset, **Urban Taproom & Grille** perfectly combines a modern dining experience with a hometown feel. The menu includes everything from fresh salads and flavorful pastas to wood-fired pizzas and hearty burgers, plus a great selection of craft beers and cocktails. urbantaproomandgrill.com

Not far from the popular Raccoon River Valley Trail, **Korner Kone Eats N' Treats** in Dallas Center's classic vibe makes every visitor feel like a kid again. Dig into a burger, tenderloin or other seasonal creations and top it off with an irresistible ice cream treat. facebook.com/kornerkoneeatsntreats/

Known as the community's original sports bar, **Seneca Street Saloon** in Webster City is a lively eatery with hearty fare and a solid beer lineup. It specializes in homemade pizza, burger and tenderloins alongside appetizers, sides and subs. Locals especially love the tin can nachos. senecastreetssaloon.com

A typical front-runner in the best breaded pork tenderloin competition, Ogden's **Lucky Pig** features everything from salads and desserts to pizza, sandwiches and steak dishes. facebook.com/luckypig.ogden

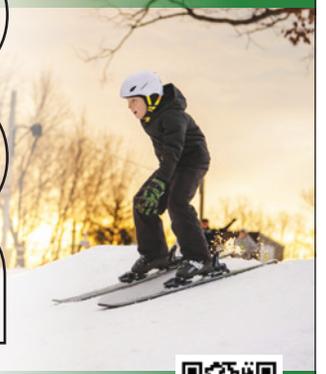
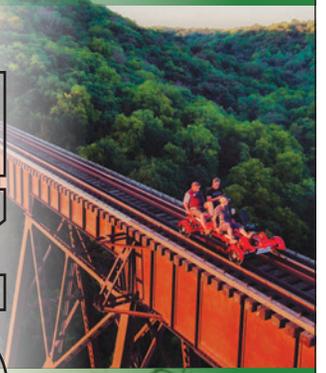
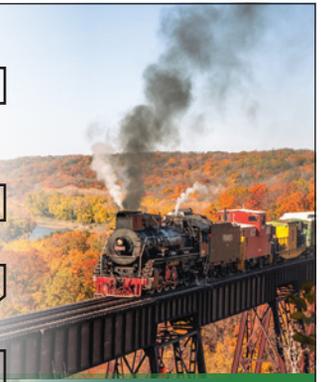
Started in 1952, **Zeno's Pizza** continues to be a cherished Marshalltown restaurant. It delights customers with its signature hand-tossed, Chicago-style thin crust pizzas, which are crafted from fresh dough and topped with homemade sauce and flavorful combinations. Zeno's is a must-visit for all pizza enthusiasts. zenosrestaurant.com

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Capital Country IOWA CENTRAL

Stay



📍 607 Guest House, Boone

Your home away from home, Winterset's **Cobblestone Inn & Suites** is conveniently located near the community's top attractions and offers the best of modern comforts. All 39 rooms include thoughtful touches like luxury linens and flatscreen TVs, plus amenities such as complimentary breakfast, coffee service and a fitness center. staycobblestone.com

Built in 1867 by a local railroad tycoon, the **607 Guest House** is one of Boone's newest vacation rentals and looks forward to welcoming its 1,000th guest in 2026. It features three rooms: the Kate Shelley Room with a queen bed and en-suite half bath; the Eisenhower Room with a queen bed; and the Prairie Rose room with two double beds. All rooms share the upstairs full bathroom. During your stay, enjoy the proximity to Boone's attractions. 607guesthouse.com

Enjoy a peaceful retreat at **Loya's Little House Bed & Breakfast**, which is celebrating 10 years of charming guests. Located on an 11-acre family farm along the scenic Skunk River Valley, it offers four beautiful rooms (each with a private bathroom) or the whole house for larger groups. Each morning starts with a complimentary full breakfast crafted from locally grown foods. [Use code *TRAVELIOWA10* for a 10% discount at checkout when you book two nights or more through their website.] loyaslittlehousebnb.com

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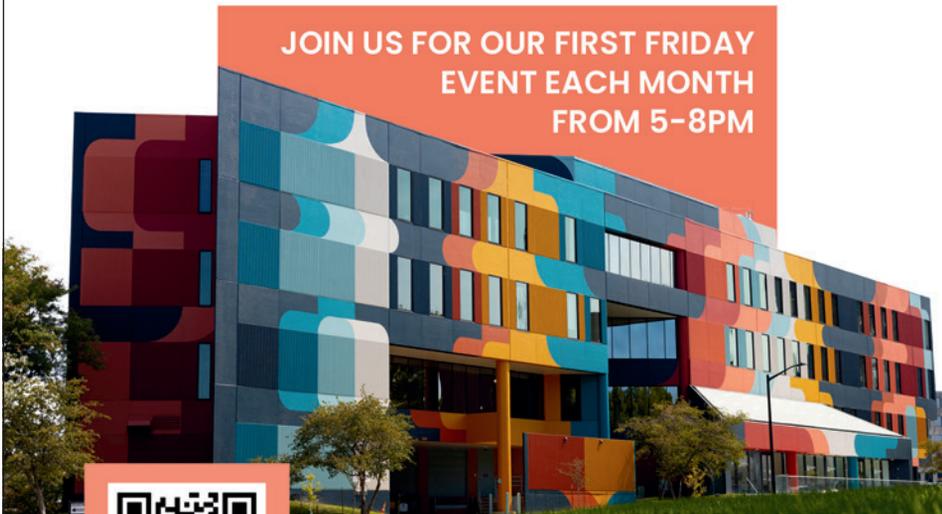
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Stay



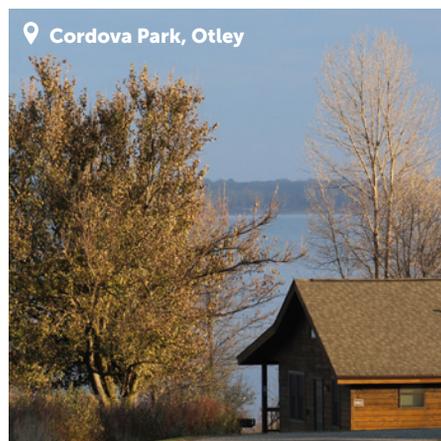
📍 **Newton KOA/Des Moines East Journey Campground, Newton**

With a variety of campsites and cabins, the **Newton KOA/Des Moines East Journey Campground** offers a new whimsical twist to glamping. Known as the “Silver Sisters,” the collection of four vintage campers are each named after the iconic “Golden Girls” TV show characters. Book a stay in Dorothy or Blanche, both of which can sleep up to four guests, or the cozier Rose and Sophie, which can comfortably fit two guests each.

koa.com/campgrounds/newton/

Choose from a collection of seven cabins at **Cordova Park** in Otley, all overlooking beautiful Lake Red Rock. There’s something to suit every family getaway. Widgeon Cabin is a common favorite – it sits atop a wooded bluff and comfortably sleeps up to 12 people. mycountyparks.com

The **Hotel Pattee** in Perry is recognized as one of the finest boutique hotels in the world. Step inside the historic building and choose one of the 40 individually decorated and themed guest rooms to enjoy a unique stay unlike anywhere else. While you’re there, take advantage of the hotel’s state-of-the-art bowling center, full-service dining room, library and art collection. hotelpattee.com



📍 **Cordova Park, Otley**

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the **Renaissance Des Moines Savery Hotel** in Des Moines underwent a \$35 million renovation in 2018. Today, the hotel boasts luxury linens and walk-in showers in every room. It’s also within walking distance of the historic East Village, Court Avenue restaurants and local event centers. marriott.com

Discover multiple camping opportunities at **Timberline Campground**. In addition to their deluxe, studio and primitive cabins, they also offer four vintage sleeping campers each inspired by characters from the hit TV show “Yellowstone.” Each camper sleeps up to four people and highlights the unique personalities of Jimmy, Teeter, Rip and Beth through its furniture, décor and details, all with a Western flair. timberlineiowa.com



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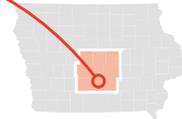
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48 HOURS IN Indianola



DAY ONE

Enjoy a leisurely stroll or bike ride along **Sunset Trail**, which stretches 11 miles between Indianola and Carlisle. The paved trail is mostly flat and passes through **Sunset State Park** (iowadnr.gov), where you can enjoy a short loop around Banner Lakes for a change of scenery. warrencb.org

Indianola's first park, **Buxton Park Arboretum**, was donated to the city in 1906 by Mr. and Mrs. William Buxton. Explore formal gardens, a butterfly garden, children's garden and public art adjacent to Simpson College. An informational kiosk includes park history and a self-guided interpretive tree tour brochure. indianolaiowa.gov

Sit down to a luxurious meal at **Z's Eatery & Draught Haus**. The menu is packed full of lunch and dinner options along with a variety of craft beers and cocktails. Locals especially love the tenderloin and steak dinners, all of which can be enjoyed within an old-school tavern atmosphere. zsindianola.com

Take a break from chain hotels with a stay at the locally owned **Hotel Pommier**. Formerly known as the beloved landmark hotel The Apple Tree Inn, Hotel Pommier (which means "apple tree" in French) was renovated to offer a modernized lodging experience surrounded by historic charm. Today's guests can enjoy everything from smart TVs, a free breakfast buffet and free parking to a comfortable patio with a BBQ grill and bags, indoor ping pong tables and disc golfing in the hotel's oversized backyard. hotelpommier.com



📍 Buxton Park Arboretum, Indianola



📍 Hotel Pommier, Indianola

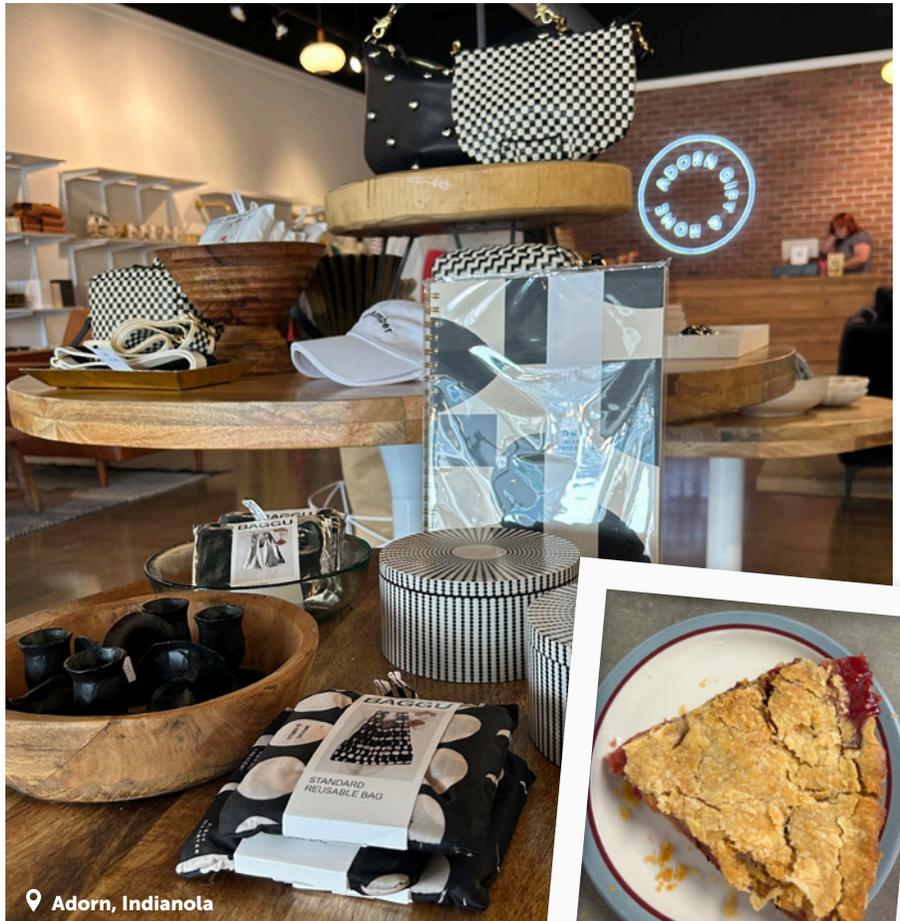
DAY TWO

Spend your morning savoring the sweet aromas of scratch-made baked goods and specialty coffees at **Savor the Rise**. It's especially known for a menu that offers a blend of comfort and creativity, serving items like cheddar cheese, egg and prosciutto croissants, Everything bagel croissants, cruffins (croissant pastries shaped like muffins), berry and cream Danishes and more, plus a full coffee menu including seasonal favorites. savortherise.com

Lose track of time while exploring Indianola's charming town square, which is lined with an impressive collection of locally owned businesses. Find your next favorite read at **Pageturners Bookstore** (pageturnersbookstore.com); beautiful goods and houseware at **Feed & Foster** (feedfoster.com); the perfect gift at **Adorn** (adorngiftandhome.com); the latest fashion trends at **Lula Belle Designs** (lulabelledesignsindianola.com); delicious craft beers at **West Hill Brewing Company** (westhillbrewingcompany.com) and more.

Treat yourself to a homemade meal at **Crouse Café**. This local legend serves some of the best pie in the state along with all-day breakfast and delicious lunch items. Even the pickiest eater can delightfully indulge in everything from sweet French toast and fluffy omelets to crispy onion rings, hot sandwiches and more. crousecafeia.com

Once you're energized, head to the **Annett Nature Center** for a serene experience. Hike the miles of wooded trails, wander through the prairie and butterfly garden or climb the observation tower for the best views. Check out a park pack (for free!) to explore a specific nature theme like birding, tracking, insects or pond life. Or head inside the center and discover interactive exhibits and live animal displays. warrenccb.org



Adorn, Indianola



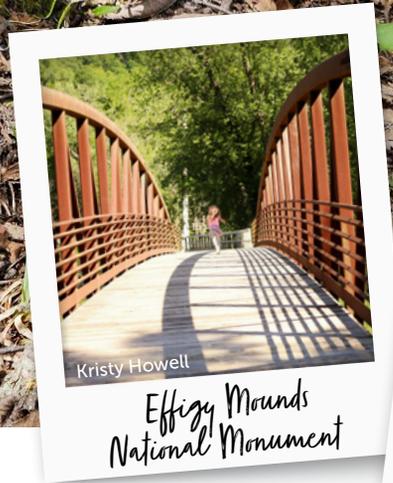
Crouse Café



West Hill Brewing, Indianola



📍 Allamakee County
 📷 @somekidsaunt



Kristy Howell

Effigy Mounds National Monument



Vickie Smith

Dunning Springs

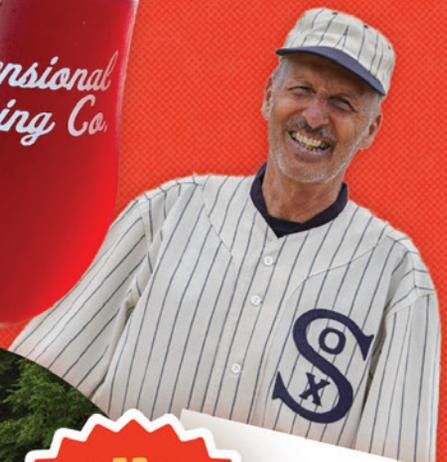
The outdoor oasis of Northeast Iowa boasts stunning limestone bluffs, winding rivers and meandering scenic byways. Explore with your canoe and fishing pole or take the thrill-seeking up a notch at one of Iowa's whitewater parks. Explore Decorah's small-town vibe, discover the excitement of Waterloo and Cedar Falls or take in the view from the top of Fenelon Place Elevator in Dubuque.

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Guest Check

Date	Table	Guests	Server



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WHERE IOWA STARTED



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Do



📍 Lost Island Waterpark, Waterloo

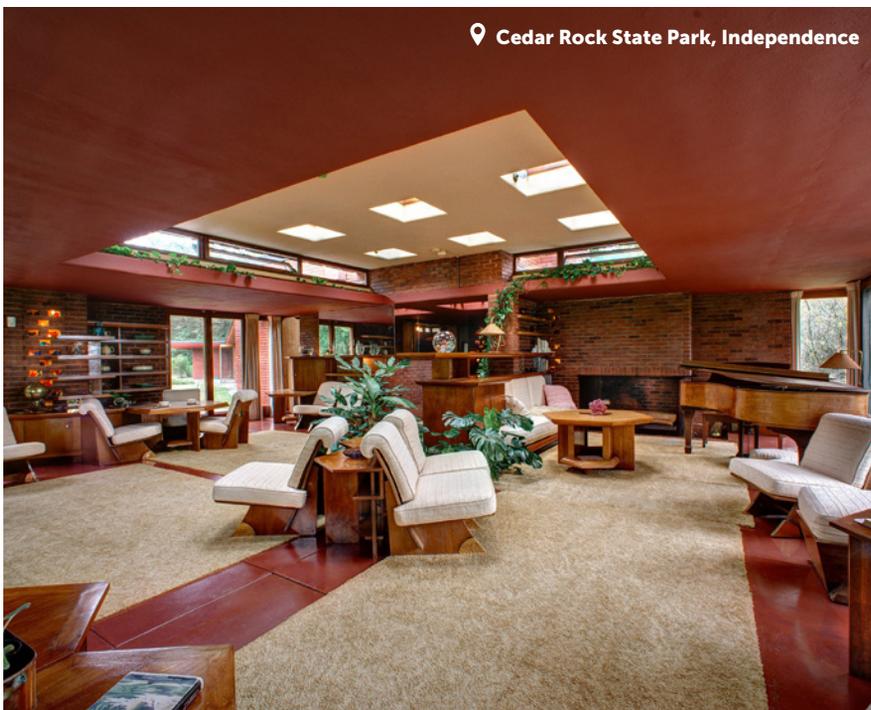
A cozy, community-focused cidery, **South Porch Cider** in Grundy Center offers a variety of flavors and experiences. It's known for crafting small-batch, fruit-forward ciders that range from crisp to dry and incorporate local ingredients, but its menu also includes a curated selection of beers and handcrafted sodas. All that plus a maxed-out events calendar makes every visitor feel welcome.

Join **Lost Island Waterpark** in Waterloo in celebrating 25 years of being one of the best waterparks in the country. This tropical-themed park surrounds guests with palm trees and island music as they race down 11 waterslides, including one of the world's only hydromagnetic water coasters. The park also includes kids' play areas, a wave pool and lazy river. The nearby Adventure Park features miniature golf and go-karts.

thelostisland.com/waterpark/

Downtown Decorah's sweetest addition, the **Kanpai Soda Shop** is a root beer lover's dream come true. The store features more than 30 types of bottled root beer alongside a variety of sodas, specialty candy, popcorn and caramels.

Explore world-famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright's only signature home in Iowa. **Cedar Rock State Park** near Independence includes the Walter Estate, which is constructed of steel, glass and concrete to create a stunning Usonian-style home. Join a tour to step inside and admire Wright's detailed design, which includes everything from the furniture to the pots and pans. iowadnr.gov



📍 Cedar Rock State Park, Independence

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NORTHEAST

Do

Stop by **Spook Cave** for a unique underground exploration adventure. Hop aboard a small boat alongside a tour guide and float below the stalactites that make up the McGregor cave. This unique underground adventure includes stories about the discovery and development of the cave and its formations. The temperature in the cave is 47 degrees year-round, so be sure to dress accordingly. Tours are offered May through October. spookcave.com

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

Grab breakfast, brunch or lunch at **Barn Happy**, a part tearoom, part café and part gift shop in Cedar Falls. 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. barnhappy.net



📍 Sky Tours Zipline, Dubuque

Embark on an exhilarating adventure with **Sky Tours Zipline**. They offer two-hour guided canopy tours that feature nine ziplines ranging from 250 feet to over 1,000 feet. Soar through the treetops and experience the breathtaking views of the rolling hills and valleys that surround the scenic Union Park area in Dubuque. dubuquey.org/zipline



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experiencewaterloo.com



Eat



📍 Foodie Garage Eatery, Dubuque

Dough & Joe Bakery in Cresco offers doughnuts, cookies, pastries, muffins, breads, buns and cakes for all occasions. The cream-filled long johns are so delicious, a Colorado couple used them in place of a wedding cake!
facebook.com/doughandjoe

A beloved local staple, **Rudy's Tacos** in Waterloo is known for its hearty Tex-Mex and distinctive décor featuring marionettes. The menu boasts generous portions of classics like tacos, burritos, enchiladas and nachos, all crafted with local ingredients. rudystacos.com

Located in Dubuque's historic downtown, **Foodie Garage Eatery** serves up some of the best burgers in Iowa. The menu also includes steaks, sandwiches, wraps, seafood, pizza and more.
foodiegarageeatery.com

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NORTHEAST

Eat

Step inside the quaint **Landmark Bistro** in Grundy Center to experience the best of Iowa hospitality and classic American dishes. The restaurant specializes in crafting homemade burgers and wraps, signature sandwiches and freshly breaded chicken tenders. Enjoy in the indoor dining area or on the outdoor patio. thelandmarkbistro.com

Get a delicious breakfast and outdoor gear all in the same place. **GEAR Elkader** in Elkader features a full-service espresso bar, a waffle bar and breakfast and lunch menus to satisfy any appetite. Peruse their full outdoor adventure retail store to purchase kayaks, bikes, coolers, packs, apparel and more. gearelkader.com

Famous for their fresh homemade meals, **Klunder's Kafe** in New Hampton serves up some of Iowa's best omelets. Breakfast is available all day or choose from other home-style lunch and dinner options. Save room for their made-from-scratch desserts. klunderskafe.com

Step off the beaten path and stumble upon **Bambinos**, a hidden gem eatery in Ossian. It's home to award-winning burgers, which are made from fresh, never-frozen fine ground beef and customizable with toppings like bacon, eggs, onion rings and hash browns. The menu also features daily specials and other classics, plus a full bar of drink options and pool tables for a night of fun.

Combine a vibrant dining experience with scenic views at **Riverbend Pub & Grill**. It's situated on the banks of the Maquoketa River in Manchester and features three-stories complete with a bar on each level and a spacious deck. Its large American menu ranges from classic appetizers and fresh salads to mouth-watering burgers and sandwiches, specialty pizzas and lunch specials. riverbendpubandgrill.com



Landmark Bistro, Grundy Center

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NORTHEAST

Stay



Book a room at the **Historic Weis Mansion B&B** in Waterloo to enjoy a stay inside a charming 1902 Queen Anne-Colonial Revival home. It's listed on the National Register of Historic Places and boasts stunning details like stained glass windows, grand staircases and intricate woodwork. The B&B is adult-only and each room includes a private bathroom and TV, plus a full breakfast spread each morning. theweismansion.com

The perfect escape for outdoor lovers, **Bluffside Retreat** is located just steps away from the Mississippi River and a Pikes Peak State Park trailhead and just a short drive away from downtown McGregor. Grab your adventure-seeking friends and family and book the secluded home, which boasts three bedrooms, five beds and two bathrooms and can sleep up to eight guests. airbnb.com

A one-of-a-kind lodging opportunity in the heart of the Driftless Area, the **Driftless Station Loft** is located inside a former 1923 schoolhouse. Part of the space was renovated into a beautiful 1,800-square-foot vacation rental that preserved the school's legacy through historic touches like original windows, chalkboards and skylight. The space features three bedrooms, including a private primary suite with a soaker tub, plus stunning third-story views of downtown.

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Stay



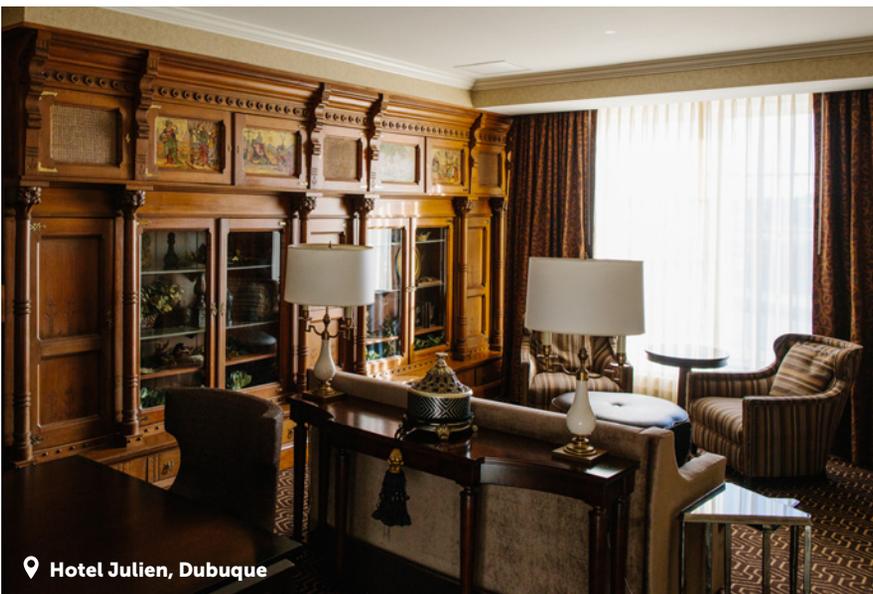
📍 Three Pines Farm, Cedar Falls

Located inside a historic 1895 building, the **Goldfinch Inn** bed and breakfast in Elkader features historic architecture paired with modern amenities. Each second-level suite features a full kitchen and luxury bathroom. Breakfast is provided each morning in the lower-level Gear Café. The inn is also within walking distance of many restaurants and shops. goldfinchinn.com

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

Hotel Julien offers the area's most elegant accommodation 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

Experience the best of farm life at the **Dairy Barn B&B** in Ionia. The owners renovated the gambrel-style barn to share their piece of paradise with guests. Choose from eight guest rooms, each named after the farmer's favorite cows, and enjoy a complimentary, farm-fresh breakfast and dinner each day of your stay. thedairybarn.com



📍 Hotel Julien, Dubuque



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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

Sustainable Living Cabins, Hazleton

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DAY ONE

Embark on an immersive journey into area's rich Norwegian heritage at the **Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum**. Its world-class collections showcase over 33,000 artifacts across 12 historic buildings, sharing the stories behind the immigrants' experience, folk art, cultural traditions and Norwegian influence in the Midwest. The museum also hosts folk art classes in traditional crafts such as rosemaling, weaving and woodworking. vesterheim.org

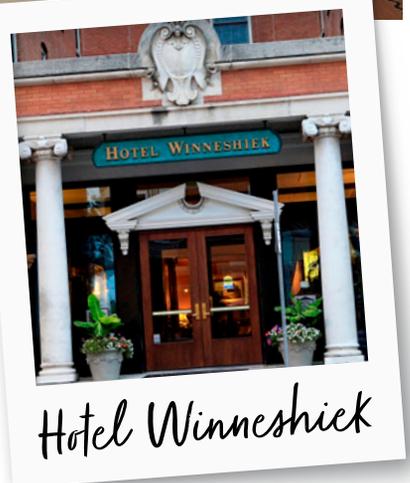
Take a stroll down Decorah's Water Street to browse its collection of specialty stores, antique shops and galleries that make this community a shopping destination. Shop new releases at **Dragonfly Books** (dragonflybooks.com), all things kitchen at **Ace Kitchen Place** (acekitchenplace.com), handcrafted works at **Agora Arts** (agoraarts.com), outdoor apparel and gear at **Decorah Hatchery** (facebook.com/decorahhatchery) and more.

You won't want to miss a visit to **Toppling Goliath Brewing**, whose world-renowned brews and delicious food make for a perfect dinner destination. Grab a table inside the taproom or on their pet-friendly patio and pair your salad, sandwich, burger, bowl or pizza with a flagship beer like the Pseudo Sue pale ale or Dorothy's lager. tgbrews.com



📍 Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah

Located in the heart of downtown Decorah, the restored **Hotel Winneshiek** offers a perfect blend of 21st century comfort and 19th century charm. The hotel opened in 1905 and still boasts a marble and terrazzo lobby, limestone pillars and a three-story octagonal rotunda with stained glass ceilings. Each room features period pieces and classic décor alongside modern amenities such as free Wi-Fi and the onsite Hotel Winn Bar. hotelwinn.com





📍 Trout Run Trail, Decorah



Maggie Coffeehouse

DAY TWO

Start your morning in the unique and relaxed atmosphere of **Maggie Coffeehouse**. This community staple has been serving Decorah residents and visitors delicious specialty coffees, made-from-scratch baked goods and all-day breakfast since 1994. Locals especially love the breakfast burritos, cinnamon rolls and avocado toast. mymagpiecoffee.com

Get your daily exercise in by walking or biking the 11-mile loop of the **Trout Run Trail**. Start at Trout Run Park's Bowstring Bridge and head south to discover stunning scenery. The trail passes two waterfalls, trout streams and limestone bluffs, making for an epic afternoon adventure. parks.decorahia.org

Whether you're a novice or expert in Japanese cuisine, **Koreana Japanese Restaurant** will wow your tastebuds. Start with an incredible appetizer and be sure to save room for a hearty entrée. Get outside your comfort zone by ordering original menu items such as a sushi roll with a side of flames. koreanadecorah.com

For a historical adventure unlike anything else, stop by **Seed Savers Exchange & Heritage Farm**. Dedicated to preserving garden heritage, this farm grows, saves and shares rare heirloom seeds throughout its 890-acre property. Wander through the display gardens, which showcase 20,000 plant varieties, or hike the area's trails and fish the trout streams that pass through.



📍 Toppling Goliath Brewing, Decorah



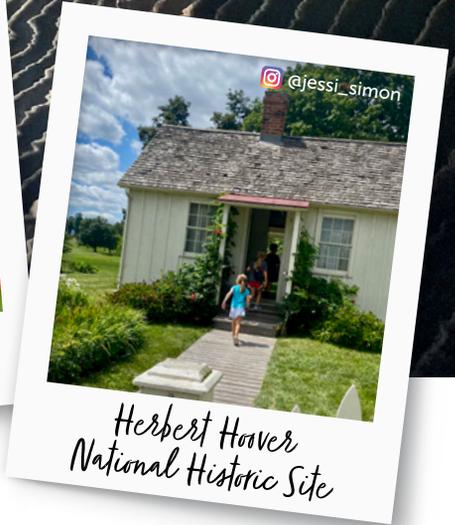
SOUTHEAST



📍 **Hickory Grove Park, Colo**
Marcia Rima



1884 On The Bluff

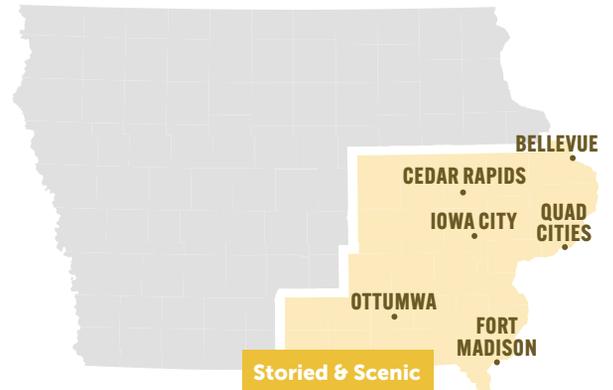


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by exploring Iowa City – a UNESCO City of Literature – and the house that inspired Grant Wood's "American Gothic." Dive into more history and culture at diverse museums in the Quad Cities and Cedar Rapids. The heritage and charm of the Amana Colonies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

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Do

SOUTHEAST

Enjoy a thrilling weekend at the family-focused **FunCity Resort** in Burlington. Kids love the arcade that boasts over 100 games, go-karts, bowling alley, outdoor waterpark and more. New additions include duck pin bowling and Ballocity, a multi-level attraction filled with interactive blasters, vacuums, crazy crawls and mazes. Adults can spend a day at Catfish Bend Casino testing their luck at a wide range of table games and interactive slot machines. funcityresort.com

Support the **Quad City River Bandits** and celebrate Modern Woodmen Park's 95th anniversary. Cheering on the team in Davenport means more than watching a baseball game – visitors can also enjoy the park's mini theme park. Purchase an all-you-can-ride wristband for endless fun on the carousel, Ferris wheel, coaster, bumper cars and more along with traditional baseball fun. milb.com/quad-cities

Discover why Clinton once ruled the lumber industry at **The Sawmill Museum** in Clinton. Its interactive exhibits include a child-sized logging camp, water table with log rafts and train tables that make learning the 1870-1900 timeline even more exciting. Try your hand at navigating the Mississippi River with the water rafting video game and learn more from the animatronic lumber barons. thesawmillmuseum.com



Palisades-Kepler State Park, Mount Vernon

Known for its rugged terrain and jaw-dropped view of the Cedar River Valley, **Palisades-Kepler State Park** near Mount Vernon is a hiker's paradise. Explore its five miles of trails, which wind through steep bluffs and dense hardwood forests and past Native American Indian mounds and scenic overlooks. iowadnr.gov

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 farming equipment and learn about the research process that is always looking forward. kinze.com



The Sawmill Museum, Clinton



Families
Kids
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Do

A prominent art space, **ICON Gallery** acts as Fairfield's cultural hub and shows off works from local and international artists. Explore the gallery's impressive permanent and rotating exhibits, attend workshops, art forums, video nights and lectures and keep an eye on the event calendar to catch special events like master shops, art auctions and more. icon-art.org

A hidden gem for aviation enthusiasts, the Antique Airplane Association's **Air Power Museum** boasts 20,000 square feet packed with vintage aircraft, engines, aviation artifacts and more. Visitors can wander through three hangars filled with airplanes, many of which are in working condition and flown regularly. Throughout the hangars and library, you can also admire models, plane parts, photos and artwork. antiqueairfield.com/museum

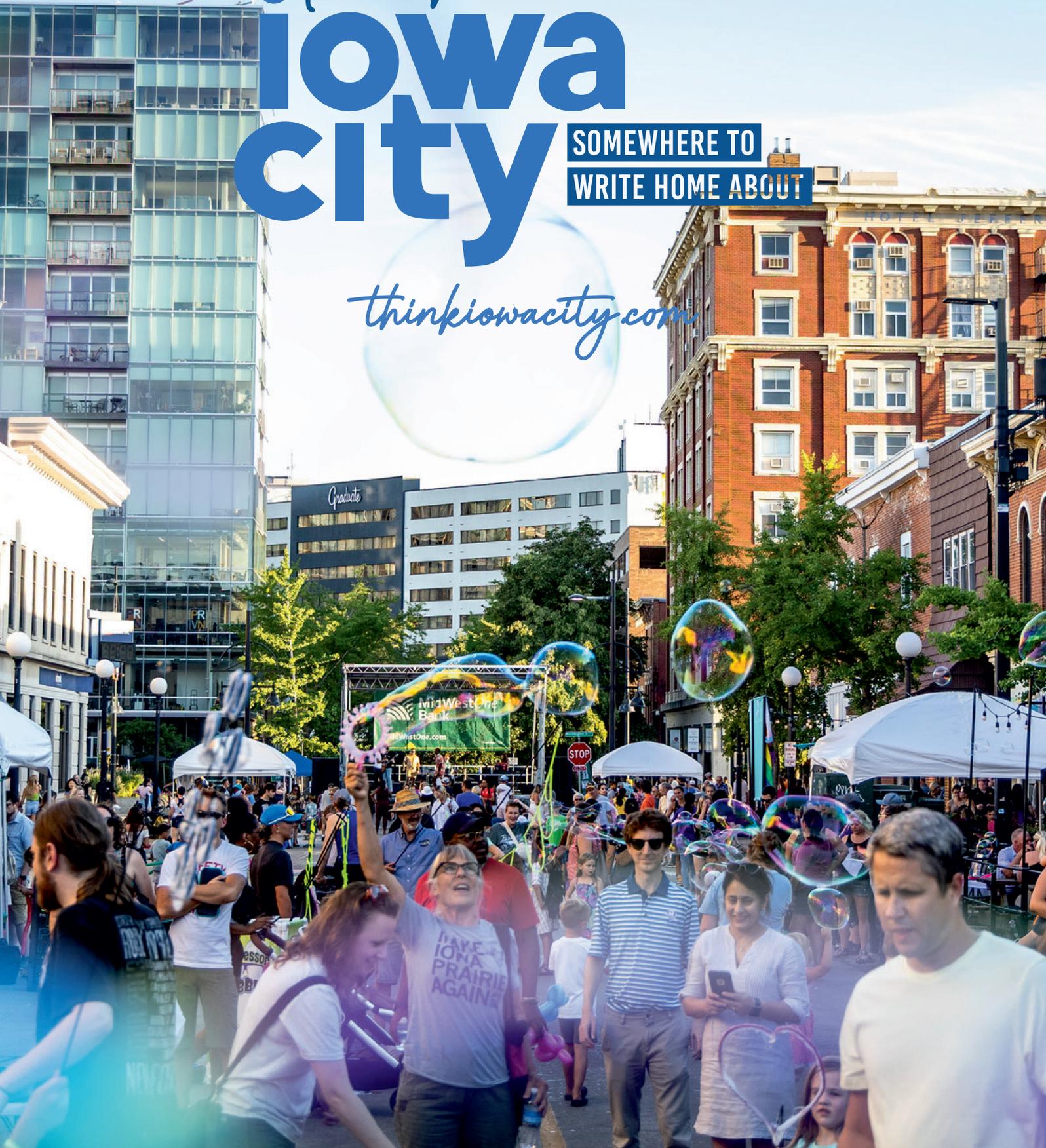


Walk on a 375-million-year-old ocean floor at the **Devonian Fossil Gorge** near Iowa City. This unique attraction offers a glimpse into Iowa's geologic past and is the site where fossils dating back almost 200 million years were discovered after the floods of 1993. See the land for yourself and grab a brochure for a self-guided tour. mvr.usace.army.mil

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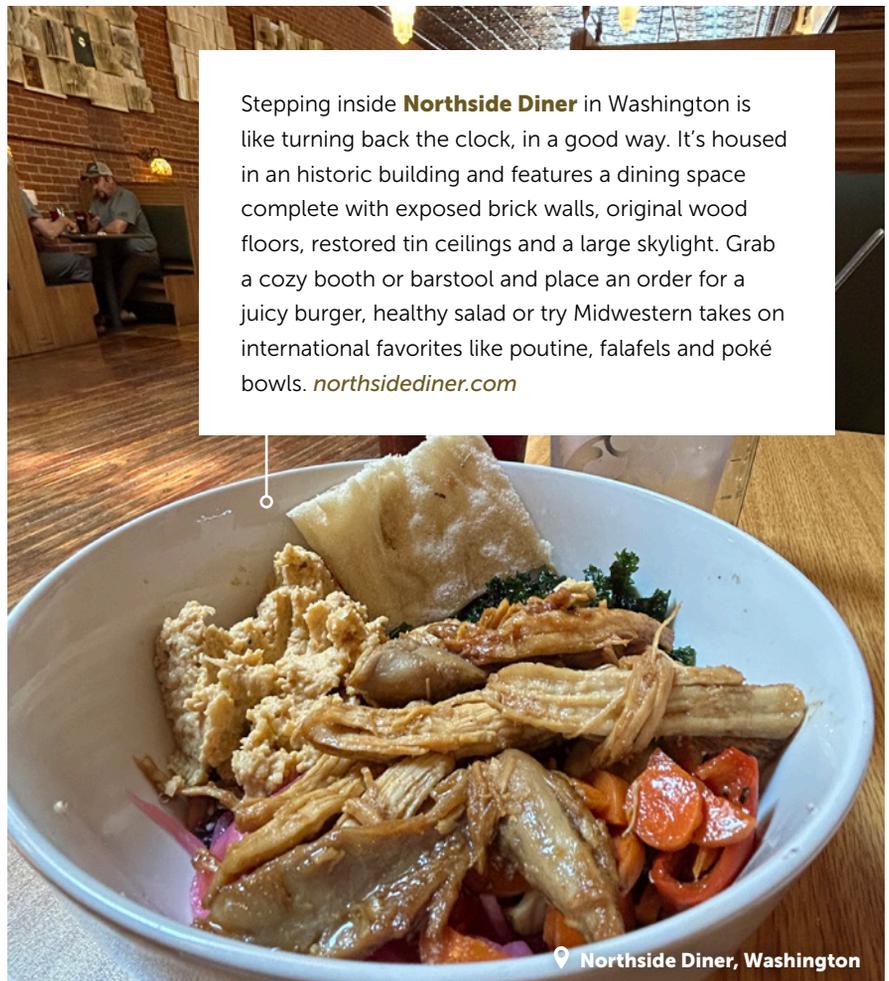
Eat

SOUTHEAST

Celebrate West Branch's 175th birthday by dining at the local hangout, **Herb n' Lou's Pizza**. The restaurant is especially known for the Herb's Heaper specialty pizza, its unique spin on a supreme, as well as other delicious classics like BBQ and taco, or any other combination you can dream up. facebook.com/herbnlous

For a fine dining lunch or dinner experience, stop by the **Crane & Pelican Café**, which is located on the first floor of an 1861 river pilot home in LeClaire. Nearly everything on their menu is crafted in-house and locally sourced, and includes items like pecan-crusting salmon, chicken marsala, meatloaf sandwiches and more, plus weekly specials like half-price wine Wednesdays. craneandpelican.com

There's nothing quite like an old-fashioned loose meat sandwich, and the **Canteen Lunch in the Alley** makes some of the best in Iowa. Founded in 1936, this beloved little eatery has spent 90 years holding strong in its current location – so much so that the town built a parking garage around it as a compromise to the original plan of tearing it down. canteenottumwa.com



Stepping inside **Northside Diner** in Washington is like turning back the clock, in a good way. It's housed in an historic building and features a dining space complete with exposed brick walls, original wood floors, restored tin ceilings and a large skylight. Grab a cozy booth or barstool and place an order for a juicy burger, healthy salad or try Midwestern takes on international favorites like poutine, falafels and poké bowls. northsidediner.com



Northside Diner, Washington



Herb n' Lou's Pizza, West Branch

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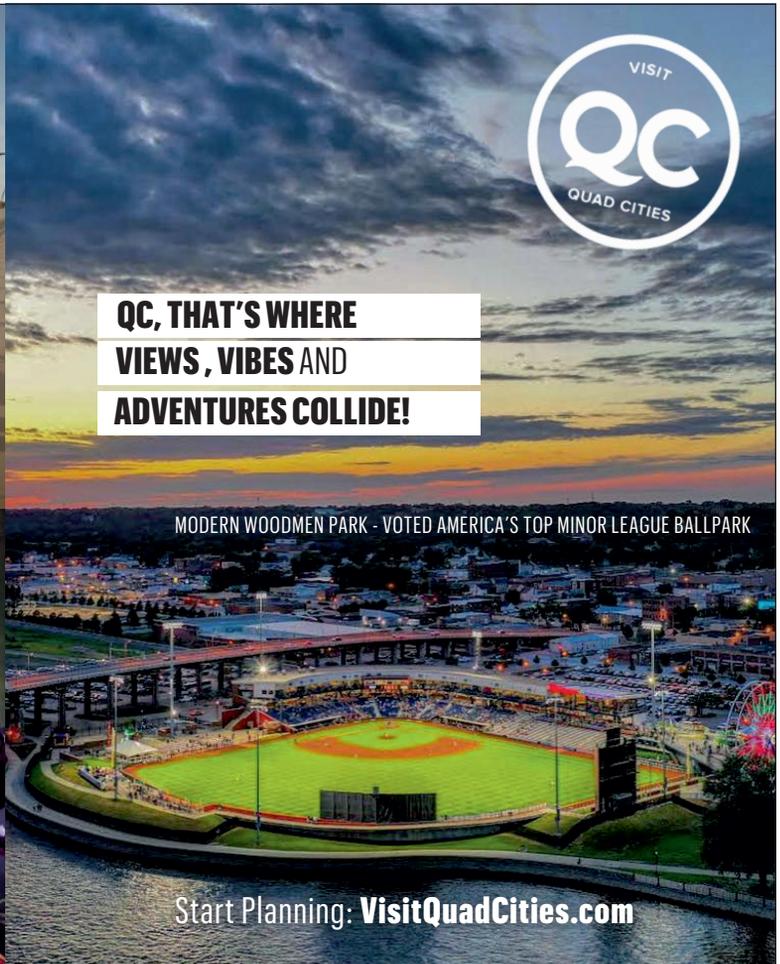
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Eat

SOUTHEAST



Started by three sisters who struggled with a variety of food allergies, **Taste & Seek** in Burlington is a welcoming bakery-boutique that specializes in allergy-friendly goods. Their “taste” side offers gluten- and dairy-free treats alongside traditional items, while their “seek” side features boutique faith-filled products.

A retro arcade and cocktail lounge anchored to the Highlander Hotel, **Lucy's** offers a perfect blend of vintage vibes and modern flavors. The menu is packed with shareables, pizzas, salads, kids' meals, tacos, baskets, entrees and desserts, plus specials like free unlimited arcade tokens with a meal purchase on Sundays. highlanderhotel.us

Experience the nostalgia of an original soda fountain! Opened in 1910, the **Wilton Candy Kitchen** in Wilton still offers old-fashioned service along with tasty phosphate drinks, candy and a limited lunch menu. wiltoncandykitchen.com

Turnwater Bar and Grill is a lively waterfront eatery perched right on Pool 19 of the Mississippi River in Fort Madison. Guests can dine indoors or on the patio with scenic river views while enjoying a menu of burgers, tacos, pizzas, seafood and more. Keep an eye on their events calendar to catch live music for an extra dose of energy. turnwaterbarandgrill.com

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Stay

SOUTHEAST

Showing off its original 19th century architecture, tile floors, tin ceilings and vintage reception desk, **The Continental Hotel** is celebrating 160 years of history in 2026. Located on Centerville's historic square, it offers a unique boutique hotel experience alongside an onsite restaurant and the best of small-town charm.

thecontinental.info

Built in 1976 as a supper club destination, **The Highlander Hotel** in Iowa City has been transformed into a luxurious full-service resort. Spend the weekend relaxing by the area's largest indoor pool, challenge the family to various yard games, spend an afternoon in the arcade, indulge in various drink and food items and sit around a fire once the sun sets. Or venture out to explore nearby attractions, parks and shops. highlanderhotel.us



📍 Kingsley Inn, Fort Madison



📍 Calyx Creek Lavender Farm, Oxford

Discover an enchanting stay at **Calyx Creek Lavender Farm** near Oxford. Guests can spend the night in unique treehouses perched 30 feet high above the rolling lavender fields. Each includes modern comforts like internet, heated floors, full kitchens or kitchenettes, and offers serene views of the woods and surrounding farm. calyxcreek.farm

With exceptional views of the Mississippi River and passing trains, 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

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KalonaCreamery.com



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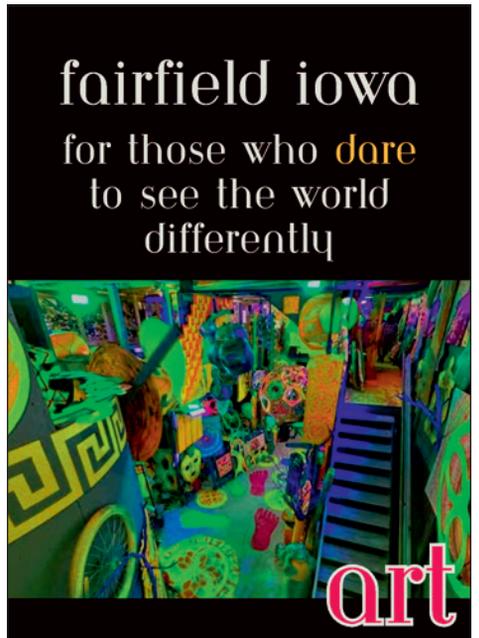


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plan your visit

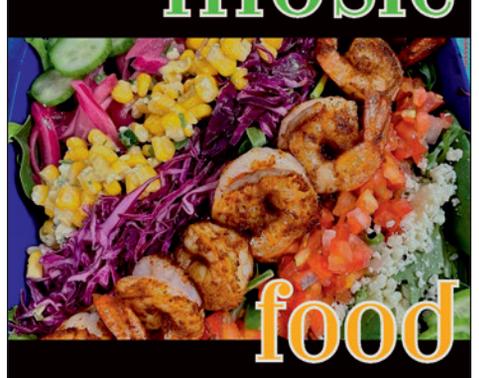
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art



music



food



nature

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plan your stay



Stay

SOUTHEAST

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

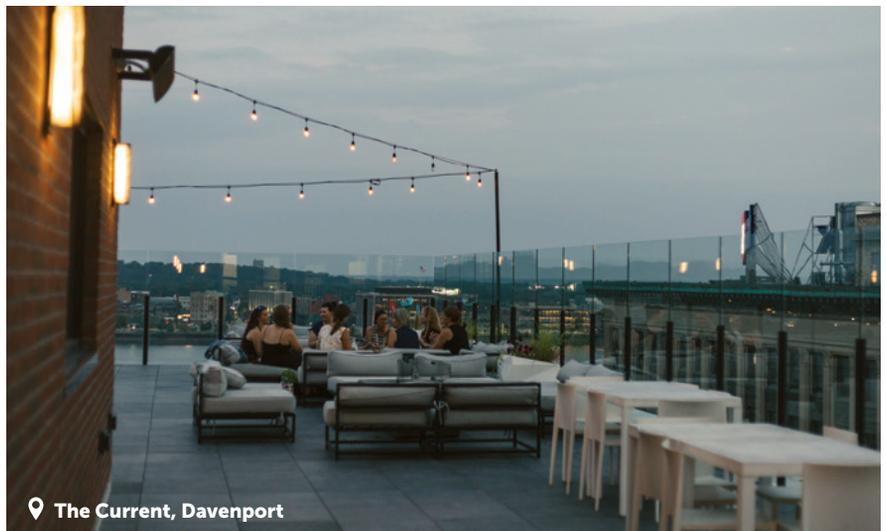
Located between Lake Sugema and Lacey-Keosauqua State Park near Keosauqua, **Pine Ridge Retreat & Lodging**'s nine cabins are any outdoor enthusiast's dream. Choose the cabin that best suits your needs, then spend the weekend hunting, fishing and hiking or simply relaxing around the cabin's cozy fire pit. pineridgeretreat.com

Proud to offer an artistic lodging experience, **The Current** in Davenport features more than 500 pieces of Midwest-generated art and is part of the Marriott Autograph Collection. It's also located in the heart of Davenport and within walking distance of the area's best attractions. thecurrentiowa.com

The cute and cozy **Grasshopper Guesthouse Too** is located on LeClaire's charming main street, making it a great place to stay and explore the community. It includes two bedrooms and can sleep up to six guests. The fenced backyard makes it extra dog friendly. Sit and relax on the front porch or set off on foot to visit nearby shops and restaurants. airbnb.com



Mont Rest Inn, Bellevue



The Current, Davenport



American Gothic House & Center

See the original house in Eldon, Iowa, made famous by Grant Wood! Adjacent visitor's center includes exhibits, gift shop, film, and use of costumes for a small fee.

www.americangothichouse.org



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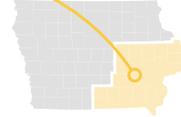
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SOUTHEAST

48 HOURS IN Oskaloosa



DAY ONE

Start your adventure downtown, where the historic Town Square is lined with locally owned shops and boutiques. Browse antiques, gifts, books, coffee and décor while admiring more than a dozen public art pieces, including colorful murals. On Thursday nights in the summer, the square comes alive with **Thankful Thursday in the Alley** and free concerts from the **Oskaloosa Municipal Band** at the 1912 bandstand.

Take a break at the **Oskaloosa Art Center** (faceofmahaska.com) for local exhibits and creative workshops, then add some fun to your afternoon with **Old School Pinball & Arcade** or axe throwing at **Oskaloosa Axe Club** (theoldschoolarcade.com). Unwind with a tasting at **Rosso & Wine** (rossoandwine.com), or savor authentic Italian dishes at **G&G Pronto** (gegpronto.com), where owners Giuseppe and Giuditta prepare pasta, focaccia panini, pizza and desserts.

When dinner rolls around, choose from two lively downtown options. **Bridget's Public House** (bridgets-public-house.com) blends Irish hospitality with American classics in a cozy pub setting, while **The P.O. Box** (americatablerestaurant.com) serves gourmet burgers, sandwiches and pub fare inside an historic 1904 post office building.



McNeill Stone Mansion B&B, Oskaloosa

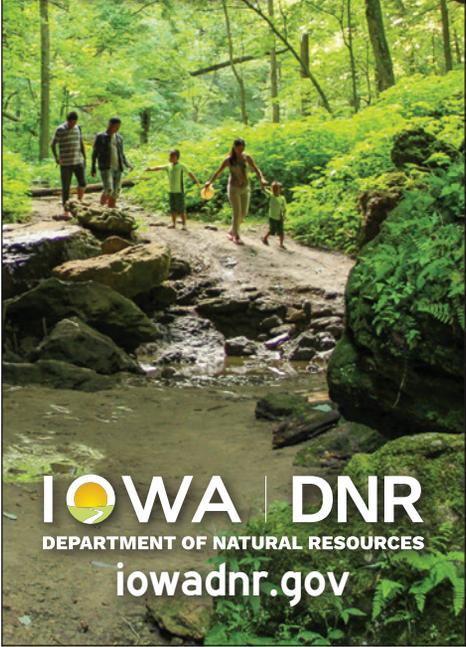
After a day of exploring, check in at the **McNeill Stone Mansion B&B**, a stunning historic mansion that offers unique overnight stays filled with charm, architecture and modern comforts. thestonemansion.com



Oskaloosa Municipal Band

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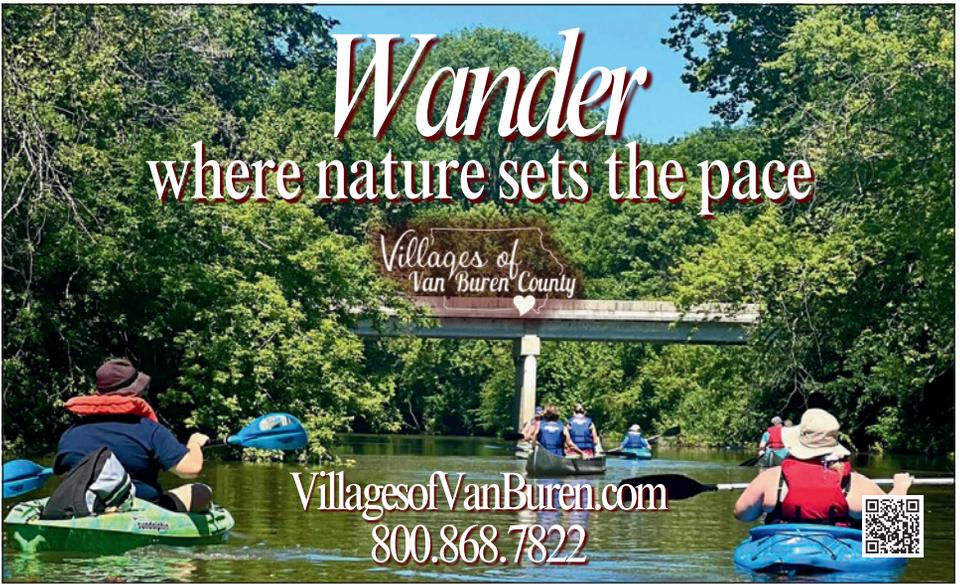


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48 HOURS IN Oskaloosa



SOUTHEAST

DAY TWO

Stop for brunch at **Spirit Cafe**, where Oskaloosa Schools students with special needs and peer mentors prepare homemade brunch and lunch favorites while gaining real-world job skills. The cafe is a hub for community connection and inclusivity, making it a dining experience with meaning.

facebook.com/spiritcafeosky

Begin the day at the **Mahaska County Environmental Learning Center** in Caldwell Park. Inside, explore live animal exhibits, hands-on displays and a life-size mammoth replica skeleton. Outside, discover trails and the brand-new Nature Playscape featuring natural climbing structures and a mammoth play sculpture. mahaskaconservation.com

In the afternoon, make your way to **TRIO Entertainment**, a new complex offering golf simulators, pickleball, tennis, movies and live entertainment. A true one-stop destination for fun with a full bar and menu featuring Oskaloosa's best boneless wings and smash burger, plus bowls, salads, handhelds and flatbreads.

thetrio.com

Head out to the **Mahaska County Recreation Trail**, a nearly 15-mile loop perfect for biking and walking in warmer months or cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in winter. Along the way, discover the Solar System Model with planetary markers placed to scale. oskaloosaiowa.org



TRIO Entertainment, Oskaloosa

Mahaska County Environmental Learning Center

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Mahaska County Recreation Trail, Oskaloosa

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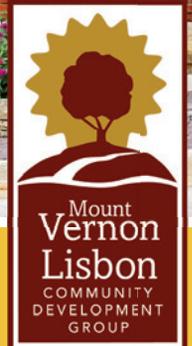
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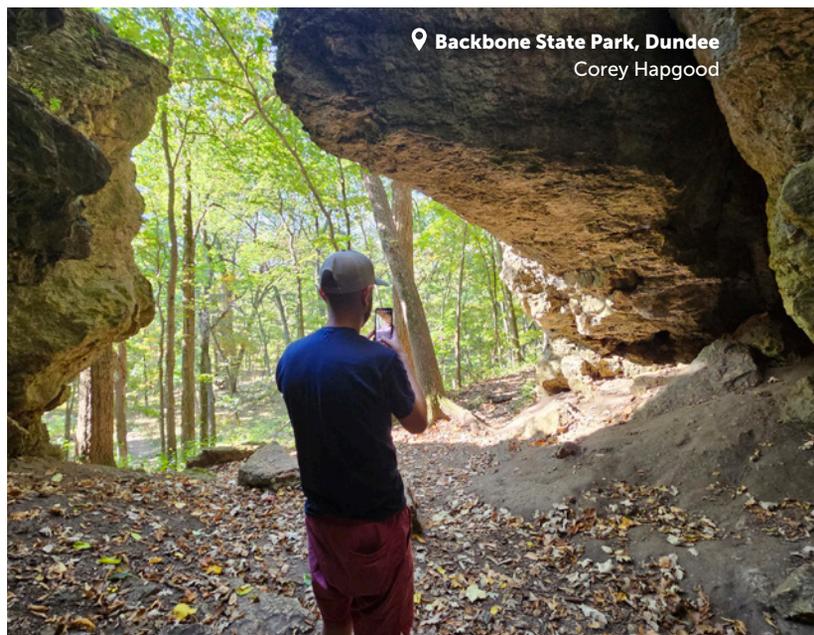
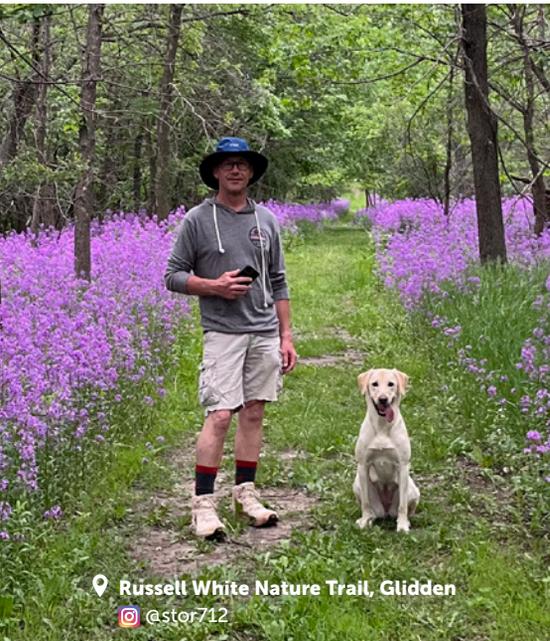


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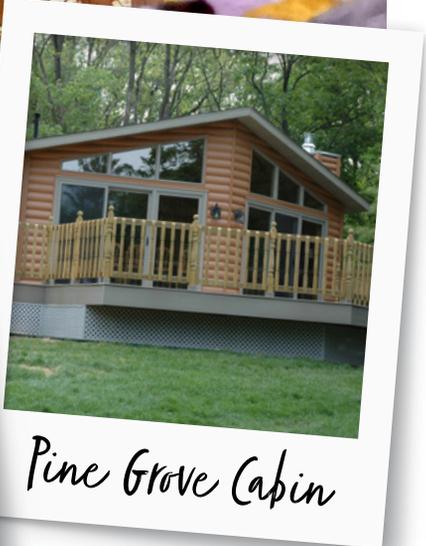
CABINS AND CAMPGROUNDS



📍 Maquoketa Caves State Park, Maquoketa
📷 @kayleemaedoland



Pikes Peak State Park



Pine Grove Cabin

- 136** Lakes & Land
- 138** Loess Hills & Beyond
- 140** Capital Country
- 142** Driftless Area
- 144** Storied & Scenic

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



Five Ridge Prairie, Westfield
Plymouth County Conservation

Manson	Featherstone Memorial Park	8803 Twin Lakes Rd	712.297.7131	mycountyparks.com
Mason City	MacNider Campgrounds	901 Birch Dr	641.421.3679	visitmasoncityiowa.com
Northwood	Silver Lake County Park	497 500th St	641.324.1524	mycountyparks.com
Ocheyedan	Ocheyedan Pits	6351 180th St	712.758.3709	mycountyparks.com
	Willow Creek County Park	5945 Hwy 9	712.758.3709	mycountyparks.com
Odebolt	Odebolt Memorial Walk RV Park	6th and Willow	712.668.2231	odebolt.net
Okoboji Area	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
Orange City	Veteran's Memorial Park	125 Central Ave SE	712.707.4885	orangecityiowa.com
Palmer	Cooper's Cove Park	59415 330th Ave	712.335.4395	mycountyparks.com
Paullina	Mill Creek Park	5660 460th St	712.295.7200	prairieheritagecenter.org
Peterson	Buena Vista County Conservation Park	377 440th St	712.295.7985	mycountyparks.com
Primghar	Tjossem Park	5949 400th St	712.295.7200	prairieheritagecenter.org
Quimby	Stieneke Area	1010 628th St	712.225.6709	mycountyparks.com
Rock Falls	Wilkinson Pioneer Park	21425 Vine Ave	641.423.5309	mycountyparks.com
Rockwell	Linn Grove Park	518 Madison St W	641.423.5309	mycountyparks.com
Ruthven	Lost Island - Huston Park Campground	3267 350th St	712.837.4866	mycountyparks.com
Sac City	Hagge County Park	2970 280th St	712.662.4530	mycountyparks.com
	Riverside Campground	302 Park Ave	712.662.4295	sacity.city
Salix	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
Sanborn	Douma Park	3351 Polk Ave	712.295.7200	prairieheritagecenter.org
Sheldon	Hills Park Campground	415 N 2nd Ave	712.324.4651	sheldoniowa.com
Sibley	Hawkeye Point Campground	5463 130th St	712.758.3709	mycountyparks.com
Sioux Center	Sandy Hollow Recreation Area	3395 400th St	712.552.1047	mycountyparks.com
Sioux City	Stone State Park	5001 Talbot Rd	712.255.4698	iowadnr.gov
Smithland	Southwood Conservation Area 🏠	3402 330th St	712.899.2215	mycountyparks.com
Spencer	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
Stratford	Bell's Mill Park	3100 Bells Mill Rd	515.832.9570	mycountyparks.com
Sutherland	Dog Creek Park 🏠	4901 Warbler Ave	712.295.7200	prairieheritagecenter.org
Thornton	Ingebretson Park	203 Ash St E	641.423.5309	mycountyparks.com
Ventura	McIntosh Woods State Park	1200 E Lake St	641.829.3847	iowadnr.gov
Washta	Ranney Knob Area	760 650th St	712.225.6709	mycountyparks.com
Webster City	Briggs Woods Park 🏠	2490 Briggs Woods Trl	515.832.9570	mycountyparks.com
West Bend	Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption Campground	208 1st Ave NW	515.887.2371	westbendgrotto.com
Westfield	Five Ridge Prairie Camping Cabin 🏠	15561 260th St	712.947.4270	mycountyparks.com

LOESS HILLS & BEYOND

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

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



📍 Lake Icaria, Corning

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

Bussey	Countryside Cabins 🏠	1760 Hwy G76	641.891.3153	
Colfax	Quarry Springs Park & Recreational Area	200 N Park Rd	515.478.6272	quarryspringspark.com
Colo	Hickory Grove Park	67464 250th St	515.232.2516	mycountyparks.com
Dawson	Sportsman Park 🏠	13821 130th St	515.465.3577	mycountyparks.com
De Soto	Kuehn Conservation Area	32828 Houston Trl	515.465.3577	mycountyparks.com
Des Moines Area	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
	Granger	Jester Park 🏠	12130 NW 128th St	515.323.5300
Indianola	Lake Ahquabi State Park	16510 118th Ave	515.961.7101	iowadnr.gov
Kellogg	Rock Creek State Park	5627 Rock Creek East St	641.236.3722	iowadnr.gov
Knoxville	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
Liscomb	Grammer Grove Wildlife Area	2030 127th St	641.752.5490	mycountyparks.com
Madrid	Ledges State Park	1515 P Ave	515.432.1852	iowadnr.gov
	Swede Point Park	1601 322nd Ln	515.795.2809	mycountyparks.com
Marshalltown	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
Maxwell	Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt	8700 NE 126th Ave	515.967.2596	mycountyparks.com
Mingo	Ashton Wildwood Park	8755 W 122nd St N	641.792.9780	mycountyparks.com
Mitchellville	Thomas Mitchell Park	10509 NE 46th Ave	515.967.4889	mycountyparks.com
Newton	Newton KOA/Des Moines East Journey Campground 🏠	1601 E 36th St S	641.792.2428	koa.com/campgrounds/newton
Ogden	Don Williams Recreation Area	610 H Ave	515.353.4237	mycountyparks.com
Otley	Cordova Cabins 🏠	1387 Hwy G28	641.627.5935	mycountyparks.com
	Roberts Creek Park	1617 Fillmore Dr	641.627.5507	mycountyparks.com
Pella	Howell Station	1081 198th Pl	641.828.7522	lakeredrock.org
	Wallashuck Campground	890 190th Ave	641.828.7522	lakeredrock.org
St. Charles	Wildwood Hills Ranch Luxury Cabins 🏠	2552 Union Ln	515.343.6320	wildwoodhillsranch.org
Waukee	Timberline Campground 🏠	31635 Ashworth Rd	515.987.1714	timberlineiowa.com
Winterset	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
Zearing	Dakins Lake Park	70613 130th St	515.232.2516	mycountyparks.com



📍 Newton KOA/Des Moines East Journey Campground, Newton



📍 Lazy H Campground, Akron
Jessica Blatz



Jody Halsted

DRIFTLESS AREA

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

Allison	Wilder Park	22301 Hwy 3	319.267.2245	visitwilderpark.com
Aurora	Jakway Forest Area	2791 136th St	319.636.2617	mycountyparks.com
Brandon	Lime Creek Area	3205 Brandon Diagonal Blvd	319.636.2617	mycountyparks.com
	Red Cedar Cabin 🏠	2318 Benton Buchanan Rd	319.560.9802	
Cascade	Fillmore Recreation Area	21655 Hwy 151	563.556.6745	mycountyparks.com
	Riverview Ridge Campgrounds and Recreation	24224 Riverview Rd	563.543.1258	riverviewridgencampgrounds.com
Cedar Falls	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
Charles City	Colwell Park	2962 140th St	641.756.3490	mycountyparks.com
	R Campground	1910 Clark St	641.257.0549	rcampground.com
Clarksville	Heery Woods State Park	19195 Hwy 188	319.278.4237	mycountyparks.com
Clermont	Skipaway Resort 🏠	3825 Harding Rd	563.423.7338	skipawayresort.com
Colesburg	Twin Bridges Park	2638 Hwy 3	563.927.3410	mycountyparks.com
Cresco	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
Delhi	Big G's Campground	2540 Pioneer Rd	563.920.8012	biggscampground.com
Dorchester	Joe's Campground	351 Willow Dr	563.497.3500	
	Upper Iowa Resort & Rental Campground 🏠	578 Lonnings Ln	563.568.3263	upperiowaresort.com
Dubuque Area	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
Dundee	Backbone State Park	1347 129th St	563.924.2000	iowadnr.gov
Edgewood	Morning Mist Cabins 🏠	34228 Hilton Rd	563.387.7171	vacationrentals411.com
Elgin	Gilbertson Conservation Education Area	1810 Agate Rd	563.426.5740	mycountyparks.com
Elkader	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
Elma	Maple Heights Campground	200 Wood St	641.393.2120	golfelma.com
Fairbank	Siggelkow Park	9905 Fairbank Rd	319.433.7275	mycountyparks.com
Fayette	Twin Bridges Park	13112 O Ave	563.426.5740	mycountyparks.com
	Volga River Recreation Area	10225 Ivy Rd	563.425.4161	iowadnr.gov
Floyd	West Idlewild Park	1376 Quarry Rd	641.756.3490	mycountyparks.com
Fort Atkinson	Lake Meyer Park and Campground	2546 Lake Meyer Rd	563.534.7145	mycountyparks.com
Fredericksburg	Split Rock Park	3090 Pembroke Ave	641.394.4714	mycountyparks.com
Frederika	Alcock Park	1171 Midway Ave	319.882.4742	mycountyparks.com
Garnavillo	Buck Creek County Park	30286 232nd St	563.245.1516	mycountyparks.com
Greeley	Fountain Springs Park	2511 Oak Rd	563.927.3410	mycountyparks.com
Greene	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
Harpers Ferry	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

Hawkeye	Gouldsburg Park	18649 Sunset Rd	563.426.5740	mycountyparks.com
Hazleton	Fontana Park 🏠	1883 125th St	319.636.2617	mycountyparks.com
Holy Cross	Bankston Park	17826 Bankston Park Rd	563.556.6745	mycountyparks.com
Ionia	Twin Ponds Nature Center	1811 240th St	641.394.4714	mycountyparks.com
La Porte City	Hickory Hills Park	3338 Hickory Hills Rd	319.342.3350	mycountyparks.com
	McFarlane Park	13619 King Rd	319.342.3844	mycountyparks.com
Lansing	Red Barn Resort & Campground	2609 Main St	563.538.4956	redbarnresortandcampground.com
	Wexford Valley Campground	1418 Great River Rd	563.586.2005	
Lime Springs	Lidtkke Park & Campground	3425 Oak Ave	563.547.3634	mycountyparks.com
Manchester	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
Marble Rock	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
Maynard	Maynard City Park Campground	475 1st St N	563.637.2269	
Mc Gregor	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
Mitchell	Interstate Park	650 W Commercial St	641.732.5204	mycountyparks.com
New Albin	Clear Creek Cabin 🏠	2861 Blair Rd	888.640.7927	vrbo.com
New Hampton	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
New Vienna	New Wine Park	15971 New Wine Park Ln	563.556.6745	mycountyparks.com
Oelwein	City Park	2400 S Frederick Ave	319.283.5440	cityfoelwein.org
Osage	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
Parkersburg	Beaver Meadows Park	32078 Hwy 14	319.278.4237	mycountyparks.com
Plainfield	North Cedar Park	1163 140th St	319.882.4742	mycountyparks.com
Quasqueton	Veterans Memorial Park	101 River Dr	319.934.3340	quasky.com
Riceville	Lake Hendricks Park & Campground	9850 Addison Ave	563.547.3634	mycountyparks.com
Saint Ansgar	Halvorson Park	40801 Foothill Ave	641.732.5204	mycountyparks.com
	Otranto Park	1233 480th St	641.732.5204	mycountyparks.com
Shell Rock	Shell Rock Recreation Area	22562 Willow Ave	319.278.4237	mycountyparks.com
Sherrill	Finley's Landing Park	24709 Finleys Landing Rd	563.556.6745	mycountyparks.com
Stacyville	Riverside Park	2275 465th St	641.732.5204	mycountyparks.com
Strawberry Point	Joy Springs County Park	37771 Alpha Ave	563.245.1516	mycountyparks.com
Sumner	North Woods Park	1249 Yuma Ave	319.882.4742	mycountyparks.com
Volga	Volga U Campground	Cass St	563.767.3511	volgacityiowa.com
Waterloo	George Wyth State Park	3659 Wyth Rd	319.232.5505	iowadnr.gov
Waterville	Pine Bluff Camp Sites	36 E Main St	563.535.7256	pinebluffcampsites.com
	Scenic View Campground	420 Old Sixteen Rd	563.535.7347	
Waucoma	Little Turkey River Campground	206 3rd St SE	319.334.0135	
Waukon	Waukon City Park - Campground	1013 Rossville Rd	563.568.0081	cityofwaukon.com
Waverly	Cedar Bend Park	1267 205th St	319.882.4742	mycountyparks.com
West Union	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
Westgate	Downing Park	23008 78th St	563.426.5740	mycountyparks.com

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

Ainsworth	Marr Park	2943 Hwy 92	319.657.2400	mycountyparks.com
Allerton	Bobwhite State Park	2301 Bob White Rd	641.873.4670	mycountyparks.com
Amana	Amana RV Park & Event Center	3850 C St	319.622.7616	amanarvpark.com
Anamosa	Wapsipinicon State Park	21301 Co Rd E34	319.462.2761	iowadnr.gov
Baldwin	Eden Valley Wildlife Refuge	1415 50th Ave	563.673.2021	mycountyparks.com
Bellevue	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
Blairstown	Hannen Park 🏠	1949 Benton Iowa Rd	319.454.6382	mycountyparks.com
Bloomfield	Davis County Fairgrounds	20471 Old Hwy 2	641.664.3712	daviscountyfair.org
	Pioneer Ridge Nature Area 🏠	1339 Hwy 63	641.682.3091	mycountyparks.com
Brighton	Lake Darling State Park	111 Lake Darling Rd	319.694.2323	iowadnr.gov
Burlington	Welter Recreation Area	16839 Skunk River Rd	319.753.8260	mycountyparks.com
Calamus	Sherman Park	2776 160th Ave	563.847.7202	mycountyparks.com
Camanche	Rock Creek Marina and Campground 🏠	3942 291st St	563.259.1876	mycountyparks.com
Center Junction	Central Park 🏠	12515 Central Park Rd	563.487.3541	mycountyparks.com
Center Point	Lazy Acres RV Park	5486 32nd Ave	319.443.4000	lazyacresrv.com
Centerville	Lelah Bradley Park & Reserve	25100 520th St	641.856.8528	mycountyparks.com
	Prairie Ridge Park	12815 Prairie Ridge Pl	641.647.2464	recreation.gov
Central City	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
Chariton	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
Clinton	Bulger's Hollow	4686 170th St	815.259.3628	mycountyparks.com
	Riverview RV Park	511 Riverview Dr	563.242.3600	cityofclintoniowa.us
Coggon	Buffalo Creek Park	5034 Buffalo Creek Park	319.892.6450	mycountyparks.com
Corydon	Corydon Lake Park	2178 Corydon Lake Park Rd	641.873.4670	mycountyparks.com
Danville	Geode State Park	3333 Racine Ave	319.392.4601	iowadnr.gov
Dixon	Kestrel Cabin 🏠	31555 52nd Ave	563.328.3286	mycountyparks.com
Donnellson	Wilson Lake Campground 🏠	2195 220th St	319.463.7673	mycountyparks.com
Drakesville	Drakesville Park	Railroad St	641.722.3859	
	Lake Wapello State Park	15248 Campground Rd	641.722.3371	iowadnr.gov
	Jefferson County Park	2003 Libertyville Rd	641.472.4421	mycountyparks.com
Fort Madison	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
Fredonia	River Forks Access	1001 Main St	319.523.8381	mycountyparks.com
Gladbrook	Union Grove State Park	1217 220th St	641.473.2556	iowadnr.gov
Hills	Hills Access	4210 520th St SE	319.645.2315	mycountyparks.com
Humeston	Lakeside Park	2301 Bobwhite Rd	641.873.4670	mycountyparks.com
Iowa City Area	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
	Chatfield Park Campground	3592 Iowa Rd	319.463.7673	mycountyparks.com
Keokuk	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
	Lake Iowa Park 🏠	2550 G Ave	319.655.8465	mycountyparks.com
Lineville	Moore-Gosch Park	1228 Birch Rd	641.873.4670	mycountyparks.com
Lone Tree	River Junction Access	6051 River Junction Rd SE	319.645.2315	mycountyparks.com
Lovilia	Lake Miami Park 🏠	1270 635th Ave	641.455.4778	mycountyparks.com
Lucas	Crossroads Ranch, LLC	50526 Hwy 65	641.217.1188	crossroadsranchlucasiowa.com
Maquoketa	Maquoketa Caves State Park	9688 Caves Rd	563.652.5833	iowadnr.gov
Marion	Wanatee Park	1600 Banner Dr	319.892.6450	mycountyparks.com
Massillon	Massillon Park	207 Hoover Hwy	563.886.6930	mycountyparks.com

Montezuma	Diamond Lake Park	4896 Stagecoach Rd	641.623.3191	mycountyparks.com	
	Fun Valley Camping	1066 500th Ave	641.660.5668	funvalleyeventcenter.com	
Monticello	Blue Inn Campground	250 N Main St	319.462.0770	atblueinn.com	
	Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park at Monticello 🏠	22128 Hwy 38	319.465.4665	jellystonemonticello.com	
Montpelier	Clark's Ferry Recreation Area	3860 Sunset Beach	563.419.7594	missriver.org	
Moravia	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	
Morning Sun	Virginia Grove Recreation Area	20406 55th St	319.523.8381	mycountyparks.com	
Mount Pleasant	Oakland Mills Park	2593 Nature Center Dr	319.986.5067	mycountyparks.com	
Mount Vernon	Palisades-Kepler State Park	700 Kepler Dr	319.895.6039	iowadnr.gov	
Muscatine	Fairport State Recreation Area	3280 Hwy 22	563.263.4337	iowadnr.gov	
	Sautsbury Bridge Recreation Area	2007 Sautsbury 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	
Mystic	Island View Park	19357 Island View Pl	641.647.2464	recreation.gov	
New Liberty	Camp Liberty Lodge 🏠	4415 295th St	563.823.9940	camplibertylodge.org	
Oakville	4th Pumping Plant Recreation Area	2073 Pumping Station Rd	319.753.8260	mycountyparks.com	
Oskaloosa	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	
Ottumwa	Greater Ottumwa Park	Teal Dr	641.682.1307	greaterottumwacvb.org	
Oxford	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	
Palo	Morgan Creek Park	7515 Worcester Rd	319.892.6450	mycountyparks.com	
	Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area	4530 McClintock Rd	319.436.7716	iowadnr.gov	
Quad Cities Area	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	
Sabula	South Sabula Lake Park	1516 South Ave	563.652.3783	mycountyparks.com	
Sigourney	Lake Belva Deer Park	242nd Ave	641.622.3757	mycountyparks.com	
Sperry	Big Hollow Recreation Area	18853 152nd Ave	319.753.8260	mycountyparks.com	
Toledo	Otter Creek Lake & Park	2283 Park Rd	641.484.2231	mycountyparks.com	
Toronto	Walnut Grove Park	1847 188th Ave	563.847.7202	mycountyparks.com	
Traer	T.F. Clark Park and Addition	2687 150th St	641.484.2231	mycountyparks.com	
Urbana	Wildcat Bluff	3150 57th St Trl	319.560.9802	mycountyparks.com	
Villages of Van Buren	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	
	Vinton	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	
Wapello	Flaming Prairie Park	14624 Co Rd X61	319.523.8381	mycountyparks.com	
	Snively Campground	9246 Co Rd X61	319.523.8381	mycountyparks.com	
West Branch	Cedar Valley Park	660 255 St	563.886.6930	mycountyparks.com	
West Point	Pollmiller Park 🏠	1678 Pollmiller Park Rd	319.463.7673	mycountyparks.com	
Williamsburg	Adventures in Tipi Camping At Walking Stick Adventures Farm	2347 L Ave	319.329.9821	walkingstickadventurescom.wordpress.com	



SAVOR THE RISE:

Deja Keppler's Flour Power Lifts Indianola's Spirit

THERE'S SOMETHING UNDENIABLY SWEET (AND SAVORY) ABOUT DEJA KEPPLER'S JOURNEY that led her not just to Iowa, but to opening the beloved Indianola bakery Savor the Rise.

Originally from Buffalo, New York, Deja's path to Iowa wasn't a straight line.

"I grew up on the East Coast. I really loved the West Coast, and I thought that since the Midwest is right in between, that would be great," she explained.

After moving to the Des Moines area, she was drawn to Indianola's charm. Then, when the world slowed down in 2020 due to the pandemic, Deja found herself, like many, searching for comfort in the kitchen.

As a self-professed foodie and someone who had always been into cooking and baking, Deja just started doing what felt right – making food that she loved, teaching herself every step of the way until she eventually felt good enough about her products to share them at the Indianola Farmers' Market.

"I just brought over a few treats," she said of her earliest days as a vendor. "I think it was like a brownie batter biscotti, an egg biscuit and cookies. And you know, some of the things I brought over, people are like, 'what is a biscotti and why is there tahini in your cookies?'"

But all questions aside, those quirky and

unexpected twists on the classics helped her food become the talk of the town and led to her opening a brick-and-mortar business in Indianola's downtown in 2022.

Today, Savor the Rise's menu is a blend of comfort and creativity. Savory favorites include the famous cheddar cheese, egg and prosciutto croissant (an open croissant pastry with an egg in the middle and prosciutto on the outside) and the Everything bagel croissant with cream cheese in the middle and Everything seasoning on the outside.

On the sweeter side, Deja's chocolate croissants, cruffins (a croissant pastry tossed in cinnamon sugar coating and shaped like a muffin) and berries and cream Danishes have patrons lining up every morning.

"One of the biggest reasons I love running a business in Indianola is there are so many unique independently owned businesses in the square. We're just very, very fortunate, and lots of them are women-owned too, which I love," she said.

And that communal energy means her neighboring businesses aren't competitors or a threat. Instead, they all function together as a support system for each other.

"There's not necessarily like competition between each other," she said. "I feel like we all lift each other up and have something unique to offer to the area."

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