

Special Supplement

LEISURE
GROUP TRAVEL

Tour Guide IOWA

JUNE 2023



Lakes and Landscapes
of the Northwest

Central Iowa Capital Country

The Outdoor Oasis of the Northeast

Adventures Await in the Southwest

Storied and Scenic Southeast Iowa

5 BEAUTIFUL
AREAS TO
EXPLORE

Charming small towns, outdoor
adventures, scenic byways and
more all await in Iowa

Greetings!

Sophisticated cities, inviting main streets and mouthwatering meals make the Hawkeye State a terrific group tour option. Whether your group wants to savor an art gallery, embark on an agritourism adventure or discover engaging history, our state has activities that will appeal to you. Created in conjunction with Iowa Travel Industry Partners (iTIP), this guide offers numerous ideas for tour planners tasked with preparing an unforgettable Midwestern itinerary.

Iowa has five newly defined travel areas—Lakes & Land (Northwest Iowa), Loess Hills & Beyond (Southwest Iowa), Capital Country (Central Iowa), Driftless Area (Northeast Iowa) and Storied & Scenic (Southeast Iowa)—that best showcase all the wonders Iowa offers. Each area is geographically unique and shares a unique story.

- **Lakes & Lands:** Lake resorts, year-round water adventures, stunning natural landscapes, music history and landmarks, and awe-inspiring architecture await in Northwest Iowa.
- **Loess Hills & Beyond:** With views you can't get anywhere else in the western hemisphere, southwest Iowa is as breathtaking as it is unexpected. Surrounded by a sea of rolling hills and billowing prairie grasses, explore charming small towns and agricultural attractions.
- **Capital Country:** Expect the unexpected in this dynamic hotbed of cultural celebration. Enjoy urban culture or wander through beautiful countryside with historic covered bridges and epic wineries.
- **Driftless Area:** The outdoor oasis of Northeast Iowa boasts beautiful limestone bluffs, flowing rivers and winding scenic byways. Explore on a canoe with a fishing pole or up the thrill-seeking factor at one of Iowa's whitewater parks. Don't miss out on the museums or theme parks between adventures.
- **Storied & Scenic:** Celebrate some of the nation's most creative minds and retreat to authentic, European heritage destinations for a taste of the Old World. The heritage and charm of southeast Iowa make for unforgettable, story-worthy memories.

We hope you enjoy the *2023 Iowa Tour Guide* and know that iTIP is committed to creating an authentic and comprehensive group tour experience.

Thanks for reading,



Learn more about Iowa's group travel opportunities!

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The Southeast Iowa region offers scenic places to visit with storied histories, festivals and walkable downtowns

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12 LAKES AND LANDSCAPES IN NORTHWEST IOWA

From sparkling lakes and lush landscapes to a hotel from a world-famous architect, Northwest Iowa aims to please

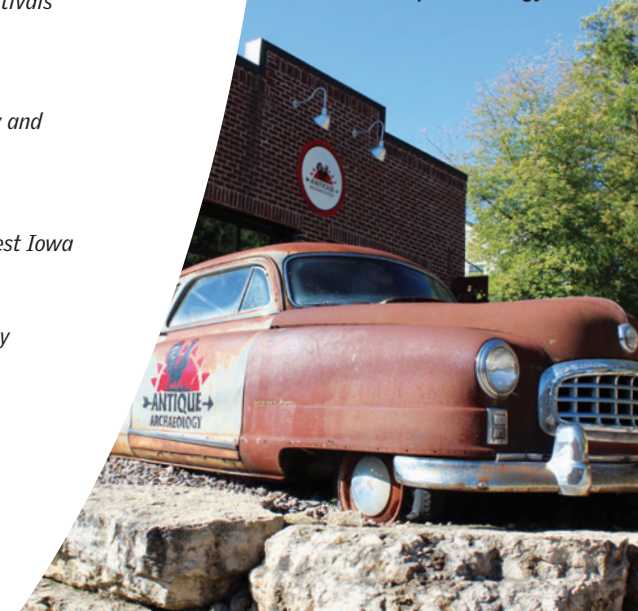


Okoboji Classic Cars



Knoxville Speedway

LeClaire Antique Archology





ITINERARY 3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS

Dubuque, Iowa is #1 and should be at the top of your list when planning for your next group tour. With a mix of unique first locations throughout the community, this itinerary highlights our history and our present while looking toward our future.



TRAVEL DUBUQUE

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EXPLORING WHERE IOWA STARTED

DAY 1

Start the day with #1 views in Dubuque at the **Fenelon Place Elevator**. This is the shortest, steepest, funicular in the world. While in Cable Car Square, be sure to check out the local boutiques, cool down with ice cream at Sweet Memories, or grab a coffee at **Monk's Coffee Shop**.

Complete your morning at Iowa's first United Methodist Church, **St. Luke's United Methodist Church**. Originally located in Washington Park, this church is known for the fifth largest collection of Tiffany stained glass windows in the world. **Stone Cliff Winery** is in the Historic Star Brewery Complex. Guests will hear the history of Iowa's first brewery and have a delicious lunch and/or wine tasting. **Dubuque Museum of Art** is Iowa's oldest cultural institution.

Check in and refresh at a Dubuque group-friendly hotel, Hotel Julien Dubuque, Dubuque's first hotel formerly known as the Waples House, or Grand Harbor Waterpark & Resort, Iowa's first indoor waterpark.

There is no better way to learn the rich history of Dubuque than via the **Historic Progressive Dinner**. Start with an appetizer at a former church with the tallest spire in Dubuque. The main course will include live musical entertainment in a location that was at one time the home of the largest employer in Dubuque, the former Farley & Loetcher lumber company.

DAY 2

Breakfast at the hotel
Start your morning at Iowa's largest aquarium, the **National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium**. One of two of Smithsonian museums in Dubuque

whose focus is history and wildlife of the Mississippi River. New this year is the Rivers to the Sea exhibit.

Enjoy a homemade buffet at Iowa's first restaurant and bar, **Breitbach's Country Dining**.

If You Build It Exhibit is the perfect way to explore the making of the *Field of Dreams* movie. This exhibit is the first of its kind paying homage to the magical *Field of Dreams* movie site. Home to the first MLB game in Iowa, the **Field of Dreams Movie Site** allows groups to experience the magic of the most iconic baseball field. The group will be able to explore the movie site as well as converse with a ghost player.

Home to the #1 Chicken Dinner, The **Moracco Supper Club** is family-owned and -operated for over 50 years. The fried chicken, listed on the menu as world-famous, is one of the many meat options apart from their family-style motorcoach group meals.

DAY 3

Hotel checkout and breakfast.

First cousins Eric and Michael Gantz invite you to explore **Verena Street Coffee** for a tour of their coffee-making facility, sampling and a treat for each member of the group to take home.

Iowa's first arboretum to be solely run by over 200 volunteers, **Dubuque Arboretum and Gardens** welcomes you to explore their Japanese Garden, Rose Garden, English Garden, Coy Pond and so much more. Golf carts are available.

End your tour of firsts with lunch at **Convivium Urban Farmstead**, whose mission is to improve life through food. Groups can add on the garden tour with the farm manager to see where the produce comes from to source the restaurant.

Modern Woodmen Park in Davenport along the Mississippi River was voted The Best Minor League Ballpark in America by *USA Today*.



STORIED AND SCENIC Southeast Iowa

THE SOUTHEAST IOWA REGION OFFERS SCENIC PLACES
TO VISIT WITH STORIED HISTORIES, FESTIVALS AND WALKABLE DOWNTOWNS

Beautiful backdrops of rolling farmlands and canyons of epic rock formations lend countless agritourism opportunities. Nestled among the rich fertile landscapes in southeast Iowa are diverse cities teeming with intriguing histories and colorful cultural celebrations.

CLINTON & MAQUOKETA

Discover the energetic atmosphere of **Downtown Clinton** with shops, restaurants and live music or visit the north end Lyons District for GabiBird Art Studio, Don's Jewelry, The Cage by Rivals Sports, and so much more. Enjoy a live performance at the **Clinton Showboat Theatre** or climb atop **Stone Tower** for stunning views of **Eagle Point Park**. Northwest of Clinton, **Maquoketa Caves State Park** showcases more caves than any other Iowa state park. Taste delicious Iowa vintages from **Wild River Winery** or refuel with a cup from **392° Caffe**.

● SOUTHERN IOWA CHARM

The **American Gothic House & Center** welcomes visitors to Eldon for photo ops in front of a piece of Americana, the inspirational farmhouse for Grant Wood's painting. Twelve quaint towns comprise the **Villages of Van Buren**, full of charming inns, two National Historic Districts, Amish and Mennonite communities, shops and history galore. *Ripley's Believe It or Not!* Odd Spots

Across America campaign named **Snake Alley** in Burlington "Unbelievably Crooked!" Drive or walk the 275-foot 1894 landmark that includes seven curves and descends 58 feet. Witness the awesome water power flowing through **Lock and Dam Number 19** and discover how Keokuk and U.S. history intertwine with a stop at the 2.75-acre **National Cemetery**. Fort Madison's history dates back to the early 1800s and comes alive in the reconstruction of the first military outpost on the upper Mississippi, **Old Fort Madison**. The **Old Santa Fe Depot** and **Engine 2913** reflect the town's rich railroad history.



Old Fort Madison

QUAD CITIES

A bi-state region along the Mississippi River in Iowa and Illinois, the Quad Cities is a community of riverfront cities and a wealth of attractions. Enjoy a dinner cruise aboard **Celebration River Cruises** or check out **Riverboat Twilight** for a voyage on the Mississippi River. Sway to the music at the annual **Mississippi Valley Blues Festival** in September, featuring two stages hosting local, regional, and national music artists. Get your big swing on in July during the **PGA's John Deere Classic**. Join thousands of runners, including some of the most elite, in July for the 10,000-meter "Bix 7" road race that pays tribute to the legendary Jazz musician Bix Beiderbecke. **Modern Woodmen Park** in Davenport along the Mississippi River offers scenic views of the water and is home to some top-notch professional baseball.



IOWA CITY

Known as the Literary Capital of the World, Iowa City hosts the **Iowa City Book Festival** and also boasts a vibrant and exciting downtown. **Englert Theater** was once home to vaudeville acts from around the globe. Today, audiences can enjoy musicals, plays, concerts, dance recitals and two annual art festivals. Have a laugh at **Joystick Comedy Bar & Arcade** with jokes from local, regional and national comedians.

Agritourism blooms at beautiful **Koru Berry Farm** in Homestead, an Aronia berry farm. Or guests can take a "sanctuary stroll" at the shelter for rescued farm animals at the **Iowa Farm Sanctuary**. In nearby Kalona, groups can visit the **Mennonite Museum** or **Kalona Historical Village** for in-depth heritage exhibits that will educate and entertain.

FAIRFIELD

The founding of **Maharishi International University** and the establishment of Fairfield as a center for Transcendental Meditation in the '70s had great influence on the city's art scene. The **Carnegie Museum** is a popular stop for visitors, telling the fascinating stories of Fairfield and the people who built and shaped it into the city it is today. Situated on 33 acres of gorgeous Iowa scenery, the award-winning **Fishback & Stephenson** taproom offers a wide cider selection. Catch the Fairfield nightlife vibe at the **Depot House**, whose robust calendar of events, diverse performers, and great food makes it one of Fairfield's premier destinations. Have lunch at one of the bistros downtown, visit with local artists during **1st Fridays**, and experience the magic of a Broadway-inspired show at the **Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts**.

CEDAR RAPIDS

Cedar Rapids boasts numerous museums, including the **African American Museum of Iowa**, showcasing permanent and temporary exhibitions of Iowa's Black history. Free throughout the summer, the **Cedar Rapids Museum of Art** displays more than 2,000 years of exhibitions, including art by Grant Wood, the creator of the iconic American Gothic pop culture painting. **The District: Czech Village & New Bohemia** comprises two thriving and award-winning communities. While there, be sure to check out the indoor **NewBo City Market** with local businesses offering one-of-a-kind goodies and authentic products. The **National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library** tells the history and culture of central European immigrants in Iowa. Visit nearby **Amana Colonies** to dive into German heritage, delicious eats and specialty shopping.

Picture yourself here...

AMERICAN
GOTHIC HOUSE & CENTER
Eldon, Iowa
americangothichouse.org

Central Iowa

CAPITAL COUNTRY

IOWA'S CAPITAL COUNTRY HAS EVERYTHING FROM THE FAMED BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY AND THE HISTORIC CAPITAL CITY OF DES MOINES TO RACECAR HERITAGE AND DUTCH CULTURE

Central Iowa touts a wealth of adventures to experience—from the iconic Bridges of Madison County to John Wayne's birthplace in Winterset. Explore Des Moines and the Capitol Building before heading to Pella, which offers Dutch heritage and Tulip Time.

AMES

Along with celebrating **Iowa State University Cyclones** sporting events, Ames also hosts the **Octagon Art Festival**, the summer **Iowa Games** and the **Farm Progress Show**. Take in a robust tour of the **Iowa State University** campus. At **Reiman Gardens**, guests can view the award-winning 7-acre botanical garden and butterfly house. Peruse over 50 locally owned shops for souvenirs and tasty treats along **Ames Main Street**. Absorb the area's rich history at cultural venues like the **Brunnier Art Museum** and the **Ames History Museum**.

MARION COUNTY

Steeped in Dutch heritage and floral landscapes, Pella comes alive in springtime with the annual **Tulip Time** festival. Discover Dutch culture with costumed residents, authentic food and blossoming tulips. A new hot spot for after 5 p.m. is the **de Kelder Speakeasy** near the **Klokkenspel** in downtown Pella. Traveling during the holiday time provides a chance to take in **Kerstmarkt**, which is inspired by outdoor markets in the Netherlands. If you're looking for exciting entertainment, head to the **Knoxville Raceway** just south of Pella. Referred to as "The Sprint Car Capital of the World," it hosts the prestigious Knoxville Nationals. Suds-lovers won't want to miss the original award-winning brewery and tap room of **Peace Tree Brewing**, located in downtown Knoxville, just miles from beautiful **Lake Red Rock**.



Reiman Gardens

MADISON COUNTY

Discover the famed **Bridges of Madison County** on a tour of the six remaining covered bridges, offering epic photo opportunities of the iconic scenery. The historic **Iowa Theater** in Winterset presents numerous shows and performances and hosts weekly movie nights. Marvel at the intricate patchwork at the **Iowa Quilt Museum**, displaying colorful contemporary quilts that preserve American quilt heritage.

Explore the only museum dedicated to the Duke at the **John Wayne Birthplace Museum**, showcasing relics from his childhood inside his first home. Sip on Iowa-made award-winning vintages at the **Covered Bridges Winery** or taste mouthwatering cider at the **Winterset Cidery**.



NEWTON

Newton is home to the founder of the Maytag Washing Machine Company. History of the company and their family can be found everywhere you turn. Experience the **Maytag Dairy Farms** legacy by visiting their new store at **Nostalgia Wine & Spirits**. Tour the **Iowa Speedway**, "The Fastest Short Track on the Planet." Afterward, enjoy tasty meals at several restaurants, including casual fare from **Giovanni's Pizzeria** or **First Street Bistro**. Or delve into the cultural flavors of **Sombrero** or **Viet-Thai Taste** for an adventurous culinary experience. Stroll through the **Newton Arboretum and Botanical Garden** or go on a **Newton Sculpture/ Mural Tour** featuring over 90 art and sculpture installations.

INDIANOLA

Indianola is among a few places in which to experience what it was like to drive the first transcontinental highway in the United States. Drive the north-south, two-lane country roads of the **Lincoln Highway** through beautiful Iowa farmland to get a sense of what early car travel from town to town was like before interstate highways. Have you ever looked up in the sky to see it filled with colorful hot air balloons and wondered what they really looked like up close? Experience the **National Balloon Classic** in Indianola in late July and include a stop at the **National Balloon Museum**. For over 70 years people have grabbed a straw and slurped an old-fashioned phosphate, cherry Coke or other fountain drink at the **Corner Sundry** in Downtown Indianola. It's time traveling at its most delicious.

DES MOINES

Start your trip to Des Moines with a tour of the **Capitol Building** and the awe-inspiring **Terrace Hill** governor's mansion for an intricate history lesson. No matter how far you travel you'll never forget the experience **West End Architectural Salvage** has to offer. Browse four floors of treasures and take in a group scavenger hunt. Catch historical artifacts from the Civil War through the present day at the **Iowa Gold Star Military Museum**, located on the military base of Camp Dodge. Situated along the Principal Riverwalk in downtown Des Moines, the **World Food Prize Hall of Laureates** serves as a museum to recognize the importance of food sustainability and the fight against hunger. Smell the roses at the **Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden** and immerse in antebellum history at the **Jordan House**, a known Underground Railroad respite.



Adventure Awaits IN SOUTHWEST IOWA

EXPERIENCE THE BEAUTY OF THE LOESS HILLS AND BEYOND AS YOU TRAVEL THROUGH RURAL SOUTHWEST IOWA

The Loess Hills are as breathtaking as they are unexpected—it's the only place in the western hemisphere you can see landforms—made of deep deposits of loess soil. With stunning scenery and quaint small towns, the southwest region is a sight to behold.

CLARINDA

Small-town atmosphere and the "Home of Great Beginnings," Clarinda is a charming stop on your Iowa tour. History lovers will want to visit the **Nodaway Valley Historical Museum** or the **Clarinda Carnegie Art Museum** in the former Carnegie Library. The **Glenn Miller Birthplace Home & Museum** is perfect for fans of favorite big band leader Glenn Miller. Take in a game of **Clarinda A's** summer baseball. **Downtown Clarinda** offers a variety of locally owned boutiques and restaurants, perfect for satisfying all your appetite and shopping needs.

COUNCIL BLUFFS

Filled with history and exciting attractions, Council Bluffs offers a great place to appreciate history and anticipate the future. The **Union Pacific Railroad Museum** and **RailsWest Railroad Museum** are perfect destinations for learning about the history of transportation. To learn about life in the past, pay a visit to the **Historic Squirrel Cage Jail** or **General Dodge House**, both offering insights into Iowa history.

Discover a nice blend of nightlife and dining throughout the **Historic 100 Block West Broadway**. Take a stroll across the Missouri River on the **Bob Kerrey Pedestrian Bridge**—the first pedestrian bridge that connects two states.

Don't forget to go "bobbing"—striking a pose while standing (or lying down) in two states at the same time! Groups can also head north to Missouri Valley for an afternoon at the **Loess Hills Lavender Farm**.



Bob Kerrey
Pedestrian Bridge

COON RAPIDS

Located near Coon Rapids along seven miles of the Middle Raccoon River Valley is the **Whiterock Conservancy**. The 5,500-acre property is perfect for hiking, mountain biking and horseback trails, canoeing/kayaking, fishing and stargazing in the darkest skies in Iowa. Coon Rapids is home to numerous impressive sculptures including the **Rotating Ear of Corn**, the **Hybrid Icon Installment** and the **Roadside Sculpture Park**. If you are looking to do a little shopping, stop in **Nature Ammil** for essential oils, goat milk soaps and lotions to repurposed furniture, antiques and collectibles. The **Naturally Iowa Grain Bin Gateway** project is a 360-degree mural commissioned on the side of two grain bins located at the entrance to Coon Rapids downtown.

JEFFERSON

The **Mahanay Bell Tower of Jefferson** is one of only four carillons in Iowa. Regular concerts and chimes play from this fourteen-story carillon located on the town square. The **Thomas Jefferson Gardens of Greene County** brings to life the prairies that welcomed Lewis and Clark explorers and early settlers, farming practices of Thomas Jefferson's time, and outdoor musical instruments. Master furniture maker Robby Pedersen, **RVP ~ 1875 Historical Furniture Shop and Museum**, has more than 20 years of experience building historically accurate furniture using only the tools, techniques and finishes used in 1875. View the evolution of the telephone at the **Jefferson Telecom Museum**, one of the first in the nation back in 1957. From blossom to bottle, they do it all on the family-owned farm to produce the perfect bottle of **Deal's Orchard Hard Cider**. Stop out to watch the process and enjoy a glass.

ELK HORN

A little slice of Denmark lives in this pleasant town. Experience the rich Danish heritage of Elk Horn and explore rural Iowa. Tours of heritage landmarks can be booked at the **Danish Windmill and Welcome Center**, an authentic windmill from Denmark built in 1848. For more Danish culture, visit **Bedstemor's House** or the **Museum of Danish America**, the latter of which includes three floors of exhibits, a 35-acre prairie restoration park, and Danish outdoor fitness equipment. After a thorough history lesson, enjoy some fresh air as you journey down **Western Skies Scenic Byway** and take in the beauty of rural America. Begin your adventure at the **Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center**. Catch a bite to eat at one of several great restaurants like **Grace on Main**, the **Norse Horse Tavern** or **Larsen's Pub**, all of which offer a charming small-town dining experience.

CARROLL

Star Destinations is a tour operator that sends groups to destinations around the world, but their hometown of Carroll is a fantastic place to visit. Carroll is a vibrant city on the **Lincoln Highway** headlining a county with a unique history. Learn about this history of bootleggers and Al Capone, sports legends and the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence at the **Carroll County History Museum**. **Templeton Distillery**, Iowa Legendary Rye, and **Santa Maria Winery** craft top-notch, nationally known products. For shopping, Carroll's specialty boutiques and **historic downtown** offer a quaint experience. High school, college and semi-pro baseball teams have all played at the legendary **Merchants Park**. The Lakers once made an emergency landing in a Carroll cornfield, and an NBA championship-winning coach grew up here. You will love Carroll and the surrounding small towns, where local whiskeys and wines, stunning views and an interesting past await!



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THE OUTDOOR OASIS OF *Northeast Iowa*

**NORTHEAST IOWA IS FULL OF BREATHTAKING VIEWS, AWARD-WINNING MUSEUMS,
DESTINATION SPECIALTY SHOPS, AND UNIQUE BREWERIES**

While Iowa's not lacking when it comes to terrific outdoor adventures, the state's northeast Driftless area seems to have gotten more than its fair share of them. Here, we offer six places to best enjoy them.

DECORAH

Historic yet modern, an outdoor oasis with an abundance of culture, Decorah has plenty to offer. Visit **Decorah Fish Hatchery & Siewers**, a state-of-the-art trout rearing station. At **Dunning's Spring Park** take in a stunning 200-foot waterfall minutes from downtown. Innovative exhibits tell the stories of Norwegian-Americans at the **Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum**. The best place to start any visit to **Heritage Farm**, the headquarters of Seed Savers Exchange, is at the Lillian Goldman Visitors Center. After, explore the gardens.

DUBUQUE

As views go, it doesn't get more dramatic than the one from Dubuque's **Fenelon Place Elevator**, the shortest and steepest scenic railway in the world that once you reach the top, you'll be able to see three states (Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin). If heights aren't your thing, head to the **National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium**, dedicated to the history, culture, and ecosystem of this grand river. Afterwards, get an up-close look at the Mississippi River with a leisurely **American Lady Cruise**. At the **Mathias Ham House** visitors can delve into Dubuque's history with a tour of a one-room schoolhouse, replica lead mine, miner's dwelling and Iowa's oldest log cabin. Head just north of Dubuque to Dyersville to have a game of catch or sit in the bleachers at the **Field of Dreams Movie Site** and tour the iconic home from the Academy Award-nominated film.

CHARLES CITY

Unique public art sculptures and colorful murals are located throughout Charles City, offering photo ops and places to explore in this scenic river town. Engravings, etchings and lithographs from big-name artists (think Rembrandt, Picasso and Dali) are the focus of the **Mooney Art Gallery**, while the **Charles City Art Center**, located in an historic Carnegie Library building, features local and regional art. Hart-Parr and Oliver tractors, along with a historical drug store and log cabin are one of many displays at the **Floyd County Museum**. Explore the girlhood home of suffragist **Carrie Chapman Catt**, a key figure in the passing of the 19th Amendment. Downtown boasts Aromas for fresh-roasted coffee, local craft beer at **Tellurian Brewing**, riverfront dining, and a variety of destination specialty shops. Stop by **Prologue Books & Wine**—a hidden gem where you can pick up your favorite book or bottle.

ELKADER

With its prime location on the Turkey River, Elkader offers an abundance of outdoor fun and adventure. Head to the 98-mile **Turkey River Water Trail** for stunning scenery, historical landmarks and plenty of wildlife sightings. **River Bluffs Scenic Byway** culminates with a three-state view of the Mississippi River from Pikes Peak State Park. Visit the **Motor Mill Historic Site** where you can see five native limestone buildings, including the 90-foot limestone flour mill, a stable, an inn, an icehouse, and cooperage. Take in the shops and restaurants of **Elkader's Main Street District** where one can find an extensive selection of craft beer and natural wines. In the evening, visit **Elkader Opera House**, a beautifully renovated 1903 opera house featuring ruby glass chandeliers, a horseshoe balcony, decorative brick details and local theater group performances.

CEDAR FALLS

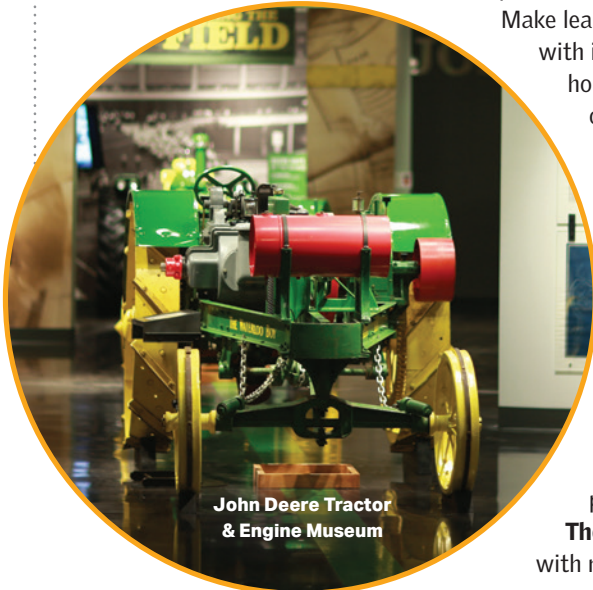
Fitting an area with a great college —University of Northern Iowa—Cedar Falls offers a great mix of restaurants, nightlife, culture and outdoor adventures. Just west of town in Hudson is **Hansen's Dairy**. Spend time in the trolley touring around the farm operations, pet the cows and kangaroos, make butter and even sample the ice cream. Sticking with the dairy theme, make way to **Barn Happy** for a locally made lunch in the former dairy barn and don't forget a little Iowa shopping while here too. Reward your hard work with a visit to **Cedar Falls Downtown District**, where you'll find craft breweries and restaurants galore, ranging from pizza parlors slinging hand-tossed pies and bustling sports bars to more refined eateries offering boutique wines. Cedar Falls' nightlife offers charming local theaters and live music.



WATERLOO

Look no further than Waterloo for your next group trip that includes award-winning museums, a water park and theme park, and more. Visitors of all ages will appreciate the **John Deere Tractor & Engine Museum**, which features plenty of hands-on displays. The **Grount Museum District** offers three museums with hands-on experiences and two historic homes.

Make learning scientific principles fun with interactive exhibits as well as honor the service and sacrifice of Iowa veterans from the Civil War to present. Or maybe American decorative arts, international folk, Mexican art and the world's largest public collection of Haitian art is more your fancy. The **Waterloo Center for the Arts** features all that and more. Cool off at **Lost Island Water Park**, Iowa's largest outdoor water park. Or head to **Lost Island Themepark**, a tropical paradise with nature-themed rides.



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WATERLOO, IA

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LAKES AND LANDSCAPES *in Northwest Iowa*

FROM SPARKLING LAKES AND LUSH LANDSCAPES TO A HOTEL FROM A WORLD-FAMOUS ARCHITECT, NORTHWEST IOWA AIMS TO PLEASE

Northwest Iowa may not be the first place you think of when it comes to beautiful lakes—but it should. Add in iconic architecture, historic sites, classic cars, legendary music, year-round water adventures and Iowa's Lakes & Land region truly has it all.

FORT DODGE

The Old West is alive and well in Fort Dodge at **The Fort Museum & Frontier Village**, which includes 18 original and replica buildings along with artifacts. Set inside a neo-classical building, the **Blanden Art Museum** features an eclectic mix of European and American paintings, sculptures and prints, as well as Iowa artists, and Japanese screens and prints. Located in the Historic Downtown area are thirst-quenching breweries, such as **Shiny Top Brewing**, and one-of-a-kind shops.

LE MARS

The smells of freshly baked waffle cones and delicious ice cream will welcome you as soon as you take a step inside the Ice Cream Capital of the World at **Wells Visitor Center & Ice Cream Parlor**. Visit the sweetest place on Earth where an ice cream parlor collides with one-of-a-kind experiences. Enjoy a dinner and theater experience with made-from-scratch Iowa cooking before one of the shows at the **Browns Century Theater**. Tour the **Le Mars Art Center**, located in the Historic Carnegie Library. Try your hand at "Alcohol Ink" or a new favorite "Zentangle." Looking to see even more art? Take a drive through the alleys of downtown Le Mars to see the **Alley Art Project**, which features original artwork from some 38 local artists painted on the walls of 40 buildings.



Wells Visitor Center & Ice Cream Parlor



SURPRISES AT EVERY BEND

explore
SIoux CITY
IOWA • NEBRASKA • SOUTH DAKOTA

Sioux City, Iowa, delivers a rich and unique experience for travelers—history, museums, cuisine, art, trails, festivals and sporting events. Simple access to a variety of geographical wonders and cultural surprises makes us an excellent destination for your next customized adventure.



ExploreSiouxCity.org



**CLEAR LAKE
MASON CITY**
IOWA

Two Unique Communities...
One Fantastic Destination!

Clear Lake & Mason City



Experience music history unlike any other at the **Surf Ballroom** and **Music Man Square**. Then put on your walking shoes and explore famous **Frank Lloyd Wright architecture** and magnificent art, sculptures and gardens. And, of course, a trip to Clear Lake and Mason City just wouldn't be complete without enjoying a *delightful cruise on Clear Lake*.

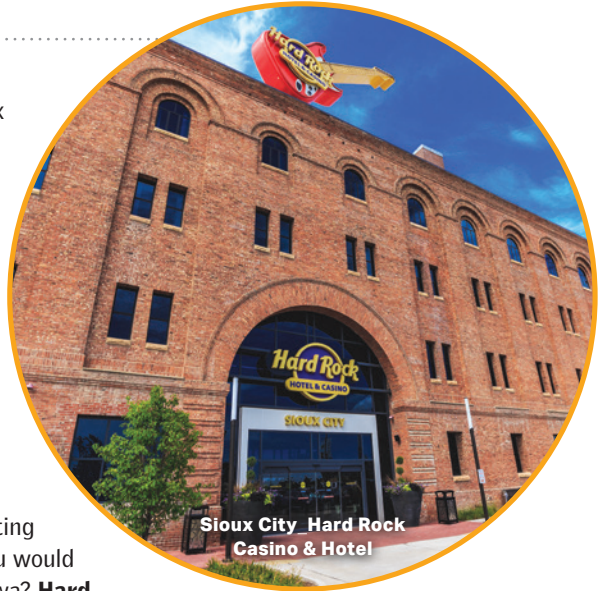
800.423.5724
www.thisisnorthiowa.com/visit

CLEAR LAKE

For some of the best views of the 3,600-acre Clear Lake, hitch a ride on **Lady of the Lake**, an authentic paddle wheel excursion boat that offers narrated tours. If music is your jam, then a visit to the **Surf Ballroom**, a legendary live music venue, should be on your must-do list. Include a stop at **The Fox House** to tour the home of the original owner and builder of the Surf Ballroom. Keep the music theme going and pay your respects at the **Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and "The Big Bopper" Crash Site Memorial**. Holly's horn-rimmed glasses, albeit an oversized replica, mark the entrance. The Art Deco-inspired **Three Stars Plaza** monument features a central spindle stacked with three 45rpm records to remember the rock 'n' roll icons. Relax over specialty and seasonal craft beers at **Lake Time Brewing**.

SIoux CITY

Not one but two historic districts can be found in Sioux City, which is situated along the banks of the Missouri River. Constructed in 1927, the **Orpheum Theatre** is a beautifully restored theater that offers live entertainment ranging from Broadway shows and concerts to movies. If the visual arts are more your fancy, head to the **Sioux City Art Center**, which features a variety of permanent and visiting exhibits. Did you ever think you would find a Hard Rock Casino in Iowa? **Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sioux City** is an award-winning gaming destination with a AAA Four Diamond-rated hotel, two restaurants (including a AAA Three Diamond-rated one), and three bars and two live entertainment venues. Plenty of outdoor fun can be found year-round at **Cone Park**.



MASON CITY

The only remaining Frank Lloyd Wright hotel in the world calls Mason City home—and it's stunning. The **Historic Park Inn** features 27 beautifully restored rooms, all of which are different, as well as private event spaces, a restaurant and lounge. Indulge in more architecture awe with a **Prairie School Architectural Tour** in the Rock Crest and Rock Glen area. At **Music Man Square**, the iconic film's streetscape is recreated as a celebration to the life and achievements of native musician and composer Meredith Willson. Delight in the sights and sounds of downtown Mason City, host to dozens of events and concerts year-round, while experiencing the unique sculpture works of artists from all over the country with the **River City Sculptures on Parade**. Locally owned restaurants can satisfy a variety of tastes, including **Lorados** (delicious comfort food), **The Hungry Mind** (gourmet burgers and sandwiches), and **State Street Deli** (traditional deli sandwiches).



OKOBOJI

No matter if you choose spring-fed **West Lake Okoboji** or **Spirit Lake**, Iowa's largest natural lake, you'll be rewarded with some of the most beautiful landscapes and water adventures. Stretch your legs with a walk around Iowa's largest outdoor classroom at **Iowa Lakeside Laboratory** or take in a show at the **Okoboji Summer Theatre** or **Roof Garden Ballroom**. Explore the water with a ride on the group-friendly **Fish House** restaurant/cruise ship. It doubles as the world's largest ice fish house in the winter. Step back in time with a visit to the ultimate man-cave at **Okoboji Classic Cars**, filled with floor-to-ceiling murals, antiques, and over 80 classic cars. The **Iowa Great Lake Trail** offers outdoor opportunities from its popular blue lakes and sandy beaches to quiet natural areas. For the ultimate student trip, stay at the **Bridges Bay Resort** while experiencing all that Arnolds Park offers.

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Lake Red Rock Balloon Fest, Knoxville



Cedar River Whitewater Park, Charles City



Historic General Dodge House, Council Bluffs



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Grain Silo Murals, Fort Dodge



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Field of Dreams, Dyersville

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