

Make Mighty Memories on the Mississippi River

Spend 3 hours or 3 days discovering everything our bi-state region has to offer! Live theatre, an authentic Dutch windmill, historical museums, art & wine, unique shopping... we have it all! We're large enough to offer great attractions but small enough to offer group travel planners attentive one-on-one service.



- Murder Mystery Dinner at George Curtis Mansion
- Authentic Dutch Windmill & Windmill Cultural Center
- Professional Stagecraft at the Showboat Theatre
- Eagle Point Park & Lodge overlooking the Mississippi
- Wild Rose Casino & Hotel
- Lumberkings Baseball (Add on a Meet & Greet!)
- Candlelight Inn fine dining on the river
- Candy Demo at Grandma's Goody Jar
- Great Revivalist Brewery, Wide River Winery and more
- Private Tours at museums, attractions and art centers
- Heritage Canyon 1800s Village
- St. Boniface Catholic Historical Center
- Three downtown shopping areas

Contact Lesley Webster
Director of Placemaking & Tourism
lwebster@growclinton.com
563.242.5702



Chicago Madison

www.visitclintoniowa.com







Enjoy an Authentic Riverboat Experience on the Mighty Mississippi

EASY INTERSTATE ACCESS • MOTORCOACH FRIENDLY • HIGHLY-RATED HOTELS • HOME OF THE AMERICAN PICKERS

Style, comfort, and convenience — the Riverboat Twilight promises the quintessential Mississippi River cruise experience with the historic charm you'd expect from LeClaire, Iowa. Whether you choose a 90-minute tour or a two-day cruise, the Riverboat Twilight guarantees personalized service for your group in an elegant setting. And while your group is on land, LeClaire offers everything from historic sites to unique boutiques, local fine and casual dining, the iconic Libations Lane, and one-of-a-kind live entertainment — all within walking distance of Riverboat Twilight's dock! Located conveniently just upriver from the Quad Cities off Interstate 80 and motorcoach friendly, LeClaire is the perfect destination for your next group tour.

For a sample or customized tour itinerary:

Contact LeClaire Tourism Manager Cindy Bruhn at info@visitleclaire.com.

VISITLECLAIRE.COM/GROUPTOURS • • • RIVERBOATTWILIGHT.COM



CONTENTS

iscover Iowa's diverse attractions with the Iowa Group Travel Guide, a collaboration between The Group Travel Leader and Iowa Travel Industry Partners. Each itinerary showcases different themes, inviting groups to explore the state's rich offerings. Dive into water communities along its rivers, delve into agritourism ventures or visit filming locations of famous movies. Experience the charm of Iowa during the holiday season and explore its rich cultural heritage. From students to seniors and thrill-seekers to leisurely travelers, Iowa offers something for every group. Let this guide inspire your next adventure in the Hawkeye State. Start planning today!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IOWA TRAVEL INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Chelsea Levud

OFFICE: 515-207-0009 INFO@IOWATRAVELINDUSTRY.ORG

PUBLISHED FOR





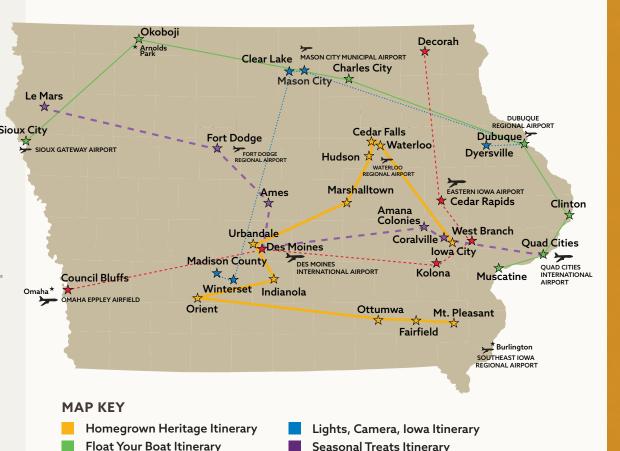
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NICHE TRAVEL PUBLISHERS **301 EAST HIGH STREET** LEXINGTON, KY 40507 859-253-0455 GROUPTRAVELLEADER.COM





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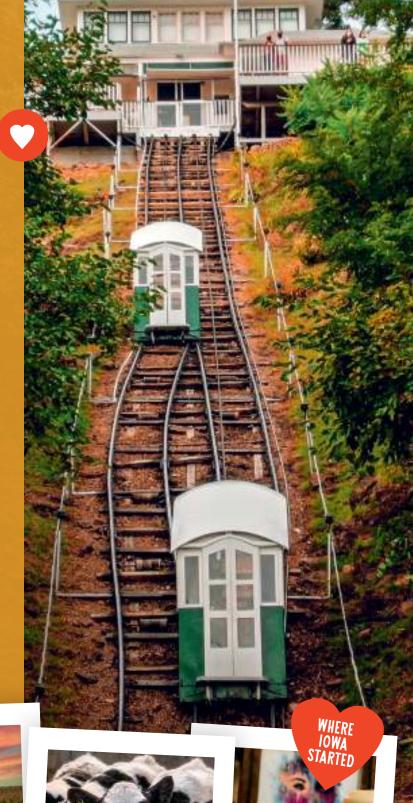
Dubuque, Iowa breaks Midwest stereotypes of flat farmland. With rolling hills and limestone bluffs along the Mississippi River, it is one of the best-kept secrets for group tours.



TRAVEL .COM









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A prairie walk at Wallace Farm in Orient

Courtesy Wallace Centers of Iowa

owa's innovations in agriculture feed the state and the rest of the world, too. From enjoying snapshots of farm life to learning about the state's advanced agricultural operations, travelers can visit these agritourism attractions in the eastern and central parts of the state.





Maasdam Barns in Fairfield

Kangaroo petting at Hansen's

Dairy Farm in Hudson

HOMEGROWN HERITAGE ITINERARY



- Arrive in Mount Pleasant
- Tour Old Threshers Museums
- Depart for Fairfield (28 min drive)
- Lunch at Due South
- Tour MAASDAM BARNS
- Depart for American Gothic House (25 min drive)
- Tour AMERICAN GOTHIC HOUSE
- Depart for Ottumwa (23 min drive)
- Dinner at Warehouse Barbecue Co. & **Brewhouse**
- Attend a performance at the Bridge View Center
- Overnight at Cobblestone Hotel & Suites

DAY 2

- Breakfast at Main Street Donuts
- Tour Antique Airplane Association's Air Power Museum
- Depart for Orient (2 hr 5 min drive)
- Lunch and tour at WALLACE FARM
- Depart for Indianola (1 hr 5 min drive)
- Tour Summerset Winery
- Dinner at The Studio catered by Mishmash Eats followed by a honey tasting experience
- Overnight at Hotel Pommier

DAY 3

- Depart for Urbandale (30 min drive)
- Breakfast at Machine Shed Restaurant
- Tour Living History Farms
- Depart for Marshalltown (1 hr drive)
- Lunch at The Flying Elbow
- Depart for Hudson (51 min drive)
- Tour HANSEN'S DAIRY FARM
- Depart for Cedar Falls (13 min drive)
- Shopping at Barn Happy
- Depart for Waterloo (15 min drive)
- Dinner at SingleSpeed Brewing
- Overnight at Courtyard Waterloo Cedar Falls (built in the historic John Deere factory)

DAY 4

- Breakfast at Newton's Paradise Cafe
- Tour IOHN DEERE TRACTOR & ENGINE
- Depart for Iowa City (2 hr drive)
- Lunch at Wilson's Ciderhouse and Venue
- Visit Wilson's Orchard and Farm

MAASDAM BARNS

FAIRFIELD

By Werner Elmker, courtesy Fairfield CVB

Groups can explore the captivating history of early agriculture at Maasdam Barns in Jefferson County. In 1906, Jacob Maasdam brought Percheron horses to Fairfield, establishing a renowned horse market. These majestic draft horses, notable for their impressive size and strength, were raised and sold from 1910 to 1938. Today, the Evergreen Ridge Stock Farm at the Maasdam Barns lets visitors peek into the past to learn about the legacy of the early 20th-century draft horse breeding business. Groups can tour the restored barns on the property, which were originally constructed in 1906 and 1910 with Louden Machinery Company barn products. Exhibits detailing farm life and the Percheron draft horse breeding business can be found throughout the farm, including artifacts related to Turney Wagon Works, which was once Fairfield's largest employer. The barns act as a site for community festivals and events and draw many visitors to Fairfield each year.

VISITFAIRFIELDIOWA.COM



Courtesy Cari Nicely

IOWA

AMERICAN GOTHIC HOUSE

ELDON

In 1930, painter Grant Wood visited Eldon, where a particular house caught his eye. That house became the backdrop of one of the nation's most famous paintings, "American Gothic." To this day, the house looks just as it did in the painting, and it's open to visitors. The on-site American Gothic House Center features an exhibit, a gift shop and costumes to pose for your very own American Gothic photo (you know you want to!). The house's exterior is open from dawn to dusk. A few times each month, the interior of the house is opened to guests. On these dates, visitors can explore the home's first floor. The center also offers organized group tours. If you'd like to spend some extra time in the great outdoors while you're there, the center's surrounding area includes prairie gardens, a walking and biking trail, picnic areas and disc golf.

AMERICANGOTHICHOUSE.ORG

FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON WAS STATIONED AT THE NAVAL AIR STATION IN OTTUMWA, IOWA, AS AIDE TO THE EXECUTIVE

Off the

Beaten Path,

Yet Unforgettable

OFFICER FROM OCTOBER 1942 TO MAY 1943. — **OTTUMWA**



THE VEDIC OBSERVATORY IN MAHARISHI VEDIC CITY IS A 1.5-ACRE OPEN-AIR OBSERVATORY OF MASONRY SUNDIALS. IT'S UNIQUE FOR ITS ABILITY TO DISPLAY THE WHOLE STRUC-TURE OF THE UNIVERSE ALONG WITH ALL THE MOVEMENTS OF THE SUN, THE PLANETS AND THE STARS IN ONE COMPACT FORM. — **FAIRFIELD**





IOWATRAVELINDUSTRY.ORG IOWA GROUP TRAVEL GUIDE

WALLACE FARM

ORIENT

This vibrant farm was the 1888 birthplace of Henry A. Wallace, who served as U.S. secretary of agriculture from 1933-41 before becoming vice president in 1945. Prior to working in government, Wallace was one of three generations of Henry Wallaces who left an indelible mark on the field of agriculture. Following in the visionary footsteps of his father and grandfather, Wallace founded seed-corn company Pioneer Hi-Bred and served as an editor at Wallaces' Farmer magazine. Wallace Farm as it stands today contains 40 of the property's original 160 acres. The farm's grounds are open daily for self-guided tours. Visitors can explore a sculpture garden, orchard, gardens and a restored prairie. Groups can enjoy a self-guided tour, an educational program and a farm-to-table meal. Educational programming topics include the Wallaces' agricultural and journalistic legacies and agricultural history, or custom lessons on conservation, prairie restoration and other requested topics.

WALLACE.ORG





Courtesy Hansen's Dairy Farm

IOHN DEERE TRACTOR & ÉNGINE MUSEUM

WATERLOO

John Deere changed life for farmers across the Midwest — and later, the world — when he developed a steel self-scouring plow in 1837. Nearly 200 years later, the company's larger-than-life tractors and engineering wonders keep America's farms and industry moving. The John Deere Tractor & Engine Museum stands at the site of John Deere's very first tractor factory and features a fascinating collection of equipment. The museum's artifacts chart John Deere's growth from a simple steel plow to the epic feats of farming the company is known for today. With interactive exhibits and awe-inspiring guides, there's a whole lot to see. For a more comprehensive museum experience, download the John Deere mobile guide, which offers audio tours, videos, selfie filters and virtual reality experiences throughout the museum. The museum is aptly located at TechWorks, a 30-acre campus of manufacturing, research, innovation and education — so its very surroundings are an inspiration.

EXPERIENCEWATERLOO.COM

WATERLOO, IA

HANSEN'S DAIRY FARM

HUDSON

Hansen's Dairy Farm has been farmed by the same family for over 150 years across seven generations, which earns it classification as an Iowa Heritage Farm. With an on-farm creamery, Hansen's is about as farm-to-table as it gets. The farm has been raising cows since the 1950s and has been processing dairy products on-site since 2004. The Hansen family's four sons help run the farm, caring for a closed dairy herd of 300 Holstein cows and a Wagyu-Holstein herd raised for beef. The creamery produces milk, butter, cheese curds, heavy cream and over 20 flavors of ice cream. The farm also has another special group of critters: kangaroos. After one of the Hansen sons found inspiration on a visit to Australia, the farm became home to several kangaroos, which visitors can pet and feed. Hansen's offers tours that educate on dairy farming and processing — and of course, each tour offers ample opportunity to pet the cows and kangaroos.



Courtesy Wallace Centers of Iowa

OHN DEERE TRA



THE YEAR IN 2023. — MARSHALLTOWN



VISIT GMDISTRICT.ORG/CALENDAR FOR CURRENT EXHIBITS & EVENTS

TOUCH IT.

HOURS & RATES AT:

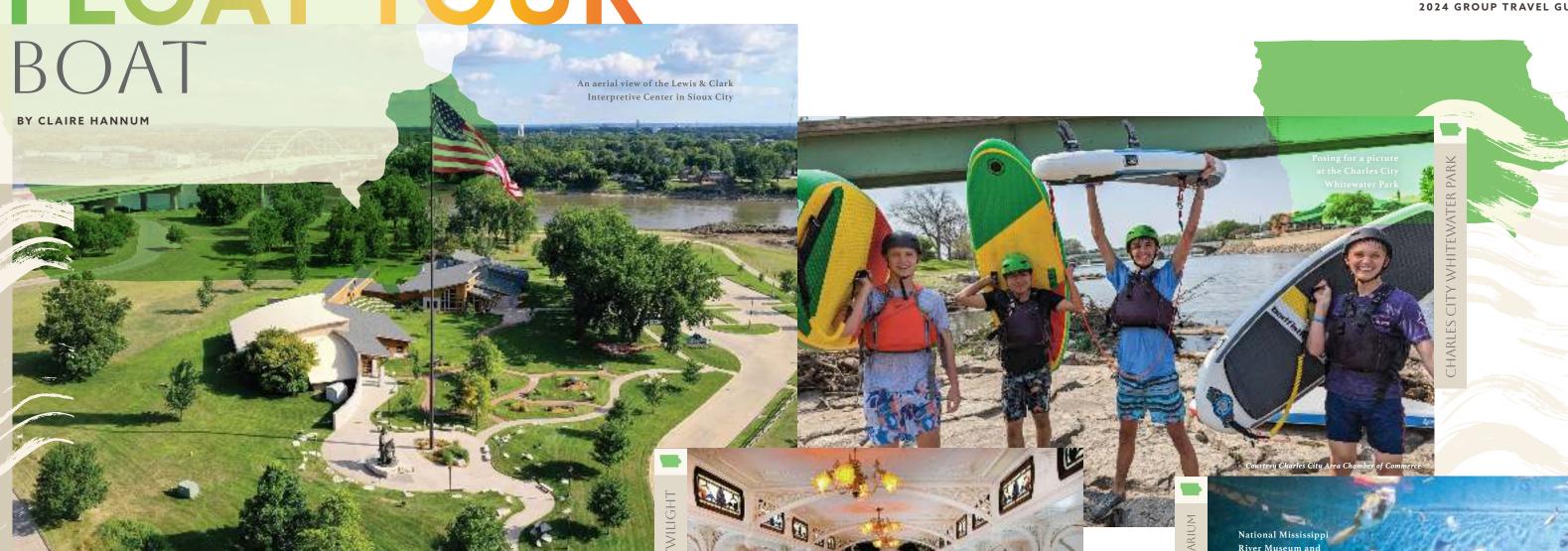
GMDISTRICT.ORG

John Deere Tractor and Engine Museum

Courtesy John Deere

FLOAT YOUR





owa lets travelers get their feet wet with its vast network of rivers and lakes. They can enjoy everything from gliding along mighty rivers to navigating thrilling whitewater at these waterfront destinations and attractions from the Mississippi River to the Missouri River.



Courtesy Riverboat Twilight



Courtesy Travel Dubuqu





FLOAT YOUR BOAT ITINERARY



DAY 1

- Arrive in Muscatine
- Tour NATIONAL PEARL BUTTON **MUSEUM**
- Depart for Quad Cities (44 min drive)
- Cruise onboard either the CELEBRATION BELLE or the RIVERBOAT TWILIGHT
- Visit World's Largest Roller Dam at Mississippi River Visitor's Center
- Depart for Clinton (47 min drive)
- Tour Sawmill Museum
- Dinner at Great Revivalist Brewery
- Overnight at Wild Rose Casino

DAY 2

- Breakfast at Jenny's Diner
- Depart for Dubuque (1 hr, 11 min drive)
- Walk around PORT OF DUBUQUE
- NATIONAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM
- Lunch at Convivium Urban Farmstead
- Ride the Fenelon Place Elevator
- Depart for Cedar Falls (1 hr, 34 min drive)
- Dinner at The Cedar Falls Brown Bottle
- Overnight at Hampton Inn Downtown Cedar Falls

DAY 3

- Breakfast at hotel or Cup of Joe
- Tour Cedar Valley Botanical Center
- Depart for Charles City (45 min drive)
- Lunch at Pub on the Cedar
- Visit CHARLES CITY WHITEWATER PARK (River Surfing)
- Visit Floyd County Historical Museum
- Depart for Okoboji (2 hr, 47 min drive)
- Dinner at The Okoboji Store
- Overnight at Arrowwood Resort

DAY 4

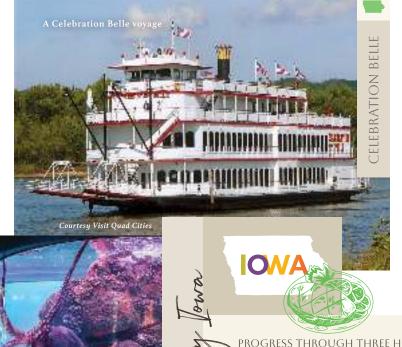
- Breakfast at O'Farrell Sisters
- Visit The Maritime Museum
- Rides at Arnolds Park Amusement Park
- Lunch at Arnolds Park Amusement Park
- Depart for Sioux City (2 hr, 2 min drive)
- Tour LEWIS & CLARK INTERPRETIVE **CENTER/ Betty Strong Encounter Center**
- Visit War Eagle Monument
- Dinner at Trattoria Fresco
- Overnight at Hilton Garden Inn Sioux **City Riverfront**

NATIONAL PEARL BUTTON MUSEUM MUSCATINE

In the early 1900s, Muscatine, Iowa, was the site of a Midwestern gold rush. But instead of gold, this city was rich in mother-of-pearl buttons. Thanks to a booming population of clams and mussels on the banks of the Mississippi River, Muscatine manufactured over 1.5 million buttons a year at its peak. Brave clammers, immigrant-entrepreneurs and newcomers with innovative business ideas made their way to Muscatine to work hard and carve out new lives for themselves. The National Pearl Button Museum explores that journey, spanning from Muscatine's quiet beginnings to its rise to a prosperous cornerstone of the button industry. Interactive exhibits encourage hands-on learning. Through artifacts from pearl button manufacturing companies, photos and more, visitors will get to know the town's past — and its connection to the mussels and the river that changed everything. Special in-depth museum tours are available for groups.

VISITMUSCATINE.COM

ne's National Pearl Button Museum



t the Port of Dubuque

CELEBRATION BELLE

QUAD CITIES

The Celebration Belle in Moline is a 750-passenger paddlewheel boat that was designed especially for cruising the Mississippi River. Built in 1986, the Celebration Belle has been delighting passengers for almost four decades. The boat is the perfect backdrop for sightseeing, luncheons and dinner cruises for groups of all kinds. Low-key sightseeing cruises, half-day themed cruises and full-day river adventures are all on the menu aboard the Belle. One of its most famous cruises, the 100 Mile Day Long Cruise, takes passengers from the Quad Cities to Dubuque. The Celebration Belle has hosted guests from around the world, including the king and queen of Sweden. With great food, live music and a dance floor onboard, every moment is a blast. Celebration Belle frequently works with groups, offering on-site motorcoach parking and assistance in choosing an ideal cruise itinerary. For extra-large groups, the boat is also available for private charters.

CELEBRATIONBELLE.COM

PROGRESS THROUGH THREE HISTORIC SITES, ENJOYING ENTERTAINMENT, MUSIC, DELICIOUS FOOD AND WONDERFUL COMPANY ALONG THE WAY, DURING THIS GUIDED EXPERIENCE, YOU WILL BE MESMERIZED AS COSTUMED DOCENTS AND LOCAL HISTORIANS SHARE FACTS ABOUT

WHAT MADE 19TH-CENTURY DUBUQUE THE "MASTERPIECE OF THE MISSISSIPPI." — ${f DUBUQUE}$

PORT OF DUBUQUE DUBUQUE

This charming section of downtown Dubuque is adjacent to mile 579.4 of the Mississippi River. This port was one of the earliest settlements in Iowa. In 1868, it further cemented itself as a center of industry with the Dubuque Railroad Bridge, which connects Iowa and Illinois. Today, the port is a charming tourism hub that continues to grow. Development is popping up left and right, with more shops, eateries and office spaces on the horizon each day. Visit the port to explore a waterpark, a winery, a casino and the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium. Take time for a stroll along the Mississippi Riverwalk, where you'll spot the city's Art on the River sculpture exhibit and the last remaining shot tower west of the Mississippi River. Hop on board one of several tour boats for a one-hour tour or even a two-day cruise that departs from the port.

TRAVELDUBUQUE.COM





Themed Lunch Cruises:

🕏 Classic Oldies 🥞 Tribute to the Rat Pack 5 Hits of the Decades 5 Jazz ୬Tribute to Piano Men ୬ Fall Foliage

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Cruises Boarding out of Moline, IL and Dubuque, IA Contact Susan at 800-297-0034 x204 susan@celebrationbelle.com www.celebrationbelle.com

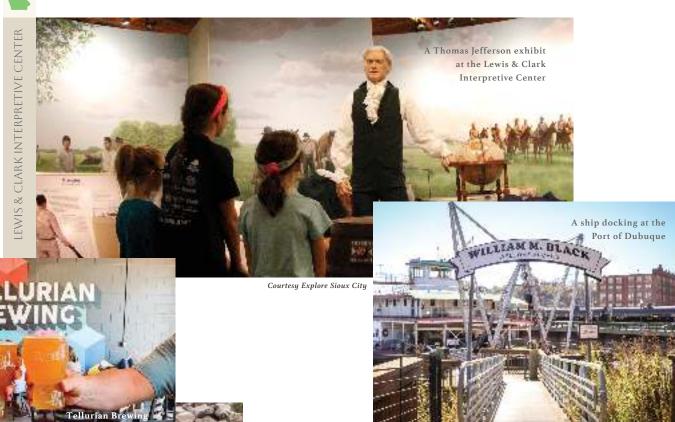




CHARLES CITY WHITEWATER PARK CHARLES CITY

Located in downtown Charles City, this three-quarter mile stretch of the Cedar River is Iowa's first whitewater park. Tubers, kayakers, surfers, anglers and more flock to the park to spend afternoons on the water, and groups can join them for a fun-filled excursion. The park's three whitewater features offer fun for river users from beginner to advanced paddlers. Each of the rapids also has a calmer, friendly water passage on the left side for visitors who opt to bypass the main whitewater drops. Canoes and inner tubes are available for rent near the water. The park hosts competitions, surf lessons and other aquatic activities for all skill levels. Nearby is a local brewery as well as restaurants offering riverfront dining. Adjacent to the park are several land-based adventures including a disc golf course, play areas, a trail and public art.

CHARLESCITYCHAMBER.COM

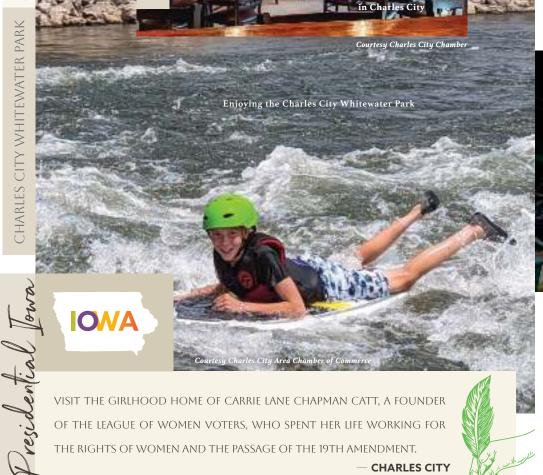


LEWIS & CLARK INTERPRETIVE CENTER SIOUX CITY

Many know the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the story of a band of explorers commissioned to traverse the American West following the Louisiana Purchase. This monumental American journey is commemorated at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center with hands-on exhibits and programs spotlighting their time in Siouxland. Groups encounter life-sized bronze animal sculptures, the "Changing River" and photo displays showcasing Native cultures and rural themes with rotating exhibits. Free to the public, the center offers interactive displays featuring animatronics, murals, videos and stamping stations. Visitors can see animatronic versions of captains Lewis and Clark discussing the death of Sgt. Charles Floyd, the expedition's sole casualty, who died in present-day Sioux City, Iowa. They can also learn about Pvt. Patrick Gass's election as Floyd's replacement and Pvt. Moses Reed's desertion. The center immerses guests in the expedition's narrative, honoring its significance while exploring Siouxland's past, present and future.

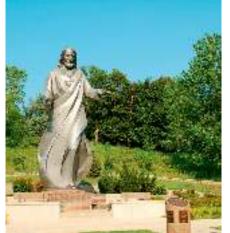
EXPLORESIOUXLAND.COM













Siouxland IS HOME BASE FOR YOUR GROUP

At the point where Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota meet, you'll find a home away from home for your next group event. Siouxland is the perfect place to tour can't-miss attractions, from the handson excitement of the Sioux City Railroad Museum to the serene reverence of Trinity Heights to the immersive history of the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and more, all just a short distance from one another. There's more to explore in Siouxland, so get exploring today.

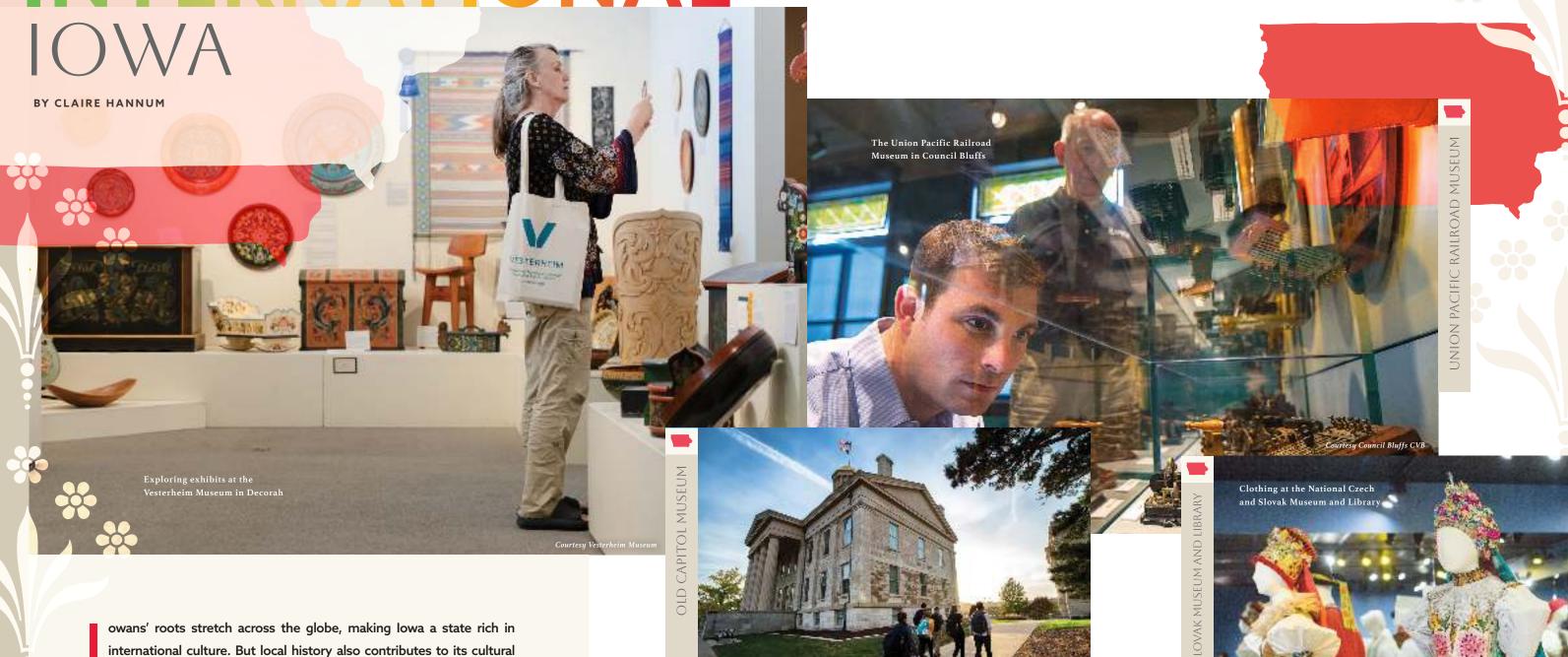
ExploreSiouxland.com

INTERNATIONAL

wealth. Travelers can explore these sites as they travel south then west

across the state and celebrate its fascinating heritage.









Courtesy Think Iowa City

INTERNATIONAL IOWA ITINFRARY

DAY 1

- Arrive in Decorah
- Tour Seed Savers
- Lunch at Mabe's Pizza
- Tour the VESTERHEIM MUSEUM
- Stop at Pulpit Rock Brewing Co.
- Dinner at Rubaiyat Restaurant
- Overnight at Hotel Winneshiek

DAY 2

- Breakfast at Magpie Cafe & Coffeehouse
- Depart for Cedar Rapids (2 hr, 2 min drive)
- Tour the CZECH AND SLOVAK MUSEUM AND LIBRARY
- Lunch at Lion Bridge Brewing
- Tour the African American Museum of Iowa
- Depart for West Branch (37 min drive)
- Tour the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library & Museum and Herbert Hoover **National Historic Site**
- Depart for Iowa City (17 min)
- Tour the OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM
- Dinner at Basta Italian Ristorante
- Tour the Stanley Art Museum
- Overnight at Graduate Hotel Iowa City

DAY 3

- Depart for Kalona (27 min drive)
- Countryside Tour & Family Style Meal (includes breakfast and 2 stops)
- Tour KALONA HISTORICAL VILLAGE
- Depart for Des Moines (1 hr, 54 min drive)
- Lunch at the Des Moines Botanical Center
- Tour Iowa State Capitol
- Visit West End Architectural Salvage
- Dinner at Machine Shed
- Overnight at Drury Inn & Suites, West **Des Moines**

DAY 4

- Breakfast at The Breakfast Club
- Depart for Council Bluffs (2 hr drive)
- Tour UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD **MUSEUM**
- Lunch at 712 eat + drink

VESTERHEIM MUSEUM

Vesterheim, the National Norwegian-American Museum & Folk Art School, honors the Norwegian-American experience and exhibits some of the finest in Norwegian folk arts in the country. The museum has a collection of 33,000 artifacts, and its main building includes four fantastic floors of exhibitions. Heritage Park, the Vesterheim's open-air display, is open seasonally and contains 12 historic buildings. For those who want their visit to be extra-immersive, the museum's folk art school offers lessons in activities like Nordic cooking, fiber arts, metalworking and "friluftsliv," a Norwegian approach to enjoying the great outdoors. The museum maintains a close connection with the people of Norway and has received several visits over the years from members of the Norwegian royal family. Vesterheim offers guided group tours and can create customized tours for groups interested in specific topics like immigration, textiles, woodcarving or even behind-the-scenes looks at Vesterheim's art collection.

VISITDECORAH.COM

Downtown Iowa City





CZECH AND SLOVAK MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

CEDAR RAPIDS

This museum celebrates the rich culture of the Czech Republic and Slovakia, offering both an opportunity for visitors to learn about this unique heritage and a familiar touchstone for the local diaspora in Cedar Rapids. The museum is home to an incredible collection of artifacts, fine arts pieces and more. The museum got its start in the 1970s as a fine arts foundation run by second- and third-generation Czech Americans. Since then, its collection has grown to inhabit a much larger space and become an internationally recognized institution. The museum is so lauded that the 1995 dedication ceremony for its current building was presided over by the presidents of the U.S., the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Groups can enjoy an experience package that includes options like guided tours, a film viewing, a guided visit to the library and a traditional Czech lunch.

NCSML.ORG

SIOUX CITY IS A MELTING POT OF DIVERSE FLAVORS, OFFERING A CULINARY TAPESTRY WOVEN WITH AN ARRAY OF ETHNIC CUISINES, FROM SAVORY MEXICAN STREET TACOS AND AUTHENTIC TAMALES TO AROMATIC THAI CURRIES AND DELICATE SUSHI ROLLS. THE CITY'S DINING SCENE IS A GLOBAL EXPLORATION OF TASTES. — **SIOUX CITY**

Courtesy Vesterheim Museum

OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM

IOWA CITY

Iowa's former state capitol building is a local icon on the University of Iowa campus and a well-known symbol of the state. UI students know it as a familiar fixture of their college experience, and Iowans across the state know it as an important slice of the past. The Old Capitol Museum is part of Iowa City's Pentacrest, a grassy four-block stretch of campus that contains five historic buildings. The Old Capitol is smack in the center. This National Historic Landmark is now a museum that houses both permanent and changing exhibits, as well as educational programming and special events. The museum fosters learning and connection among the university student body and the Iowa City community, and it's a memorable place to visit for tourists and locals. Groups can experience an interactive tour with one of the museum's gallery guides, who offer engaging and conversational journeys through the museum.

IOWA

THINKIOWACITY.COM







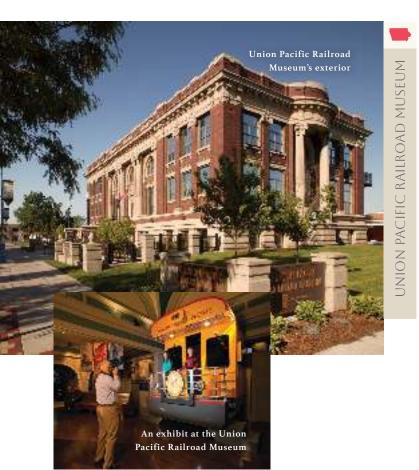
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE. HE AND HIS WIFE, LOU, REST IN WEST BRANCH, OVERLOOKING HIS BIRTHPLACE. — WEST BRANCH

KALONA HISTORICAL VILLAGE

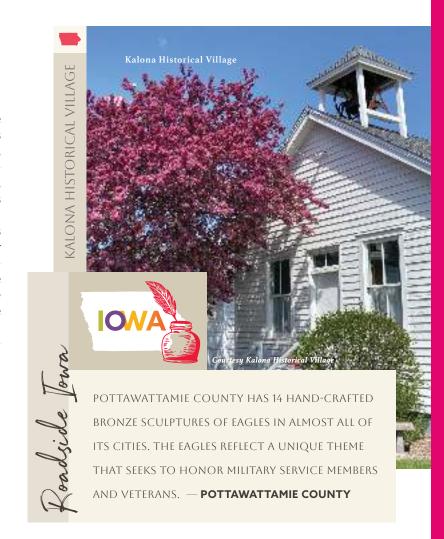
KALONA

Kalona has been home to thriving Amish and Mennonite communities since the mid-19th century. Today, its past has been preserved in a vibrant historical village with 12 restored buildings and three museums, including a brand-new Kalona Streetscape exhibit that highlights life in the early 20th century. A stroll through the village is a window into Iowa's pioneer past. The village's visitor center houses two nationally known quilt galleries and a wide range of local artifacts and antiques. Step-on tours through the area are a great way to learn about the history of the local Amish and Mennonite communities while taking in views of Kalona's expansive green countryside. Groups can also visit a Mennonite home for a family-style meal and an educational session about the community's faith traditions. Don't miss the Kalona Historical Village Gift Shop, which sells Amish-made goods like baskets, jellies and rugs.

KALONAIOWA.ORG



Photos courtesy Council Bluffs CVB



UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD MUSEUM COUNCIL BLUFFS

The Union Pacific Railroad Museum explores 150 years of U.S. rail history through the eyes of the country's first transcontinental railroad. Located inside a former Carnegie Library, the museum explores the early days of the U.S. railroad system and the American West, as well as the incredible technological advances of modern train development. The museum boasts a robust collection of artifacts, equipment, photos and more. See historic newsreels and hear stories about the daily lives of railroad employees. Explore President Abraham Lincoln's essential role in bringing routine train travel to the country. Peer at replicas of 1950s train cars and discover the origin of well-known railroad symbols, like the blue-andwhite engineer's cap. No matter which exhibits you choose to linger at, you're sure to learn something new. The museum can reserve motorcoach or van parking for large groups. The museum offers self-guided or private tours depending on visiting groups' preferences.





UNLEASHCB.COM









LIGHTS, CAMERA, IOWA ITINERARY

DAY 1

- Arrive in Dyersville
- Enjoy a catered lunch and tour at the
- "FIELD OF DREAMS" MOVIE SITE
- Tour the IF YOU BUILD IT EXHIBIT and the BASEBALL HALL OF DREAMS MUSEUM
- Travel to Dubuque (31 min drive)
- Enjoy a Historic Progressive Dinner
- Overnight at Hotel Julien Dubuque

DAY 2

- · Breakfast at hotel
- Depart for Mason City (2 hr, 27 min drive)
- Tour MUSIC MAN SQUARE
- Lunch at The Decker House Bed & Breakfast
- Depart for Clear Lake (18 min drive)
- Tour the SURF BALLROOM
- Lady of the Lake Cruise
- Dinner at The Boulevard
- Overnight at Fairfield by Marriott

DAY 3

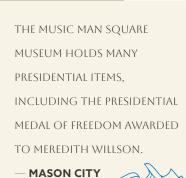
- Breakfast at Cabin Coffee Company
- Depart for Madison County (2 hr, 20 min drive)
- Visit the JOHN WAYNE BIRTHPLACE **MUSEUM**
- Lunch at Urban Taproom in Winterset (Try the John Wayne Casserole!)
- BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY STEP-
- Watch a special feature on movies about Iowa at the historic Iowa Theater
- Dinner and wine tasting at Covered **Bridges Winery**
- Overnight at Cobblestone Inn & Suites

'FIFID OF DREAMS' MOVIE SITE DYERSVILLE

Experience baseball magic on the Dyersville set of the 1989 movie "Field of Dreams." The original farmhouse and baseball diamond from the film, where Kevin Costner's character Ray Kinsella encounters ballplayers of the past, are open to visitors from all over the world. The house got its start as a family homestead over a century ago, and now its first floor has been restored to look exactly as it did in the film. On Ghost Saturdays you can catch a performance by the Ghost Players, a team of historically dressed baseball players whose costumes and hijinks you might recognize from the movie. They regularly perform what they call the "Greatest Show on Dirt" right on the movie set. If you build it, they will come — and if you visit, a fantasy baseball world just might come alive right before your eyes.

FIELDOFDREAMSMOVIESITE.COM





IOWA

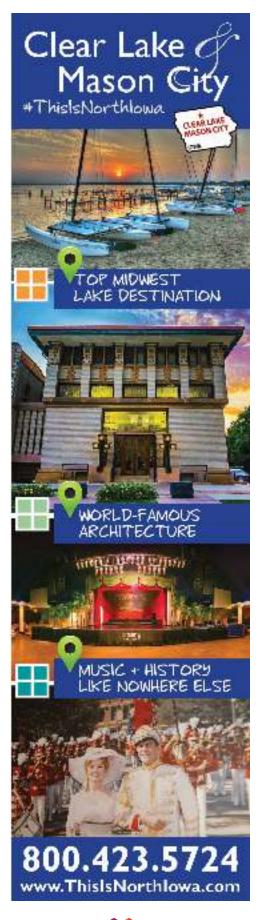
MUSIC MAN SQUARE

MASON CITY

Courtesy Visit Mason City

Mason City is the birthplace of Meredith Willson, the musical talent who brought us the unforgettable tunes of "The Music Man." At Music Man Square, you can explore the 1912 streets of River City, the musical's fictional town, where Harold Hill shocked and delighted residents. The streetscape is a re-creation of the set design of the 1962 film version of the musical and includes an ice cream parlor and a gift shop. Music Man Square also periodically hosts special events like sock hops and comedy shows. Along with River City's charming streets, you'll find a ceiling display of the musical's famous 76 trombones, as well as the Meredith Willson Museum, containing artifacts from Willson's storied life. Also on-site is Willson's childhood home, a charming restored 1895 Queen Anne. Tours (featuring ice cream, of course) are available for motorcoach groups.

THEMUSICMANSOUARE.ORG



Courtesy Iowa Travel Industry Partners

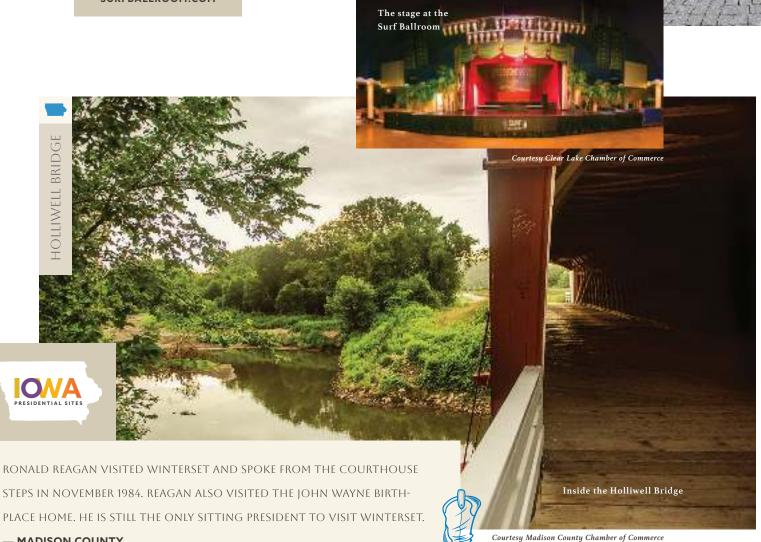


SURF BALLROOM

CLEAR LAKE

This 1950s-era ballroom was one of the first in Iowa to host rock 'n' roll musicians, and it's now one of the last of its kind in the Midwest. At the height of rock 'n' roll, the Surf Ballroom hosted legends like Little Richard, Roy Orbison and the Everly Brothers. In 1959, the venue was the site of the final performance of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson before they tragically lost their lives in a plane crash on "the day the music died." In 2009, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum dedicated the Surf Ballroom as a landmark. The venue still regularly holds concerts and events, including a summer concert series and an annual Winter Dance Party, a tribute to the tour that Buddy, Ritchie and The Big Bopper were on when they played their final concert. Guided tours are offered for groups.

SURFBALLROOM.COM



STEP-ON TOUR MADISON COUNTY If you've read or seen the bestselling novel, film and mu-

BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY

sical "Bridges of Madison County," now is your chance to see the bridges in real life. Madison County is known as the covered bridge capital of Iowa and is home to the largest group of covered bridges in any one region in the western half of the Mississippi Valley. The Covered Bridges Scenic Byway is your front-row seat to these beauties. Madison County's iconic step-on tours begin at the Madison County Chamber of Commerce's Welcome Center, where you'll see clips of the movie and photos from the set. Then, your guide will take you on a journey from bridge to bridge, stopping at each for photo opportunities and in-person exploring. Highlights include the Cedar Covered Bridge, where Oprah filmed a segment of her show in 1993, and the Cutler-Donahue Covered Bridge, a backdrop for an iconic moment between movie characters Robert and Francesca.

MADISONCOUNTY.COM

IOHN WAYNE BIRTHPLACE & MUSEUM MADISON COUNTY

THE IOWA STATE FAIR IS RENOWNED FOR

ITS ARRAY OF FOOD-ON-A-STICK DELIGHTS,

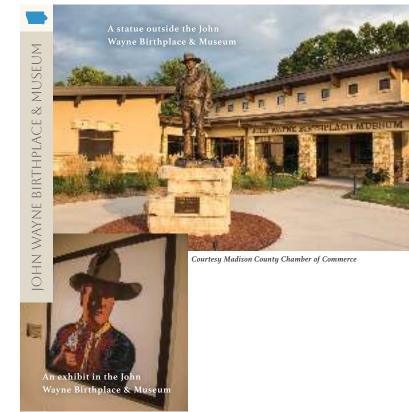
INCLUDING PORK CHOPS, BACON-WRAPPED CORN DOGS, CHEESE, CHERRY PIE AND MORE. WITH NEARLY 200 FOOD STANDS, IT'S A HAVEN FOR CULINARY EXPLORATION. — **DES MOINES**

A group tour of the Surf Ballroon

From the moment he was born in Winterset, Iowa, John Wayne was destined to become an American legend — and his memory is still honored in Winterset. The John Wayne Birthplace & Museum offers a look into Wayne's first home, which is restored to look exactly as it did in 1907, the year he was born. Alongside the home is the museum, the only one on the planet dedicated to John Wayne. The museum is home to the largest diversified collection of John Wayne memorabilia in the world, with artifacts from his 170-plus films, including wardrobe pieces, movie posters, scripts, letters, art and one of Wayne's custom-built cars. The museum also includes a movie theater that contains seats from Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood. The museum's gift shop is stocked with an epic collection of John Wayne souvenirs and memorabilia.

MADISONCOUNTY.COM

IOWA GROUP TRAVEL GUIDE



Courtesy Madison County Chamber of Commerce



MADISON COUNTY



ight shows, twinkling shops and sugary snacks are in season during the holidays in Iowa. Travelers can enjoy these festivities and more as they trek through the state's winter wonderland



Courtesy Visit Fort Dodge

Wells Visitor Center
R lee Cream Parlor.

Christmas Mar at Amana General Store

Christmas Mar at Amana General Store

Exploring Winter Wonderscape at Reiman

Courtesy Amana General Store



from west to east.

ITIP

Iowa Travel Industry Portners

Courtesy Wells Visitor Cente

Lights at Kennedy in Fort Dodge

SEASONAL TREATS ITINERARY



- Arrive in Le Mars
- Lunch at Browns Central Event Center
- Christmas Performance at Brown's Theater
- Tour and ice cream at WELLS VISITOR **CENTER & ICE CREAM PARLOR**
- Depart for Fort Dodge (2 hr, 18 min drive)
- Dinner at Gaga and Hoo
- Drive through LIGHTS AT KENNEDY
- Overnight at Brookstone Inn & Suites

DAY 2

- Breakfast at Zakeers
- Depart for Ames (1 hr, 9 min drive)
- Tour Brunnier Art Museum
- Lunch at The Café
- Wine tasting at Della Viti wine bar on Main
- Holiday cooking class at The Recipe
- Dinner at Aunt Maude's
- WINTER WONDERSCAPE AT REIMAN **GARDENS**
- Overnight at Gateway Hotel

DAY 3

- Breakfast at Provisions Lot F
- Depart for West Des Moines (47 min drive)
- Shopping in Historic Valley Junction
- Lunch at St. Kilda Collective
- Depart for Amana Colonies (1 hr, 42 min drive)
- Visit the INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS **MARKET**
- Visit Tannenbaum Forest
- Dinner at Ronneburg Restaurant
- Visit Amana Meat Shop and Smokehouse or Ackerman Winery
- Overnight at Hotel Millwright

DAY 4

- Breakfast at Hotel Millwright
- Travel to Coralville (25 min drive)
- Ice Skating at The Rink at Coral Ridge
- Lunch at 30Hop
- Travel to Quad Cities (59 min drive)
- Shop Downtown Davenport
- Drinks at MIRACLE AT THE **FREIGHT HOUSE**
- Dinner at Me and Billy
- Quad City Botanical Center's Winter Nights Winter Lights Display
- Overnight at Hotel Blackhawk

WELLS VISITOR CENTER & ICE CREAM PARLOR

LE MARS

In 1994, Le Mars was named the Ice Cream Capital of the World. This hard-working town lives up to its name by making more ice cream than anywhere else on the globe. The Wells Visitor Center & Ice Cream Parlor represents over a century of ice cream history. In 1913, Fred H. Wells Jr. started delivering milk to the people of Le Mars via his horse-drawn wagon. By 1925, he founded the Wells Ice Cream Company with his brother, Harry C. Wells. The brothers sold that company, and in 1935, they launched a new one: the now-legendary Blue Bunny. Today, the Wells Ice Cream Parlor boasts an expanded menu with 40 flavors of ice cream, including exclusive blends not found anywhere else. Feast on a cone or sundae while marveling over the fact that Le Mars produces more than 150 million gallons of ice cream per year.

ILOVEWELLS.COM

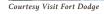
LIGHTS AT KENNEDY

FORT DODGE

Celebrate the holiday season with Lights at Kennedy, a drive-through show in Fort Dodge's Kennedy Park. Displays are sponsored by local organizations and businesses. Many of the displays are set to blink and twinkle in time with music. The light show has been a local tradition for over 20 years. As enthusiasm has grown for the event, so have the displays. Each year seems to bring something new: more twinkly entrance arches, more feet of programmable LED lights (more than 1,200 as of now) and more creative design choices. As of late, the show has featured as many as 35 light displays, with more than 4,000 vehicles driving through the past few holiday seasons. Visitors are invited to vote on their favorite displays. Because the event is fully experienced by car, it's a great option for motorcoach tours.

DODGETHEORDINARY.COM

in Fort Dodg



WINTER WONDERSCAPE AT REIMAN GARDENS AMES

IOWA

A floral light display at

Winter Wonderscape

IOWA

VISIT THE NORTHSIDE, A

DOWNTOWN IOWA CITY NEIGHBORHOOD, FOR A

COLLECTION OF CULINARY

OPPORTUNITIES. ENJOY PIZZA

FROM THE FAMOUS PAGLIA'S

PIZZA, WINE AND CHARCUTERIE

FROM BRIX WINE AND CHEESE

SHOP, A CLASSIC BURGER FROM

GEORGE'S BUFFET OR A PIE-

SHAKE FROM HAMBURG INN.

IOWA CITY/CORALVILLE

IOWA GROUP TRAVEL GUIDE

Each year the holidays come to life at Reiman Gardens, a tranquil public garden owned by Iowa State University. Located on 17 acres of striking outdoor gardens, Winter Wonderscape is a walk-through light show with dazzling colors and designs that can get just about anyone into the holiday spirit. The idea for the inaugural Wonderscape came to light just a few years ago in 2018 as a way to bring more guests to the garden during a historically slow time of year. In a few short years, the event has far surpassed its original purpose and has become a local must-do. The lights take over 1,200 hours to prepare, and they stretch about three-quarters of a mile. Guests can expect colorful tunnels, laser lights, a decorated frozen lake, glowing orbs, a light fountain and magical forests. Every year brings new designs alongside classic favorites, so you never know exactly what you'll find on your visit.

DISCOVERAMES.COM

SEE THE WORLD'S LARGEST CONCRETE GNOME, ELWOOD, AT THE REIMAN GARDENS ON IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY'S CAMPUS. — AMES







INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS MARKET

AMANA COLONIES

The Seven Villages of Amana, or the Amana Colonies, are a National Historic Landmark with a whole lot of stories to tell. The Amanas were settled by a German faith community seeking freedom from religious persecution in their home country, and from 1856 to 1932, the Amanas were an almost entirely self-sufficient communal society. Many of their craftsmanship skills, communal practices and history have been preserved, and the Amanas' surroundings and historic buildings make a great setting for a magical holiday experience. At the Amana General Store, groups will find the International Christmas Market, a year-round holiday-themed shopping experience. The market is decorated with a whimsical and festive collection of holiday décor, from gingerbread houses to Christmas trees. A large selection of ornaments and home décor are available for purchase. It's also the perfect place to find an internationally imported or unique, handmade gift for a loved one.

AMANACOLONIES.COM





Courtesu Miracle at the Freiaht House

Courtesy Amana General Store

istmas Market in Amana

MIRACLE AT THE FREIGHT HOUSE OUAD CITIES

The Miracle Christmas Pop-Up Bar is a series of festive holiday pop-ups across the U.S., each offering its own charms unique to its host community. In 2020, Miracle Bar in Davenport became the first of the franchise to open in Iowa, to great success. The pop-up is hosted in downtown Davenport's historic Freight House, which was built in 1917 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The building also hosts Davenport's popular Freight House Farmers Market, so it's no stranger to lively community get-togethers. When the cozy pop-up moves into the Freight House each holiday season, it brings with it the nostalgia of your warmest childhood Christmas memories — with a grown-up twist, of course. With fully decked halls, creative seasonal drinks and fun features like a S'Elfie Station, there's a whole lot here to celebrate.

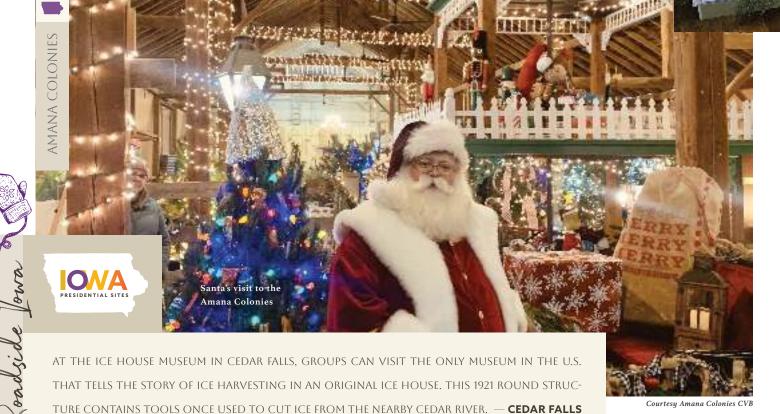
MIRACLEQC.COM



Your group will experience the best day ever in Ames, home of Reiman Gardens, Iowa State University, and some of the tastiest barbecue in the state

- GARDEN TOUR: Spend a day at Reiman Gardens, or tour both Reiman Gardens and the Iowa Arboretum/Treehouse Village.
- ART & HISTORY TOUR: Visit University art museums, Octagon Center for the Arts, and Ames History
- TASTE OF AMES / LOCAL BREWS TOUR: Sample the best of Ames' restaurants, breweries, and winery.
- IOWA STATE CAMPUS TOUR: Explore art, architecture, and athletics.
- AGRICULTURE TOUR: Tour the ISU Dairy Farm, Horticulture Farm, and BioCentury Research Farm.









HEAVEN? NO, IT'S IOWA!



From family farms to vibrant metro areas, lowa offers activities that engage travelers of any age. Enjoy Midwest hospitality and tranquility as you explore a range of authentic lowa experiences that take you off the beaten path into America's heartland.



VISIT US!





WWW.IOWATRAVELINDUSTRY.ORG

Arnolds Parl

roller coaster