

Grant Wood SCENIC BYWAY

Group Travel Itinerary



Jones and Jackson Counties in Northeast Iowa
Take in the striking landscape, inspiring art, and local wineries





GWSB Group Travel Itinerary

It's not hard to see why this area was so inspiring to artist Grant Wood. Named after the artist, the Grant Wood Scenic Byway stretches 80 miles from Stone City to the Mississippi River. Like his paintings the countryside is a striking patchwork of farmland and limestone bluffs connecting three rivers, the Wapsipinicon, Maquoketa and Mississippi River. Although the Byway's identity is closely linked to art, you will also enjoy a 19th-century prison museum, the National Motorcycle Museum and local wineries and breweries. Come for the inspiring landscape and discover all that the Grant Wood Scenic Byway has to offer.

Unique Adventures

Known as "Big Annie" to those inside and "The White Palace of the West" to those outside, the **Anamosa State Penitentiary** has become a cultural icon, famous for notorious inmates like John Wayne Gacy and its role in movies such as "Penitentiary." Built from 1875 to 1899 the fortress-like design is popular for its Gothic revival architecture. The maximum-security prison is still in use today and offers tours of the Penitentiary Museum that help visitors understand life in the prison.

Found in rural Maquoketa the **Codfish Hollow Barnstormers** features live performances hosting some of the nation's most prolific artists. The barn sits on a gravel road between rolling hills, towering trees and gorgeous eastern Iowa fields. Some would say it's in the middle of nowhere; others could argue it's the center of everywhere.

Scenic Spots

South of Bellevue, the **Bellevue State Park** overlooks the city providing views of the historic buildings as well as a view of the Mississippi River including boats and barges traversing the Lock & Dam. Birdwatchers can also catch glimpses of bald eagles, hawks, falcons, neotropical migratory birds and other avian species.

Northwest of Maquoketa, **Maquoketa Caves State Park** is home to a labyrinth of dirt trails and wooden walkways that allow

visitors to access the park's caves and arches. There are several platforms and interpretive materials strategically situated to allow visitors to stop and study the geologic formations and the park's flora and fauna.

Points of Discovery

Byway travelers can explore and learn about natural resources at their leisure while visiting the **Hurstville Interpretive Center** in Jackson County. Interior and exterior interpretive materials provide information behind the region's natural and historic resources through live animals, scale models, displays, and exhibits. One of the most popular attractions is a live bee hive with a 360-degree viewing opportunity. Travelers can enjoy the beauty of prairie and wetland ecosystems on the walking trails, spy a pair of nesting trumpeter swans, or seek and find reptiles, colorful wildflowers, and a world of insects first hand.

Home of over 400 motorcycles, the **National Motorcycle Museum** near Anamosa has accumulated a collection of bikes from around the world dating back 100 years. Along with bikes, the facility contains a variety of memorabilia such as parts and advertisements. The museum even has Evel Knievel's "Captain America" chopper Harley from the movie Easy Rider! Not just for bikers!

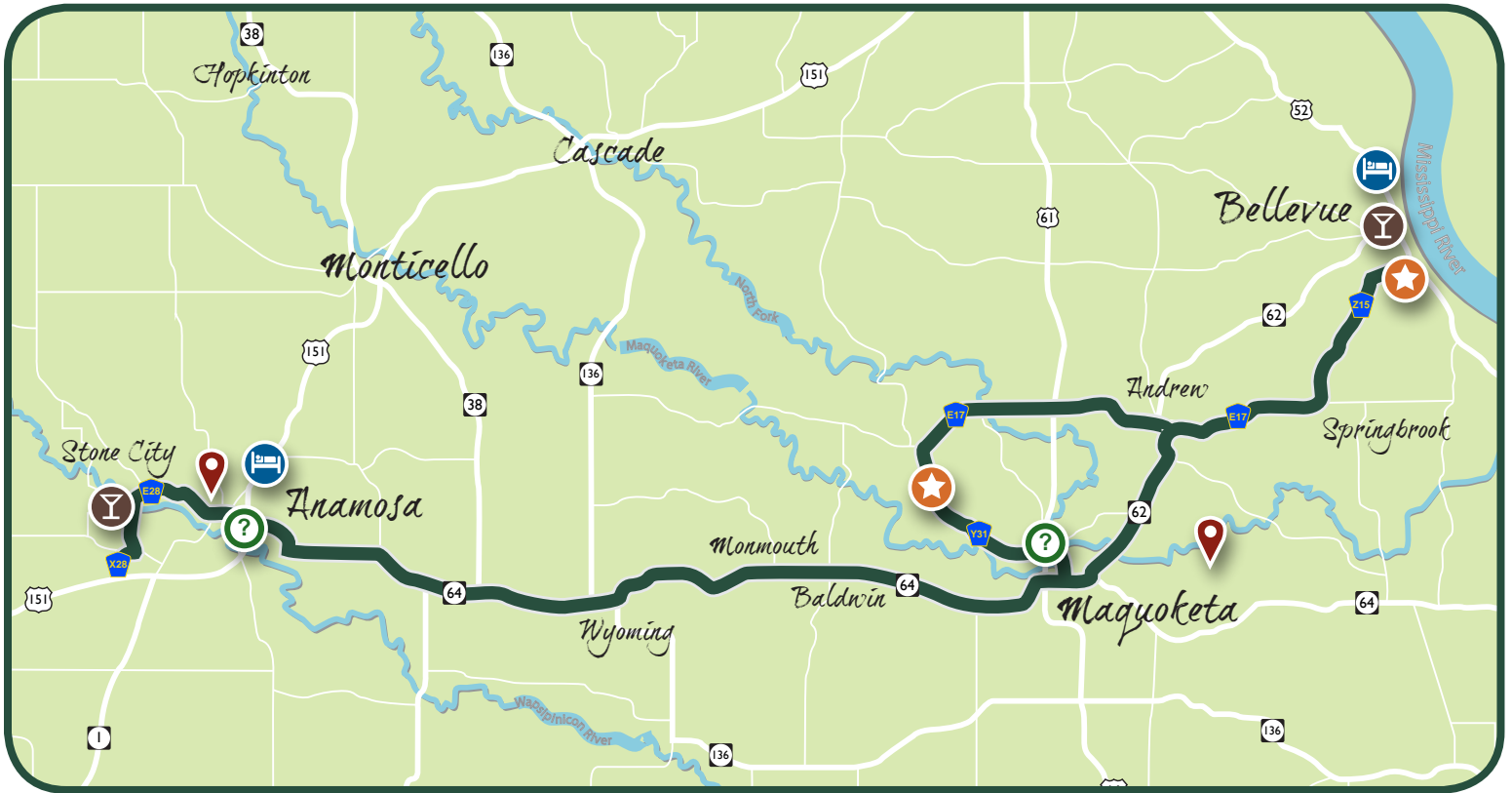
Local Flavors

Along the banks of the Wapsipinicon River the **Stone City General Store Pub** is a historic eatery built in 1897. This celebrated establishment is immortalized in the artist Grant Wood's painting titled "Stone City, Iowa". The Pub has a large outdoor deck overlooking the river, which makes it the perfect place to host a unique group meal.

Home to award winning cuisine and internationally acclaimed musicians, **Flatted Fifth Blues + BBQ** in Bellevue is a destination for all foodies. Located in a historic 175-year-old grist mill on the banks of the mighty Mississippi River, stop in to experience a unique place where the jazz and southern food of bourbon street meet the blues and BBQ of Beale Street.

Lodging Locales

AmericInn Lodge & Suites (Anamosa)
Baymont Inn & Suites (Bellevue)



For More Group Tour Options

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