

Historic Hills

SCENIC BYWAY

Group Travel Itinerary



Lee, Van Buren, Davis, Appanoose, and Wapello Counties in Southeast Iowa
Enjoy the wholesome, laid-back atmosphere of quaint, rural Iowa communities.





HHSB

Group Travel Itinerary

The 110-mile Historic Hills Scenic Byway meanders through farmland and the quiet communities of Southeast Iowa. Discover why this byway was dubbed “historic hills” when you immerse yourself in some of Iowa’s oldest history. Visit Iowa’s oldest courthouse, the first church west of the Mississippi, the site of Iowa’s only Civil War battle or trace the beginning of the Mormon Pioneer Trail. Forget stoplights and fast food and discover the wholesome attitude of the beautiful rolling hillside where you’ll often find yourself sharing the road with a horse and buggy!

Unique Adventures



With an established farm-to-table attitude **Appleberry Orchard** is Iowa’s oldest working orchard. The first apple tree was planted on this farm in 1852. Today, the farm is one of Iowa’s premier agritourism sites. Fall family fun includes u-pick apples, pumpkins, and squash, a petting zoo and kids play area, and tantalizing homemade pies, cookies, and breads. Don’t leave until you’ve tried their signature snacks, a Queen’s Apple washed down with an Apple Cider Slush Drink.

The backdrop for Grant Wood’s iconic American Gothic painting can be found in Eldon, Iowa along the Historic Hills Scenic Byway. The **American Gothic House** is an Iowa Welcome Center and an amusing photo opportunity. Pitchfork and other props are provided! The home, which is available for tours, is near the Visitor’s Center and shares more information on Grant Wood’s life and art.

Scenic Spots



Scenic doesn’t always mean an extensive view. **Shimek State Forest** near Farmington, Iowa is a lush expanse of forest - 9,000 acres, in fact. This forest is one of the largest continuous areas of timber in the state. It is an outdoor recreationist paradise with four large stocked ponds, public hunting, cross country skiing and snowmobiling trails. A beautiful drive!

Lacey-Keosauqua State Park is Iowa’s second oldest park established in 1921. The park’s scenic quality stems from its location along a bend in the Des Moines River. It features majestic wooded bluffs, which can be viewed up close on the 3-mile trail segment that winds along and through the bluffs and valleys. The park has impressive structures built by the CCC during the Great Depression and a series of Native American burial mounds.

Points of Discovery



Experience the magic of glass blowing at **Bloom & Bark Farm**. Owners Tim and Kim Blair offer glass blowing instruction on their unique vegetable and fruit farm near Keosauqua. They offer classes of varying lengths that will enable you to make your own ornament and/or art. No experience needed!

Southeastern Iowa was part of the route of a massive exodus in the late 1840s of the newly founded religious group who identified themselves as Mormons. This route, now called the **Mormon Trail**, was a harrowing journey for nearly 70,000 people fleeing Nauvoo, Illinois for Salt Lake City, Utah in the wake of violent anti-Mormon sentiment. The portion of the trail through Southeast Iowa and within the Historic Hills Scenic Byway corridor features several interpretive panels and is the subject of many historical museums.

Local Flavors



Enjoy the friendly atmosphere and historic charm of the **Bonaparte Retreat**. Formerly Meek’s Grist Mill, this was a well-known stop on the Mormons’ westerly expedition to Salt Lake City where the travelers would process their grain.

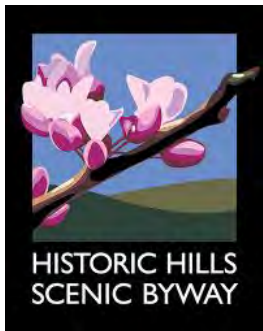
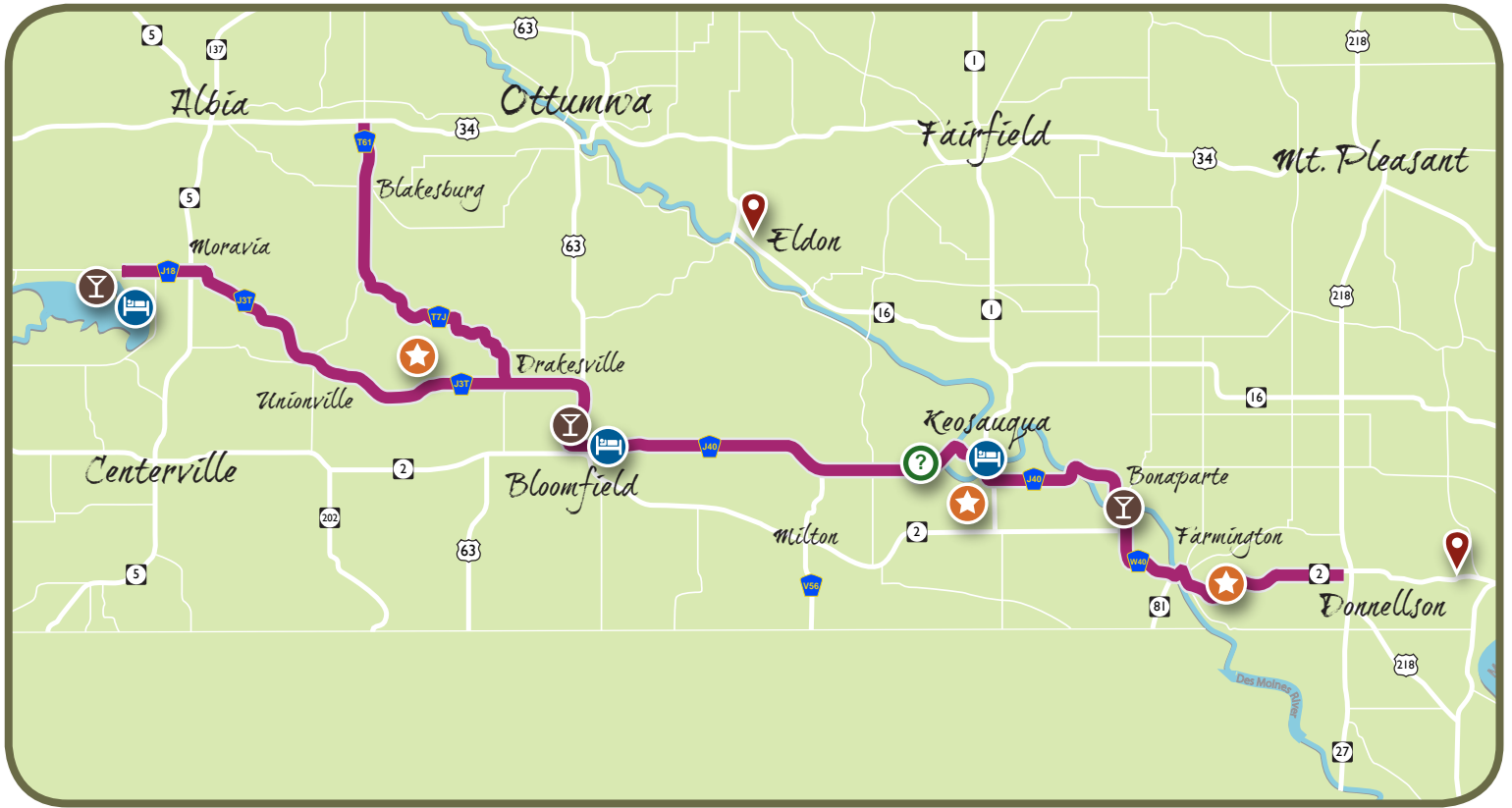
Looking for a great burger? Try **Southfork** in Bloomfield. Home of the original “Misfit Burger” and the original “Chub Burger”.

Rathbun Lakeshore Grille at Honey Creek Resort in Moravia has a fresh menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and is a great choice if you’re looking for a nice glass of Iowa wine!

Lodging Locales



- McGowan Cabins (Bloomfield)**
- Honey Creek Resort (Moravia)**
- Hotel Manning (Keosauqua)**



For More Group Tour Options

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