



Western Skies

SCENIC BYWAY

Group Travel Itinerary



Guthrie, Audubon, Shelby, and Harrison Counties in Southwest Iowa
Journey off the beaten path to discover Danish heritage, majestic windmills,
working farmsteads and tranquil small town living.





WSSB

Group Travel Itinerary

The Western Skies Scenic Byway was one of the first scenic byways dedicated in the state. This 142-mile route will weave through four rural, farm counties in Southwestern Iowa, and offer unexpected opportunities for cultural, historical and outdoor immersion. Make sure to set aside time for the glorious sunsets and sunrises for which this byway is best known.

Unique Adventures

Formed 10 years ago to manage one of the largest land gifts in the history of Iowa, the **Whiterock Conservancy** stewards 5,500 acres along the scenic Middle Raccoon Valley near Coon Rapids. The gorgeous landscape attracts visitors from all over the state, region, and nation. The countryside is a mix of savannas, rolling pastures, native and restored prairies, wetlands, riverside bluffs, fishing ponds, crop ground and unique historic, geologic and archaeological sites.

Visit the building once voted the Most Beautiful Church in Iowa. The Catholic church in Stuart fell victim to a hate crime in 1995 by an arsonist. Since the city and the Project Restore Foundation didn't give up hope and successfully rallied for its restoration. After being awarded a Vision Iowa Grant the old church was transformed into a community cultural center. The **Saints Center for Culture and the Arts** now serves as host to concerts, school events, weddings, family gatherings and more. Call to set up a tour!

Scenic Spots

Harrison County Historical Village is just north of the Missouri Valley. The Historical Village Center features an original log cabin, a general store and a school. Climb or drive to the lookout point at the upper parking area with a one-of-a-kind Lincoln Highway guardrail. The Village is also an Iowa Welcome Center and has a wonderful gift shop with sweet Iowa keepsakes.

Enjoy the **Ridgetop View on Highway 44** between

Hamlin & Kimballton. This stretch of road offers breathtaking views of the rolling countryside.

Points of Discovery

History buff? You'll enjoy this stop. Located on a beautiful 4-acre complex on the southwest of Panora, the **Guthrie County Historical Village** is just a few blocks away from the scenic Middle Raccoon River, historic Lenon Mill Park, and the Raccoon River Valley Trail. The Village was a community labor of love that blossomed from the acquisition of the first building, The Panora Depot, in 1968. Since then, the Village and the historic collections, which feature numerous exhibits and thousands of artifacts from 1850 to the early 20th Century, have been donated by community members anxious to share their part of Guthrie County history. Today, this Historical Village is a vibrant remnant of days gone by.

Find a taste of international flair in Elk Horn, which has one of the largest concentrations of Danish immigrant descendents in the United States. It is home to the **Museum of Danish America** and the only authentic, working, **Danish Windmill** in America. The mill, built in Denmark in 1848, was purchased by the community of Elk Horn in 1976. It was carefully torn down, shipped to America, and rebuilt here based on a 1/10 scale model made by the carpenter who dismantled it in Denmark. The Windmill has become one of the most popular and successful tourist attractions in Iowa.

Local Flavors

Home of Iowa's original "Best Tenderloin in Iowa" **Darrell's Place** has plenty of options located in Hamlin.

Great options, from homestyle comfort food to unique artisan specials **Goodfellows** has a classy atmosphere in historic Odd Fellows building. Full bar options include craft beer & cocktails.

Lodging Locales

Settle Inn & Suites (Harlan)
The Port at Lake Panorama (Panora)



For More Group Tour Options

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