

Byways of Iowa Group Travel Itineraries



Whether Iowa is your final destination or you're just passing through, Iowa's Scenic Byways will make your trip exciting and memorable. Each with their own unique stories, history, and attractions, these designated routes will keep you coming back to explore.
Welcome to Iowa's Scenic Byways!



This project paid for in part by the Iowa Tourism Office.

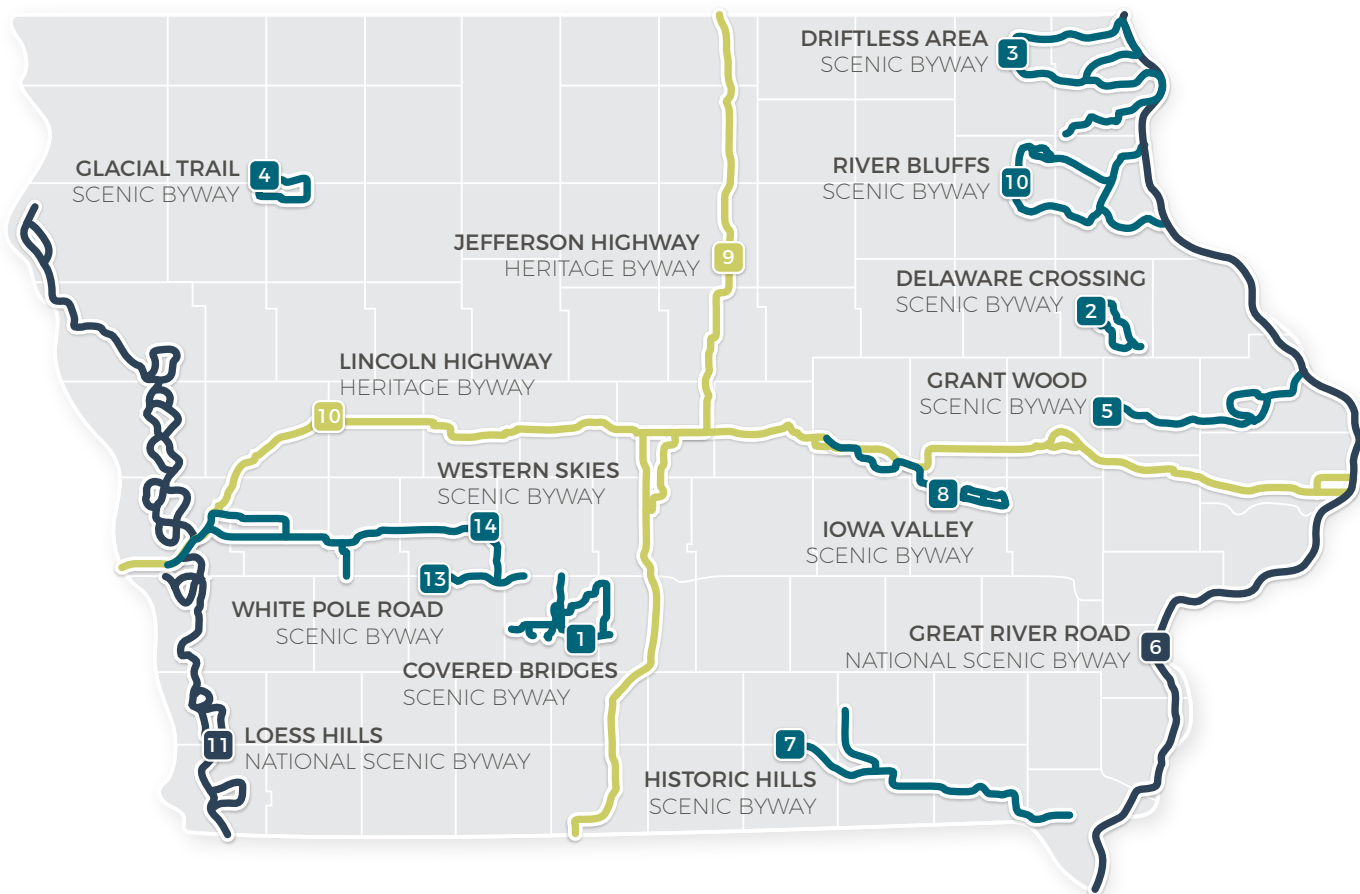
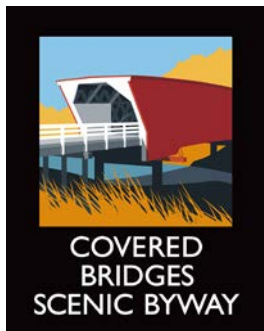


Table of Contents

Covered Bridges Scenic Byway	5
Delaware Crossing Scenic Byway	8
Driftless Area Scenic Byway	11
Glacial Trail Scenic Byway	14
Grant Wood Scenic Byway	17
Great River Road National Scenic Byway	20
Historic Hills Scenic Byway	24
Iowa Valley Scenic Byway	27
Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway	31
Loess Hills National Scenic Byway	34
River Bluffs Scenic Byway	38
Western Skies Scenic Byway	41
White Pole Road Scenic Byway	44



Covered Bridges

SCENIC BYWAY

Group Travel Itinerary



Madison County, Iowa

Step into the stories of authentic American heroes and cultural icons in South Central Iowa





CBSB

Group Travel Itinerary

The Covered Bridges Scenic Byway is an 82-mile route where you'll find stories of famous Hollywood icons, historical heroes and some of the world's most innovative legends. From the romantic Bridges of Madison County to the gritty John Wayne to the inventive George Washington Carver, there's a place and a story to entertain any traveler. On this route, you'll experience life on the plains, and enjoy the abundant natural resources which made Madison County so desirable for settlers and continue to contribute to the scenic quality of this lovely area.

Unique Adventures



First, tour the only museum in the world dedicated to Hollywood legend John Wayne, as well as his birthplace home. The world-class **John Wayne Birthplace & Museum** honors Winterset's own in grand style and features the largest private collection of John Wayne memorabilia in existence. Be sure to pose with the full-size bronze statue out front.

Pop in to **Bare Bison Ranch** in Van Meter, a 350-acre bison ranch with nearly 300 head of Plains and Woods bison. Take a tour of the ranch, get up close to these magnificent animals, and purchase heart-healthy, wholesome bison products to take home.

Stop and shop at the **Winterset Historic Courthouse Square Commercial District**. Consisting of 83 buildings, it is one of the most historically intact downtown environments in Iowa. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2016. The courthouse square is home to a thriving retail district with over 20 shops, which recently won the 2019 Iowa Tourism Award for "Outstanding Retail Experience".

Scenic Spots



Winterset is the **Covered Bridge Capital of Iowa**, with the highest concentration of covered bridges west of the Mississippi. The bridges were the setting of the 1992 novel "The Bridges of Madison County" and the 1995 film of the same name. Book a guided tour to view six of the original nineteen covered bridges located

throughout Madison County that have been lovingly preserved. Fans can visit many of the set locations, including the **Roseman & Holliwel Covered Bridges**.

More of the outdoor type? Explore one of the first state parks in Iowa. The 350-acre **Pammel State Park** is home to Iowa's oldest oak tree, Backbone Ridge and the 1858 Harmon Tunnel. The park includes modern campgrounds and yurt cabins, the Makoke Birding Trail, and access to the popular Middle River Water Trail. Hiking, camping, fishing, kayaking and wildlife viewing are all very popular here.

If you're looking for glorious scenery, **Cumming Road** vistas have it all. Beginning at Exit 65 off of I-35 to Highway 169 just north of Winterset, travelers can view rolling hills and valleys covered with native grasses, botanical gardens, native stands of oak and hickory forests, wetlands, century farms and equestrian ranches - a very "Iowan" view.

Relax at **City Park**, a 76-acre public park located in Winterset. Established in the early 1900s, it is home to the **Cutler-Donahoe Covered Bridge**, which was moved to the park in 1970. **Clark Tower**, one of Iowa's hidden gems, is a three-story limestone structure built in tribute to one of the town's earliest settlers. There's also an English-style hedge maze, limestone picnic shelters, foot bridges, a campground, playgrounds, and a monument to the discovery of the first Red Delicious Apple Tree in Madison County.

Points of Discovery



Check out the only museum in Iowa dedicated exclusively to the art and history of quilting. The **Iowa Quilt Museum** in Winterset has alternating themed exhibits every few months. Then be sure to stop at the award-winning Piece Works Quilt Shop and Ben Franklin store to further your craft.

Local Flavors



You can't go wrong with comfort food. Operating since 1928, the **Northside Café** offers Midwestern favorites such as beef and noodles, pork tenderloin sandwiches and hot beef sandwiches, alongside salads and homemade desserts. If you're a "Bridges of Madison County" fanatic, you'll recognize this restaurant from the movie.

Lodging Locales



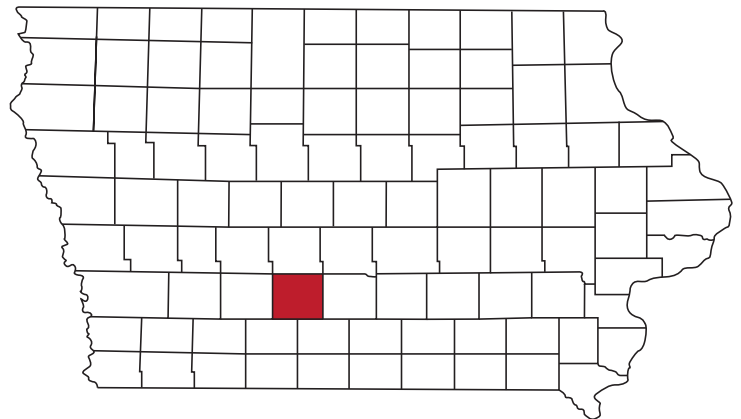
Cobblestone Inn & Suites (Winterset)
Covered Bridge Inn (Winterset)



For More Group Tour Options

Contact

Byway Coordinator: Teddi Yaeger
 Madison County Chamber of Commerce
 73 Jefferson Street
 Winterset, Iowa 50273
 Phone: 515-462-1185
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Delaware Crossing

SCENIC BYWAY

Group Travel Itinerary



Delaware County, Iowa

Enjoy civil war history, outdoor recreation and
spectacular views of the Maquoketa River Valley





DCSB

Group Travel Itinerary

The Delaware Crossing Scenic Byway is a 36-mile loop route that can take you back in time or plant you firmly in the present. The short journey will take you through the heart of Iowa farm country and past many charming farmsteads. Make sure to notice the 70-plus painted Barn Quilts of Delaware County as you travel through the rolling hills and past the limestone bluffs. The Delaware Crossing Scenic Byway attractions will tantalize the history buff and the avid recreationalist alike, so whether you come for the history, fishing or scenic views, you're sure to enjoy your visit on the Delaware Crossing Scenic Byway.

Unique Adventures

Avid angler? Even if you aren't, you'll love this stop! Located down a short gravel road removed from the world, you will discover the **Manchester Fish Hatchery**. Positioned in a beautiful natural setting, adjacent to forested bluffs, and a cold-water trout stream, the intrinsic qualities are apparent but the biology associated with the hatching and rearing of hundreds of thousands of trout distributed throughout Northeast Iowa has a cultural and natural quality that is unique and interesting.

A steadily increasing and expanding market in the DCSB Corridor is the formation of **Amish Cultural Hubs**. These clusters of Amish businesses allow byway visitors to easily interact with Amish community members and develop a better understanding of Amish culture. Near Lake Delhi there is an established cultural hub that includes a general store, a bakery, a bulk foods store, and a greenhouse where travelers can purchase authentic Amish goods.

Scenic Spots

One of Iowa's most celebrated and unique scenic destinations, encompassing over 2,000 acres of forested bluffs, **Backbone State Park** is the oldest State Park in Iowa. Originally referred to as the Devil's Backbone for its narrow and steep ridge of bedrock carved by the Maquoketa River, the park offers byway travelers an abundance of spectacular views. The rocky cliffs, limestone

columns, and spires towering 80 feet above the roads, trails, and cold-water trout streams are a "must-see" when passing through the DCSB Corridor.

Created by a dam on the Maquoketa River, **Lake Delhi** is nine miles of meandering water surrounded by wooded bluffs and wildlife areas. The dam and associated Labyrinth Spillway are impressive, unusual, and award-winning structures that demonstrate an exceptional degree of innovation and offer a wide range of recreation opportunities.

Points of Discovery

Step back in time at the **Lenox College Campus**. Together the entirety of the buildings, artifacts, collections, and oral histories are as extensive as they are fascinating. The history of the school and other components of this site are a microcosm of U.S. history. This historic treasure includes natural and transportation history, details of infrastructure development in small towns, and changes in community, farming, church, civic life and engagement.

Stop by **Bailey's Ford Nature & Wildlife Center** to experience a variety of interpretive nature displays. Learn about Iowa's wildlife and natural world from live exhibits, including white-tailed deer, reptiles, turtles & fish.

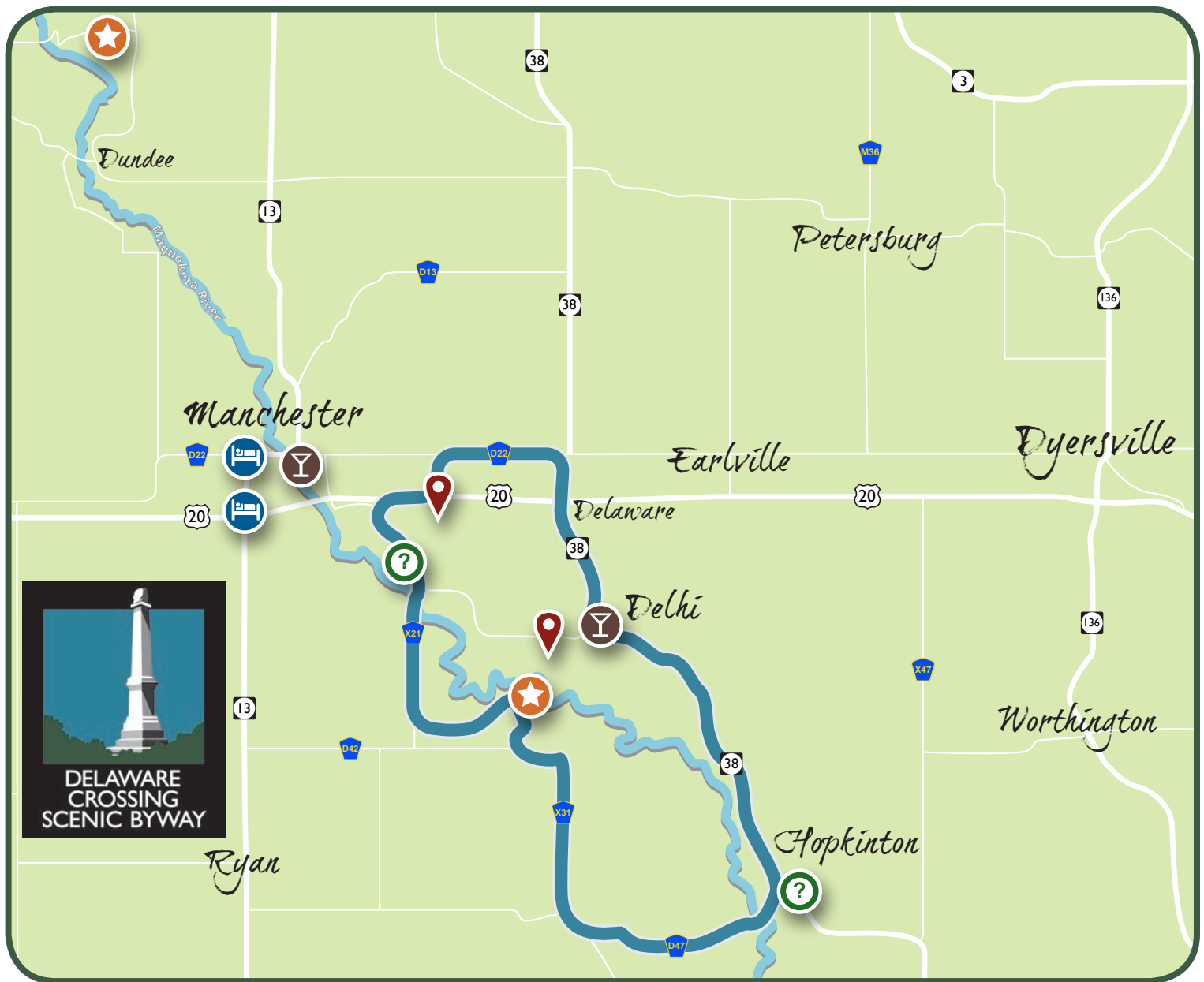
Local Flavors

If you are looking for genuine midwestern hospitality stop in the heart of downtown Delhi to have a bite. **Bulicek's Landing** features good home cooked meals and a full bar.

Founded by brothers Kyle and Chad Sands in 2012, **Franklin Street Brewing Co.** is located in vibrant downtown Manchester. With a tap house situated in the historic Masonic Lodge building, the Sand brothers aim to provide a variety of exceptional handcrafted ales and lagers in a relaxing and comfortable environment. This small-batch craft brewery is a fun stop on the Delaware Crossing Scenic Byway.

Lodging Locales

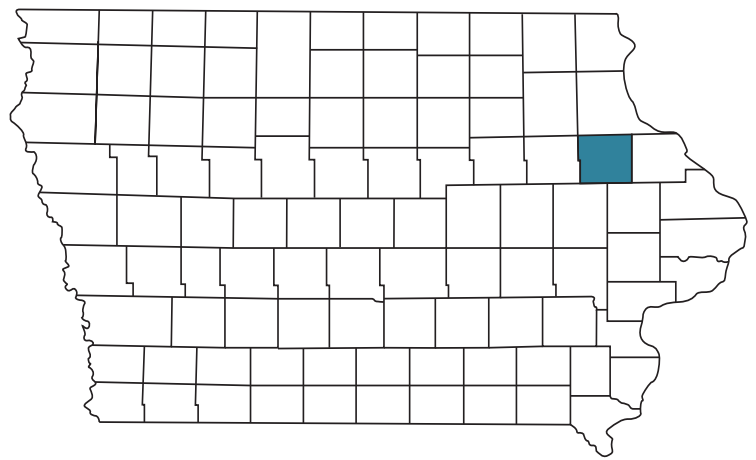
Days Inn by Wyndham (Manchester)
Boulders Inn & Suites by Cobblestone Hotels (Manchester)

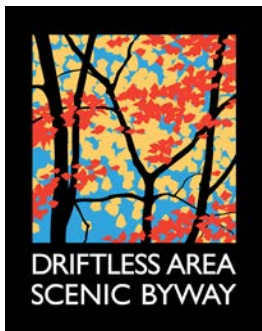


For More Group Tour Options

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Driftless Area

SCENIC BYWAY

Group Travel Itinerary

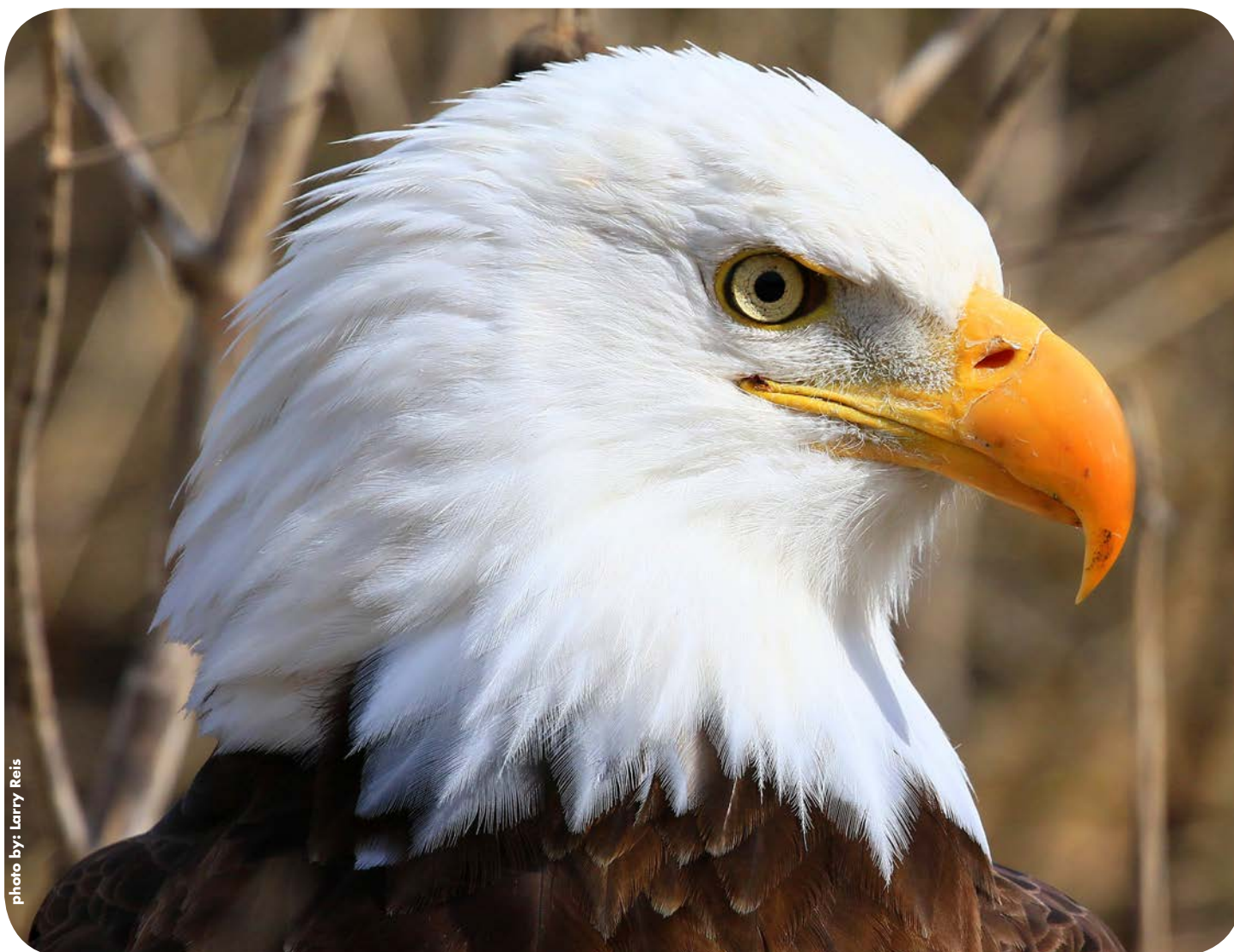


photo by: Larry Reis

Allamakee and Winneshiek Counties in Iowa

Explore and learn about prehistoric mounds, state forest trails
and cold-water trout streams in gorgeous Northeast Iowa





DASB

Group Travel Itinerary

The Driftless Area Scenic Byway is a 144-mile route that zigzags its way across the distinctive landscape of Allamakee and Winneshiek counties in Northeast Iowa. The terrain is among the most unique in the State with steep hills, dramatic bluffs, and stream-carved river valleys. As the last glaciers passed, or drifted, over Iowa, this corner of the state remained untouched, resulting in this striking region known as the "Driftless Area." Named the *most scenic* state byway in Iowa, the dramatic forested hillsides are especially breathtaking in the Fall making it an extremely popular area for "leaf watchers". The area is also marked by signs of the previous settlers. From the American Indians, to the pioneers, to the Norwegian immigrants, the Byway has an interesting cultural flair. Take your time to truly enjoy the exquisite scenery, rich history, unique shopping, and delicious food along the Driftless Area Scenic Byway.

Unique Adventures

You'll be in awe of the spectacular 200 foot waterfall located in **Dunnings Springs Park** in Decorah - a surprising place to cool off on a hot summer day! Enjoy picnicking and hiking trails just minutes from downtown Decorah.

While you're in town stop at the **Decorah Fish Hatchery!** Although the hatchery is in operation primarily to raise and stock trout throughout Northeast Iowa, it is also an extremely popular destination for locals and out-of-town visitors. Pack a picnic, feed the fish, take a walk on the **Trout Run Trail**, and visit **Decorah's world famous eagle's nest** to catch a glimpse of the area's biggest celebrities.

Scenic Spots

Travel to the **Yellow River State Forest** and stop at the scenic overlooks that provide opportunities for you to access panoramic views of the forested valleys, streams, and rivers. Soak in the breathtaking Driftless Area landscape unique to this corner of Iowa.

Rising 450 feet above the community of Lansing and the Upper Mississippi River Valley, **Mount Hosmer** provides opportunities for picnicking and hiking but is most well-known for its incredible "birds-eye" view of the **Mississippi River and Black Hawk Bridge**.

Points of Discovery

Don't miss the **Driftless Area Education & Visitors Center!** Peruse the interpretive and dimensional displays housed at the center which cover topics such as geology, limnology (rivers/streams), archeology, wildlife studies, river town industries and economies. Contact Allamakee County Economic Development & Tourism for more information about the state of the art center and opportunities to explore the all the Driftless Area has to offer!

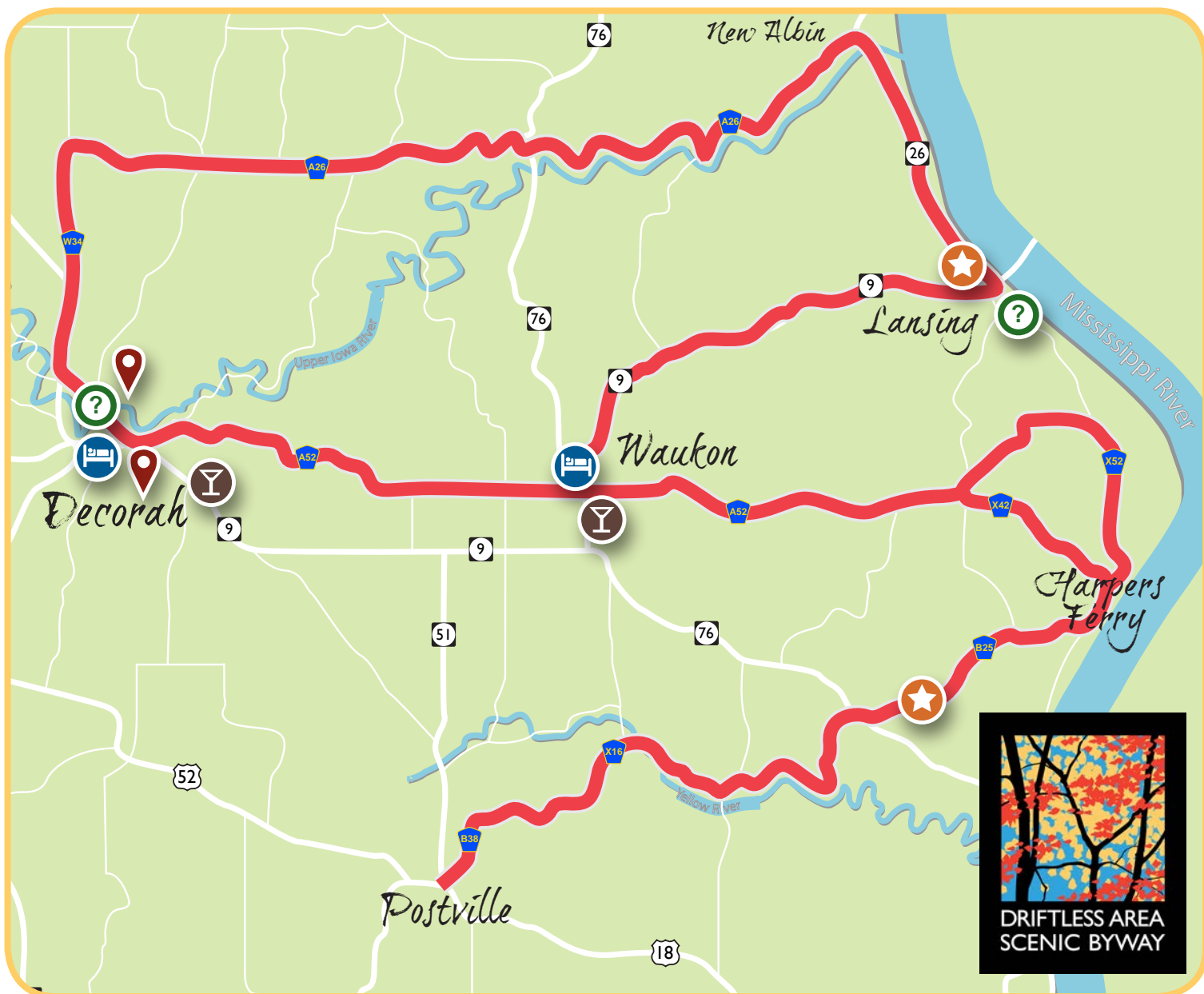
Immerse yourself in Norwegian culture. Yes, in Iowa! Learn about the Norwegian immigrants who made Northeast Iowa their home at the **Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum & Heritage Center**. With world-class exhibitions, 12 historic buildings, and a folk-art school, this national treasure showcases the best in Norwegian art and explores the American immigrant experience. Very enriching!

Local Flavors

Need a cold one? After runaway success in homebrewing **Toppling Goliath Brewing Company** has become world renowned for its IPAs and barrel-aged stouts. This local cornerstone distributes to over eight states. Enjoy one of their more than 30 beers, and the delicious, unique menu. A perfect spot for a large group meal. Brewery tours available!

For a sweet treat or squeaky cheese curds make sure to go to **WW Homestead Dairy**, nestled in the town of Waukon. This creamery is comprised of individuals with one passion: producing and distributing the ultimate dairy products. Stop on in and taste the freshest products including cream-line milk, ice cream, cheese, and butter. The public is encouraged to watch how products are made through large viewing windows and tour the facility.

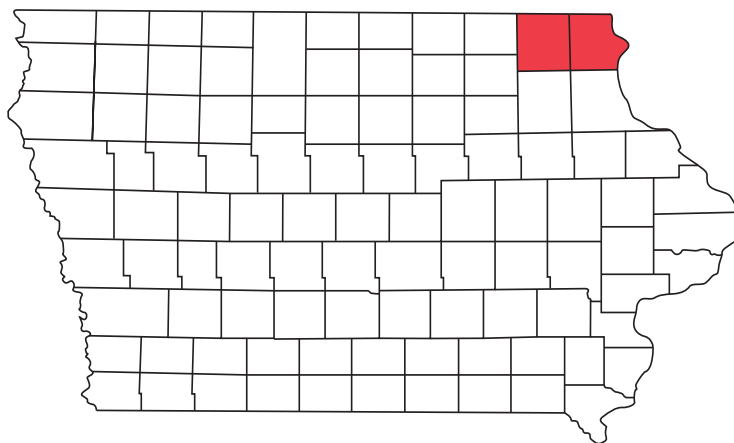
Lodging Locales
Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott (Decorah)
Stoney Creek Inn (Waukon)

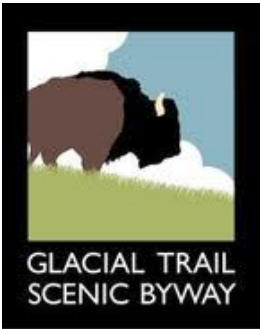


For More Group Tour Options

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Glacial Trail

SCENIC BYWAY

Group Travel Itinerary



O’Brien, Clay, Buena Vista and Cherokee Counties in Northwest Iowa
Discover Iowa’s agricultural roots, Native American history, and the glacier-carved landscape





GTSB

Group Travel Itinerary

The Glacial Trail Scenic Byway provides a compelling experience where nature, scenery, archaeology and history intersect. This 36-mile corridor encompasses a landscape like no other in the region. The Glacial Trail Scenic Byway will immerse you in the prairie landscape of the Little Sioux River Valley, which harbors native Iowa grasslands second only in land area to those in the Loess Hills to the west. Remnant prairies and oak savannas dot the bluffs above the river. Native flora and fauna abound in more than a dozen public parks and preserves along the byway. You'll appreciate the Glacial Trail Scenic Byway, a place that still has a little touch of "wildness".

Unique Adventures

The Glacial Trail Scenic Byway has a rich cultural heritage with tangible evidence of early settlement history and the prehistory of the region. Historic **Peterson, Iowa** provides an in-depth look at the settlement of Iowa and the United States. Walk through the **Kirchner Farm Machinery Museum, Jim's History Barn, Fort Peterson Blockhouse, and more.** View Iowan history at its core including antique farm equipment, western memorabilia, Native American artifacts, wildlife displays, and military items ranging from the 1700s to WWII.

At **Bogenrief Studios**, staff excel at the antiquated craft of stained glass restoration and creation. This studio has become world-famous for their skill in cut and blown glass. You'll be amazed by their projects and the process to create these amazingly intricate works of art.

Scenic Spots

A trail meanders through the diverse and rare ecosystem at **Waterman Prairie**. In addition to spectacular vistas of the Little Sioux River Valley and the breathtaking prairie in full bloom, be sure to look at the Hanging Valley. This geological wonder was created when a glacial melt water surge changed the course of the Little Sioux River about 12,000 years ago. Hike to the bluff-top grave of 'Dutch Fred' on the very homestead he established in 1868.

The **Linn Grove Dam Area** provides outdoor recreation including watersports, camping opportunities and more. Learn more about the history of the area from informative interpretive panels located on-site and don't forget your fishing gear. The 12-acre park is a chance for anglers to catch their next trophy on the Little Sioux River.

Points of Discovery

Enjoy the displays, hike the trails, savor the beauty of the wildflowers, and engage in bird and wildlife watching. Check out all of the events and activities at **Prairie Heritage Center** west of Peterson that celebrate Iowa's natural wonders. Learn about the unique prairie environment as well as preserving and protecting prairie heritage in O'Brien County.

Archaeology, art, astronomy, geology, natural history, or paleontology up your alley? The **Sanford Museum & Planetarium** in Cherokee, established in 1951, was created for historical, cultural, and educational purposes. It has welcomed over one million visitors! The museum is an amazing natural science adventure and offers wonderful programming that will take you to the moon, the stars, and the neighboring planets.

Local Flavors

The **Juke Joint Grille** is Northwest Iowa's favorite blues little bar. Located in Larrabee, this eatery has unique lunch specials and mouthwatering prime rib on Friday and Saturday nights. The cozy location often hosts live music as well.

Stroll through picturesque vineyards, taste amazing wines made from local grapes and enjoy the calming views overlooking the pond and orchard at **Innspiration Vines & Wines**. Started as a bed and breakfast, this family-owned seasonal location has grown into a full vacation destination. It's a great place to unwind on the Glacial Trail Scenic Byway.

Lodging Locales

Best Western La Grande Hacienda (Cherokee)

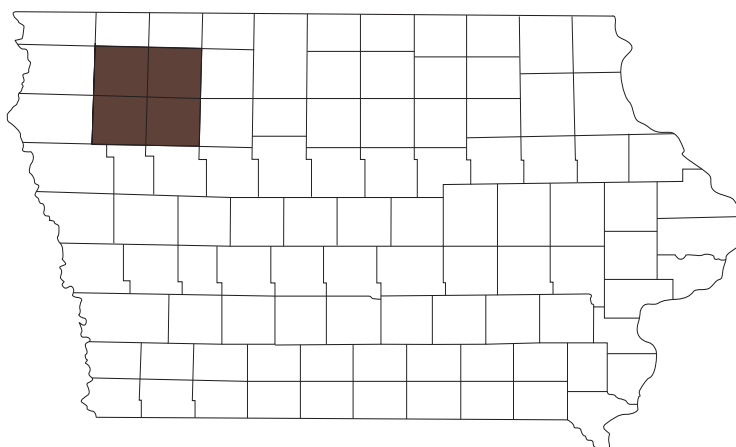
For the more adventuresome travelers, **Dog Creek Park** offers a unique Iowan lodging opportunity. Multiple grain bins have been converted into cabins containing six queen beds, heat and A/C, walk in shower, and kitchen. Located two miles from Sutherland alongside the lake the park and campground, there are many outdoor activities to choose from including hiking, swimming, and fishing.

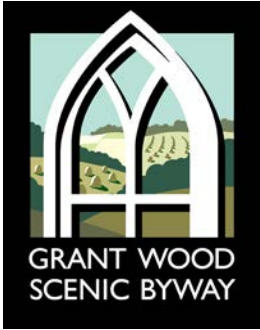


For More Group Tour Options

Contact

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Website: www.goldenhillsrco.org





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 will 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. Contact the Bellevue Area Chamber of Commerce for more exploration opportunities in the beautiful rivertown!

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.

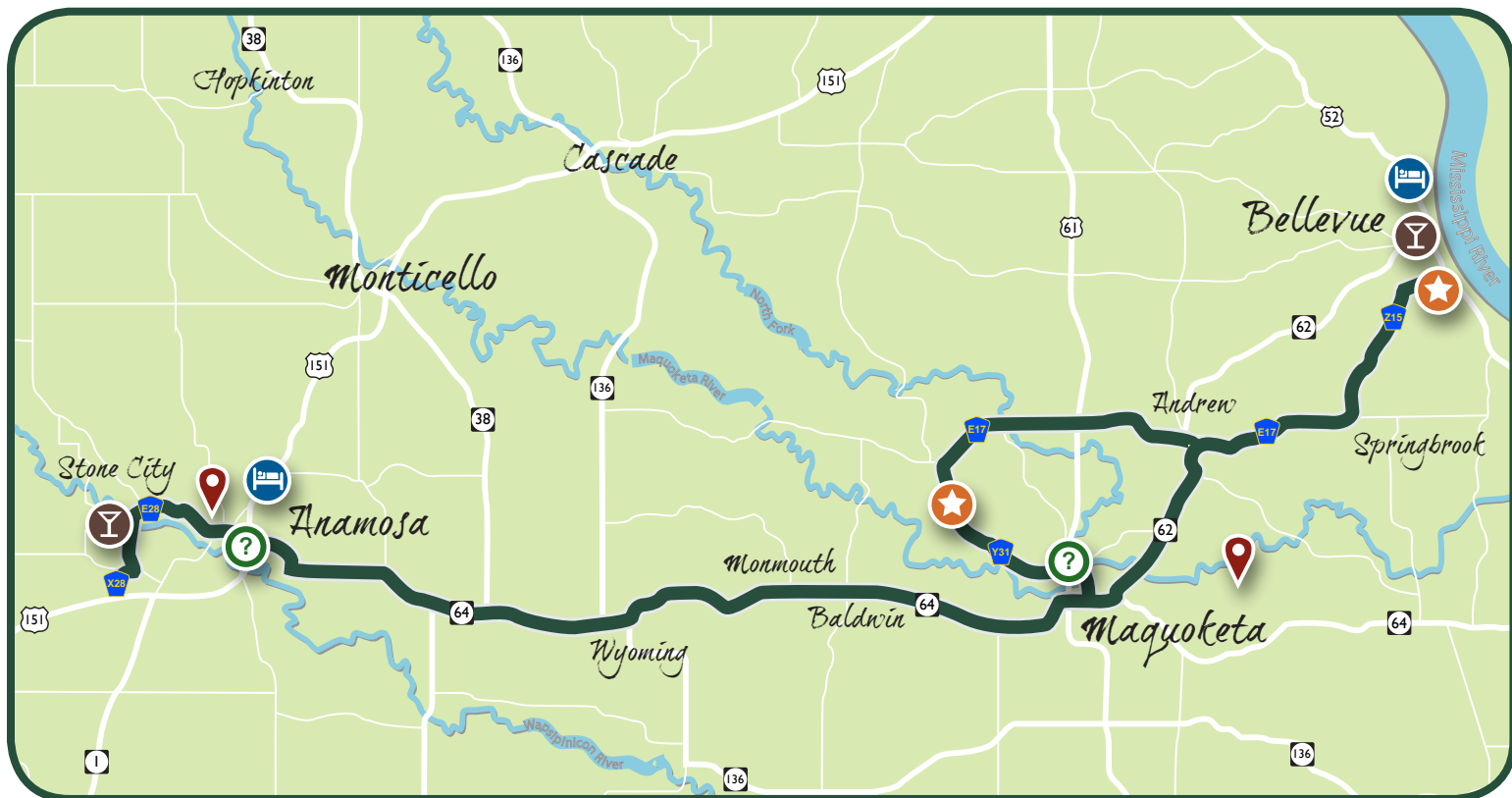
Home of over 400 motorcycles, the **National Motorcycle Museum** near Anamosa has accumulated a collection of bikes from around the world dating back 100 years. Along with bikes, the facility contains a variety of memorabilia such as parts and advertisements. The museum even has Evel Knievel's "Captain 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.

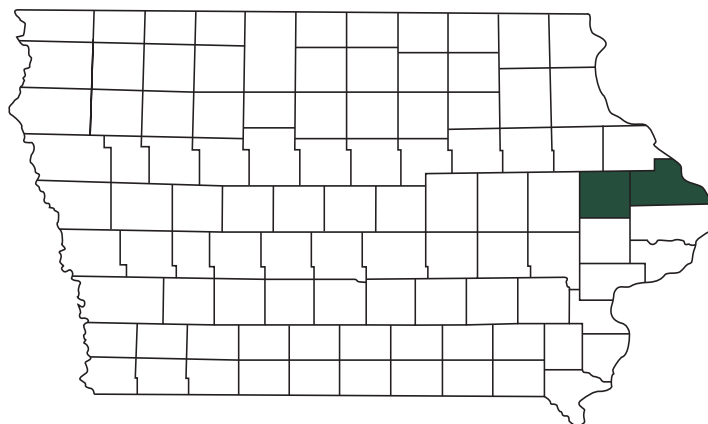
Lodging Locales Americinn Lodge & Suites (Anamosa)



For More Group Tour Options

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Great River Road

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

Group Travel Itinerary



Along the majestic Mississippi River on Iowa's Eastern boarder
World class vistas, charming river towns, magnificent limestone bluffs, and thriving river wildlife





GRR NSB

Group Travel Itinerary

Iowa's river towns have a flair all their own. Experience it for yourself when you follow the Mississippi River between Iowa's southern and northern borders along Iowa's portion of the Great River Road National Scenic Byway. Part of a 3,000-mile long network of Federal, state, and county roads, the Great River Road stretches the length of the Mississippi River from the headwaters in Lake Itasca, Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico.

Unique Adventures

Named after Julien Dubuque, the charming city of Dubuque is where Iowa history, as we know it, began! Julien is credited with being the first European settler to set foot in Iowa. He arrived around the end of the 18th century when Spain owned this part of the future United States. The Governor of Spain provided a land grant for Julien to work a lead mine on the 189-acre area that eventually became known as the, "Mines of Spain". Over 200 years later, the **Mines of Spain Recreation Area** encompasses over 1,000 acres and is a brilliant spot for wildlife watching, canoeing, hiking, and learning at the E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center. Visit the overlook and the 100-year old monument where Julien Dubuque is buried, and revel in the beauty of the Mississippi River.

Major American history happened along the Mississippi River when the United States was in its infancy. Step into the past as a costumed guide leads you through the reconstructed **Old Fort Madison**. Learn about the booming business at the trading post and the violent battles surrounding the Fort during the War of 1812.

If the fine arts are of interest to you, you can't miss the **Figge Art Museum** in downtown Davenport. The Figge is the premier art exhibition and education facility between Chicago and Des Moines, with world-class rotating exhibitions and an impressive permanent collection featuring internationally important art from the 15th century to present time.

For the ultimate Mississippi River celebration, the **National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium** in Dubuque, a

Smithsonian Affiliate, engages all ages with beautiful aquariums and astonishing history. Set on the banks of the Mississippi River, the campus has a plethora of activities including the chance to feed sting rays, tours of a retired river boat, and a 3D/4D theater.

On one of the most picturesque sections of the Upper Mississippi River Valley, tucked into the dramatic hills is Iowa's only national monument, **Effigy Mounds**. The site has 200-plus American Indian burial mounds, many in the shape of animals known as effigies. The natural area and interpretive center offer opportunities to contemplate the meanings of the mounds and the people who built them. Fantastic hikes with the reward of a photoworthy view.

Scenic Spots

Rising 450 feet above the community of Lansing and the Upper Mississippi River Valley, **Mount Hosmer** provides opportunities for picnicking and hiking but is most well-known for its incredible "birds-eye" view of the Mississippi River and Black Hawk Bridge.

Downstream near McGregor, you'll find a spot graced by the legend, Zebulon Pike. He was commissioned by the United States in 1805 to explore the Mississippi River Valley after the Louisiana Purchase. He reported that the area now known as **Pike's Peak State Park**, would be an ideal location for a fort because of its expansive views. Although that never came to fruition, this park offers exceptional overlooks 500 feet up the dramatic bluffs that will illuminate the area's appeal to Pike. Two years after his trip to Iowa, Pike was again commissioned by the US Government to make another Western exploration; the one where he discovered what is now Pikes Peak, Colorado. Iowa's Pikes Peak has been owned by the federal government for hundreds of years and for this reason, probably looks much the same as when Zebulon Pike first explored it. A delight for fall leaf watchers.

Zebulon Pike made his mark all along the Mississippi River during his first government-commissioned excursion. **Crapo Park & Arboretum** in Burlington is reported to be the site where, in 1805, Zebulon first raised the American flag on Iowa's soil. Ninety-years later, Phillip Crapo established the 85-acre park, which is best known for its multitude of perennial flowers, shrubs, and trees. The park also includes the Black Hawk Spring and Cave, which you can crawl through for more than 100 feet. While in the area, stop at the **Burlington Heritage Center Museum**, a 100 year old specimen of beautiful architecture and detailed woodwork housing exhibits of local river history.

As you travel the Great River Road, tucked between the Mississippi River and the Limestone Bluffs is the area now known as **Guttenberg**. No matter which way you enter, you'll find dramatic overlooks of the historic town including an aerial perspective of US Army Corp of Engineer Lock & Dam Number 10. This historic German community is nestled in the heart of the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, next to stately and numerous local, state, and private natural resource areas. A real gem!

Points of Discovery

Let your imagination flow down to the river landing, where the waters of Village Creek gently converge with the Mississippi River near Lansing, Iowa. Imagine a place once bustling with clanking tools and shouts of fishermen hauling in the day's catch; the low, mournful sound of the steamboat whistle echoing through the steep bluffs and along the sacred, earthen mounds. Towering glaciers passed around this very spot—scraping and scouring all but this land, a breathtaking region known as the “Driftless Area.” The **Driftless Area Education & Visitor's Center** features three levels of cultural, recreational, natural, and historical interpretation on the significance of this unique area.

For an in-depth look at the area's fisheries, book a chat at the **Guttenberg Hatchery & Aquarium** in historic downtown Guttenberg. Located within the Upper Mississippi River Fisheries Station, the aquarium houses fish species common to the area. At this particular DNR station, staff are experts in the field of harvesting brood stock for spawning operations. This means, millions of fish eggs are collected, fertilized, and hatched here before being transported to 'Rearing Stations' and then to Iowa's lakes and rivers.

Have you ever heard of the “Gold Rush of the Midwest”? Well, there was a rush for a valuable commodity right here in Iowa, but it wasn't a precious metal, it was mother of pearl! At the **National Pearl Button Museum**, you'll learn Muscatine's history in becoming the Pearl Button Capital of the World and the fascinating story of the connection between a booming industry and small town growth.

The **Buffalo Bill Museum** in LeClaire is a tribute to the famous American frontiersman and showman who was born in this small town on the river. LeClaire is also home to the **American Pickers**.

The Hopewellian mounds at the **Toolesboro Indian Mounds & Museum** in Wapello will take you back to ancient American Indian history. These mounds are among the best-preserved and accessible remnants of an ancient culture flourishing from around 200 B.C. to 300 A.D. The five-acre site includes several large surviving mounds, a museum, and a prairie demonstration plot.

Local Flavors

A Mississippi attitude isn't all in big views and museums. Restaurants along the Mississippi embrace the beauty and personality of the Mississippi and have created dining experiences to match. At

Go Fish Marina in Princeton, watch how recreationists take advantage of the restaurant's dockside delivery. Soak up the sunset during dinner on the large patio built right over the river.

Try some of **Bent River Brewing Company's** signature beers in charming downtown Burlington. To pay homage to the river, some of their brews are named Mississippi Blonde, Paddle Wheel Pale Ale, and Undercurrent IPA.

The City of McGregor nestled between the Mississippi River and the towering bluffs of Northeast Iowa in near proximity to Pikes Peak State Park. Although small in size McGregor is big in character! Enjoy the old timey feel of streets lined with 19th century buildings housing antique and specialty shops, and restaurants. **By the Spoonful** is a great place for a quick bite to eat. The shop specializes in Iowa-made goods, dairy treats, locally sourced meats, and homemade take and bake meals! For a sit down meal in McGregor, you can't go wrong with **Old Man River Restaurant & Brewery**. OMR has a nice atmosphere and a good selection of microbrews on tap.

Wine and shopping anyone? **PromiseLand Winery** is a lady's paradise on the Great River Road in the Southern hills of Guttenberg. Inside the elegant looking building is a spacious tasting room, an event room, and five fun boutiques! Take a walk or drive up to the vineyard to see where the award-winning wines begin. Enjoy some music in the front courtyard when the weather is nice or warm up by a cozy fire when it's too cold to be outside. Whatever the occasion, PromiseLand Winery is a unique and gorgeous destination!

Lodging Locales

The Great River Road has a wide variety of lodging options from traditional to rustic to high end. **Hotel Julien** in Dubuque and **Hotel Blackhawk** in Davenport are both beautifully restored luxury hotels in two of the larger river towns along the Mississippi route. Hotel Julien has been a hotel since the 1830s and gained notoriety from such famous guests as Abraham Lincoln, Mark Twain, Buffalo Bill Cody, and Al Capone. After undergoing a massive renovation, this elegant boutique hotel is a magical blend of rich history and modern luxury.

Spend the day in bustling, downtown Davenport with Hotel Blackhawk as your 'home-base'. The elegant, historic boutique hotel is fully modernized and has over 130 guest rooms and panoramic views of the Mississippi River. The hotel's exquisite interior and exterior architecture has both Italian Renaissance and Art Deco design elements and is within walking distance of attractions like the Adler Theater & River Museum and the Figge Art Museum.

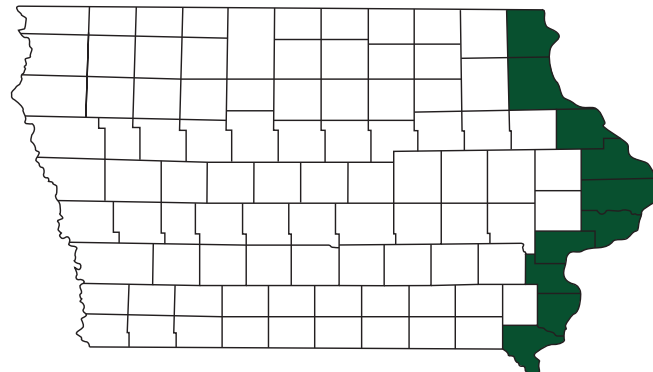
Depending on your outings, also try:

Cobblestone Inn & Suites (Marquette)

The Landing (Guttenberg)

Grumpsters Log Cabins (McGregor)

Blue Heron Inn (Lansing)



For More Group Tour Options

Contact the Local Convention and Visitors Bureaus

Burlington CVB
River Park Place
610 N Fourth St
319-752-6365

Muscatine CVB
215 Sycamore St
563-272-2534

Clinton Area CVB
721 S Second St
563-242-5702

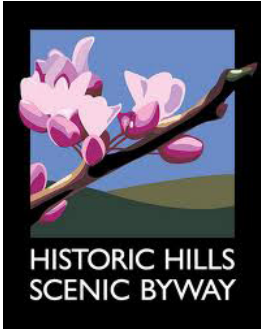
Keokuk Area CVB
429 Main St
319-524-5599

Travel Dubuque
300 Main St
800-798-8844

Quad Cities
1601 River Drive,
Suite 110
309-736-6833

Fort Madison
614 Ninth St
319-372-5471

Burlington Trailways
906 Broadway St
319-753-2864



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 too!

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 three-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

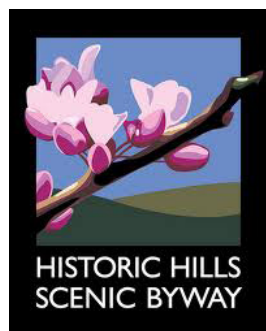
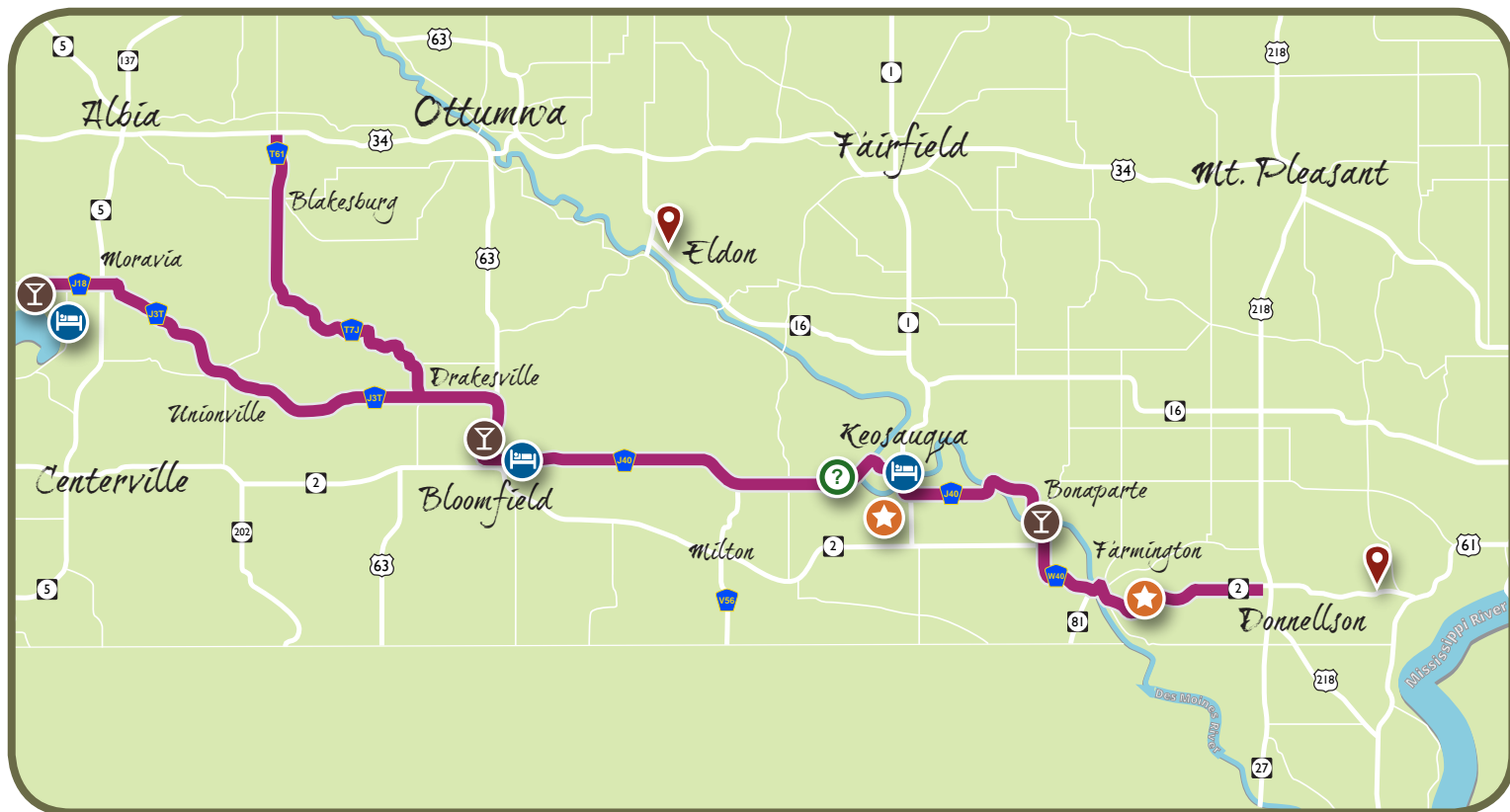
Enjoy the friendly atmosphere and historic charm of the **Bonaparte Retreat**. Formerly Meek's Grist Mill, this was a well-known stop on the Mormons' westerly expedition to Salt Lake City where the travelers would process their grain.

Looking for a great burger? Try **Southfork** in Bloomfield. Home of the original "Misfit Burger" and the original "Chub Burger". While you are in town contact Davis County Tourism Corporation for more places to eat, stay and play in Davis County.

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

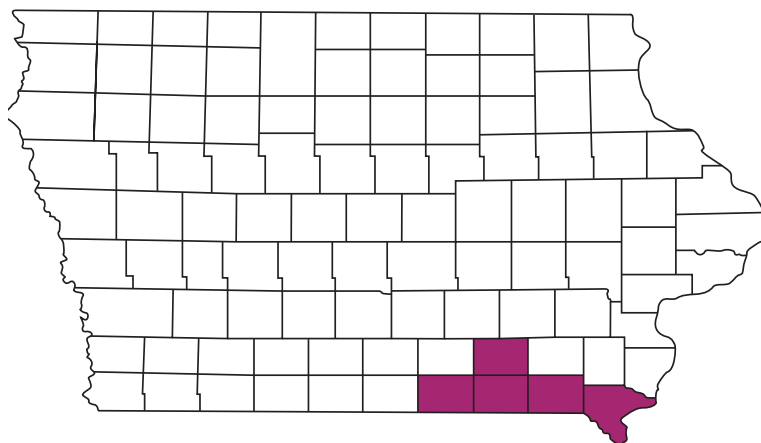
McGowen Cabins (Bloomfield)
Honey Creek Resort (Moravia)
Hotel Manning (Keosauqua)



For More Group Tour Options

Contact

Byway Coordinator: Diana Hughell
 Pathfinders RC&D
 304 S Maple St, #101
 Fairfield, IA 52556
 Phone: 641-472-6177
 Website: www.pathfindersrcd.org





Iowa Valley

SCENIC BYWAY

Group Travel Itinerary



Iowa, Benton and Tama Counties in Eastern Iowa

Trek through the gorgeous Iowa River Valley whose identity is closely linked to two unique cultural groups





IVSB

Group Travel Itinerary

The 77-mile Iowa Valley Scenic Byway takes you through rural agricultural land, Iowa River wetlands, and a rich cultural patchwork. Discover the two cultural groups who called this area their home and absorb yourself in the the diverse traditions still maintained here.

Unique Adventures

The Iowa Valley Scenic Byway is a great place to consider places off the beaten path. For example, **Gladbrook's Matchstick Marvels Museum**, is the home of Iowa artist Patrick Acton who has glued over seven-million ordinary wooden matchsticks into 70 incredibly detailed scale models of life-like sculptures, complex machines, and world renown architecture.

Love kitschy, quirky collections? There are over 16,000 sets of salt and pepper shakers at **Traer's Salt & Pepper Shaker Gallery**. (That means over 32,000 individual salt and/or pepper shakers!)

Stop and make music at the new **Larry Schlue Memorial Sound Park** in Downtown Belle Plaine. This pocket park overlooks the main railroad line and is home to several large metal sculptures and instruments.

The **Riparian Diorama at Otter Creek Nature Center** will impress even the most discerning travelers. An inspiring wrap around diorama of riparian habitat, the wetland area adjacent to rivers and streams, is complemented by wildlife sounds, beautiful murals, and interactive displays.

Scenic Spots

The Iowa River Corridor is a focus area for conservation and preservation. Spend your day fishing, paddling, bird watching, or hiking. Check out the **observation deck northwest of Chelsea** that is shaped like an eagle in flight. Visit **Lily Lake near Amana** in July to see thousands of blooming American lotus.

The scenic Czech Trail towns of Clutier, Vining, Elberon, and Chelsea are nestled in what locals call the **"Bohemian Alps"** and are great to explore leisurely. Be sure to stop at **Clutier's Historic Town Jail** for a quick picture behind bars.

Points of Discovery

The western end of the byway skirts Iowa's only resident Native American community, the Meskwaki Settlement. Though most of the settlement is private, you can learn about the history of the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi from the exhibit space at the Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel or by visiting the **Meskwaki Cultural Center & Museum**. Interactive kiosks show original documents, treaties, and letters. Learn more about the eight Meskwaki Code Talkers called to serve in WWII because of their native language skills. See rare artifacts and clothing on display.

At the eastern end of the byway are the **Amana Colonies** which were settled in 1855 by Germans fleeing religious persecution. Start at the Amana Heritage Museum to learn about the 300-year history and get directions to a communal kitchen, the Amana church, and blacksmith shop. See the first microwave prototype developed by the Amana Refrigeration's founder George Foerstner.

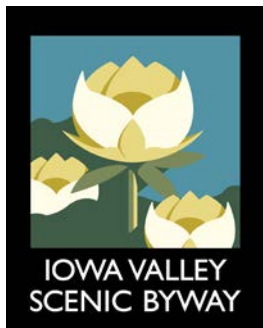
Did you know **Ladora** was the childhood home of Mildred Wirt Benson, better known by her pen name Carolyn Keene, author of the first books in the Nancy Drew series?

Local Flavors

Need to refuel? Enjoy the local eats at one of Amana's family-style restaurants including the Ox Yoke Inn or try the **Millstream Brau Haus**, an authentic German Bierhalle serving signatures brews from the neighboring Millstream Brewery. These special brews are complimented by delicious German-style pub food! Afterwards take a load off in Iowa's Largest Walnut Rocking Chair at the Broom & Basket Shop in West Amana.

Looking for another unique Iowa Valley location? Peruse the delectable menu at the **Caucus Bistro** in Ladora. This former bank is a wine bar/bistro that celebrates Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucus, a nationally important event.

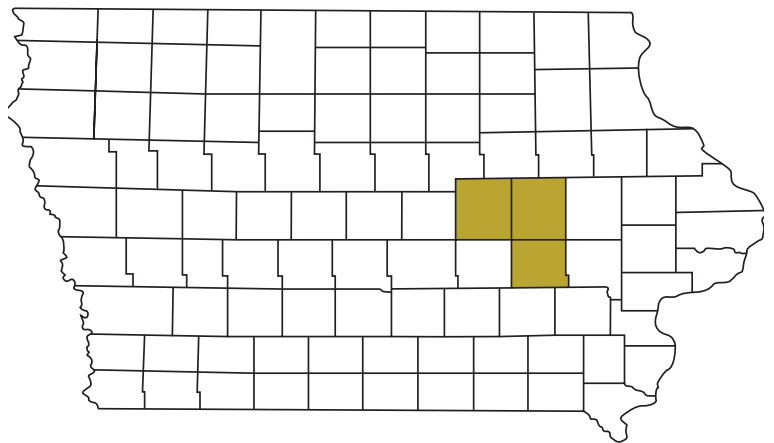
Lodging Locales **Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel (Tama)**



For More Group Tour Options

Contact

Byway Coordinator: Jessica Rilling
Iowa Valley RC&D
920 48th Avenue
Amana, Iowa 52203
Phone: 319-622-3264
Website: www.ivrcd.org





Lincoln Highway

HERITAGE BYWAY

Group Travel Itinerary



photo by: Mike Kelly

Spanning the State of Iowa

Explore stunning natural areas, visit picturesque communities, attend a variety of cultural events, and enjoy many breweries, distilleries, and wineries





photo by Mike Kelly



LHHB

Group Travel Itinerary

Established in 1913, the Lincoln Highway transformed automobile travel in America and the lives of Iowans as it became the first improved transcontinental road. The route starts in Times Square in New York and ends in San Francisco, California. In Iowa, the route travels from the Mississippi River to the Missouri River. Today the thoroughfare obviously continues to play a major role in the lives of Iowans, as nearly two-thirds of Iowa residents live in the counties along the Lincoln Highway.

Sit back and enjoy a travel experience that can change from very urban to very rural in a matter of minutes. A drive along the Lincoln Highway will take you back in time, yet offer modern day amenities. Contact CIT Signature Transportation for all your travel needs!

Unique Adventures

The development of river towns relied heavily on river industry. Explore the **Sawmill Museum** to discover when Clinton was the epicenter of the bustling businesses of lografts, sawmills and railroads.

Lions in Iowa? It happened! **Brucemore Mansion** in Cedar Rapids has plenty of colorful stories from the three Cedar Rapids families that called it home. Enjoy the many opportunities for concerts, theater, programs, and tours of the incredible house and grounds.

This stop is a lovingly preserved iconic Lincoln Highway legacy. The **Preston's Station Historic District** in Belle Plaine is anchored by the Standard Oil station built in 1912, one year before the Lincoln Highway was dedicated.

Looking for a Lincoln Highway photo op? Head into Tama to visit the **Lincoln Highway Bridge**. In 1915, as an act of gratitude for the Lincoln Highway route running through their town, residents of Tama built a concrete slab bridge with the words Lincoln Highway cut out of the guard rails. Although Lincoln Highway was rerouted

out of town only 11 years later, but the bridge remains an active and cultural piece of transportation infrastructure.

The railroad was the first mode of transportation to traverse the State of Iowa and was developed along the easiest traversing route. For that reason, the Lincoln Highway was built in the same corridor. The railroad still runs along much of the Lincoln Highway. Try the **Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad** dinner train for an unforgettable experience as you cross the 156' tall Bass Point Creek High Bridge over the Des Moines River!

RVP~1875 is the world's leading historical furniture shop and museum. Robby Pederson, is a master craftsman, who continues to practice the art of handmade furniture production in the century old Milligan Lumber Grain and Coal building in Jefferson, Iowa.

Need to stretch? Try goat and sheep yoga! **Doe's & Diva's Dairy**, in Honey Creek touts the health benefits of their yoga classes held in a natural setting right along with their farm animals. Try some of their delicious farmstead sheep and goat milk products.

Also located in Honey Creek is the ultimate adventure spot **Mount Crescent Ski Area**. Depending on the time of your visit, try a summer night trail run, family mud run, spooky forest trail run, skiing, snowboarding, and the longest/fastest/highest ziplines in all of Iowa and Nebraska.

Historic Squirrel Jail. A squirrel jail? Actually, a person jail. These prisons were dubbed "squirrel cage" jails because of their revolving cell design. Tour the only three-story revolving jail in the world in Council Bluffs, one of only 18 ever made.

Scenic Spots

Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway has stunning views across the entire route. The Byway's most eastern point in Iowa is marked by the elegant **Gateway Bridge over the Mississippi River** connecting Fulton, Illinois to Clinton, Iowa.

Eagle Point Park dates back to the late 1800s and was sold by one of the area's first settlers. Visit this park to see the "Serpentine Road", 1930s WPA structures - the stone tower, Limestone Footbridge, the Lodge and miles of trails. The park overlooks the Mississippi River.

Continuing on the Lincoln Highway past the bluffs of the Mississippi

River Corridor offers wide expanses of the Iowa River bottom area and marshes. Soak in this landscape when traveling **from Belle Plaine to Chelsea, Tama, and on to Meskwaki Settlement**. Watch for wildlife on the south side of the Settlement as the area has remained undisturbed from agriculture.

Incredible vistas await you from the **Kate Shelley Bridge** near Boone. Built at the turn of the century, the Bridge is 2,685 feet in length and 185 feet high overlooking the Des Moines River Valley. Catch a seat on the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad for the best view and learn about the heroine for whom the bridge was lovingly nicknamed.

On a clear day you can see 5-6 counties from the 120 ft high observation deck of the **Mahanay Bell Tower in Jefferson**. Time your trip right and you'll be serenaded by the newly added 47-bell carillon.

The **Loess Hills** on Iowa's Western border at the end of Iowa's portion of the Lincoln Highway National Scenic Byway in Harrison County are part of the incredible land formation called the Loess Hills. They were created by deposits of very fine, windblown soil, also known as loess, at the end of the last ice age. The ridges of the Loess Hills are scenic locations unclipped by most any spot in the state and are lush with colorful native plants.

Points of Discovery ?

The **Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge** is located in four states along the Mississippi River. The Refuge, which was designated in 1924, was created for fish, wildlife, and migratory birds. It is considered a Globally Important Birding Area and the movement of migratory birds through the Mississippi River Corridor is incredible. Stop at the Refuge to learn more about the wide variety of wildlife that calls the Mississippi home throughout the year. The **DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge** in Missouri Valley on the Western Side of the state offers a similar wildlife immersion experience.

Within the Lincoln Highway Corridor is a gem of a museum. A Smithsonian Affiliate, the **National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library** in Cedar Rapids is a celebration of freedom, community, and identity. Cedar Rapids' connection to this immigrant population dates back to the late 1800s. At that time, a large group of Czech and Slovak immigrants moved to the area when news of a successful meat packing plant ensured employment for those looking to come to America. Today, Czech Village is one of the trendiest areas of Cedar Rapids.

Years in the making, the **Lions Club Tree Park**, east of Grand Junction is a fascinating art installation that is an ode to Iowa's growth and settlement. Sculptures at the site, that some say are reminiscent of Stonehenge, represent Iowa statistics like population, miles of road, and number of registered cars. A thought provoking site for all - Iowa native or not!

Iowa history is intricately linked to the famous explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, who paved the way for the settlement of Iowa. At the base of the Loess Hills is the **Harrison County Historical Village & Welcome Center**, Missouri Valley. This museum is a tribute to the stalwart people who first came to the area. The Village consists of five buildings and dozens of interesting collections.

The **Union Pacific Railroad Museum** in Council Bluffs is one part of a collection of "railroad attractions" in downtown Council Bluffs. Enjoy the Historic General Dodge House, the RailsWest Museum, Golden Spike Monument, and the Durham Museum for a well-rounded railway history lesson.

Local Flavors

There are many "classic dining" options as you travel across the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway. Try these restaurants that have served countless hungry byway travelers and are still in operation today.

The **Youngville Café** in rural Benton County is one of the original rural filling stations and cafes created in response to the designation of the Lincoln Highway and remains along its original route. Joe Young built the station and cafe for his daughter. The restored Skelly Filling Station serves lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays. *Open seasonally.

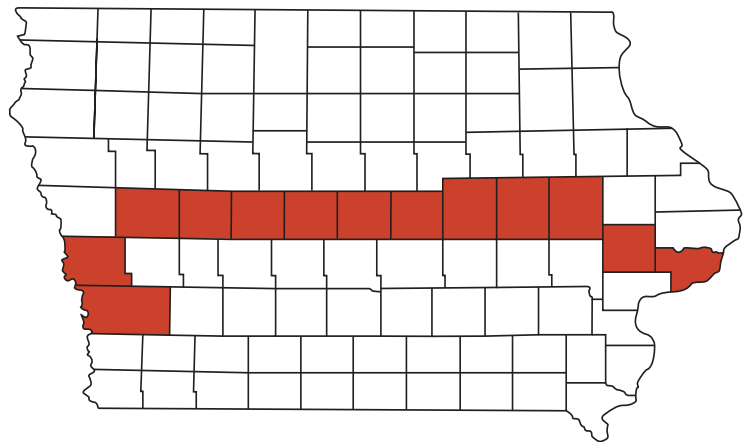
Niland's Cafe, in Colo at the intersection of the Jefferson Highway and Lincoln Highway, is one of the top 5 places in the nation for Lincoln Highway travelers to stop. Open 24/7, this cafe was a stop for Jefferson Lines and Greyhound.

For a taste of Iowa, grill your own Iowa-raised steak at **Rube's Steakhouse** in Montour, or try **Taylor's Maid-Rite** in Marshalltown. The Maid-Rite sandwich was invented in Iowa in 1927. The Marshalltown franchise was purchased in 1928 and operates out of an authentic 1950s cafe-style building.

Iowa also boasts many great breweries. Try these along your route: **Lion Bridge Brewing, Iowa Brewing Company, Clock House Brewing, Torrent Brewing, Olde Main, Alluvial, Boone Valley Brewing, Carroll Brewing**

Lodging Locales

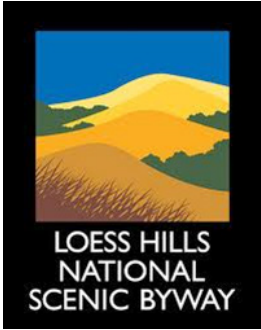
AmericInn (DeWitt)
Double Tree by Hilton, Tru by Hilton (Cedar Rapids)
Holiday Inn Express, Hampton, Baymont, Comfort Inn (Marshalltown)
Hilton Garden Inn (Ames)
Wild Rose Casino & Resort (Jefferson)
Carrolton Inn (Carroll)
Boulders (Denison)
Harrah's (Council Bluffs)



For More Group Tour Options

Contact

Byway Coordinator: Jan Gammon
 Prairie Rivers of Iowa
 2335 230th St, Suite #101
 Ames, IA 50014
 Phone: 515-232-0048
 Website: www.prrcd.org



Loess Hills

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

Group Travel Itinerary



Along the Loess Hills Ridge in Western Iowa

The ultimate route for majestic views along one of the most unique landforms in the Western Hemisphere





LHNSB

Group Travel Itinerary

The 220 mile Loess Hills National Scenic Byway (plus an additional 185 miles of optional excursion loops) provides a visual treat of the fertile Missouri River Valley. These hills were formed by deposits of very fine, windblown soil, also known as loess, at the end of the last ice age. You'd have to travel to China to see any taller loess formations.

Unique Adventures

The Loess Hills offer more than just a pretty view. These unique experiences will make your trip to Western Iowa memorable and fun! Cut your own lavender bouquet! The **Loess Hills Lavender Farm** provides a peaceful experience centered around the mystical and magical herb, lavender. Tour the beautiful lavender fields, and visit the gift shop to purchase lotions and bath products, allowing you to experience a piece of the farm in your home. Enjoy a 'high tea' on the Loess Hills Lavender Farm featuring fancy finger food, lemonade and dessert. Old English attire encouraged!

The **Union Pacific Railroad Museum & RailsWest Railroad Museum** in Council Bluffs aren't just for train fanatics. These two museums provide amazing insight into the railroad and its influence on Iowa and the United States. Experience Railroad Days, typically the second weekend in July, for a guided tour to five museums with a shuttle between stops.

After working up an appetite out on the road, visit **The Sugar Makery** in Glenwood. This nostalgic candy store has all the classics - hand crafted chocolates, gourmet sodas, fresh handmade butter and cream fudge. There are always 12 fudge varieties to sample and buy! And don't forget the popcorn - delicious caramel, cheese and candy flavors featuring real butter and real cane sugar.

For some country cowboy entertainment, attend the award-winning **Sidney, Iowa Championship Rodeo**. The rodeo is Iowa's oldest continuous outdoor rodeo, and is typically held the first week of August. If you can't make it for the Rodeo itself, visit **Iowa's**

Championship Rodeo Museum.

Scenic Spots

For the best view the Loess Hills have to offer stop at:

Broken Kettle Grassland on Highway 12 south of Westfield in Plymouth County is not only The Nature Conservancy's largest preserve in Iowa, but it also contains the largest contiguous tract of native prairie left in the state. In 1999, the Conservancy found the prairie rattlesnake, an extremely rare species, at this site, making Broken Kettle even more important to the region. In the fall of 2008 TNC welcomed a herd of 28 bison at Broken Kettle Grasslands preserve. The extensive prairie ridgetops feature a variety of plants and animals typically found further west in the Great Plains, and also provide a critical habitat for many species of prairie butterflies. You'll love how wild it seems here!

Preparation Canyon Scenic Overlook located on Oak Ave. southwest of Moorhead provides one of the most iconic photo opportunities in the Loess Hills. Ridgetop trails are available for those who want to venture out, but there is also a large wooden deck with interpretive panels for those who prefer to just relax and take in the view. This is located on a gravel road.

Murray Hill Scenic Overlook, located on F20 west of Pisgah, offers a panoramic view of the Missouri River Valley. Yucca plants and native flowers dominate the Loess Hill prairie landscape. Interpretive signs are located at multiple levels of the overlook that explain the significance and history of the Loess Hills. This is one of the most picturesque locations in the Loess Hills. It is located in the Loess Hills Bird Conservation Area designated by the Iowa DNR.

Waubonsie State Park Overlook located on the south side of Hwy 2/Bluff Road north of Hamburg is not only located on the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway, but also the Lewis & Clark Historical Trail. The scenic overlook provides one of the rarest and greatest vistas of Iowa's unique Loess Hills and the Missouri River bottom, and is the northern terminal for Brent's Trail, a newly designated 8 mile hiking trail. This scenic and rugged trail traverses steep slopes and ridgetops through Murray Hill, Loess Hills State Forest and Gleason-Hubel Wildlife Management Area.

Points of Discovery

For exceptional hands-on learning of the natural environment, tour the **Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center**. The Center features a

great interactive exhibit about the Loess Hills geological formation and native plants and animals. There are live Birds of Prey exhibits and a Discovery Forest nature playscape.

The Loess Hills have hosted some pretty famous explorers! The **Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and Betty Strong Encounter Center** showcases permanent exhibits about the Corps of Discovery's time in the present-day Sioux City area from late July to early September 1804. The expedition comes to life in exhibits that use interactive devices, including animatronic mannequins, computers, flip books, stamping stations, text-and-graphic panels, lift-and-drop panels, handpainted murals, a brass-rubbing station, and reproductions of military equipment. The Betty Strong Encounter Center connects to the Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center to serve a permanent mission of "commemorating a history of encounters" that occurred before and after the expedition. It hosts free photo and art exhibitions, and offers free programs, events and activities that explore themes of the land, rivers and people of the region. Themes are as diverse as agriculture, Mighty Mo fishing, heritage food and music, and Native Games days.

The **Hitchcock Nature Center** is the perfect place to begin your Loess Hills exploration. Outside you will find an interpretive garden of native prairie plants, a patio area for picnicking and relaxing, and a handicap-accessible boardwalk to an observation desk that offers beautiful views of the park and the surrounding flora and fauna. Climb the 45-foot observation tower for a unique bird's-eye view of the Loess Hills and adjacent landforms. Inside, experience a unique exhibit gallery featuring a variety of hands-on activities for visitors of all ages.

Looking for a bit of history? Iowa's landscape, location and natural resources made it historically significant in the development of the United States of America. During the Civil War, Iowa's location with slave states to the south and free states to the north and east, made it an important link in the Underground Railroad. In the town of Tabor, Iowa, a group of citizens with like-minded sympathies, worked together to help those "traveling" through Iowa to free states and territories. **The Todd House** was a station on the Underground Railroad and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Local Flavors

Dave's Old Home Cafe in Pisgah. Yes, this is the place from CW McCall's famous 1970s ballad...The comfort food lives up to the legend!

For a hometown brewery with a great selection of high-quality beer, the **Keg Creek Brewery** in Glenwood is a must-stop! The brewery has an open and comfortable environment that enhances craft beer education, enjoyment, and experimentation

– no matter what your experience level. They promote craft beer education through discussion and tours, welcoming free thought and conversation. 'A little upscale with a bit of down-home.'

Waubonsie Station in Tabor has something for everyone! Described as upscale dining with a family friendly atmosphere, this restaurant features amazing appetizers, mouth-watering dishes, a wide selection of local Iowa wines and craft beers along with the world's best liquors. Enjoy live music every Thursday, Friday and Saturday with music from both local and national touring artists. Winner of the 2018 Iowa Tourism Award for Best Dining Experience!

Bodega Victoriana, outside of Glenwood, is the largest vineyard in Western Iowa. This family-owned business, is unique in that it is made from grapes grown in the Loess Hills. The winery is located in a beautiful century-old Victorian farm.

Lodging Locales

Unique lodging opportunities abound along the Loess Hills Scenic Byway.

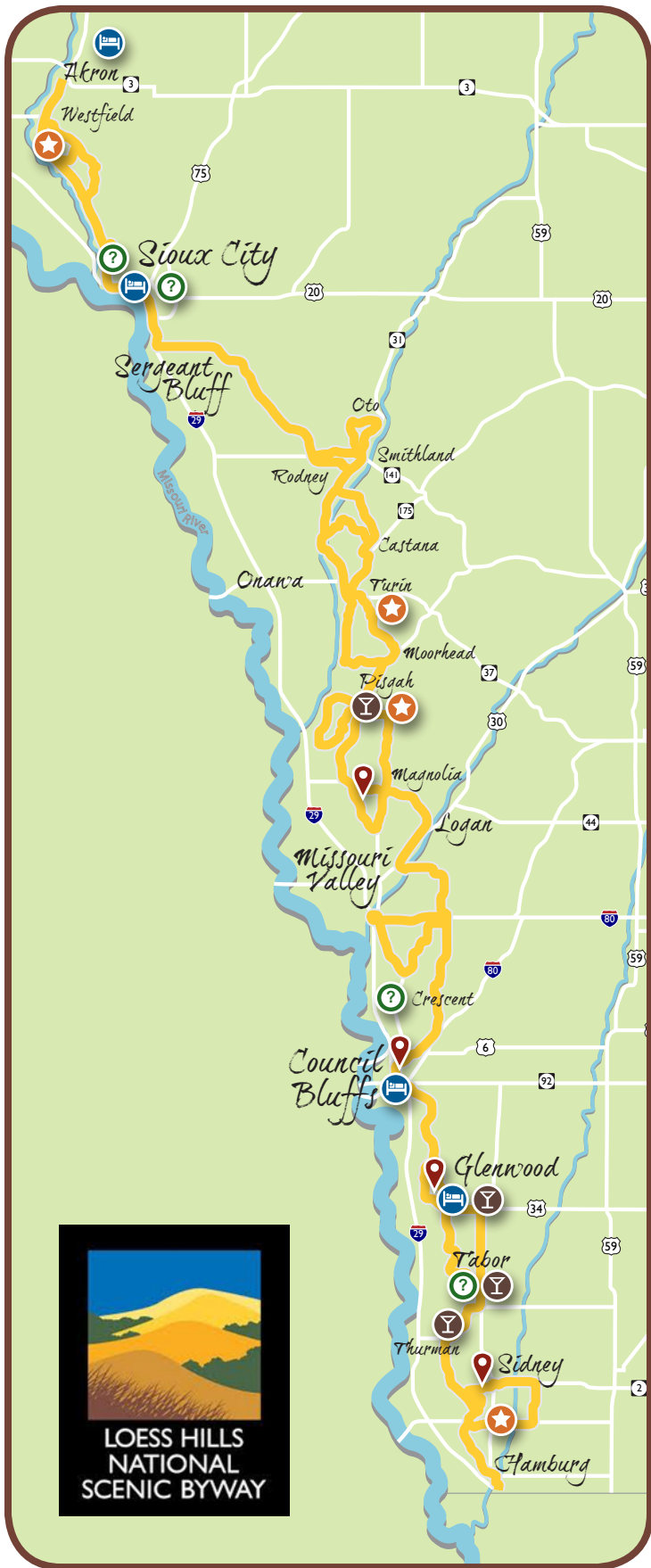
Consider the **Hole N' The Wall Lodge** - don't let the name scare you! Located in Akron, the Main Lodge is a 3 story "built new to look old", state-of-the-art high-tech facility. Framed in by an 1890's vintage notch and peg style barn; the Grand Hall features a 40-foot stone stacked wood burning fireplace and cozy furniture for relaxation. On top of all that, the Lodge has a fully-loaded gaming room and several authentic Native American teepees.

The **Hard Rock Casino & Hotel in Sioux City**, a boutique 54-room property in downtown Sioux City, is housed in the totally re-imagined historic Battery Building. Upon entering the hotel you'll find what was once a drop-off station for trains is now the Lobby Bar. Before heading to the attached Hard Rock Casino for dining, entertainment and gaming, guests can settle into their rock 'n' roll inspired rooms. Each room features an eclectic mix of historical architecture mingled with modern amenities and design elements.

Harrah's, Ameristar, or Horseshoe Casinos in Council Bluffs will offer gaming and dining in close proximity to your room.

Holiday Inn Express & Suites (Council Bluffs)

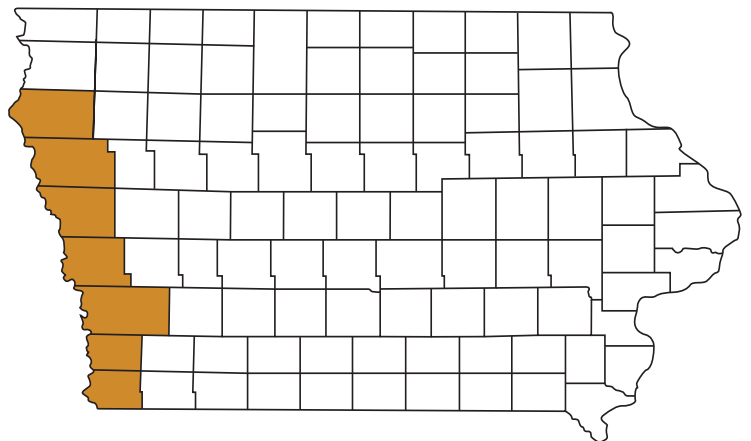
Hotel Arthur (Glenwood)

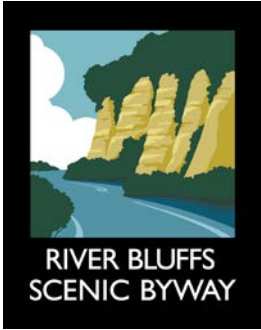


For More Group Tour Options

Contact

Byway Coordinator: Rebecca Castle
 Golden Hills RC&D
 712 US-6
 Oakland, IA 51560
 Phone: 712-482-3029
 Website: www.visitloesshills.org





River Bluffs

SCENIC BYWAY

Group Travel Itinerary



Clayton and Fayette Counties in Northeast Iowa

Find mesmerizing views, majestic limestone bluffs and small town charm





RBSB

Group Travel Itinerary

The 109-mile River Bluffs Scenic Byway is aptly named as it weaves in and out of three different river valleys - the Turkey, Volga, and Mississippi Rivers. The views along and through the dramatic area won't disappoint. Natural areas including parks, caves, campgrounds, hiking, and water trails abound. However, the unique personality of the attractions will prove the route is not the only reason for visiting. Contact Clayton County Development Group for more information.

Unique Adventures



Located on the banks of the Turkey River, **Motor Mill** is home to five historic limestone rock structures, a stable, inn, icehouse, cooperage and the six-story Motor Mill Historic Site as well as a reconstructed historic bridge. The structures were constructed from limestone quarried on-site between 1840 and 1870. The park encompasses over 155-acres and harbors cultural landscapes of native prairie, savanna, woodland, and riverine habitats, interpretive programming, trails, camping and canoe access.

Stop in Marquette for a Tom Sawyer Adventure of the Mississippi River. The 49-passenger **Maiden Voyage** will take you on a unique experience you'll never forget! Listen to local musicians on the Friday Night Music Cruise, or view eagles and other birds in their natural habitat on the Bird Eco Tour.

Scenic Spots



On the bluffs of the Mississippi River, **Pikes Peak State Park** has beautiful overlooks and trails that provide different perspectives of the river including views of Wisconsin and the Mississippi River Valleys for as far as the eye can see.

The overlook of the Turkey River Valley in **Goeken Park** encapsulates iconic and picturesque small town Iowa. The community of Eldorado is located in the wide valley, along the banks of the meandering Turkey River. The bluffs, forested hillsides along both sides of the valley and even the church steeple towering above the community can be seen from the overlook.

Points of Discovery



Effigy Mounds National Monument is the only National Monument in Iowa. This archeological wonder provides a glimpse into the human activity in the Archaic period, 10,500 – 2,800 years ago. Although the Effigy Mounds National Monument is well known for its bird and bear effigies, including the Marching Bears, there are actually more than 200 mounds located at the North and South Units of the park.

On the east side of Elgin beside the Turkey River the **Gilbertson Conservation & Education Area** is a 345-acre park lined with streams surrounded by limestone bluffs. This park has riverside camping, horseback riding trails, bike trails, water trail access, historic collections, touchable wildlife, natural history collections, a petting zoo, fishing pond and many other visitor amenities.

Local Flavors



Nestled in the Southern hills of Guttenberg **PromiseLand Winery** offers a one-of-a-kind winery experience with a spacious tasting room and five boutiques. Take a walk or drive up to the vineyard to see where their award-winning wines begin. Enjoy some music in the front courtyard when the weather is nice or warm up by a cozy fire when it's too cold to be outside.

You seriously should try, **Shrubb's Street Eatery** in Fayette. They use fresh local and superior quality ingredients to create a culturally diverse living menu that changes daily. They specialize in elevated street foods from a global perspective, but do not limit culinary emphasis to any one genre of cuisine.

Lodging Locales



While in Marquette stay at the **Cobblestone Inn & Suites** located on the banks of the Mississippi River. The hotel allows access to the Mississippi observation deck and boardwalk. This universally accessible overlook is situated on a forest bluff above the community extending over historic downtown.

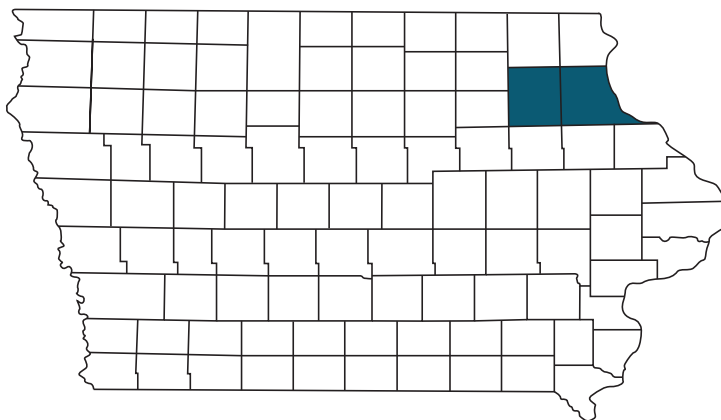
Boarders Inn & Suites (Fayette)



For More Group Tour Options

Contact

Byway Coordinator: Jared Nielsen
 Northeast Iowa RC&D
 101 East Greene St, PO Box 916
 Postville, Iowa 52162
 Phone: 563-864-7112
 Website: www.northeastiowarcd.org





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 weaves through four rural farming counties in Southwestern Iowa, and offers 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, **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. The city and the Project Restore Foundation didn't give up hope and successfully rallied for its restoration. The old church was successfully transformed into a community cultural center. The **Saints Center for Culture & the Arts** now serves as host to concerts, school events, weddings, family gatherings and more.

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. Contact Audubon County while

passing through for other tourism opportunities.

Points of Discovery

History buff? You'll enjoy this stop. Located on a beautiful four-acre complex on the southwest side 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 deconstructed, 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 the original "Best Tenderloin in Iowa", Darrell's Place in Hamlin has plenty of delicious food and drink options, and is located right on the T-Bone Recreation Trail.

Great options from homestyle comfort food to unique artisan specials, await you at Goodfellows in Woodbine. You'll find a classy but casual atmosphere in this historic Odd Fellows building, plus craft beer and cocktail options at the full bar.

Lodging Locales

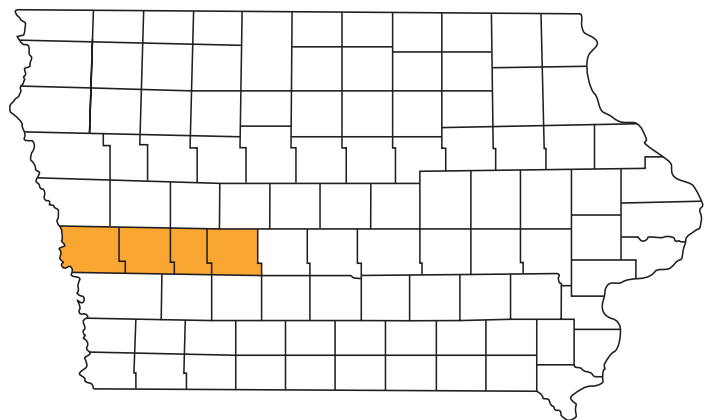
Settle Inn & Suites (Harlan)
The Port at Lake Panorama (Panora)

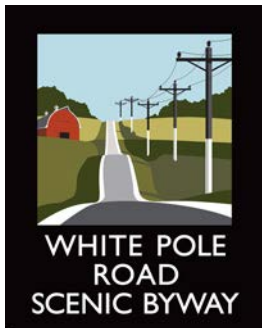


For More Group Tour Options

Contact

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 712 US-6
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 Website: www.goldenhillsrca.org





White Pole Road

SCENIC BYWAY

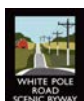
Group Travel Itinerary



Saints Center for Culture and the Arts

Dallas, Adair and Guthrie Counties in Southwest Iowa

Steeped in historic adventure, visit Iowa's heartland on one of the first East-West routes across the State





WPRSB

Group Travel Itinerary

Take a historic route! The **White Pole Road** has an extensive history dating back to the early 1900s. At a time where the popularity of automobiles was exploding, Iowa had earned a reputation for having an extremely poor transportation system. In fact, the poor roads not only deterred tourists, but prevented many farmers from traveling to railroads and towns for weeks at a time when the roads were impassable. State and community leaders took the matter seriously and hosted a convention in 1912. This precipitated a race across the state to develop the best East-West route from border to border. Even then, community leaders connected the roadways to economic development and knew the more traffic through their towns the more business they would have. Community leaders in this area of Southwest Iowa chose to denote their road, "The Great White Way" with white painted poles and the route was marketed as the "straighter, leveler, and shorter" way across the state. As time passed, the popular route merged with other roads, experienced several name changes, and was the impetus for the development of Interstate 80 in the same corridor. Today, 26 miles of the original route regained the name of "White Pole Road" and is noted by the famous white poles.

Unique Adventures

The history of the White Pole Road also includes the adventures of the infamous **Bonnie and Clyde** of the Bloody Barrow Gang. Stop near Dexter where the gang was engaged in an intense fight against a local posse. The location is marked by an interpretive granite marker. Both Bonnie and Clyde were wounded in the shoot out, but it wasn't the end! They stole another car and continued their adventure for 10 more months. Nine months later, the famous couple revisited the area and robbed a bank in Stuart, Iowa. The bank is gone, but it's a great spot for a photo op!

Bonnie and Clyde weren't the only gangsters with an Iowa connection. Visit Adair to see the **Jesse James Historical Marker** where he pulled off the world's first moving train robbery. Contact Adair County Tourism for more information.

Scenic Spots

Iowa was a major thoroughfare for pioneers crossing to the Western part of the United States. Imagine their plight at the **Wagon Trail Ruts near Casey, Iowa**. Take McPherson Street north of town to the T intersection to see the abandoned track that led to the county seat of Guthrie Center.

Admire the beauty of the **Adair Viaduct**, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and marking the Western entrance of the White Pole Road Scenic Byway. This railroad overpass is an interesting example of artistic state-commissioned infrastructure.

Points of Discovery

Historic adventure in this area wasn't just for gangsters. Famous adventurer/author Jack Kerouac made the **Former Rock Island Railroad Depot** in Stuart, Iowa famous when he wrote about how he and his friend were stranded there in his best-selling novel, "On the Road."

For an amazing example of brilliant architecture in small town Iowa, book a tour at the **Saints Center for Culture & the Arts**. Once voted the Most Beautiful Church in Iowa, the Catholic church in Stuart fell victim to an arsonist hate crime in 1995. Today it has been transformed into a breathtaking community cultural center.

Local Flavors

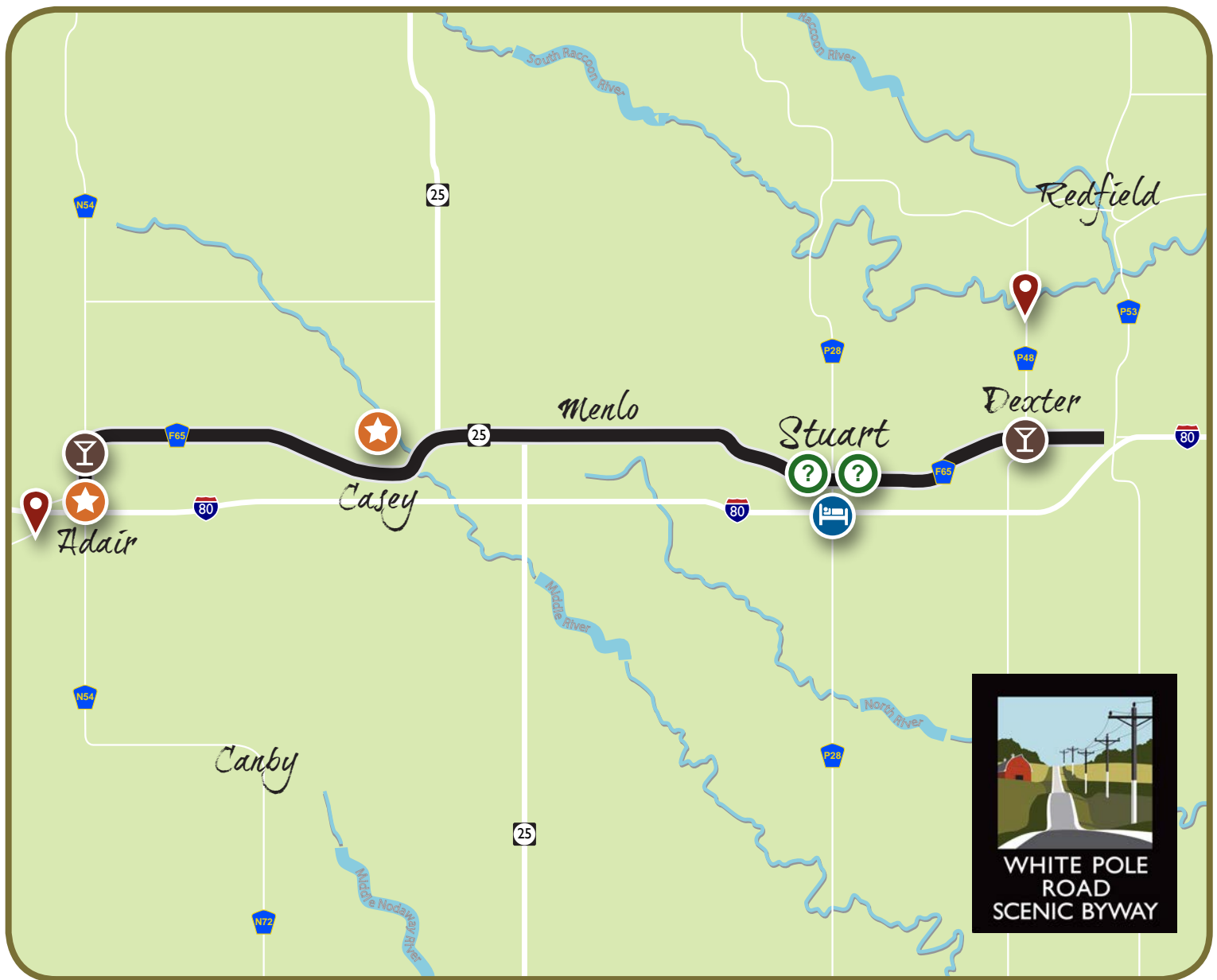
For a taste of an heirloom chocolate recipe, stop at **Drew's Chocolates**. In 1927, Helen Drew started a chocolate shop in Dexter, and her original recipe is still in use today. The candies are fork-dipped in chocolate by hand and made fresh daily!

Awarded "Best Place to Have Pizza in Iowa!" **Zipp's Pizzeria** in Adair has specialty, hand-crafted pizzas. Pickle pizza, anyone?

Fresh blueberry pie a la mode....mmmmm. Try the **Menlo Cafe** for some signature Iowa goodies. Best known for their breakfast, lunch, and unbelievable homemade pie.

Lodging Locales

Ameri Inn Lodge & Suites (Stuart)
Hotel Stuart (Stuart)
The Port at Lake Panorama (Panora)



For More Group Tour Options

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