



IOWA BYWAYS

THE OFFICIAL TRAVEL GUIDE TO IOWA'S BYWAYS



IOWA TRAVEL TIPS



Welcome

Finding your way...

TRANSPORTATION

GET A MAP



Iowa transportation maps can be ordered online or picked up at multiple locations around the state.

On the map, Iowa byway routes are marked with **red dotted lines**.

► iowadot.gov/maps/order-maps

PLAN AHEAD WITH 511



Use Iowa's 24-7-365 road information to plan for road conditions like construction and weather year round.

► <http://www.511ia.org>

SAFE DRIVING TIPS

BYWAYS ARE BEAUTIFUL, BUT DRIVERS NEED TO KEEP THEIR EYES ON THE ROAD AT ALL TIMES.

- Pull over to a safe location to get a better view.
- Never take photos while driving – leave that to the passengers.
- Use caution on gravel roads. Slow down and watch for traffic at uncontrolled intersections. You can't always count on seeing the dust of a vehicle coming from the side road.
- Byways attract a lot of motorcyclists and bicyclists. Share the road responsibly with all vehicles.
- Many byways are frequently used by large farm equipment, especially in spring and fall. Have patience and never pass on hills or curves.
- Texting while driving in Iowa – it's not just a bad idea, it's illegal.



to Iowa

IOWA TOURISM INFORMATION

IOWA TOURISM OFFICE/IOWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Trip ideas, things to do, places to stay, a calendar of events, and order your Iowa Travel Guide.

► www.traveliowa.com

#THISISIOWA

CULTURE AND HISTORY



Discover arts, history and cultural destinations in Iowa. Explore places by category or location, on the go or at home in the Iowa Culture app.

► www.dcaapp.com



OUTDOOR RECREATION

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Explore State parks, lakes, things to do, camping reservations and fishing and hunting licenses.

► www.iowadnr.gov

IOWA'S COUNTY PARKS

Explore Iowa County parks, events, water and bike trails, amenities, education and camping reservations

► www.mycountyparks.com



BICYCLING IN IOWA

Connect with nature on Iowa's over 2,000 miles of trails, making Iowa the world capital of trails.

IOWA BY TRAILS APP

► www.iowabytrail.com

BIKE MAPS

Order a printed copy of the Iowa bike map or view the interactive bike map online.

► www.iowadot.gov/iowabikes/bikemap/home.aspx

IOWA BICYCLE COALITION

We work to make Iowa bicycling safe, accessible, and enjoyable for all.

► www.iowabicyclecoalition.org



IOWA BYWAYS

Discover your

Welcome to Iowa's byways

Browse through this guide and you'll find the distinct flavor of what is available along each byway. Discover recreational, historic, cultural and scenic attractions using the maps and lists provided in the guide. You'll find numbered attractions for each byway in or near the town listed. For a comprehensive list of byway features, visit www.iowabyways.org. Friendly local contacts are provided to help you along the way. Iowa Transportation Maps clearly tracking all the Iowa byways with red dotted lines are available at Iowa's official welcome centers.

Traveling Iowa's byways you will experience small town America, while enjoying diverse landscapes and unique landforms that have been shaped over thousands of years. Iowa's cultural heritage also plays a major role across all 14 byways, boasting hundreds of historic sites, national landmarks and interpretive centers, each telling Iowa's stories from the first Native Americans through European immigrants to modern times.

Glaciers once covered much of Iowa, shaping the broad flat plains of the prairie. These massive sheets of ice missed the northeast corner of the state, leaving the land along the Driftless Area Byway rugged and hilly with rock outcroppings, springs and cold water trout streams. Rivers coursed their way through the land, carving deep furrows in some places and leaving gently rolling hills in others. In western Iowa, wind has shaped fine sand into the impressive Loess Hills, a rare land form found in only one other place on earth.

Iowa's three national scenic byways and eleven state byways offer unique varieties of scenic features, and

more for you to see and do. View three states from atop a Mississippi River bluff, stop at a modern art museum and then tour a working farm. Explore a historic mill, visit a national aquarium, take a boat ride in a cave, purchase locally crafted pottery and wares from local artisans or trace the footsteps of Lewis and Clark. Experience the actual wagon ruts of the Mormon Trail, ride your bike 13 stories high, canoe a water trail, star gaze under Iowa's darkest sky, and marvel at mounds built by prehistoric cultures.

Agriculture wraps Iowa's byways with an abundance of farmland vistas and fills Iowa lands with ever-changing crops and activities for you to "harvest." You'll see croplands on the vast flat plains and farmsteads sprinkled across rolling hills reminiscent of a Grant Wood painting. Along the way, you might wander in a corn maze, rest at a bed and breakfast, study farming in museums, discover the Iowa barn quilt collection or visit a working Amish farm.

When you are ready to step outside your vehicle, you'll find much more to do and see. Prairie, forests, rivers and public lands are abundant along Iowa's byways; providing opportunities for you to stop and play in the outdoors with hiking, biking, kayaking and trout fishing. Classic hometowns with pride for their unique lore and offerings are found all along the byways. They invite you to taste local food, enjoy their architecture, and immerse yourself in the rich history and culture that defines them.

Why not plan your next journey off the beaten path? No matter how you choose to make the most of every moment, we know that time spent along Iowa's byways is sure to grow your love for Iowa's diverse, beautiful vistas and authentic communities. Happy driving!



NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS

- GREAT RIVER ROAD NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY..... 5-8
- LINCOLN HIGHWAY HERITAGE BYWAY..... 9-12
- LOESS HILLS NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY..... 13-16

IOWA'S STATE BYWAYS

- COVERED BRIDGES SCENIC BYWAY 17-18
- DELAWARE CROSSING SCENIC BYWAY 19-20
- DRIFTLESS AREA SCENIC BYWAY 21-22
- GLACIAL TRAIL SCENIC BYWAY 23-24
- GRANT WOOD SCENIC BYWAY 25-26
- HISTORIC HILLS SCENIC BYWAY 27-28
- IOWA VALLEY SCENIC BYWAY 29-30
- JEFFERSON HIGHWAY HERITAGE BYWAY 31-32
- RIVER BLUFFS SCENIC BYWAY 33-34
- WESTERN SKIES SCENIC BYWAY 35-36
- WHITE POLE ROAD SCENIC BYWAY 37-38

Visit www.iowabyways.org



[iowabyways.org](http://www.iowabyways.org) provides the tools to research and plan a spectacular trip on Iowa's three national scenic byways and eleven state scenic or heritage byways.

Learn more about each byway's landscape, history and culture. Download a detailed byway map, or visit a byway online for more detailed information.

The America's Byways logo indicates that a byway has received a designation from the American's Byways® collection. This collection includes these designations: All-American Road and National Scenic Byway.





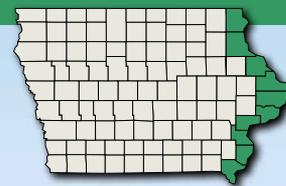
NATIONAL
SCENIC BYWAY

GREAT RIVER ROAD

Romantic

Unwind in riverfront parks, historic downtowns and at scenic river overlooks

Follow the Mississippi River between Iowa's southern and northern borders on the Iowa portion of the Great River Road National Scenic Byway. On this All-American Road, you will find world class vistas, charming river towns, magnificent limestone bluffs and a working river. Part of a 3,000-mile-long network of Federal, state and county roads, the Great River Road stretches the length of the river from Lake Itasca in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico.



The views of the river are ever changing along the 355-mile route in Iowa. You may be looking down from the bluff at a panoramic scene or be right on the riverfront where you can dip your toes in the water. One constant as you travel this world-renowned route, is the stories you'll hear of the Mighty Mississippi and the nation it helped build.

FOLLOWING HISTORY

It's hard to escape discovering history on the Great River Road because people have inhabited the Mississippi River valley for thousands of years. You'll find the evidence of prehistoric Native Americans at Effigy Mounds National Monument in northeast Iowa and Toolesboro Indian Mounds about seven miles east of Wapello.

You'll also be following in the footsteps of the first Europeans to visit Iowa, French explorers Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet. Later, immigrants from Germany, Ireland, France and Scandinavia settled into the beautiful spaces along the byway. Eighteen national interpretive centers and museums along the byway retell the histories of the people who have lived here.



riverfronts



MOVING ON THE RIVER

The river has also changed over the years as people have tried to tame it, mainly for transportation. A stop at one of the 11 lock and dam systems is worth your time. Some offer tours and at others you may see barges carrying their loads of corn, coal, combines, and other equipment. Learn more about transportation at one of the national riverboat museums in Dubuque, LeClaire, and Keokuk.

Today, you are as likely to see recreational boats as working vessels. You may spot canoes, kayaks, sailboats, fishing boats and jet skis on the water. If you've got a hankering to take a ride yourself, you'll find a variety of options up and down the river, ranging from pontoon ecotours to a dinner cruise on a replica steamship.

NATURAL BEAUTY

The Mississippi River, which defines this byway, is the ribbon of life for people, plants and animals that call the river home.

As you travel the Great River Road you are also following the Mississippi Flyway, a major corridor for migratory birds. Two national wildlife refuges on the

Mississippi River in Iowa offer safe resting and feeding habitat to ducks, geese, and other birds making their way to Canada, Mexico and beyond. The refuges and other public lands offer wildlife viewing, as well as opportunities to hunt, fish, paddle, picnic, camp, and dangle your feet in the river.

If you like your outdoor adventures a little less on the wild side, many towns have transformed their riverfronts into parks with extensive bicycling and walking trails.

CHARMING RIVER TOWNS

The tug of the river also affects businesses you'll find along the byway. Bed and breakfasts, hotels and guest cabins are often situated with a view of the water. Restaurants feature catfish and offer outdoor decks for warm weather dining.

Local artists are inspired by the natural beauty, and you can visit galleries and studios along the way to purchase works from watercolors and photographs to pottery and jewelry.

Whether it's history, recreation, scenery, art, music or theater, the river takes center stage on your journey along the Great River Road National Scenic Byway, All-American Road.





**NATIONAL
SCENIC BYWAY**

GREAT RIVER ROAD

Endless possibilities



Marquette overlook

Image © Travel Iowa, all rights reserved



Birdwatching along the Mississippi Flyway

Image © Iowa Department of Natural Resources, all rights reserved



Living history at Old Fort Madison

Image © Travel Iowa, all rights reserved



Marquette in autumn

Image © 2015 Jane Regan, all rights reserved



Kayaking on the Mississippi River

Image © Iowa Department of Natural Resources, all rights reserved



RECREATION

- 1 Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, Iowa/Minn. border to Clinton/Scott County border
- 2 Yellow River State Forest, Harpers Ferry
- 3 Pikes Peak State Park, McGregor
- 4 Dubuque Heritage Trail, Dubuque
- 5 Green Island Wildlife Management Area, Sabula
- 6 Hurstville Interpretive Center, Maquoketa
- 7 Eagle Point Park, Clinton
- 8 Rock Creek Park; Ecotourism Center, Camanche
- 9 Mississippi Riverfront Trail, Davenport and Bettendorf
- 10 Environmental Learning Center, Muscatine
- 11 Odessa Water Trail, Wapello
- 12 Flint River Trail, Burlington
- 13 Heron Bend Conservation Area, Montrose

HISTORY

- 14 Effigy Mounds National Monument, Harpers Ferry
- 15 Guttenberg Fish Hatchery & Aquarium, Guttenberg
- 16 National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium; National Rivers Hall of Fame, Dubuque
- 17 EB Lyons Interpretive Center at Mines of Spain, Dubuque
- 18 George M. Curtis Mansion, Clinton
- 19 Sawmill Museum, Clinton
- 20 Buffalo Bill Museum, Le Claire
- 21 Putnam Museum of History & Natural Science, Davenport
- 22 Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport
- 23 Pine Creek Grist Mill, Muscatine
- 24 Muscatine History and Industry Center; Pearl Button Museum, Muscatine
- 25 Toolesboro Indian Mounds and Museum, Wapello
- 26 Des Moines Heritage Museum, Burlington
- 27 Old Fort Madison, Fort Madison
- 28 George M. Verity Riverboat Museum, Keokuk

CULTURE

- 29 River Arts Center, Clinton
- 30 Clinton Area Showboat Theatre, Clinton
- 31 Figge Art Museum, Davenport
- 32 Art Center of Burlington, Burlington

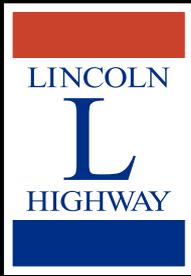
SCENIC VIEWS

- 33 Mount Hosmer City Park, Lansing
- 34 Driftless Area Education & Interpretation Center, Lansing
- 35 Pikes Peak State Park, McGregor
- 36 Motor Mill and Bridge, Elkader
- 37 Guttenberg Roadside Overlook, Guttenberg
- 38 Mines of Spain State Recreation Area, Dubuque
- 39 Bellevue State Park, Bellevue
- 40 Lake Clinton, Clinton
- 41 Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge Overlook, Wapello
- 42 Crapo Park, Burlington

BYWAY CONTACT

Iowa Mississippi River Parkway Commission
 515-239-1664
www.iowagreatriverroad.com

● Iowa Great River Road interpretive centers



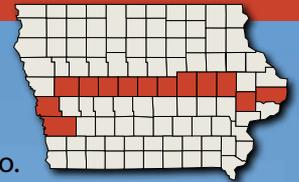
HERITAGE
BYWAY

LINCOLN HIGHWAY

First in

Take in ever-changing views, highway landmarks and historic main streets

It's easy to remember you're on the Lincoln Highway with historical bridges, signs, original 1928 Lincoln Highway markers, Burma-Shave signs, and Lincoln Highway folk art around every corner. The legendary route, America's first transcontinental improved highway, was established in 1913, beginning at Times Square in New York City and ending in San Francisco. Created as a memorial to Abraham Lincoln, the highway traverses 14 states. Today, you can follow much of the original route on Iowa's Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway, passing through dozens of small towns and some of the state's largest cities. With so much to offer, it's easy to see why this route has been designated as one of America's National Scenic Byways.



Though farmland is a constant feature, the landscape is as diverse as the communities you'll travel through on the byway's 503 miles. From the wind-sculpted Loess Hills near the Missouri River to the level plains and undulating river valleys of central Iowa and to the steep bluffs of the Mississippi River, the views are always changing.



Image © 2011 Carl Kurtz (bridges), all rights reserved.

Image © 2011 Peter Hoehnle (Lincoln statue), all rights reserved.

America



HIGHWAY HISTORY

History buffs will marvel at several nationally known landmarks of the Lincoln Highway, including Preston's Gas Station in Belle Plaine, Tama's Lincoln Highway Bridge and the Reed-Niland Corner at Colo.

Throughout the byway, towns and cities have committed to preserving the character of this famous road, and travelers will find examples of historic buildings, canopy gas stations and vintage cafes, as well as roadside sculptures, murals and art. Interpretive markers, signs and museums along the route unravel the mysteries and explain the legacy of this historic road.

GETTING OUT

If you are ready to get out of your vehicle, there are many places for outdoor recreation, providing plenty of choices for where to go and what to do. The byway has a national wildlife refuge on each end and one in the middle. In addition, numerous state and county parks offer camping, hunting, fishing, swimming and picnicking.

You might stretch your legs with a bike ride or hike on more than 700 miles of trails in the byway corridor. Central Iowa has become a mecca for recreational

trails with 670 miles (and counting), including the High Trestle Trail near Madrid. This 25-mile trail includes an artistic 13-story high bridge with an unforgettable view of the Des Moines River valley.

For a more leisurely stroll, wander through one of the byway's striking college campuses, including Iowa State University in Ames or Cornell College in Mount Vernon.

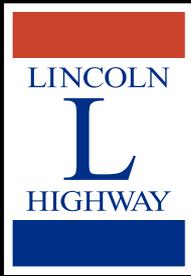
EAT, SLEEP AND SHOP

You'll find outstanding shopping opportunities, bed and breakfasts, historic roadside cafes, modern hotels and restaurants in the byway's 43 communities.

Major Iowa cities along the route include Council Bluffs, Carroll, Boone, Ames, Marshalltown, Cedar Rapids and Clinton. In addition, you'll travel through many rural communities bypassed when U.S. 30 was realigned over the years. The byway also passes by the Meskwaki Settlement, home to Iowa's only resident Native American tribe.

You are never more than a few miles from lodging, good food and a day to remember on the Iowa Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway, a National Scenic Byway.





HERITAGE
BYWAY

LINCOLN HIGHWAY

Second to



Along the Lincoln Highway in Woodbine
Image © 2011 Mike Whye, all rights reserved



Historic Lincoln Highway Bridge in Tama County
Image © 2010 Michael Kelly, all rights reserved



Classic vehicle by Youngville Station in Benton County
Image © 2011 Michael Kelly, all rights reserved



more



Historic Main Street in State Center
Image © Tom Apgar, all rights reserved



Orpheum Theater Center in Marshalltown
Image © Tom Apgar, all rights reserved



RECREATION

- 1 Lake Manawa State Park, Council Bluffs
- 2 DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri Valley
- 3 Yellow Smoke Park, Denison
- 4 Sauk Rail Trail, Carroll
- 5 Swan Lake State Park, Carroll
- 6 North Raccoon River Water Trail, Jefferson
- 7 Raccoon River Valley Trail, Jefferson
- 8 Ledges State Park, Boone
- 9 High Trestle Trail, Madrid
- 10 Hickory Grove Park, Colo
- 11 Linn Creek Recreational Trail, Marshalltown
- 12 Union Grove State Park, Gladbrook
- 13 Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area, Palo
- 14 Palisades-Kepler State Park, Mount Vernon
- 15 Mississippi River Ecotourism Center, Camanche

HISTORIC PLACES

- 16 Western Historic Trails Center, Council Bluffs
- 17 Union Pacific Railroad Museum, Council Bluffs
- 18 Historic General Dodge House, National Historic Landmark, Council Bluffs
- 19 Mahanay Bell Tower, Jefferson
- 20 Lincoln Highway Interpretive Site, Grand Junction
- 21 Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad and Museum, Boone
- 22 Mamie Eisenhower Birthplace, Boone
- 23 Reed-Niland Corner, Colo
- 24 Meskwaki Tribal Museum, Meskwaki
- 25 Lincoln Highway Bridge, Tama
- 26 Preston's Station, Belle Plaine
- 27 Youngville Café, near Watkins
- 28 Lincoln Highway Brick, Mount Vernon
- 29 Herbert Hoover National Historic Site and Presidential Library and Museum, West Branch
- 30 German Hausbarn Museum, DeWitt
- 31 Clinton County Historical Museum, Clinton

CULTURAL SITES

- 32 Donna Reed Center for the Performing Arts, Denison
- 33 Iowa State University, Ames
- 34 Ames Main Street Cultural District, Ames
- 35 Orpheum Theater Center, Marshalltown
- 36 Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Cedar Rapids
- 37 Opera House Theater, DeWitt

SCENIC VIEWS

- 38 Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center, Missouri Valley
- 39 Otter Creek Marsh bird viewing platform, east of Tama

BYWAY CONTACT

Prairie Rivers of Iowa, Ames
515-232-0048
www.prrcd.org

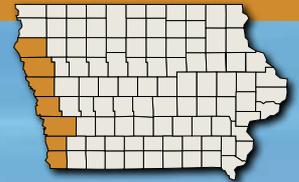
LOESS HILLS



LOESS HILLS
NATIONAL
SCENIC BYWAY

Experience panoramic views, fascinating landforms and rare natural wonders

Majestic views are the hallmark of a trip on the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway. Formed by deposits of very fine, windblown soil at the end of the last ice age, these are not your average hills. Spanning 15 miles at their widest and nearly 200 miles long from Sioux City, Iowa to St. Joseph, Mo., you'd have to travel to China to see any taller loess formations.



The views include panoramas of the fertile Missouri River valley farmland, forested hills and vast grasslands. Scenic overlooks are strategically placed and offer interpretive signage along with parking. The byway features a 220-mile paved main route, with an additional 185 miles of optional excursion loops that range from interstate highways to gravel roads. These roads lead you from the Missouri border to Akron and are easily accessed from Interstates 29 and 80.

OUTDOOR WONDERS

Hundreds of opportunities exist along the byway to get out and experience the Loess Hills. One popular destination is the state's largest remnant prairie, Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve near Sioux City. This is a great place to search for the rare flora and fauna found in the Loess Hills. The region's state forests and preserves are also good bets, but a trip in early June to the annual Loess Hills Prairie Seminar is the best way to learn about the extraordinary natural resources found here.





A must-see for birders is the 45-foot high observation tower at Hitchcock Nature Center north of Crescent. During fall migration, the tower is staffed during daylight hours with volunteers who count hawks and other raptors on their journey south.

HISTORIC LOESS HILLS

The story of the Loess Hills spans thousands of years and there are plenty of stops along the byway where you can learn more about this fascinating topography.

At the northern reaches, the Loess Hills Interpretive Center and Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center have interactive exhibits explaining the geology and natural history of the area. Other sites interpret Native American occupation of the Loess Hills that dates back 6,000 years.

The byway traces the route of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery, which made its way through the area in 1804 as the expedition headed northwest towards Oregon. In Sioux City, you can visit the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center or a 100-foot obelisk atop a bluff overlooking the Missouri River that marks the grave of Sgt. Charles Floyd, the only casualty of the Corps' expedition.

Wrap up your historical tour with fun stops at other interesting museums focusing on railroads, local history, ice cream or the country's largest squirrel cage jail.

FOOD AND DRINK

The soil and terrain of the Loess Hills resembles that of the world-renowned wine regions of France and Germany, and in recent years wineries have sprouted up all along the byway. The region was designated the Loess Hills District American Viticultural Area (AVA), as a specific geographic area where grapes are grown for wine, and an area where soil type, climate, and elevation is clearly distinguishable from its surroundings. Unique wineries and vineyards provide many spots for wine connoisseurs and beginners alike to enjoy local wines.

You can experience all types of restaurants, large and small, in the communities along the byway. As you travel through metropolitan cities to towns with less than 100 people, you'll also find a variety of lodgings from cozy bed and breakfasts to familiar hotels.

With so much to offer, it's easy to see why this route has been designated as one of America's National Scenic Byways. Plan your trip to see the beauty of these hills, thousands of years of history and endless scenic views.





**LOESS HILLS
NATIONAL
SCENIC BYWAY**

LOESS HILLS

Touched



Twilight in the Loess Hills

Image © 2011 Kenneth G. West Jr., all rights reserved. www.ioscapes.com



Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center

Image © 2011 Kenneth G. West Jr., all rights reserved. www.ioscapes.com



Waubonsie State Park

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Missouri River Valley

Image © 2011 Kenneth G. West Jr., all rights reserved. www.ioscapes.com



Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve

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RECREATION

- 1 Five Ridge Prairie State Preserve, Westfield
- 2 Stone State Park, Sioux City
- 3 Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, Sioux City
- 4 Lewis and Clark State Park, Onawa
- 5 Preparation Canyon State Park, Pisgah
- 6 Loess Hills State Forest, Pisgah
- 7 Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek
- 8 West Nishnabotna River Water Trail, Pottawattamie County, Avoca to Macedonia
- 9 Wabash Trace Nature Trail, Pottawattamie, Mills and Fremont counties, Council Bluffs to Blanchard
- 10 Pony Creek Park, Glenwood
- 11 Waubonsie State Park, Hamburg

HISTORY

- 12 Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, Sioux City
- 13 Sergeant Floyd Monument National Historic Landmark, Sioux City
- 14 Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center, Missouri Valley
- 15 Lewis and Clark Monument and Scenic Overlook, Council Bluffs
- 16 Union Pacific Railroad Museum, Council Bluffs
- 17 Mills County Historical Museum, Glenwood
- 18 The Todd House (Rev. John Todd), Tabor

CULTURE

- 19 Betty Strong Encounter Center, Sioux City
- 20 Sidney Championship Rodeo, Sidney

SCENIC VIEWS

- 21 Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve, Sioux City
- 22 Stone State Park, Sioux City
- 23 Preparation Canyon State Park, Pisgah
- 24 Murray Hill Scenic Overlook & Brent's Trail, Little Sioux
- 25 Loess Hills State Forest, Pisgah
- 26 Hitchcock Nature Center observation tower, Honey Creek
- 27 Mile Hill Lake Scenic Overlook, Glenwood
- 28 Waubonsie State Park, Hamburg

BYWAY CONTACT

Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development, Oakland
712-482-3029
www.goldenhillsrccd.org
www.visitloesshills.org





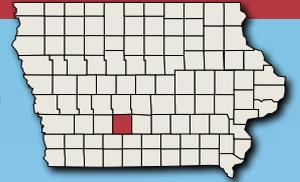
COVERED
BRIDGES
SCENIC BYWAY

COVERED BRIDGES

Discover iowa

Step into the stories of authentic American heroes and cultural icons

The Covered Bridges Scenic Byway offers visitors a journey into iconic America. Dotting the classic Iowa landscape along the byway's 82 miles are the famed covered bridges of Madison County, immortalized in the novel, movie and musical, *The Bridges of Madison County*.

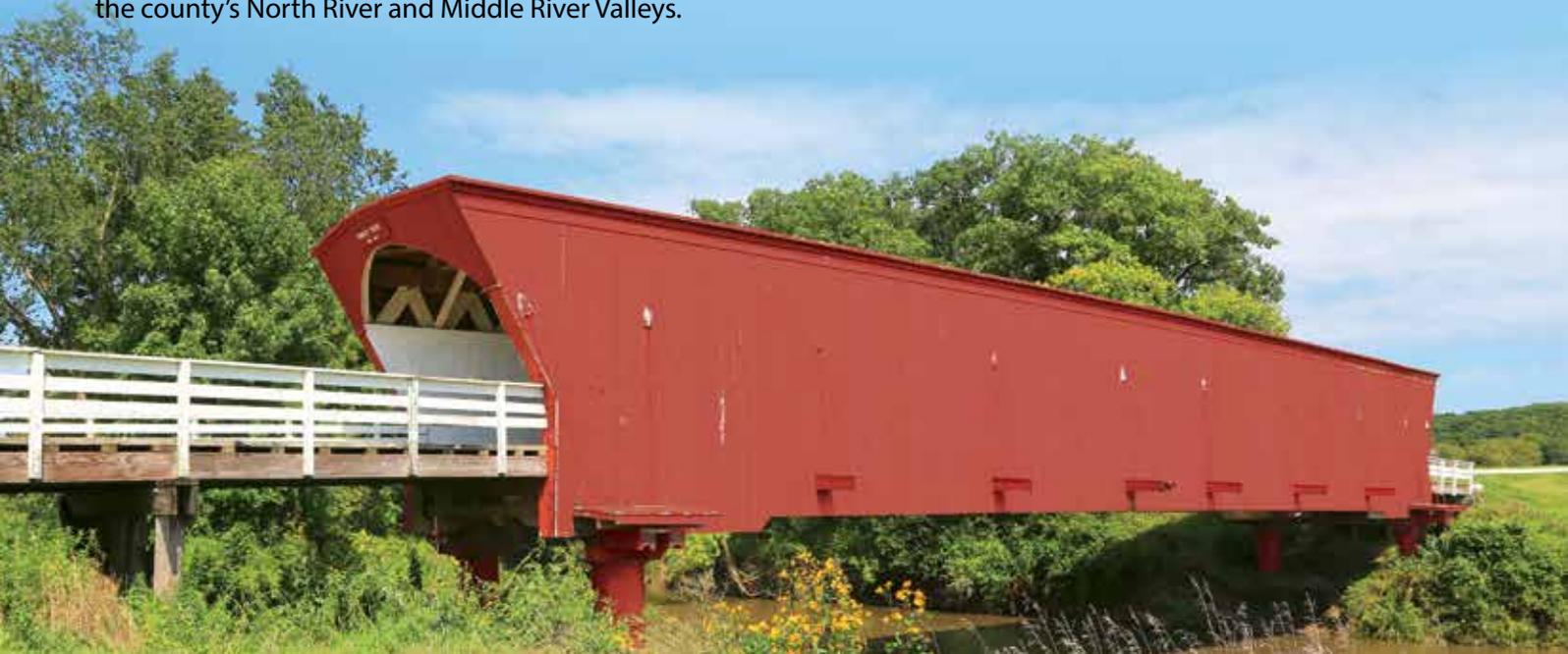


At the heart of Madison County and the center of Winterset stands a majestic limestone courthouse, surrounded by an authentic and thriving town square which has earned a National Historic District designation from the National Park Service. Shops and eateries ring the square with seasonal and home décor, fashion, fun finds and traditional-to-trendy menus. Explore the Iowa Quilt Museum and quilt shops in the very town where *Fons & Porter's Love of Quilting* was created.

Tour the John Wayne birthplace and the only museum in the world dedicated to the legendary actor and his influential movie legacy. You may even catch "The Duke" on the silver screen of the restored Iowa theater.

George Leslie Stout, who rescued precious artworks from the Nazis during World War II, was born and raised in Winterset. He was memorialized in *The Monuments Men* and now in a public art piece near Winterset's courthouse square. Winterset also served as a starting place for famed horticulturist George Washington Carver who is celebrated in a pocket park on the square.

Glimpse what life was like for settlers on the plains at the Madison County Historical Complex, and enjoy the abundant natural resources for kayaking water trails, bicycling, camping or fishing at one of the county's many recreational parks. Throughout the county you'll find historic architecture, agriculture and rolling scenic views along the county's North River and Middle River Valleys.





Outside the John Wayne Birthplace & Museum in Winterset

Image ©Teddi Yaeger, all rights reserved



Marquee of the Iowa Theater

Image ©Teddi Yaeger, all rights reserved

RECREATION

- 1 Middle River Water Trail, countywide
- 2 Pammel Park, rural Winterset
- 3 Jensen Marsh, St. Charles

HISTORY

- 4 Roseman Bridge, rural Winterset
- 5 Harmon Tunnel and Middle Creek Ford, rural Winterset
- 6 Hogback Bridge, rural Winterset
- 7 City Park and Clark Tower, Winterset
- 8 Cedar Bridge, rural Winterset
- 9 Winterset Courthouse Square Historic District, Winterset
- 10 Cutler-Donahoe Bridge, Winterset
- 11 Madison County Historical Complex, Winterset
- 12 Holliwell Bridge, rural Winterset
- 13 Imes Bridge, St. Charles
- 14 Blair Chapel Cemetery, St. Charles

CULTURE

- 15 Iowa Theater, Winterset
- 16 John Wayne Birthplace and Museum, Winterset
- 17 Iowa Quilt Museum, Winterset
- 18 Winterset Art Center, Winterset
- 19 St. Patrick's Irish Settlement, Cumming

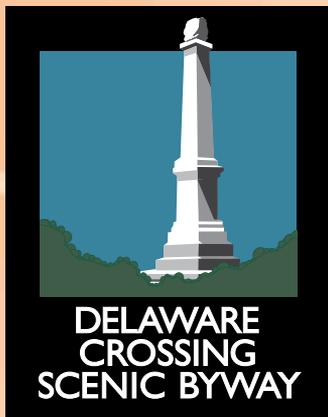
SCENIC VIEWS

- 20 North River Valley along Highway 169
- 21 Cumming Road Vistas

BYWAY CONTACT

Madison County Chamber of Commerce,
73 Jefferson Street, Winterset, IA 50273
515-462-1185 • www.madisoncounty.com

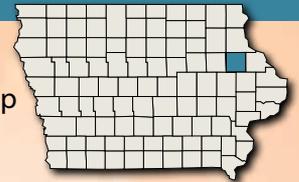




DELAWARE CROSSING

Enjoy civil war history, outdoor recreation and spectacular Maquoketa River valley views

This short drive through Delaware County's Maquoketa River valley can take you back in time or plant you firmly in the present. The Delaware Crossing Scenic Byway is a 36-mile loop route, so it's easy to jump on at any point. Wherever you begin your travel, you'll enjoy spectacular views of farmland, rolling hills and limestone bluffs.



For the art, culture or history buff, a must-see is the old Lenox College campus in Hopkinton, which now serves as a museum complex. One building is dedicated to telling the tales of pioneer doctors, and the men and boys who volunteered for the Civil War. You may also spot some of the 70-plus painted Barn Quilts of Delaware County as you travel this byway.

History and the outdoors intersect at the Manchester Fish Hatchery. Built in 1897 as a federal hatchery, it is one of the oldest in the nation. The fish raised here supply trout for streams throughout northeast Iowa, including several in the Delaware Crossing corridor. Anglers can drop a line in the water here or at Bailey's Ford Park.

With more than a dozen state, county and city parks, there are plenty of other opportunities to enjoy the outdoors in Delaware County. You can launch a canoe on the Maquoketa River at Pin Oak Wildlife Area, hike through Retz Wildlife Area or focus your binoculars on birds at Turtle Creek Park.

Whether you come for the history, fishing or scenic views, you're sure to enjoy your visit on the Delaware Crossing Scenic Byway.





Delaware County Fair

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Historic Lenox College - Civil War Monument

Image © 2011 Kenneth G. West Jr., all rights reserved. www.ioscapes.com

RECREATION

- 1 Backbone State Park, Dundee
- 2 Coffins Grove Park, Manchester
- 3 Manchester White Water Park, Manchester
- 4 Manchester Fish Hatchery, Manchester
- 5 Bailey's Ford Park, Manchester
- 6 Lake Delhi/Maquoketa River, Delhi
- 7 Turtle Creek Park, Delhi

HISTORY

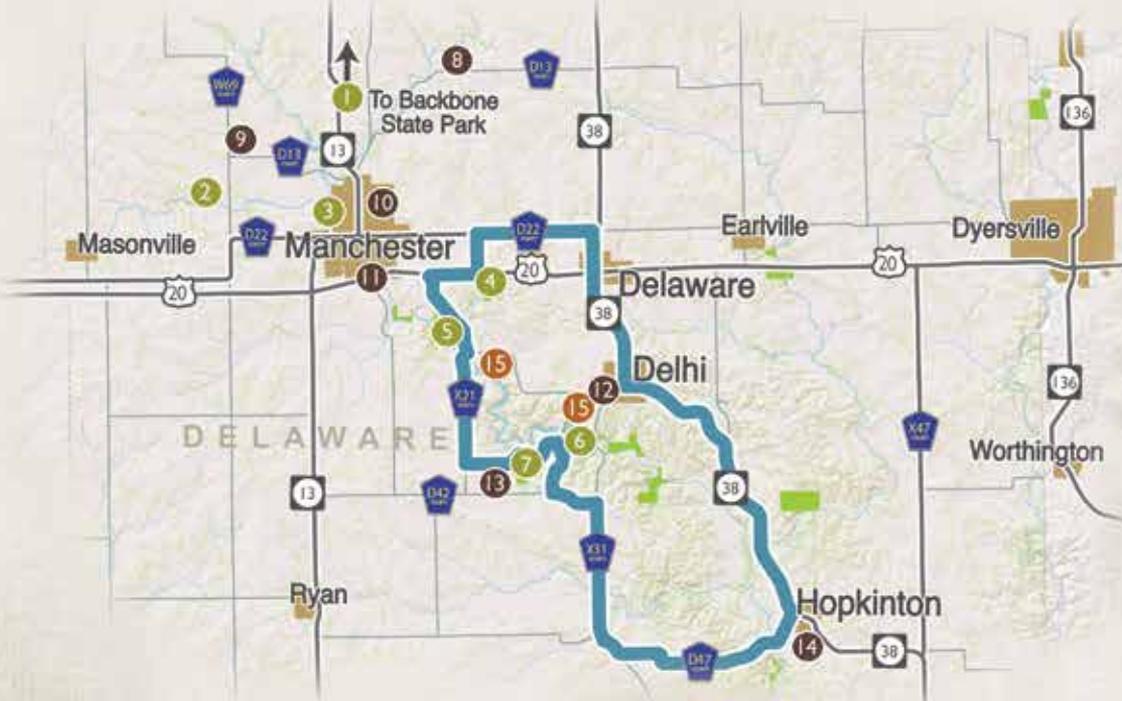
- 8 Little Red School Historical Site, Manchester
- 9 McGee Brick Schoolhouse, Manchester
- 10 Delaware County Courthouse, Manchester
- 11 Manchester Carnegie Public Library, Manchester
- 12 Hobb's Chimney, Delhi
- 13 Bay Settlement Church and Monument, Delhi
- 14 Delaware County Historical Museum and Lenox College, Hopkinton

CULTURE

- 15 Amish Community, Lake Delhi

BYWAY CONTACT

Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development, Postville
563-864-7112 • www.northeastiowarcd.org



DRIFTLESS AREA

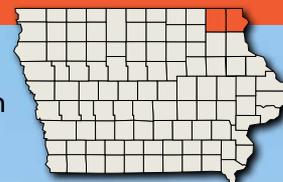
Breathtak



DRIFTLESS AREA
SCENIC BYWAY

Explore prehistoric mounds, state forest trails and cold water trout streams

The most scenic state byway in Iowa, the 144-mile Driftless Area Scenic Byway zigzags its way across the distinctive landscape of Allamakee and Winneshiek Counties in northeastern Iowa.



As the last glaciers passed over Iowa, this corner of the state remained untouched, resulting in a striking region of gashed and furrowed terrain known as the “Driftless Area.” The panoramic vistas along the byway include views of the majestic limestone bluffs, forested valleys and winding river bottoms carved by the Mississippi, Yellow and Upper Iowa Rivers. As might be expected, these natural wonders also provide many outdoor recreation opportunities. You can hike miles of state forest trails, fish for trout in cold water streams, explore the rivers by boat or simply relax and enjoy the peaceful natural scenery.

Fall is an especially scenic time on the byway as the hardwood timbers blaze with color. While driving this roller-coaster road, you will discover historic gems nestled within the rugged land. Human settlement of the area began thousands of years ago. Just outside of Harpers Ferry, Effigy Mounds National Monument features a collection of animal-shaped mounds built by prehistoric Native Americans. The landscape is also dotted with evidence of all those who have settled in the area since that time.

You will find historic stone churches, pioneer cemeteries and unique bridges, as well as museums interpreting the heritage of the area, including the Vesterheim National Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah. The towns along the byway offer opportunities to shop, enjoy the hospitality of a bed and breakfast, relive history or dine on local cuisine, all while experiencing the exquisite scenery of the Driftless Area Scenic Byway.





Winter along Smithfield Drive
Image © 2011 Brad Crawford, all rights reserved.

RECREATION

- 1 Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, McGregor District Pools 9-11
- 2 Driftless Area Education & Visitor Center, Lansing
- 3 Waukon City Park, Waukon
- 4 Yellow River State Forest, Harpers Ferry
- 5 State Bird Conservation Area, Harpers Ferry
- 6 Trout Run Trail, Decorah
- 7 Decorah Fish Hatchery, Decorah
- 8 Ice Cave State Preserve, Decorah
- 9 Dunning's Spring Park, Decorah
- 🐟 Cold water trout streams

HISTORY

- 10 Allamakee County Historical Society, Waukon
- 11 Wexford Immaculate Conception Church, Harpers Ferry
- 12 Mississippi River Lock and Dam No. 9, Lynxville, Wisconsin
- 13 Vesterheim National Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah

CULTURE

- 14 Fish Farm Mounds State Preserve, New Albin
- 15 Effigy Mounds National Monument, Harpers Ferry
- 16 Lillian Goldman Visitors Center at Seed Savers Exchange, Decorah
- 17 Decorah Visitors Center, Decorah

SCENIC VIEWS

- 18 Mount Hosmer City Park, Lansing
- 19 Larkin's Overlook, Harpers Ferry
- 20 Paint Creek Overlook, Harpers Ferry
- 21 Palisades Park, Decorah



Iowa's native brook trout

BYWAY CONTACT

Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development,
Postville
563-864-7112
www.northeastiowarcd.org

GLACIAL TRAIL

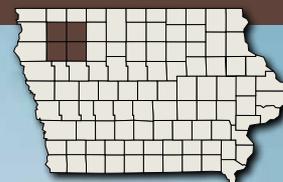
Lush and rolling



GLACIAL TRAIL
SCENIC BYWAY

Discover Iowa's agricultural roots, Native American history and glacier-carved landscape

The Glacial Trail Scenic Byway takes some surprising turns along its 36-mile loop in northwest Iowa. As the name implies, glaciers carved the picturesque landscape of this unique byway. Travelers are treated to spectacular views of rolling hills, forested valleys and the Little Sioux River.



The Prairie Heritage Center near Peterson is the place to stop for information about the geology and natural history of the area. Learn about glacial remnants, including kames and kettles, glacial till, hanging valleys and catsteps, all in one place. You'll also see a restored prairie and learn how prairies were vital to Iowa's rich agricultural heritage.

Traveling through the corners of four different counties, the byway boasts more than its share of parks and wildlife areas. Some are rich with cultural history as well as natural resources. You'll find park structures built during the Civilian Conservation Corps era and log cabins from pioneer days. You can also explore the great outdoors while floating down the historic Little Sioux River Canoe Trail; boat rentals are available locally.

History buffs will also find evidence of the area's rich Native American heritage in the archaeological sites near the byway and in the museums of the quaint country towns of Peterson and Linn Grove. Artifacts from the Mill Creek culture date back to around 1000 A.D.

The Glacial Trail Scenic Byway is definitely off the beaten path, but the byway's natural beauty, rich history and recreational offerings make the trip well worth your while.



*Purple Coneflowers in bloom at McCormick Wildlife Area
Image © 2011 Bruce A. Morrison*



The innocence of simple beauty
Image © 2011 Bruce A. Morrison



Horse-drawn wagon ride in the Peterson countryside
Image © 2011 Bruce A. Morrison

RECREATION

- 1 Waterman Prairie Wildlife Management Area, Sutherland
- 2 Dog Creek Park, Sutherland
- 3 Little Sioux River Canoe Trail, Peterson and Linn Grove
- 4 Bertram Reservation, Peterson
- 5 Wanata State Park, Peterson
- 6 Buena Vista County Park, Peterson and Linn Grove
- 7 Linn Grove Dam Area, Linn Grove

HISTORY

- 8 Pear Tree House Museum, Sutherland
- 9 Prairie Heritage Center, Peterson
- 10 Museums of Peterson, Peterson
- 11 Fort Peterson Blockhouse, Peterson

CULTURE

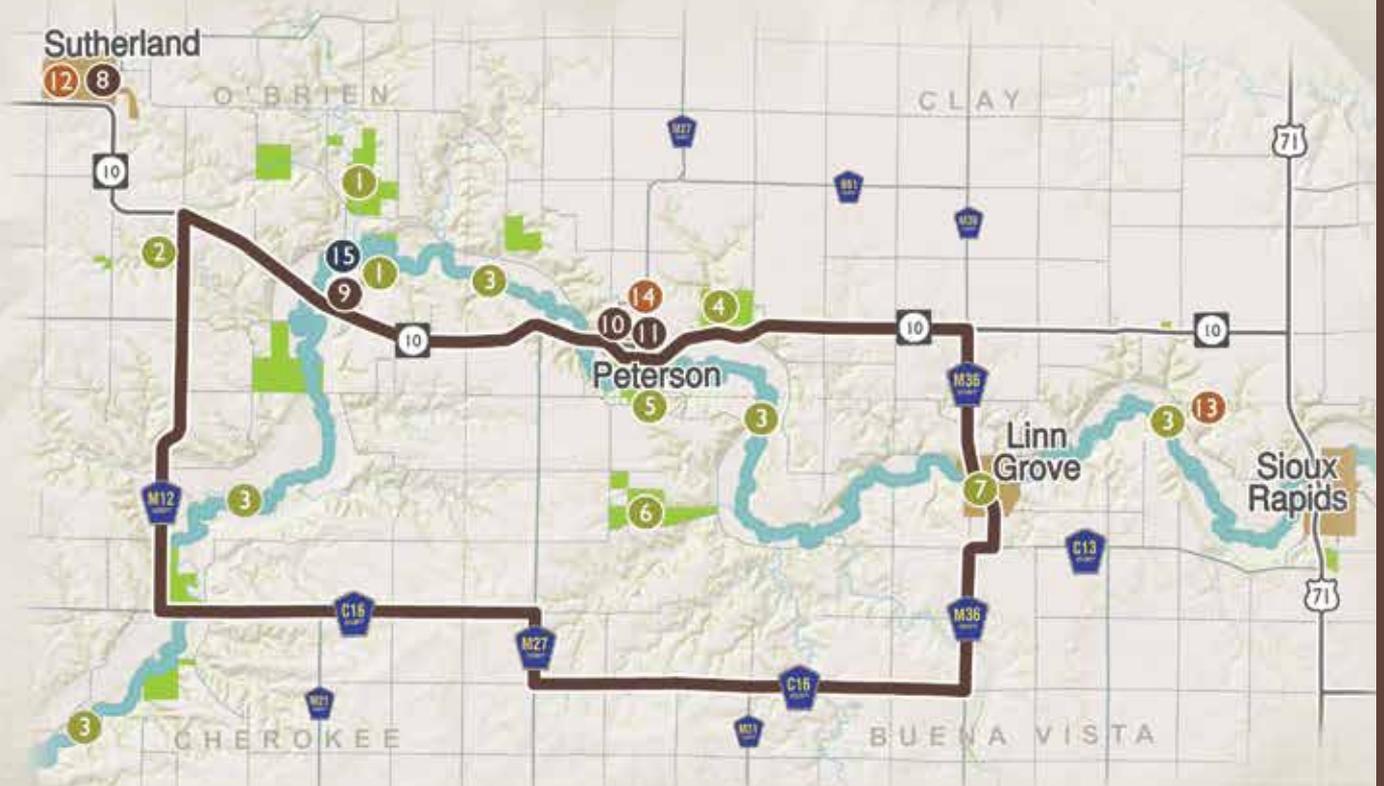
- 12 Bogenrief Studios, Sutherland
- 13 Innspiration Vines & Wines, Linn Grove
- 14 McGee Gallery & Framing, Peterson

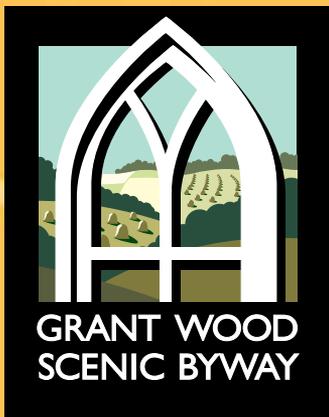
SCENIC VIEWS

- 15 Prairie Heritage Center, Peterson

BYWAY CONTACT

Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development
 712 S Hwy 6, Oakland, IA 51560
 712-482-3029 • www.goldenhillsrccd.org/gtsb





GRANT WOOD

Genuine

Take in the striking landscape, inspiring art and local wineries

Step into a Grant Wood painting as you traverse this scenic byway that stretches 80 miles from Stone City to the Mississippi River. The Grant Wood Scenic Byway passes through both the hometown of this iconic American artist and beautiful settings that inspired him.



Taking a bird's eye view down the byway, the surrounding countryside is a patchwork of striking farmland and limestone bluffs connecting three rivers, the Wapsipinicon, Maquoketa and Mississippi River. Wetlands dot the landscape and three Iowa state parks provide beautiful and historic places to enjoy the outdoors.

The Grant Wood Scenic Byway has more than scenic vistas. A closer look reveals a still-active, late 19th-Century, gothic architecture state penitentiary with a public museum; numerous wineries and breweries; and geological oddities from caves to coldwater trout streams.

It will come as no surprise that art is one of the star attractions. Explore past artistic accomplishments at the Grant Wood Art Gallery and site of the famed Stone City Art Colony co-founded by Wood. You could also peruse work created by present day artists at the Maquoketa and Bellevue art galleries. If you're an aspiring artist, don't miss attending a workshop at the Maquoketa Art Experience.

Come for the inspiring landscape and discover all that the Grant Wood Scenic Byway has to offer.



Iowa spirit



Charming riverfront community along the Mississippi River
 Image © 2011 Kenneth G. West Jr., all rights reserved. www.ioscapes.com



Sunset over the rolling countryside
 Image © 2011 Kenneth G. West Jr., all rights reserved. www.ioscapes.com

RECREATION

- 1 Maquoketa River Water Trail
- 2 Wapsipinicon State Park, Anamosa
- 3 Eden Valley Refuge, Baldwin
- 4 Central Park, Center Junction
- 5 Hurstville Interpretive Center, Maquoketa
- 6 Maquoketa Caves State Park, Maquoketa
- 7 Bellevue State Park, Bellevue

HISTORY

- 8 American Gothic House Replica, Stone City
- 9 Stone City Historic District, Stone City and Anamosa
- 10 State Penitentiary Museum, Anamosa
- 11 Antioch Schoolhouse, Anamosa
- 12 Wyoming Historical Museum, Wyoming
- 13 Calkins Square, Wyoming
- 14 Millrock School, Baldwin
- 15 Clinton Engines Museum, Maquoketa
- 16 Jackson Co. History Museum, Maquoketa
- 17 Hurstville Lime Kilns, Maquoketa

CULTURE

- 18 Grant Wood Art Gallery, Anamosa
- 19 Old City Hall Gallery, Maquoketa
- 20 Maquoketa Art Experience, Maquoketa
- 21 Ohnward Fine Arts, Maquoketa
- 22 Potters Mill, Bellevue
- 23 Great River Gallery, Bellevue

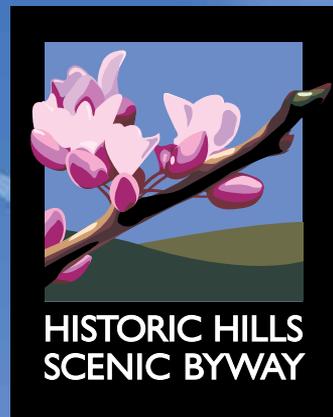
SCENIC VIEWS

- 24 Stone City area, Stone City and Anamosa
- 25 Ridge on Iowa 64
- 26 Hurstville Interpretive Center, Maquoketa
- 27 Bellevue State Park and Overlook, Bellevue

BYWAY CONTACT

Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development, Postville
 563-864-7112
www.northeastiowarc.org



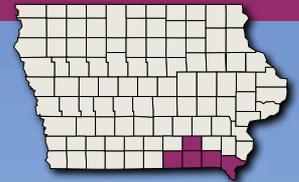


HISTORIC HILLS

History

Trace the footsteps of prehistoric people, European settlers and Mormon pioneers

Don't be surprised to find yourself sharing the road with horses and buggies on the Historic Hills Scenic Byway. It's just one way of feeling you've stepped back in time on this 105-mile route winding through rolling hills, extensive forests and 20 towns with no fast food restaurants to be found.



Historic Hills is home to communities of both Mennonites and Old Order Amish. More than 100 Amish and Mennonite businesses thrive in the Drakesville and Bloomfield areas. Many are open to the public, including Milton Creamery where you can savor locally produced cheese and enjoy fresh "squeaky" curds that rival those from Wisconsin.

You can then travel east to Lee County and visit the stagecoach stop in Franklin and enjoy a bottle of wine created by Herschler Winery. This corner of Iowa was the first to be settled by Europeans and the history is still being told. You can visit Iowa's oldest courthouse, the first church west of the Mississippi, the site of Iowa's only Civil War battle or trace the Mormon Pioneer Trail. In the historic village of Bentonsport, merchants keep old craftsmanship alive in their specialty shops, while selling beautiful works of art, crafts and handmade goods.

With a magnificent state forest, two state parks and Iowa's only resort state park, you'll find plenty to do outdoors. The southern Iowa forests are renowned worldwide for white-tailed deer hunting, and variety of bird species. The Des Moines River Water Trail has 10 access points for paddling and fishing. Horseback rides on state forest and private trails are a highlight of the byway.

Spend a day or more enjoying historic districts, wonderful scenery, quaint communities and one-of-a-kind businesses as you explore the Historic Hills Scenic Byway. Southern Iowa hospitality will greet you wherever you choose to go.





Fresh Amish breads
Image © 2011 Kenneth G. West Jr., all rights reserved. www.ioscapes.com



Bentonsport potter and her art
Image © 2011 Kenneth G. West Jr., all rights reserved. www.ioscapes.com

RECREATION

- 1 Des Moines River Water Trail, Eldon to Farmington
- 2 Honey Creek State Park and Resort, Moravia
- 3 Lake Wapello State Park, Drakesville
- 4 McGowen Recreation and Wildlife Area, Bloomfield
- 5 Lacey Keosauqua State Park, Keosauqua
- 6 Shimek State Forest, Farmington

HISTORY

- 7 Moravia Wabash Depot Museum, Moravia
- 8 Morman Pioneer National Historic Trail, Donnellson to Centerville
- 9 Pearson House Museum, Keosauqua
- 10 Bentonsport National Historic District, Bentonsport
- 11 Christian Herschler Winery and Stagecoach Stop, Donnellson
- 12 American Gothic House and Center, Eldon

CULTURE

- 13 Bentonsport arts and crafts shops, Bentonsport
- 14 Bonaparte Pottery, Bonaparte

BYWAY CONTACT

Pathfinders Resource Conservation and Development, Fairfield
641-472-6177 • info@pathfindersrcd.org
www.pathfindersrcd.org



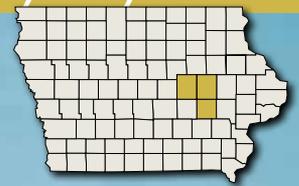


IOWA VALLEY

True nature

Experience curiosities, Indigenous art, & agricultural heritage on Iowa's most culturally diverse byway

The 77-mile Iowa Valley Scenic Byway takes you through rural agricultural land, Iowa River wetlands, and a rich cultural patchwork.



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.

Consider places off the beaten path. Gladbrook's Matchstick Marvels Museum, Traer's Salt and Pepper Shaker Gallery, and the Riparian Diorama at Otter Creek Nature Center will impress even the most discerning travelers. 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 on your motorcycle. Be sure to stop at Clutier's Historic Town Jail, at the end of main street, for a quick picture behind bars.

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 the Lily Lake at Amana in July to see thousands of blooming American lotus.

Belle Plaine is a transportation hub and you'll be sure to hear at least one train. It also boasts unique shops, an interactive sound park, the historic Preston Gas Station, Sankot Garage, and the Belle Plaine History Museum. Then loop down to the Belgian Rolle Bolle Court and mural in Victor and 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) in Ladora. Check out Marengo's Carnegie Library, historic Iowa County Courthouse, and Pioneer Heritage Museum & Resource Library which includes an original RR depot.

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. Need to refuel? Enjoy the local eats at family-style restaurants. Then take a load off in Iowa's Largest Walnut Rocking Chair at the Broom & Basket Shop in West Amana.



The inspiration for the byway logo is the American lotus that blooms each year on Lily Lake, located along the byway between the villages of Amana and Middle Amana. In earlier times, Meskwaki tribal members visited the lake to harvest the lotus tubers and seeds as a winter food source.



Oktoberfest in the Amana Colonies
Image © 2017 Lothar Beyer, all rights reserved

RECREATION

- 1 Iowa River Water Trail, Montour
- 2 Otter Creek Lake and Park, Toledo
- 3 Iowa River Corridor Wildlife Management Area, Chelsea
- 4 Hannen Lake Park, Blirstown
- 5 Gateway Park, Marengo
- 6 Kolonieweg Trail, Amana
- 7 Amana Nature Trail, Homestead

HISTORY AND CULTURE

- 8 Meskwaki Cultural Center & Museum, Meskwaki Settlement
- 9 Belle Plaine Area Museum, Belle Plaine
- 10 Pioneer Heritage Museum, Marengo
- 11 Amana Heritage Museum, Amana

CULTURE

- 12 Meskwaki Powwow, Meskwaki Settlement
- 13 Bohemian Plum Festival, Clutier
- 14 Maifest in Amana Colonies, Amana
- 15 Oktoberfest in Amana Colonies, Amana

SCENIC VIEWS

- 16 E64 Corridor, Tama to Chelsea
- 17 Otter Creek Marsh bird platform, Chelsea
- 18 Amana Lily Lake, Middle Amana

BYWAY CONTACT

Prairie Rivers of Iowa, Ames
515-232-0048 • prrcd.org

IOWA VALLEY SCENIC BYWAY AUDIO TOUR

- 1 40 Feature Sites & Attractions Along the Route
Dial 319-213-9003 and follow prompts
Visit: <https://iowavalleyscenicbyway.stqry.app/>
For a full list of the sites visit: www.iowabyways.org



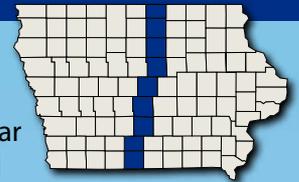


JEFFERSON HIGHWAY

From pine

Leave the fast track and explore historic two-lane roads

Drive the north-south, two-lane country roads through Iowa farmland to experience what early car travel from town to town was like before Interstate highways. In the early 1900's there was very little pavement and plenty of Iowa prairie and marshland mud to limit how far and how fast one could travel. Today, this paved route is truly "off the beaten path" wrapped in farmland vistas and open skies linking small towns.



The Jefferson Highway and formation of the Jefferson Highway Association was the brainchild of businessman and political activist Edwin Thomas (E.T.) Meredith of Des Moines with their first meeting held in 1915. Their vision was to blaze a modern motor rail straight from Winnipeg Canada to New, Orleans, Louisiana—and promoted the "great north and south highway," to communities and businesses along the route. Meredith was an instrumental good roads promoter for both Iowa and the nation. Today, most Americans recognize the Meredith name associated with iconic home and lifestyle media.

At its early founding, the route was meant to "drive" newly motorized visitors and business commerce into Iowa's heartland cities and towns. Motorists were impressed with Iowa's "beautiful land" as they passed by acres of rolling cropland, prosperous farms, friendly towns, and local industry. Along the route they also found Iowans had built tourist camps and planned activities to welcome their business and show off their town square courthouses and thriving communities. A restored gas, food and lodging stop at Reed-Niland corner in Colo welcomes today's traveler at the intersection of the Jefferson and Lincoln Highways.

Find small towns, rural vistas, and historic treasures where landmark Frank Lloyd Wright architecture and courthouse squares still anchor communities along the historic Jefferson Highway route through Iowa.





HISTORY

- 1 Iowa Jefferson Highway stone marker, Minnesota state line
- 2 Rock Glen/Rock Crest National Historic District, Mason City
- 3 Frank Lloyd Wright Stockman House, Mason City
- 4 Memorial Hall, Sheffield
- 5 Franklin County Courthouse, Hampton
- 6 Historic Downtown "Scenic City", Iowa Falls
- 7 Jefferson Fence Post, north of Colo
- 8 Reed-Niland Corner tourist stop, Colo
- 9 Iowa State Capitol, Des Moines
- 10 Hastie Gas Station, Indianola
- 11 Historic Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Depot, Osceola
- 12 Burlington Railroad Depot, Leon
- 13 City Park former tourist camp, Davis City
- 14 Liberty Hall Museum, Lamoni

CULTURE

- 15 Frank Lloyd Wright Inn, Mason City
- 16 Music Man Square

SCENIC

- 17 Rural Cambridge Loop
- 18 Weldon Remnant Loop
- 19 Leon to Davis City

BYWAY CONTACT

Iowa Department of Transportation
515-239-1664
iowabyways.org



Reed/Niland Corner early 1920s



Reed/Niland Corner 2018

RIVER BLUFFS

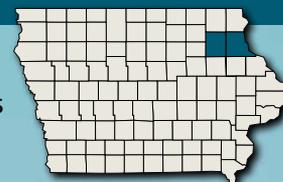
Brilliant



RIVER BLUFFS
SCENIC BYWAY

Find mesmerizing views, majestic limestone bluffs and small town charm

If you come to the River Bluffs Scenic Byways for the views, you won't be disappointed. This byway plays hide and seek with three rivers, crossing them at times, providing distant views of the river valleys at others and culminating with a mesmerizing three-state view of the Mississippi River from Pikes Peak State Park near McGregor.



However, stops along this 109-mile byway will prove that it is more than just a pretty road. The Turkey, Volga and Mississippi rivers converge here, making it a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts. The region is dotted with parks, caves, nature centers, fishing hotspots, campgrounds, trails and water access points and passes through the Turkey River Recreational Corridor.

You'll pass through 13 towns on your journey through what is sometimes called Iowa's "Little Switzerland." Three of these burgs are situated on the Mississippi River, giving McGregor, Marquette and Guttenberg a distinct character that only small river towns have.

Your journey on the byway won't be complete without stopping at one of the many historic sites along the way. Plan a visit to Motor Mill Historic Site or Montauk, home of Iowa's 12th governor, William Larrabee. Stop by the Froelich's 1890s Village to see where the first successful gasoline tractor was built. Travel the River Bluffs Scenic Byway and discover a road of majestic features, outdoor exploration and small town charm.



Historic Motor Mill
Image © 2012 Jessica Rilling, all rights reserved



Effigy Mounds National Monument
Image © 2012 Jessica Rilling, all rights reserved

RECREATION

- 1 Driftless Area Wetlands Centre, Marquette
- 2 Casino Queen Marquette, Marquette
- 3 Gilbertson Conservation Education Area, Elgin
- 4 Big Springs Fish Hatchery, Elkader
- 5 Volga River State Recreation Area, Fayette
- 6 Turkey River Recreation Corridor
- 7 Osborne Welcome and Nature Center, Elkader
- 8 Fish Aquarium and Hatchery, Guttenberg
- 9 Backbone State Park, Dundee
- 🐟 Cold water trout steams

HISTORIC PLACES

- 10 Montauk Historic Mansion, Clermont
- 11 Froelich Tractor Museum, Rural McGregor
- 12 Fayette County Historical Center, West Union
- 13 Elkader Opera House, Elkader
- 14 Carter House Museum, Elkader
- 15 Motor Mill Historic Site, Elkader

MUSEUMS AND ATTRACTIONS

- 16 Effigy Mounds National Monument, Harpers Ferry
- 17 Earthmoving Legacy Center, Elkader
- 18 Wood Center Amish Community, Elkport
- 19 Pride of Cassville car ferry, Cassville

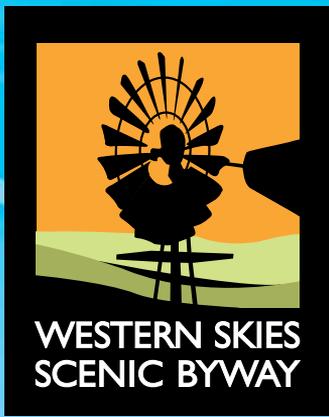
SCENIC VIEWS

- 20 Marquette observation deck and boardwalk, Marquette
- 21 Pikes Peak State Park, McGregor
- 22 Overlook at Goeken County Park, Eldorado
- 23 Chicken Ridge, Elkader
- 24 Guttenberg north and south overlooks, Guttenberg

BYWAY CONTACT

Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development, Postville
563-864-7112 • www.northeastiowarcd.org



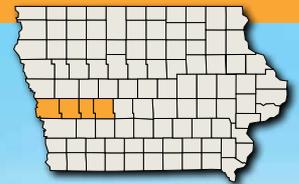


WESTERN SKIES



Discover Danish and German heritage, windmills and a bit of infamous history

Venture off the beaten path and experience the communities that define true Iowa. The 142-mile Western Skies Scenic Byway parallels Interstate 80 and joins Interstate 29, offering you an easy way to discover all that western Iowa has to offer.



Begin your journey with a history lesson at the Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center near Missouri Valley. At the other end of the byway, you'll find a bit of infamous history in Stuart where Bonnie and Clyde staged their last bank robbery.

Past and present meet in the largest rural Danish settlement in the country, located in the Danish villages of Elk Horn and Kimballtown. Elk Horn is now home to the only working Danish windmill in America. Finding inspiration in their Danish brethren, the area is coming to rely on sustainable sources of energy and you'll often see modern wind turbines standing tall on the land. You're in luck if you happen to be driving an electric car. Elk Horn was the first town between Chicago and Denver with vehicle charging stations available to motorists.

German heritage is also evident in the towns of Westphalia and Panama where you will see architecturally stunning German churches, built with great care and craftsmanship by town founders.

Native prairies, parks and an abundance of trails will entice you out of your vehicle and into the great outdoors. Whiterock Conservancy is worth a stop with its wonderful blend of outdoor recreation, conservation, agriculture and Iowa's darkest sky for star gazing.

Whether you're looking for a change of scenery or just a change of pace, Western Skies Scenic Byway offers both, while showcasing Iowa's agriculture and cultural heritage.



and scenery



Pioneer Days
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Danish windmill in Elk Horn
Image © 2011 Kenneth G. West Jr., all rights reserved. www.ioscapes.com

RECREATION

- 1 Wilson Island State Recreation Area, Missouri Valley
- 2 DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri Valley
- 3 Willow Lake Recreation Area, Woodbine
- 4 Dinesen Prairie State Preserve Wildlife Area, Harlan
- 5 Prairie Rose State Park, Harlan
- 6 T-Bone Trail, Audubon and Hamlin
- 7 Whiterock Conservancy, Coon Rapids
- 8 Sheeder Prairie State Preserve, Guthrie Center
- 9 Springbrook State Park, Guthrie Center
- 10 Raccoon River Valley Trail, Panora
- 11 Middle Raccoon River Water Trail, Panora

HISTORIC PLACES

- 12 Watson Steam Train & Depot, Missouri Valley
- 13 Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center, Missouri Valley
- 14 Zell Millard Historic Preservation Park, Woodbine
- 15 Museum of Danish America, Elk Horn
- 16 Danish Windmill Museum, Elk Horn
- 17 Guthrie County Historical Village, Panora
- 18 German Heritage Park, Westphalia

CULTURE

- 19 Danish Villages, Kimballton and Elk Horn
- 20 Saints Center for Culture and the Arts, Stuart

SCENIC VIEWS

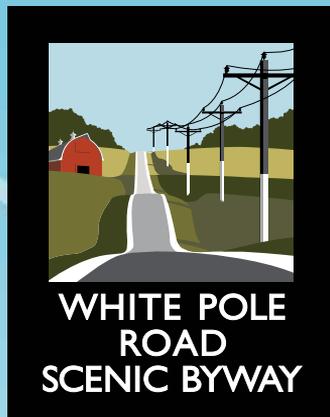
- 21 Boyer River, Missouri Valley
- 22 Harrison County Historical Village, Missouri Valley
- 23 Ridgetop view, Iowa 44 Kimballton

BYWAY CONTACT

Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development, Oakland
712-482-3029 • www.goldenhillsrcd.org/wssb

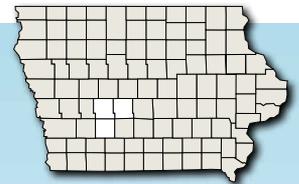


WHITE POLE ROAD



Explore Iowa's first state route and connect with five small towns

Let the White Pole Road take you on a memorable adventure through Americana on our convenient 26-mile journey that runs parallel to Interstate 80. This byway connects the communities of Adair, Casey, Menlo, Stuart and Dexter and features transportation history and how it affected life in rural Iowa towns.



The name was selected as a tribute to the early 1900s dirt road that began here and went on to become Iowa's first certified route under the Iowa State Highway Commission. If the weather is good, you can get off the pavement and explore remnant sections of the officially plotted 1913 route. You'll also discover where westward settlers travelled the long abandoned covered wagon trail and the early railroad tracks running parallel to the route before the automobile pushed for public roads with pavement, cement bridges, and improvements getting Iowa "out of the mud" and leading to how we travel today.

From a large steam engine wheel at our western gateway that marks the spot where the infamous Jesse James Gang robbed a moving train to the Barrow Gang shootout site in the east, the White Pole Road has plenty of stories to share. History buffs will want to view the artifacts left behind from Bonnie and Clyde and learn more about President Truman's visit to the 1948 National Plowing Matches.

Another notable visitor, Jack Kerouac, hitchhiked his way to our area and later wrote about it in his best-selling novel, "On the Road". Pause to wonder at the Saints Center for Culture and the Arts which rose from an arson's ashes and now houses the Learning Museum of Religious Tolerance.

We invite you to take a drive on what auto tourists from the early 1900s proclaimed as the "Great White Way" and reflect on all those that have traveled before you—from wagons to rails, dirt roads to interstates.





The fully restored Saints Center for Culture and the Arts was once voted Des Moines Register's "most beautiful church in Iowa"



Retro "Friendly Gas Station Man" in Menlo



Freedom Rock® in rural Menlo
Image © Don McLaughlin, 3rd Sibling Photography

RECREATION

- 1 Nations Bridge Park
- 2 5 X 80 Golf and Country Club, Menlo
- 3 Stuart Rec Center (Skating Rink), Stuart
- 4 Stuart Speedway, Stuart
- 5 Schafer Barns, Adair

HISTORY

- 6 Jesse James Robbery Site, Adair
- 7 Adair Viaduct
- 8 Casey Visitor Center and Museum
- 9 Bonnie and Clyde Bank Robbery site, Stuart
- 10 Former Rock Island Railroad Depot, Stuart
- 11 Hotel Stuart, Stuart
- 12 Masonic Temple/Clock Tower, Stuart
- 13 1948 National Plowing Matches Site, Dexter
- 14 Bonnie and Clyde Shootout Site, Dexter
- 15 Dexter Museum, Dexter

CULTURE

- 16 The Freedom Rock® rural Menlo
- 17 Historic Saints Center Building, Stuart
- 18 Dexter Community House (Roundhouse)

SCENIC

- 19 Smiley Face Water tower, Adair
- 20 Windmills and rolling hills
- 21 Veterans Wall, Casey
- 22 Friendly Gas Station Man, Menlo

BYWAY CONTACT

515-205-0081 • whitepole.com
Email: whitepole@gmail.com



