IOWA BYWAYS

THE OFFICIAL TRAVEL GUIDE TO IOWA'S BYWAYS

IOWA BYWAYS

Discover your adventure

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 11 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 two national scenic byways and nine 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!

Visit www.iowabyways.org

Iowabyways.org provides the tools to research and plan a spectacular trip on Iowa's two national scenic byways and nine state scenic or heritage byways.

Learn more about each byway's landscape, history and culture.

Research events and attractions, locate traveler services, or develop a trip itinerary that includes maps to destinations and other byway information that you can print or view electronically while you travel.

You can also send electronic postcards, save favorites from your most memorable trips and include travel notes to record your trip's details.

IOWA'S NATIONAL BYWAYS

- LOESS HILLS SCENIC BYWAY.....3-6
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IOWA'S STATE BYWAYS

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LOESS HILLS NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

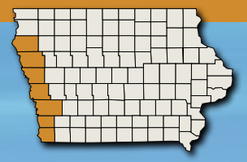
LOESS HILLS

Shaped by nature

IOWA BYWAYS

AMERICA'S BYWAYS

Experience panoramic views, fascinating land forms 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.

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A must-see for birders is the 45-foot high observation tower at Hitchcock Nature Area 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 with a focus 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 world-renowned wine regions of France and Germany, so in recent years wineries have sprouted up all along the byway. Now more than 15 vineyards produce grapes or wine and there are many spots for wine connoisseurs to find samples.

You'll also find 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 by beauty

IOWA BYWAYS

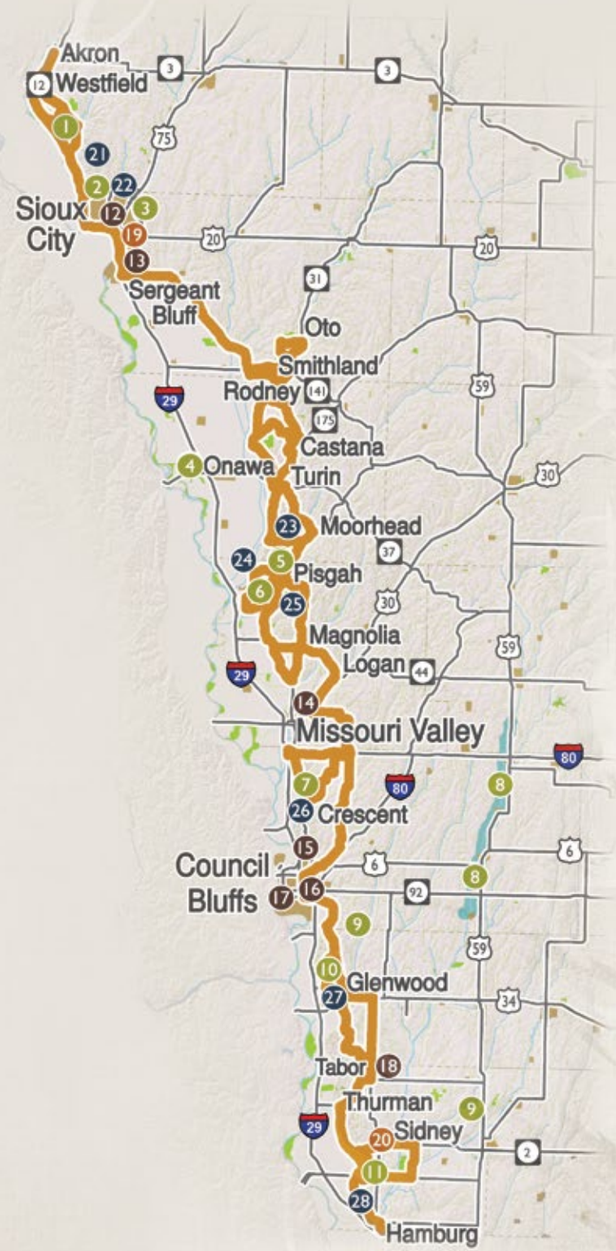
Twilight in the Loess Hills
Image © 2011 Kenneth G. West Jr., all rights reserved. www.ioscapes.com

Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center
Image © 2011 Kenneth G. West Jr., all rights reserved. www.ioscapes.com

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

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

Broken Kettle Grasslands Preserve
Image © 2011 Kenneth G. West Jr., all rights reserved. www.ioscapes.com



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, Sidney

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. Western Historic Trails Center, Council Bluffs
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, 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, Sidney

BYWAY CONTACT

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

GREAT RIVER ROAD NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

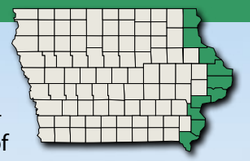
GREAT RIVER ROAD

Romantic riverfronts

IOWA BYWAYS

AMERICA'S BYWAYS

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, and you will find world-class vistas, charming river towns, magnificent limestone bluffs and so much more. 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 Lake Itasca in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico.

The views of the river are ever changing along the 328-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. Sixteen national interpretive centers and countless museums along the byway retell the histories of the people who have lived here.

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 happen to see barges carrying their loads of corn or coal. Learn more about transportation at one of the riverboat museums in Dubuque 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 and more.

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 or even shopping, the river takes center stage on your journey along the Great River Road National Scenic Byway.

GREAT RIVER ROAD NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

GREAT RIVER ROAD

Endless possibilities

IOWA BYWAYS

Historic downtown Le Claire
Image © 2011 MJ Smith, all rights reserved

Children tour backwaters at Clinton County's Mississippi River Ecotourism Center in Camanche
Image © 2011 MJ Smith, all rights reserved

Pride of Cassville Car Ferry
Image © 2011 MJ Smith, all rights reserved

Beautiful Lake Odessa in Louisa County
Image © 2011 Bob Brissey, all rights reserved

A magnificent view of the Mississippi River valley in Balltown
Image © 2011 MJ Smith, all rights reserved

Rare flora and fauna at Big Springs scenic overlook
Image © 2011 MJ Smith, 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, Bellevue
5. Green Island Wildlife Management Area, Sabula
6. Felix Adler Children's Discovery Center, Clinton
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. E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center, Dubuque
18. George M. Curtis Mansion, Clinton
19. Sawmill Museum, Clinton
20. Buffalo Bill Museum, Le Claire
21. Putnam Museum of History and 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. Old Fort Madison, Fort Madison
27. George M. Verity Riverboat Museum, Keokuk

CULTURE

28. River Arts Center, Clinton
29. Clinton Area Showboat Theatre, Clinton
30. Figge Art Museum, Davenport

SCENIC VIEWS

31. Mount Hosmer City Park, Lansing
32. Pikes Peak State Park, McGregor
33. Guttenberg Roadside Overlook, Guttenburg
34. Mines of Spain State Recreation Area, Dubuque
35. Lake Clinton, Clinton
36. Clinton Marina and riverfront, Clinton
37. Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge Overlook, Wapello

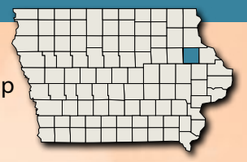
BYWAY CONTACT

Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Dubuque
800-498-4518 • jgoodmann@real-good.com
www.iowagreatriverroad.com

DELAWARE CROSSING SCENIC BYWAY

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.

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

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 **Coming in 2014**
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. Barn Quilts of Delaware County
16. Amish community, Lake Delhi

BYWAY CONTACT

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

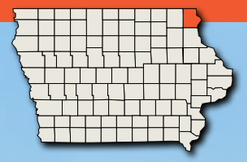
DRIFTLESS AREA SCENIC BYWAY

DRIFTLESS AREA

Breathtaking vistas

IOWA BYWAYS

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



The scenic 100-mile Driftless Area Scenic Byway zigzags its way across the distinctive landscape of Allamakee County 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 Marquette, 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.

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.

Image © 2011 Michael Marti, all rights reserved.

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 Interpretive Center, Lansing *Under Development*
3. Waukon City Park, Waukon
4. Yellow River State Forest, Harpers Ferry
5. State bird conservation area, Harpers Ferry

Cold water trout streams

HISTORY

6. Iron Post, New Albin
7. Allamakee County Historical Society, Waukon
8. Wexford Immaculate Conception Church, Harpers Ferry
9. Mississippi River Lock and Dam No. 9, Lynxville, Wisconsin

CULTURE

10. Fish Farm Mounds State Preserve, New Albin
11. Effigy Mounds National Monument, Harpers Ferry

SCENIC VIEWS

12. Mount Hosmer City Park, Lansing
13. Larkin's Overlook, Harpers Ferry
14. Paint Creek Overlook, Harpers Ferry

BYWAY CONTACT

Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development, Postville
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Iowa's native brook trout

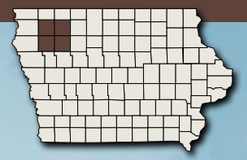
GLACIAL TRAIL SCENIC BYWAY

GLACIAL TRAIL

Lush rolling hills

IOWA BYWAYS

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 Inkpaduta 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. Inkpaduta Canoe Trail, Peterson and Linn Grove
4. Bertram Reservation, Peterson
5. Wanata State Park, Peterson
6. Buena Vista County Park, Peterson and Linn Grove

HISTORY

7. Pear Tree House Museum, Sutherland
8. Prairie Heritage Center, Peterson
9. Museums of Peterson, Peterson
10. Jim's History Barn, Peterson

CULTURE

11. Bogenrief Studios, Sutherland

SCENIC VIEWS

12. Prairie Heritage Center, Peterson

BYWAY CONTACT

Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development, Oakland
712-482-3029
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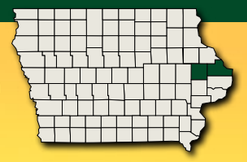
GRANT WOOD

GRANT WOOD SCENIC BYWAY

Take in the striking landscape, inspiring art and local wineries



Step into a Grant Wood painting as you traverse this scenic byway that stretches 75 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 prison museum next door to a late 19th-century, castle-like penitentiary that still houses inmates, plus three wineries, a microbrewery and the National Motorcycle Museum.

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.

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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. Jackson County Recreation Trail
5. Hurstville Interpretive Center, Maquoketa
6. Maquoketa Caves State Park, Maquoketa
7. Bellevue State Park, Bellevue

HISTORY

8. Stone City Historic District, Stone City and Anamosa
9. National Motorcycle Museum, Anamosa
10. State Penitentiary Museum, Anamosa
11. Antioch Schoolhouse, Anamosa
12. Hotel Williams, 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
18. Young Museum, Bellevue

CULTURE

19. Grant Wood Art Gallery, Anamosa
20. Old City Hall Gallery, Maquoketa
21. Maquoketa Art Experience, Maquoketa
22. Potters Mill, Bellevue
23. Off the Wall Gallery, Bellevue
24. Great River Gallery, Bellevue

SCENIC VIEWS

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

BYWAY CONTACT

Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development, Postville
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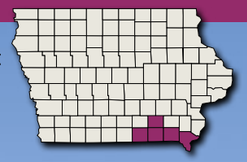
HISTORIC HILLS SCENIC BYWAY

HISTORIC HILLS

History in bloom

IOWA BYWAYS

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.

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. The Des Moines River Water Trail has 10 access points for paddling and fishing. Horseback riding on the state forest and private trails is another popular activity on 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.

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Beautiful barn quilts adorn the countryside
Image © 2011 Kenneth G. West Jr., all rights reserved. www.ioscapes.com

Stroll across the Des Moines River
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

CULTURE

12. Bentonsport arts and crafts shops, Bentonsport
13. Bonaparte Pottery, Bonaparte

BYWAY CONTACT

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

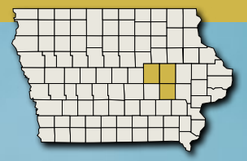
IOWA VALLEY SCENIC BYWAY

IOWA VALLEY

True natural beauty

IOWA BYWAYS

Find unique cultures, interesting cuisines and beautiful vistas



The Iowa Valley Scenic Byway takes you on a 77-mile ride along the Iowa River and is anchored by two distinct cultures. En route you'll find history, culture and natural beauty nestled in the heart of eastern Iowa.

The western end of the byway skirts Iowa's only resident Native American community, the Meskwaki Settlement, created when the tribe purchased the settlement's first 80 acres in 1857. Though most of the settlement is private, you can attend the colorful drum pounding and dance powwow held each year in August or try your luck at the Meskwaki Bingo Casino Hotel anytime.

At the eastern end, you'll travel through the seven villages of the Amana Colonies. The colonies were created as a communal society in 1855 by Germans fleeing religious persecution and the German flavor still prevails. In the villages you will find Iowa's oldest microbrewery, a woolen mill, a winery and an award-winning golf course.

Though the area's diverse culture is the star attraction, the scenery and natural areas are not to be overlooked. The western stretch of the byway is known for its incredible long views, some extending up to 20 miles in the "Bohemian Alps," named after the Czech immigrants who settled here.

The Iowa River Corridor project has protected much of the wildlife habitat along the river between Tama and Marengo. As a result, opportunities for outdoor recreation are abundant, ranging from hunting and fishing to paddling and hiking. For a quick outdoor venture, stop just outside of Chelsea at the bird observation deck that is shaped like an eagle in flight.

The Iowa Valley Scenic Byway offers a bit of paradise for those with an appetite. Choose from exceptional pastries and family-style German cuisine in the Amana Colonies, traditional fry bread and locally harvested wild plants at the Meskwaki Settlement or Czech kolaches and goulash.

Whether you're enticed by unique cultures, interesting cuisines or beautiful vistas, the Iowa Valley Scenic Byway has something for you.

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.

Meskwaki Powwow
Image © 2011 Peter Hoehnle, 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, Blairstown
5. Gateway Park, Marengo
6. Kolonieweg Trail, Amana
7. Amana Nature Trail, Homestead

HISTORY AND CULTURE

8. Meskwaki History Museum, Tama
9. Belle Plaine Area Museum, Belle Plaine
10. Pioneer Heritage Museum, Marengo
11. Amana Heritage Museum, Amana

CULTURE

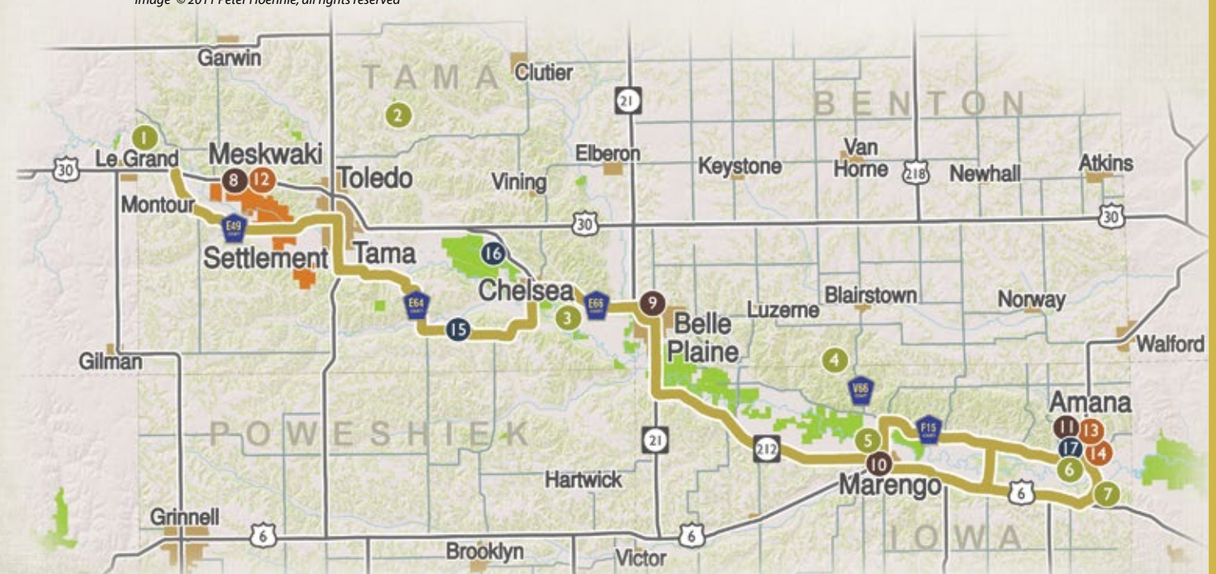
12. Meskwaki Powwow, Tama
13. Maifest in Amana Colonies, Amana
14. Oktoberfest in Amana Colonies, Amana

SCENIC VIEWS

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

BYWAY CONTACT

Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development, Amana
319-622-3264 • info@ivrcd.org
www.ivrcd.org



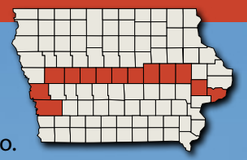
LINCOLN HIGHWAY HERITAGE BYWAY

LINCOLN HIGHWAY

First in America

IOWA BYWAYS

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 13 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.

Though farmland is a constant feature, the landscape is as diverse as the communities you'll travel through on the byway's 460 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.

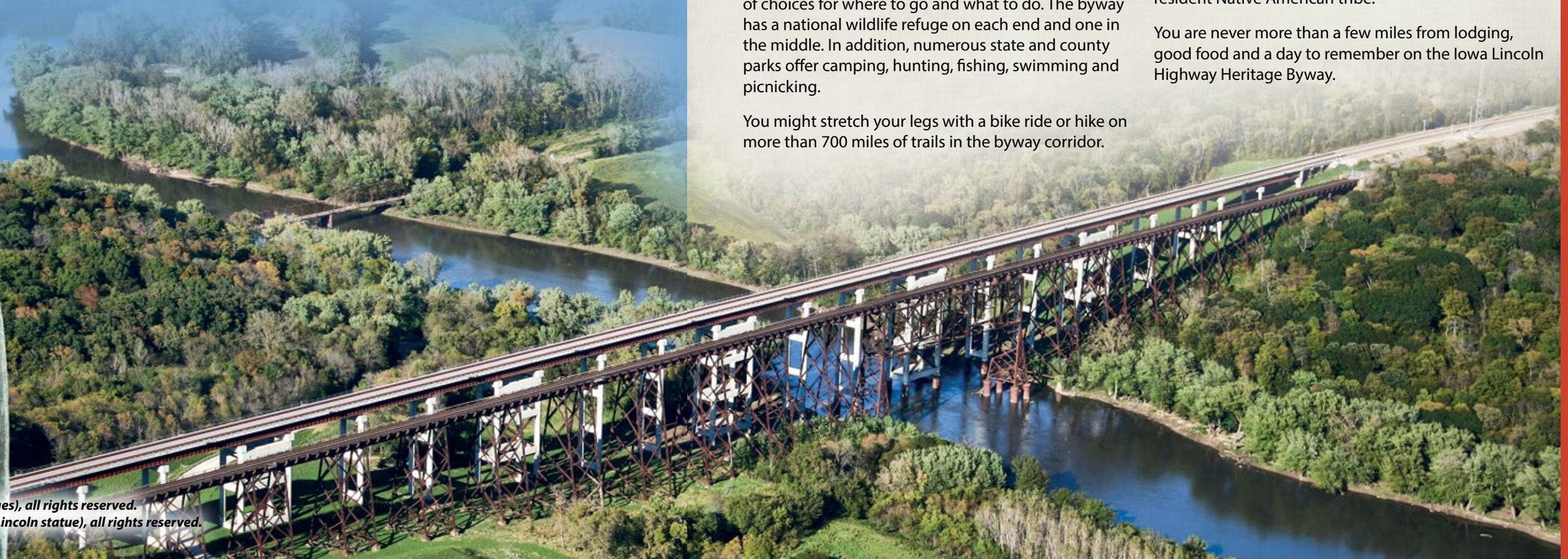


Image © 2011 Carl Kurtz (bridges), all rights reserved.
Image © 2011 Peter Hoehnle (Lincoln statue), all rights reserved.

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.

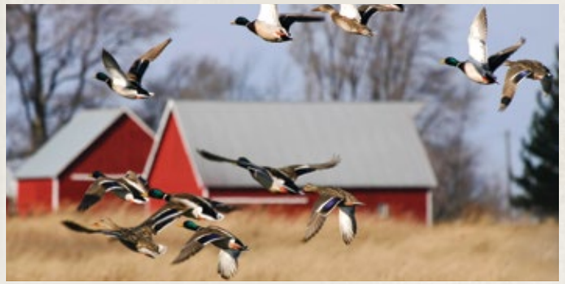
LINCOLN HIGHWAY HERITAGE BYWAY

LINCOLN HIGHWAY

Second to none

IOWA BYWAYS

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



Ducks in flight, Story County
Image © 2011 Carl Kurtz, all rights reserved

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

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. Sauk Rail Trail, Carroll
4. Swan Lake State Park, Carroll
5. White Rock Conservancy, Coon Rapids
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, Nevada
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, Clinton

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 History Museum, Tama
25. Lincoln Highway Bridge, Tama
26. Preston's Station, Belle Plaine
27. Youngville Café, near Watkins
28. Herbert Hoover National Historic Site and Presidential Library and Museum, West Branch
29. Clinton County Historical Museum, Clinton
30. Sawmill Museum, Clinton

CULTURAL SITES

31. Donna Reed Center for the Performing Arts, Denison
32. Iowa State University, Ames
33. Ames Main Street Cultural District, Ames
34. Orpheum Theater Center, Marshalltown
35. Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, Cedar Rapids

SCENIC VIEWS

36. Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center, Missouri Valley
37. Otter Creek Marsh bird viewing platform, east of Tama

BYWAY CONTACT

Prairie Rivers of Iowa Resource Conservation and Development, Ames
515-232-0048
www.prrcd.org

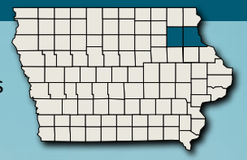
RIVER BLUFFS SCENIC BYWAY

RIVER BLUFFS

Brilliant stone bluffs

IOWA BYWAYS

Find mesmerizing views, majestic limestone bluffs and small town charm



If you come to 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.

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. Where else could you rent a houseboat instead of the usual cabin or hotel room?

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.

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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. Lady Luck Casino, Marquette
3. Gilbertson Nature Center, Elgin
4. Big Springs Fish Hatchery, Elkader
5. Volga River State Recreation Area, Fayette
6. Turkey River Mall, Elkader
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, McGregor
12. Fayette County Historical Center, West Union
13. Elkader Opera House, Elkader
14. Carter House Museum, Elkader
15. Motor Mill Historic Site, Elkader

CULTURAL SITES

16. Effigy Mounds National Monument, Harpers Ferry
17. Elgin Maize Maze, Elgin
18. Wood Center Amish Community Elkport
19. Pride of Cassville car ferry, Cassville

SCENIC VIEWS

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

BYWAY CONTACT

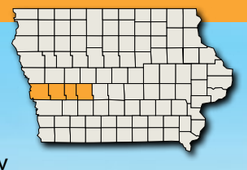
Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation and Development, Postville
563-864-7112 • www.northeastiowarcd.org

WESTERN SKIES SCENIC BYWAY

WESTERN SKIES

Sunsets and scenery

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 Museum of Religious Arts or 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 is currently the only town between Chicago and Denver with 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.

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Pioneer Days

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

Danish windmill in Elk Horn

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RECREATION

1. Dinesen Prairie State Preserve Wildlife Area, Harlan
2. Prairie Rose State Park, Harlan
3. T-Bone Trail, Audubon and Hamlin
4. Whiterock Conservancy, Coon Rapids
5. Sheeder Prairie State Preserve, Guthrie Center
6. Springbrook State Park, Guthrie Center
7. Raccoon River Valley Trail, Panora
8. Middle Raccoon River Water Trail, Panora

HISTORIC PLACES

9. Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center, Missouri Valley
10. Danish Immigrant Museum, Elk Horn
11. Danish Windmill Museum, Elk Horn
12. Guthrie County Historical Village, Panora
13. Rock Island Railroad Depot, Stuart

CULTURE

14. Museum of Religious Arts, Logan
15. German Heritage Park, Westphalia
16. Danish Villages, Kimballton and Elk Horn
17. Saints Center for Culture and the Arts, Stuart

SCENIC VIEWS

18. Boyer River, Missouri Valley
19. Harrison County Historical Village, Missouri Valley
20. Ridgetop view, Iowa 44 Kimballton

BYWAY CONTACT

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

IOWA BYWAYS

www.iowabyways.org

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