



Iowa's Heritage: Through the Footsteps of Time 3-Day Tour Central & Eastern Iowa

Day 1: Iowa State Fair / Des Moines – Tour Time 8 hours

- Arrive at the country's most famous state fair- the [Iowa State Fair](#), listed on the National Register of Historical Places. Greeters will board the coach to give you the day's highlights, answer questions and provide daily programs and coupon books to all guests. Upon entering the Fairgrounds, head east to the Heritage Village, an example of the customs of early Iowa life around the time of the Fair's establishment. The First Church hosts daily hymn sings at 11:30 a.m. and occasionally a wedding or two during the Fair. Here you can try an ice-cold pickle at the General Store or visit the Barber Shop, Telephone Company, Depot and Country School. Make your way up the hill to explore Pioneer Hall and the Richard L. Easter Museum Complex. Pioneer Hall was built for the first State Fair held in Des Moines in 1886 and is now a showcase of Iowa's agricultural history as well as the site for several unique contests including Cow Chip Throwing, Ladies Husband Calling and the Beard Growing Contest. Next, take break from the heat and visit the Ralph H. Deets Historical Museum. The original Iowa State Fair museum reopened for the 2007 Fair after receiving extensive renovation and restoration. Located just east of Pioneer Hall, the newly air-conditioned and climatized building showcases an extensive collection of antique furniture, historic records and many more Iowa State Fair treasures and memorabilia. Also, don't miss Richard O. Jacobson Hall and Kenyon Gallery, located next door, which features interactive exhibits of the Iowa State Fair's 150 year history.
- Grab lunch- enjoy an old Fair favorite or try a new delicious treat on-a-stick. Don't forget to use your coupon books! Eat and rest your feet at one of the Fair's five free stages of music and entertainment.
- Don't forget to visit other Fair favorites; the World Famous Butter Cow, State Fair Talent Show, livestock shows, the Varied Industries Building! Visit the Livestock Pavilion and the Swine Barn as seen in the movie "State Fair".
- Depart the Iowa State Fair.
- Check into you're the [Stoney Creek Inn](#) and rest up for another exciting day.

Day 2: Des Moines to Pella - Tour Time 8 hours

- Enjoy a deluxe complimentary continental breakfast at Stoney Creek Inn.
- **Living History Farms** is a one-of-a-kind self-guided tour through 300 years of agricultural history. Discover America's agricultural heritage as you walk through three working farms -- each with authentic crops and livestock. Next, stop by the 1875 town of Walnut Hill. Join in the excitement of a bustling Iowa town with 14 shops and businesses including a general store, blacksmith shop, print shop, drug store, implement warehouse and two Victorian homes, including the Flynn Country Home, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Historical interpreters work at each of the farms, homes and shops are ready to show you the whats, whens, hows and whys of everyday life in the past.
- Break for lunch at a farm-themed Iowa favorite. From the Homemade Chicken Pot Pie to the Ploughman Meatloaf all recipes are made from scratch using fresh ingredients. They still peel the potatoes themselves!
- Take I-80E and merge onto I-65 via exit 141. Exit at IA-163E and turn left continuing on IA-163E to Exit 140. Turn left onto Washington Street, right onto Main and left onto Franklin. Pella Historical Village will be on our left. The Villages will be on your left. Drive time approximately 1 hour.
- Arrive at **Pella Historical Village**. Tour the Historical Village Museum; a 23 building complex including Wyatt Earp's boyhood home, wooden shoe shop, log cabin, miniature Dutch Village display and an authentic 1850's working Windmill that stands 135-feet tall.
- Tour the Scholte House and Gardens. The home of Pella's founder features an impressive collection of valuable European antiques from the Netherlands. Stroll through the gardens, they feature two life-sized bronze statues and thousands of flowers.
- Finish the afternoon with a concert at one of Pella's most elegant treasures! Enjoy a tour of the restored 1900's Opera House, view of the Barton organ, and enjoy a short organ concert.
- Check into your hotel and rest up for another exciting day.

Day 3: Kalona to the Villages of Van Buren – Tour Time 9 hours

- Going west on Franklin, turn left onto Main, left onto Oskaloosa and right onto Clark. Merge onto IA-163 via the ramp on the left. Take exit 57 and turn left onto IA-92E. Turn left onto IA-1N and right onto IA-22E. Take a right on 7th and a left on D. The Villages will be on your left. Drive time approximately 2 hours.
- Arrive at [Kalona Historical Village](#) and begin your tour with a cup of coffee or tea and fresh doughnut holes from Kalona Bakery as you learn about the fascinating whys and ways of the Amish Mennonite people. Travel the scenic back-roads with tour guides and experience a new sense of the hard work and family ethic that continues to mark the Amish way of life. See their homes, schools, farms, and beautifully manicured gardens as you pass by. View their magnificent, hand-stitched Amish quilts at the Kalona Quilt & Textile Museum and watch a noodle making demonstration at Kalona Bakery.
- Continue through the scenic countryside to a conservative Mennonite home for lunch and experience a culinary adventure in a living history setting. From home-baked bread to Amish Tapioca pudding the cook sees to it that you never leave hungry.
- 12:30 p.m. Depart Kalona to the [Villages of Van Buren](#).
- Going West on D turn right on 7th and right onto IA-22E. Merge onto US-218S/IA-27S. Follow to exit 45 and merge onto US-34W. Take the IA-1 exit and turn left. Take a right on Dodge and a right on 4th. The Villages will be on your right. Drive time approximately 2 hours.
- 3:00 p.m. Begin your Van Buren tour at Bonaparte Pottery. Bonaparte Pottery has been recognized as a National Historic Archeological Site. Established in 1865, it produced a variety of stoneware until 1896. Archeological digging continues and several original pieces and molds have been unearthed. You'll take a fascinating, guided tour through this historical wonder.
- 4:00 p.m. Browse through the several specialty shops like the Olive Branch at the National Historic Riverfront District of Bonaparte ...and don't forget the fudge at Addie Mae's Fudge Shop.
- 5:30 p.m. Depart for home.