

Hollywood in Iowa

Lights, camera and non-stop action on this three day tour of Hollywood in Iowa.

Day 1:

8:00 a.m. Experience the inspiration for the internationally-acclaimed novel "State Fair," three motion pictures, and a Broadway musical! 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. Be prepared to fall in love- with the Fair!

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. You can try an ice-cold pickle at the General Store or visit the Barber Shop, Telephone Company 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 at its current location in 1886. It 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, 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.

11:00 a.m. Grab lunch- 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.

12:00 p.m. Tour the **livestock barns**; take note of the great stock of livestock inside the Cattle Barn and the devoted cattle owners that represent an integral part of the Midwest's agricultural success. Make sure you see the Big Boar in the Swine Barn. You can't miss him, he'll be the lazy oaf drawing a crowd of spectators. In the northwest corner of the building, you will find the Avenue of Breeds, where there are many different breeds of ducks, chickens, horses, cattle and fish on display. Next, head to the **Elwell Family Food Center** and see the many food displays. Numerous pie contests are quite popular and there is a mincemeat division- just like the movie! The Fair's Food Department, the largest of any state fair, boasts nearly 900 classes for exhibitors to enter their culinary creations. Grab a lemonade shake up and cool off in the **Varied Industries Building**. Check out the newest products and designs from leading local and international companies and collect an assortment of freebies from the booths.

4:00 p.m. End your day with a ride on **Ye Old Mill**. The nostalgic Ye Old Mill is the Iowa State Fair's oldest permanent amusement ride. The old-fashioned "tunnel of love" has been in continuous use since it was built about 1921, creating countless memories for thousands of Fairgoers.

Day 2:

9:00 a.m. Tour the bridges that inspired the Robert J. Waller novel and major motion picture, **The Bridges of Madison County**. Meet your step-on guide at the Winterset Chamber Welcome Center and begin your **Storybook Bridge Tour**. Visit 5 of the 6 covered bridges- all of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Learn about the bridge history and uses in the Hollywood film.

11:00 a.m. Madison County is home to one of the best historical complexes in the Midwest. Fourteen historic buildings, as well as world-class exhibits await you and your group. **The Historical Complex** tour is complete with a two-story home full of Victorian riches which is a lasting record of a way of life of people in this beautiful scenic county.

12:00p.m. Enjoy a delicious meal at the **Northside Café** and sit on the very stool Clint Eastwood sat on at the café featured in the Bridges of Madison County movie. Shop at the unique stores on the scenic downtown square, including Fons & Porter, the famous quilt supply store. Take a stroll through the Madison County Courthouse built in 1876 and admire the beautifully crafted black walnut interior.

2:00 p.m. No visit to Madison County can go without a visit to the Duke's first home. Hollywood legend **John Wayne** was born Marion Morrison in Winterset on May 26, 1907. Step back in time and tour Wayne's modest childhood home. View an impressive collection of memorabilia and hundreds of rare photographs.

Day 3: This isn't heaven, it's Iowa! Located just outside Dyersville, the **Field of Dreams Movie Site** is a mecca for lovers of America's favorite pastime. Visit the farm, run the bases and look out into the corn field - you might just catch a glimpse of Shoeless Joe and his friends.

Tour Sites

Iowa State Fair
East 30th and East University
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Bridges of Madison County
Madison County Chamber of Commerce
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Field of Dreams Movie Site
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Tours Planning Assistance

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