

August Ag-venture in Iowa

Enjoy the best agricultural experiences Iowa has to offer, take in a cattle show at the Iowa State Fair, try your hand at woodworking and help out with farm chores at the Farm House B & B. This three day tour will lead you on an ag-venture through Iowa.

Day 1:

- 8:00 a.m. Arrive at the country's most famous state fair- the **Iowa State Fair**, listed on the National Register of Historic 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. From here, endless fun awaits. Learn about the animal birthing process, witness a live birth, or hold a newborn piglet in the **Animal Learning Center**. Next, visit the **Agriculture Building**, home to Iowa's finest agricultural commodities, an apiary exhibit and the World-Famous Butter Cow - an Iowa State Fair tradition that began in 1911. As you head south on Rock Island Avenue, you can't miss the **Livestock Pavilion** on your left. Take a seat inside and witness the finest livestock the Fair has to offer from one of the world's largest livestock shows.
- 11:00 a.m. Break for lunch- Taste delicious Fair food classics, including foot-long corndogs, elephant ears and blooming onions. Don't leave without sampling something unique on-a-stick! Remember to use your coupon books for extra savings.
- 12:00 a.m. Save room for dessert and head to the **Dairy Parlor**, seated on the north side of the Cattle Barn. Here you can watch the process of fresh cow's milk ultimately becoming fresh ice cream. This ice cream is rumored to be some of the best on the Fairgrounds. Continue to the **Cattle Barn** to see the Super Bull, often weighing in at over 2,000 lbs. Next door you'll find the **Swine Barn**. Step inside and experience one of Iowa's most important products. 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. Make your way across the street to finish out your barns tour in the **Sheep Barn**, home to over 1,000 bleating examples of the country's finest sheep.
- 2:30 p.m. Shop and browse more than 500 booths, displays and exhibits, explore, take in a show at one of the Fair's five free stages and eat some famous fair foods before returning to your coach.
- 4:30 p.m. Depart the Iowa State Fair.
- 5:00 p.m. Overnight at **Stoney Creek Inn** and bring the great outdoors...indoors! Stoney Creek Inn's Northwoods atmosphere will create an unforgettable experience. 165 charming guest rooms, with features ranging from bunk beds to uniquely themed suites. Come enjoy the exciting "Wilderness Park" featuring Iowa's only swim through indoor/outdoor heated pool, whirlpool and dry sauna.

Day 2:

8:00 a.m. Enjoy a deluxe complimentary continental breakfast at **Stoney Creek Inn**.

9:00 a.m. **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 business 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 what, whens, hows and whys of everyday life in the past.

12:30 p.m. Enjoy a sumptuous mid-day meal at Story City's **Cottage on Broad**, a beautiful home built in the 1880s. Award-winning Chef Chris will create unique menu selections sure to please you and your guests.

1:30 p.m. Visit **RVP 1875**, a working museum building superior-quality utilitarian furniture with only the tools, techniques, and finishes of the 1800s. On display is one of the Midwest's largest assortments of 19th-century woodworking tools, including an 1860s foot-powered lathe. Tour the shop, learn the history of woodworking, watch a demonstration and take part in the woodworking process.

2:45 p.m. Take a spin on Story City's **1913 Hershell-Spillman Antique Carousel**. Whirling to the merry calliope tunes, enjoy this restored merry-go-round and be transported back in time during the leisurely ride. The splendid wooden figures are hand-carved from poplar and include 20 horses, two chickens, two pigs, two dogs, two chariots, and a whirling tub. Calliope tunes are generated by a 1936 Wurlitzer Military Band organ housed in the center of the carousel.

4:30 p.m. Art on the farm is the theme of this unique stop. After a leisurely drive through the sprawling farms east of Iowa Falls, you'll arrive at a small farm and—surprise! It's an art gallery in the countryside. At **Carson Art Gallery**, Colleen Carson produces highly realistic paintings and prints of farm and railroad scenes. You might find a print of Dad's tractor here, or bring back memories of that train ride when you were a kid. End your gallery tour with coffee and sweets, compliments of Colleen.

6:30 p.m. Arrive at your Waterloo hotel for dinner.

Day 3:

- 8:00 a.m. Start your day on the farm with chores at the **Farm House Bed and Breakfast**, but first, fill up with a full-course farmer's breakfast in the Farm House's gathering room. After breakfast experience farm life by milking cows, feeding baby calves, gathering eggs or just enjoying this slice of heaven by walking on the adjoining five-mile nature trail. The Farm House, built in the late 1890s with the architectural styling of the late Victorian period is home to a vineyard and you'll also see dairy cattle, goats, chickens, peacocks, llamas and donkeys.
- 10:15 a.m. Explore at **Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch** south of Fredericksburg. Participate in a Native American blessing ceremony before boarding the wagons for a ride out into the buffalo herd where you'll actually feed these giant shaggy beasts ears of corn right out of your hand. Enjoy a catered lunch including the surprisingly tasty bison meat. On the way out you can look over the "artifact" room and take along some buffalo jerky if you're game enough!
- 1:00 p.m. Arrive at **John Deere Tractor Assembly Plant**. Hop aboard a tram piloted by a former employee as you follow the building of the "Green and Gold" tractors famous the world over. Amazing technology is the watchword here as you learn how it all fits together.
- 3:00 p.m. End our day with everyone favorite dessert, ice cream! Tour **J & J Dairy** near Hudson. This family run operation includes Jay & Jeanne Hansen's own on-farm bottling and ice cream plant. Sample the fresh milk and get some exercise as you make your own batch of ice cream and eat the results. Also see their cute wallabies. Yes, wallabies in Iowa!
- 5:00 p.m. Depart for home.

Tour Sites

Iowa State Fair
East 30th and East University
P.O. Box 57130
Des Moines, IA 50317
Megan Baron
515/262.3111 ext. 335
mbaron@iowastatefair.org
www.iowastatefair.org

Living History Farms
2600 111th St.
Urbandale, Iowa, 50322
515/278.5286
www.livinghistoryfarms.org

Cottage on Broad
410 Broad Street
Story City, IA 50248
515/733.4376
www.cottageonbroad.com

RVP 1875
526 Broad St
Story City, IA 50248
Andrea Reedy
515/975.3083
andrea@rvp1875.com
www.rvp1875.com

1913 Hershell-Spillman Antique Carousel
North Park
Story City, IA 50248
Sarah Thompson
515/733.4214
chamber@storycity.net
www.storycity.net

Carson Art Gallery
33635 140th St
Ackley, IA 50601
Colleen Carson
641/847.3429
carsonart@juno.com

Farm House Bed and Breakfast
2866 270th St, Hwy 18 E
Fredericksburg, IA 50630
Loren and Dianna Engelbrecht
563/237.5969
lecows@iowatelecom.net
www.thefarmhousebb.com

Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch
3034 Pembroke Ave
Fredericksburg, IA 50630
Dan McFarland
563/237.5318
mcf@rconnect.com

John Deere Tractor Assembly Plant
3500 E Donald St
Waterloo, IA 50703
Mary Swehla
319/292.7801
SwehlaMaryM@JohnDeere.com
www.johndeere.com

J&J Dairy
8617 Lincoln Rd
Hudson, IA 50643
Jeanne Hansen
319/939.2187
freshmilk@forbin.net
www.hansendairy.com

Accommodations & Restaurants

Stoney Creek Inn & Conference Center
5291 Stoney Creek Ct.
Johnston, IA 50131
Kellie Hanselman
515/334.9000
kellie.hanselman@stoneycreekinn.com

Tour Planning Assistance

Greater Des Moines Convention and
Visitors Bureau
400 Locust Street, Suite 265
Des Moines Iowa 50309
800/451.2625
info@desmoinescvb.com
www.seedesmoines.com

Inbound Iowa, LLC
800/990.6679
info@inboundiowa.com
www.inboundiowa.com

Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage
Area
PO Box 2845
Waterloo, IA 50704-2845
563/387.0305
touroperators@silosandsmokestacks.org
www.silosandsmokestacks.org