

Through the years: Iowa's History & Heritage- 2 Day Tour

Day 1:

9:00 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. 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.

12:30 p.m. 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.

1:30 p.m. Don't forget to visit other Fair favorites; the World Famous **Butter Cow**, State Fair Talent Show, livestock shows, the Varied Industries Building and more! Visit the **Livestock Pavilion** and the **Swine Barn** as seen in the movie "State Fair".

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 whats, whens, hows and whys of everyday life in the past.

12:00 p.m. Break for lunch at **Iowa Machine Shed Restaurant**, 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!

2:00 p.m. Discover the enduring charm of a 16th century English estate at **Salisbury House and Gardens**. Built by cosmetics magnate Carl Weeks and his wife Edith, Salisbury House was modeled after the King's House in Salisbury, England. Move through room after majestic room--the expansive Great Hall, the art-filled Common Room, the elegant dining room and the rare book-lined library. Treasures of art and antiquity create the dazzling mosaic that is Salisbury House.

3:30 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

Salisbury House & Gardens
4025 Tonawanda Drive
Des Moines, IA 50312
Mary Beth Hill
contactus@salisburyhouse.org
515-274-1777
www.salisburyhouse.org

Accommodations & Restaurants

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

Iowa Machine Shed
11151 Hickman Road
Urbandale, IA 50322
515/ 270.6818
www.machineshed.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
800/990.6679
info@inboundiowa.com
www.inboundiowa.com