

## Non Stop Summer Fun – 2 Day Tour

Ready, set, go! Spend two fun-filled days in Des Moines with this exciting itinerary.

### 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. Indulge your inner child on the double Ferris wheel in our 10 acre Midway. Learn about the animal birthing process, watch small animal surgery, or hold a newborn piglet in the **Animal Learning Center**. Stop by 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.
- 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 **Family Food Center** and see the many food displays, including The "Ugliest Cake" and Gingerbread House entries. The Fair's Foods 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 goodies from the booths. Before you leave, be sure to grab a last bite of the Fair's great food- you have nearly 200 choices!
- 4:00 p.m. Check into your hotel to rest, relax and get ready for more excitement.
- 6:00 p.m. Spend the evening on the river and take in an **Iowa Cubs** game at Principal Park. Game-time starts at 7:05 p.m., but arrive early and enjoy a picnic in the Mezzanine located behind home plate, featuring a scenic view of the city and Principal Park. Watch batting practice and maybe get an autograph or two before the game begins. Keep an eye out for foul balls and Cubby Bear, the Iowa Cubs mascot! Don't leave too soon after the game, the I-Cubs light up the sky with fireworks after Friday night games.

**Day 2:**

8:30 a.m. Enjoy breakfast at your hotel.

10:00 a.m. From treasures to trinkets, shopping in **Valley Junction** is an Iowa experience not to be missed. Valley Junction offers the friendly atmosphere of neighborhood shops highlighted by unique stores found only in the Fifth Street area of West Des Moines. The shops, featuring art galleries, antiques, clothing and specialty boutiques, elegant glassware, custom furniture, one of a kind jewelry, and even treats for your dog, make Valley Junction a fascinating experience for shoppers of any age. Eat dessert first at **Carefree Patisserie**, a gourmet cupcakes shop or purchase Iowa foods, souvenirs and gifts to take home at the **Heart of Iowa Store**.

12:30 p.m. Arrive at **Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino** in Altoona. Before enjoying live horse racing, head to the Triple Crown Eatery Buffet for lunch.

1:30 p.m. After lunch, try your luck in the casino's 1,800 slot machines, poker, blackjack and a variety of table games. Enjoy live thoroughbred and quarter horse racing on select days in the summer.

4:30 p.m. Depart for home.

**Tour Sites**

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

Iowa Cubs  
One Line Drive  
Des Moines, IA 50311  
Lindsay Cox  
800/464.CUBS  
www.iowacubs.com

Heart of Iowa  
211 Fifth Street  
West Des Moines, IA 50265  
Lori Stevens  
515/274.4692  
lori@heartofiowa.com  
www.heartofiowa.com

Carefree Patisserie  
516 Elm Street  
West Des Moines, IA 50265

Jennifer Strauss  
515/277.0705

Prairie Meadow Racetrack and Casino  
1 Prairie Meadows Dr., PO Box 1000  
Altoona, IA 50009-0901  
800-325-9015  
www.prairiemeadows.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

Historic Valley Junction Foundation  
217 Fifth Street  
West Des Moines, IA 50265  
515/222.3642  
office@valleyjunction.com  
www.valleyjunction.com