



When it comes to romance, Des Moines is pretty much the Paris of the Midwest. Don't believe us? Why else would Raygun tell us that "Des Moines is French for The Moines?" Is that love in the air? Or just the smell of Steak de Burgo? (Same thing if you ask us.)

Option 1 – Discover Downtown

DISCOVER DOWNTOWN					
ACTIVITY:	CATCH THIS:	WHEN TO VISIT:	INFO:		
Downtown Des Moines Farmers' Market	 25,000 visitors every Saturday morning May – October. Mandatory selfie in front of RoCA's mural wall holding mandatory bouquet of sunflowers. 	Every Saturday May – September: 7 a.m. to Noon October: 8 a.m. to Noon	Historic Court District, Des Moines dsmpartnership.com/ desmoinesfarmersmarket		
East Village Spa	➤ Day spa in the East Village known for massages, facials, and manis/pedis.	Mon - Thur: 10 a.m 8 p.m. Fri: 10 a.m 6 p.m. Sat: 9:30 a.m 5:30 p.m.	601 E Locust Street, Des Moines evdayspa.com		
East Village shops	► Explore Sticks and Wanderlust for her and Fontennelle Supply Co. and Marv's Record Shop for him.	Year-round	eastvillagedesmoines.com/ explore/shop-the-east-village		
Lua Brewing	▶ Brewery in Sherman Hill neighborhood known for "push pop" beers and innovative food.	Tue - Thur: 3 - 10 p.m. Fri - Sat: 11 a.m 11 p.m. Sun: 11 a.m 8 p.m.	1525 High Street, Des Moines luabeer.com		
Django	► Approachable French bistro across from the Sculpture Park.	Daily: 4 - 9 p.m.	1420 Locust Street, Des Moines djangodesmoines.com		
Hello, Marjorie	► Craft cocktails in a dark setting, illuminated by their famous "All the Prettiest Girls in the World Live in Des Moines" neon sign.	Mon - Thur: 4 p.m Midnight Fri - Sat: 4 p.m 1 a.m.	717 Locust Street, Des Moines hellomarjorie.com		









Option 2 – Get Artsy

GET ARTSY					
ACTIVITY:	CATCH THIS:	WHEN TO VISIT:	INFO:		
Des Moines Art Center	 World class art museum showcasing artists such as Andy Warhol, Claude Monet, and Georgia O'Keeffe. Check out the grounds outside for even more beautiful art! 	Tue - Wed: 11 a.m 4 p.m. Thur: 11 a.m 7 p.m. Fri: 11 a.m 4 p.m. Sat - Sun: 10 a.m 4 p.m.	4700 Grand Avenue, Des Moines desmoinesartcenter.org		
HoQ	► Grab farm-to-table lunch with a rotating seasonal menu.	Refer to website.	303 E 5th Street, Des Moines hoqtable.com		
John & Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park	► Take a romantic stroll among the 30+ works of art and get the obligatory photo in front of the Nomade.	Year-round	Western Gateway Park, 1330 Grand Avenue, Des Moines desmoinesartcenter.org/visit/ pappajohn-sculpture-park		
Fleur Cinema and Café	▶ Des Moines' premier arthouse theater showing all the buzziest flicks.	Refer to website for showtimes.	4545 Fleur Drive, Des Moines fleurcinema.com		
Mainframe Studios	 Largest non-profit art studio building in the nation. Home to more than 75 artists and galleries with everything from jewlery and clothes to paintings and photography. 	Mon: 8 a.m 5 p.m. Tue - Sat: 10 a.m 5 p.m.	900 Keosauqua Way, Des Moines mainframestudios.org		









GET ARTSY - CONTINUED				
ACTIVITY:	CATCH THIS:	WHEN TO VISIT:	INFO:	
West End Architectural Salvage	 Featured on HGTV's West End Salvage. Four floors of unique art and furniture custom created from NYC, Chicago, and England. 	Mon - Fri: 9 a.m 5 p.m. Sat: 9 a.m 4 p.m. Sun: Noon - 4 p.m.	22 9th Street, Des Moines westendsalvage.com	
Harbinger	➤ One of the top restaurants in town, known for romantic ambience and seven course menus.	Sun - Thur: 10 a.m 8 p.m. Fri - Sat: 10 a.m 9 p.m.	2724 Ingersoll Avenue, Des Moines harbingerdsm.com	
Proof	► Good cocktails, good wine, good food, and good service are the hallmarks of this award-winning eatery.	Tue - Sat: 5 - 10 p.m.	1301 Locust Street, Suite C, Des Moines proofdsm.com	
Des Moines Civic Center	▶ Premier performing arts center that landed <i>Hamilton</i> and <i>Dear Evan Hansen</i> before much larger cities.	Refer to website for showtimes.	221 Walnut Street, Des Moines desmoinesperformingarts.org	
Des Moines Community Playhouse	► Contemporary local theater presenting musicals, classic plays, and a children's series.	Refer to website for showtimes.	831 42nd Street, Des Moines dmplayhouse.com	
Hoyt Sherman Place	► Historic concert venue built in 1877 that hosts musical and comedy acts in an elegant, magnificent setting.	Refer to website for showtimes.	1501 Woodland Avenue, Des Moines hoytsherman.org	
Noce	▶ Premiere home for jazz and cabaret in Des Moines hosting national acts.	Thur - Sat: 7 - 10 p.m.	1326 Walnut Street, Des Moines nocedsm.com	









Option 3 – Game Night

GAME NIGHT					
ACTIVITY:	CATCH THIS:	WHEN TO VISIT:	INFO:		
High Trestle Trail	 25 mile of trails winding through five charming small towns, never far from a bite or a brew. High Trestle Bridge is one of tallest trail bridges in the world with 43 steel cribbings glow blue at night. 	Year-round	traillink.com/trail/high-trestle-trail		
Trostel's Greenbriar	▶ One of the best restaurants in the burbs, known for their prime rib and pan-fried walleye.	Mon - Fri: 11 a.m 2 p.m., 4:30 - 9 p.m. Sat: 4:30 - 9 p.m.	5810 Merle Hay Road, Johnston greenbriartrostels.com		
Ironside Axe Club	► Harness your competitive spirit with some good old fashioned axe throwing (and beer drinking).	Tues: 5 - 10 p.m. Wed: 11 a.m 1 p.m., 5 - 10 p.m. Thur: 5 - 10 p.m. Fri: 3 - 10 p.m. Sat: Noon - 10 p.m. Sun: 2 - 7 p.m.	2700 University Avenue, Suite 100, West Des Moines ironsideaxeclub.com		
Operating Room	▶ Bar arcade in West Des Moines with pinball, old-school video games, food, and craft cocktail slushies.	Mon - Fri: 3 p.m 1 a.m. Sat - Sun: 11 a.m 1 a.m.	5515 Mills Civic Parkway, Suite #130, West Des Moines operatingroomarcade.com		
Smash Park	 Home to the largest outdoor patio in lowa with bocce ball, pickleball, cornhole, shuffleboard, and more. Large screen TVs inside with full menu of elevated bar food and cocktails. 	Mon - Sat: 8 a.m 11 p.m. Sun: 8 a.m 10 p.m.	6625 Coachlight Drive, West Des Moines smashpark.com		









OTHER DES MOINES DATE IDEAS:

Ice skating at Brenton Skating Plaza with skyline views
Wine tasting at Jasper Winery or Summerset Winery
Sushi downtown at Miyabi 9 or Akebono 515
Tiki drinks at Bellhop Lounge or Revival House
Cooking class with Cooking With Alessandra
Italian dinner in a Victorian mansion at Aposto
Drinks with a view of downtown at Republic on Grand
Steak de Burgo and red velvet cake at Simon's
Night out at the Des Moines Symphony or Des Moines Metro Opera
Dinner DURING a movie at Flix Brewhouse



