



SOCIALLY DISTANCED THINGS TO DO

At Catch Des Moines, if there is one thing we value, it's fun. But we value the safety of our visitors and residents even more. Fortunately, these two things don't have to be mutually exclusive. You can have fun exploring Greater Des Moines safely and responsibly, even in a pandemic. Below are some ideas on how to do just that. As the situation is constantly evolving, make sure to check with venues, parks, and attractions for their most current guidelines.

Explore the Great Outdoors

TAKE A DIP			
LOCATION:	CATCH THIS:	WHEN TO VISIT:	INFO:
Saylorville Marina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Rent a pontoon for a half or full day. ▶ Eat at Latitude 41 Bar and Grill. 	Mon - Sun 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	6170 NW Polk City Drive, Polk City saylorvillelakemarina.com
Raccoon River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Kayak and canoe rentals. ▶ Easy access to beautiful Blue Heron Lake. 	Sun - Fri: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sat: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.	2500 Grand Avenue, West Des Moines iowa.gov/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/158/1433
Quarry Springs Outfitters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Kayak and canoe rentals. ▶ 240 acres of clear, spring-fed water to explore on a kayak. 	Sat - Sun: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.	1208 Hwy 117 S, Colfax quarryspringsoutfitters.com
Gray's Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Kayak and canoe rentals. ▶ 2-mile lakefront loop, an illuminated bridge and playgrounds for the kids. 	Mon - Sun: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.	2101 Fleur Drive, Des Moines dsm.city/business_detail_T6_R58.php
Seven Oaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Take a seven-mile (2-4 hours) float down the Des Moines River Valley via canoe, kayak, or tube. ▶ Float under the world's highest double-track railway bridge. 	Wed - Fri: 4 - 9 p.m. Fri - Sat: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sun: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.	1086 222nd Drive, Boone sevenoaksrec.com
POPULAR BEACHES			
Lake Ahquabi State Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Known for blue waters and great fishing. ▶ Large sandy beach for swimming. 	Mon - Sun 4 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.	6510 118th Avenue, Indianola iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks/Iowa-State-Parks/ParkDetails/ParkID/610149
Big Creek Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Offers a beach, playground, and areas to grill. ▶ Nearby, quieter neighbor of Saylorville Lake. 	Mon - Sun 4:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.	8794 NW 125th Avenue, Polk City iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks/Iowa-State-Parks/ParkDetails/ParkID/610157/idAdminBoundary/173



The CatchList

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TAKE A HIKE, RIDE A BIKE

LOCATION:	CATCH THIS:	WHEN TO VISIT:	INFO:
Easter Lake Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Hidden gem on Des Moines' southside with 178-acre lake, swimming beach, and boat rentals. 	<p>Summer Hours: 6:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.</p> <p>Winter Hours: Sunrise to Sunset</p>	<p>2830 Easter Lake Drive, Des Moines</p> <p>catchdesmoines.com/things-to-do/outdoor/lakes</p>
Ledges State Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sandstone cliffs, dense forest paths, and creek crossings. ▶ Passing motorists splash kids in creeks along Canyon Drive. 	<p>Mon - Sun: 4 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p>1515 P Avenue, Madrid</p> <p>iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks/iowa-State-Parks/Ledges-State-Park</p>
High Trestle Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Iconic 25-mile trail with a 13-story illuminated bridge. ▶ Refuel at the many bars and restaurant patios along the way. 	<p>Year-round</p>	<p>Trailheads in Madrid, Woodward, Slater, Ankeny.</p> <p>traillink.com/trail/high-trestle-trail/</p>

*Pro tip: After finishing your hike at Ledges State Park you'll be dangerously close to Whatcha Smokin' BBQ + Brew, which boasts the best BBQ in the metro and a big patio to boot. Time to refuel!

HIT THE LINKS

ACTIVITY:	CATCH THIS:	WHEN TO VISIT:	INFO:
The Tournament Club of Iowa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Only Arnold Palmer designed course in the state. 	<p>Mon - Sun 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.</p>	<p>1000 Tradition Drive, Polk City</p> <p>tcofiowa.com</p>
Otter Creek Golf Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Named the 2016 18-Hole Course of the Year by the Iowa Golf Association. 	<p>Mon - Sun 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.</p>	<p>4100 NE Otter Creek Drive, Ankeny</p> <p>ottercreekankeny.com</p>
Waveland Golf Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Oldest municipal course west of the Mississippi. 	<p>Mon - Sun 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.</p>	<p>4908 University Avenue, Des Moines</p> <p>golfwaveland.com</p>

*Pro tip: After your round at Waveland Golf Course head to Eatery A, where you'll find ample patio space and amazing happy hour specials.



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HIT THE ICE

LOCATION:	CATCH THIS:	WHEN TO VISIT:	INFO:
Seven Oaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Snowboarding, skiing, and snow tubing for all ages and skill levels. ▶ Four tubing chutes, 11 ski runs, multiple chair lifts, and a surface lift for the snow tubes. 	Wed - Thurs: 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. Fri-Sat: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sun: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.	1086 222nd Drive, Boone sevenoaksrec.com
Brenton Skating Plaza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Iowa's premier ice-skating rink. ▶ Views of downtown skyline. 	November - March	520 Robert D. Ray Dr, Des Moines dsmpartnership.com/brentonplaza/ice-skating

EXPLORE TRAILS

Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Bison can be found year-round in their 800-acre enclosure. ▶ Winter is the best time to see short eared owls at the Refuge. 	Mon - Sun: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	9981 Pacific Street, Prairie City fws.gov/refuge/neal_smith
Jester Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Snowshoes and cross-country ski rentals available if there is 6 inches of snow. ▶ 6.1 miles of trails to explore. 	Mon - Sun: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.	11121 NW Jester Park Dr, Granger jesterparknaturecenter.com

Attractive Attractions

LOCATION:	CATCH THIS:	WHEN TO VISIT:	INFO:
The Blank Park Zoo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Explore exhibits like Kid's Kingdom and the Discovery Center. ▶ Animal exhibits like giraffes, lions, sea lions, and zebras. 	Mon - Sun 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	7401 SW 9th Sreet, Des Moines blankparkzoo.com
Des Moines Art Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ World-class, free museum with an emphasis on modern art. ▶ Socially distanced markers placed throughout the collections. 	Tues - Wed: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Thurs: 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
Science Center of Iowa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Interactive exhibits and unique programming to encourage learning and fun for all ages. ▶ Live science demonstrations, a 50 foot planetarium, and rotating exhibits. 	Thurs: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sat - Sun: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	401 W Martin Luther King Jr Parkway, Des Moines sciowa.org



The CatchList

Eat and Drink Local

If your idea of outdoor adventure skews more towards sitting on a patio or outdoor beer garden with a cold one, your happy place (and happy hour) awaits you in Greater Des Moines.

- ▶ Check out our list of the Best Patios in Greater Des Moines at catchdesmoines.com/bestpatios.

If you're not comfortable dining out, there are more takeout and delivery options available than ever before. Need ideas of where to start?

- ▶ Go to our new Des Best page at catchdesmoines.com/desbest, which collects all of our Best Of features into one spot.
- ▶ Use them as a guide, or better yet, a checklist to try them all.

OTHER SOCIALLY DISTANCED IDEAS:

- ▶ Shop and support local with our **local gift guide**: catchdesmoines.com/blog/post/local-gift-guide
- ▶ Find online retailers throughout Central Iowa to support with **Shop Where I Live**.
- ▶ Attend a virtual live show with livestreams from the likes of the **Des Moines Symphony** (they often pair performances with take and bake dinners from local restaurants), **Des Moines Metro Opera**, and **Des Moines Performing Arts**. Silver lining? The drinks are a lot cheaper at home!
- ▶ Take a virtual cooking class with **Cooking with Alessandra** or **Kitchen Collage**. Pairs well with a takeout bottle of wine from **Jasper Winery** or a crowler of beer from **Lua Brewing**.
- ▶ Rent out an entire movie auditorium for the family at **Jordan Creek Century 20**.
- ▶ Take a hike and get some fresh air at the beautiful **Brenton Arboretum**, with over 2,200 different trees and shrubs. A great place to stretch the legs and take the pets!
- ▶ Take a road trip to a nearby small town like **Pella** to stock up on Dutch letters and bologna or **Winterset** to see the acclaimed covered bridges.