

MUST EXPERIENCE - Fall

Annual **Night Eyes at Blank Park Zoo**: This merry, not scary, event transforms the zoo into a world of storybook characters for costume-clad kids.



Pumpkin patches, corn mazes and apple orchards throughout Greater Des Moines: Fall is a colorful, tasteful time in Iowa and the season's farmers' markets and annual locations won't disappoint.

Drake Basketball games: "Get your blue on" and cheer the Bulldogs of Drake University in the Knapp Center.

Check out the **downtown nightlife** at Court District bars and clubs: If you're looking for variety and tons of energy, this historic district of bars and restaurants offers great variety and tons of energy.

Botanical Blues at the **Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden**: See spectacular seasonal displays of plants and flowers while listening to great music.

Go for a walk at **Iowa Arboretum**: Billing itself as a "Library of Living Plants," you'll stroll through hundreds of species of trees, shrubs and flowers in a tranquil 40-acre scenic fall setting.

Lace up your bowling shoes for a round at **Bass Pro Shop's bowling alley**: A first for Bass Pro Shops, the Altoona store features a 12-lane nautical-themed bowling alley.



Movies and popcorn at one of the area movie theaters: Indie flick or big-screen blockbuster? Glass of wine at Fleur Cinema or a giant soda? Settle in for an affordable movie in one of the metro's 10+ cinemas.

Check out the new, colorful sculpture at the **John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park**: Any season is the perfect season to explore the sculpture park, and the playful dancing figures by world-class artist Keith Haring will lift your spirits.

Civic Center of Greater Des Moines: Broadway comes to town...get your tickets for the Willis Broadway Series.

Pumpkin Express and Santa Express on the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad: Catch the fall foliage on a train trip to the Pumpkin Patch or to the North Pole on the Santa Express.

Grape stomping at local wineries: You heard it through the grapevine...most of Iowa's 50+ wineries feature a Grape Stomp through the fall.

Tour the **State Capitol**: It's absolutely free to see the gorgeous gold dome from the inside of our cool Capitol, built between 1871-1886.

Des Moines Playhouse: High-energy local talent brings high quality shows.

Make your own s'mores with **Beaverdale Confections**: 11 - count them - 11 flavors of fluffy gourmet marshmallows to work with. Oh, yes, and 45 varieties of candies.

Des Moines Art Center: A world-class collection of 19th and 20th century artists, contemporary art, sculptures, five-star restaurant and more housed in architecturally-renowned structures. And it's free.



IMAX movies at **Science Center of Iowa and Blank IMAX Dome Theater**: Get swept away with a nature film or a feature film shown in IMAX.

State Historical Museum of Iowa: Located at the foot of our capitol, is home to many permanent exhibits chronicling Iowa history.

Indoor golfing inside the 40,000 square foot dome of **Longview Golf Centre**: Clubs are available, lessons are taught by PGA and LPGA professionals, and, or a fun family activity during the cold winter months, check out Longview's new 18-hole indoor miniature golf course.

Try your luck at **Prairie Meadows**: Loose slots, table games and a smoke-free poker room make this a favorite place to play.

Bike through the colors of the fall on over 600 miles of trails: Iowans like to bike, thus the large network of wonderful trails throughout Central Iowa.

Historic group dinners at **Living History Farms**: Go back in time with a hearty group dinner by lantern-light and play parlor games in the 1875 Tangen House or the 1900 Farm House.

Take a ride down the slides at the indoor water park at **Ramada Tropics Resort and Conference Center**: Enjoy a reprieve from the winter chill with a day spent poolside at this indoor tropical retreat.

