



IOWA

QUAD CITIES MUSEUM WEEK

Davenport, June 8-16

More than 20 museums in the region will offer special events and exhibits. Geocaches (hidden prizes found via smartphones) encourage exploration. The Figge Art Museum and Iowa 80 Trucking Museum are among the participants.

ICE CREAM DAYS AND SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Le Mars, June 12-16

The town that calls itself the Ice Cream Capital of the World (home to Blue Bunny ice cream) marks its 150th birthday with ice cream socials, bike rides, downtown tours and an Ice Cream Bash concert.

IOWA CITY JAZZ FESTIVAL

Iowa City, July 5-7

Well-known and up-and-coming musicians play on four stages; the three-day celebration includes fireworks over the University of Iowa's Pentacrest lawn.

▲ RAGBRAI

Statewide, July 21-27

America's largest, oldest and longest recreational bike ride draws about 8,500 cyclists for the week and another 1,500 daily riders to pedal up to 500 miles across Iowa's heartland. Host communities help with food and camping space.

NORDIC FEST

Decorah, July 25-27

The city celebrates its roots with Scandinavian folk art, food treats

such as kringla and lefse, Viking combat demonstrations, folk dancers, a Bunad Show (Norwegian clothing), and sporting events like The Ultimate Norseman Competition, a Kubb Tournament and Nordic Rock Throw.

NATIONAL BALLOON CLASSIC

Indianola, July 26-August 3

Nearly 100 hot-air balloons color the sky south of Des Moines. Come for morning and evening competition flights, plus balloon rides, night glows, fireworks, food and music.

HINTERLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL

St. Charles, August 2-4

In a lush, rural landscape, this aptly named festival—expanding to three days in its fifth year—features poppy folk music, camping and crafts vendors.

IOWA CITY

The University of Iowa anchors the state's original capital, where the old statehouse, a vaudeville-era theater and eclectic dining enliven a stay. thinkiowacity.com



Coral Ridge Mall
An indoor ice arena, carousel and children's museum

(with free admission to all on the last Friday evening each month) amp up the fun.

The Englert Theatre Catch a reading, musical, play, dance performance or concert at the 1912 former vaudeville theater and opera house.

Hancher Auditorium A sleek, curving \$176 million performing arts center replaced the University of Iowa's original auditorium, destroyed by flooding. About 50 events each year include ballets, concerts, lectures and musicals.

Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum It's worth the 11-mile drive east on I-80 to see the birthplace cottage, library, museum and burial site of the first U.S. president born west of the Mississippi.

The Iowa City Pedestrian Mall Abutting the University of Iowa campus, the Ped Mall is home to restaurants, bars and shops. A facelift that includes new seating, plantings and lighting wraps up in 2019.



Big Grove Brewery

Old Capitol Museum Retrace the footsteps of the state's founding fathers in Iowa's original capitol. Lectures and concerts entertain in the Senate Chamber.

Prairie Lights Books Browse three floors of books and catch an author reading in the long-running Live from Prairie Lights series.

University of Iowa Museum of Natural History Learn about Iowa's 500 million years of history, see 1,000 birds on display and say hi to Rusty the giant sloth replica.



Baroncini Soft music and cozy booths set the tone for an evening of contemporary Italian dishes such as house-made agnolotti pasta stuffed with local beef and Parmesan.

Big Grove Brewery The Laotian sausage bowls should clue you in that this isn't a typical brewpub. Come for the diverse menu as well as live music, brewed-on-site beers,

the game room and an expansive patio.

Hamburg Inn No. 2 A burger specialist comes in at 4 a.m. daily to make the patties for this downtown diner that opened in 1948.

Leaf Kitchen You can still get high tea at this tearoom, but also eggs Benedict or crepes for breakfast and a grilled chicken club for lunch.

Maggie's Farm Wood-Fired Pizza A beloved local farmers market stand is now a brick-and-mortar hot spot for those craving Napoli classic creations.

Oasis Falafel It's the place to go for authentic, inexpensive Middle Eastern fare, such as a pita bursting with falafel, hummus, babba ganoush and Mediterranean salad.

Pullman Bar and Diner The modern diner serves food both familiar and unexpected—fried chicken and corned beef hash, yes, but also roasted marrow bones with bacon jam.

Rapid Creek Cidery In a barn overlooking Wilson's Orchard 15 minutes from downtown, this upscale restaurant serves cocktails made with Wilson's excellent hard cider, and dishes inspired by local products.



Brown Street Inn The six-bedroom 1913 mansion in a leafy neighborhood feels serene but is close to downtown attractions.

Graduate Iowa City A lobby filled with bookcases, reading nooks and (literally) writing on the walls reflects literary inspiration from the University of Iowa at this new 231-room downtown hotel.



National Czech and Slovak Museum

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CEDAR RAPIDS

Regionalist artist Grant Wood lived in Cedar Rapids most of his life, so it's fitting that the **Cedar Rapids Museum of Art** owns the largest collection of his works (more than 200) as well as the **Grant Wood Studio**, where he worked from 1924 to 1935.

Czech heritage also permeates Cedar Rapids (30 miles northwest of Iowa City). In **Czech Village**, the business hub of the city's Czech community, admire elaborate folk costumes at **National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library**.

Iowa's second-largest city continues to reinvent itself with ventures such as **NewBo City Market**, once an abandoned industrial building and now the place to shop for produce, regional cheeses and local gifts. Near NewBo, get upscale comfort food and cocktails at **The Pig and Porter**, modern street tacos at **Caucho**, or coffee and a ginormous cinnamon roll at **Brewhemia**. Downtown, **Cobble Hill** is one of the best restaurants in Iowa.

The menu changes regularly, but chef Andy Schumacher's Parisian-style gnocchi never disappoints. On the Kirkwood Community College campus, hospitality students and professional staff provide top-notch service at the 71-room **Hotel at Kirkwood Center** and restaurant. tourismcedarrapids.com



Hancher Auditorium