

WHAT TO SEE/DO ON YOUR WAY TO IOWA

Iowa isn't just a "flyover state," it's a state with rolling hills and unique places to visit. As you travel to/from Iowa City for the ABSAP Conference, here are some things that you might want to experience.

FROM THE EAST

The Quad Cities are made up of the cities of Bettendorf and Davenport in Iowa and Rock Island and Moline in Illinois. They are separated by the Mississippi River.

[John Deere Historical Site](#) in Dixon, IL and [John Deere Pavilion](#) in Moline, IL. The Pavilion is the official visitor center for John Deere and includes a wide array of equipment. The historical site includes artifacts, blacksmith demonstrations, and more.



[Figge Art Museum](#) in Davenport

[Putnam Museum and Science Center](#) in Davenport



[Antique Archeology](#) in LeClaire, Iowa (home of the American Pickers) *One hour east of Iowa City.*

[Mississippi Spoon Gallery](#) (World's largest collection of antique and souvenir spoons) in Davenport

[Iowa 80 - World's Largest Truck Stop](#) and the [Iowa 80 Trucking Museum](#), both in Walcott

[Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum](#) in West Branch

FROM THE NORTH EAST

[Galena, IL](#), a small historic town with cute shops and more. Former home of US President Ulysses S. Grant

[Dubuque](#), a Mississippi River town built on scenic bluffs.

[National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium](#) in Dubuque

[Field of Dreams Movie Site](#), Dysersville, Iowa ("Is this Heaven? No, it's Iowa.") *One hour and 30 minutes from Iowa City.*



[National Farm Toy Museum](#) in Dyersville

[Crystal Lake Cave](#) in Dubuque

[Maquoketa Caves State Park](#) in Maquoketa

[Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Walter House](#), located in Cedar Rock State Park in Quasqueton

[John Deere Tractor and Engine Museum](#) in Waterloo



FROM THE WEST

City of Des Moines:

[State Capitol Building](#)

[Iowa Cubs baseball](#)

[Pappajohn Sculpture Park](#) (artwork donated by Iowa business alum John Pappajohn). Next door to the home for Iowa programs offered in Des Moines including the Iowa MBA.

[Des Moines Art Center](#)

[Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden](#)

[Amana Colonies](#): A cluster of German restaurants and stores spread among 7 villages. *Located just 30 miles west of Iowa City.*



Clear Lake Area (west and north of Iowa City):



[The Buddy Holly Crash Site](#) (Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and “The Big Bopper” JP Richardson were all killed in a plane crash here. Referred to as “The day the music died.” 2 hours and 50 minutes north and west of Iowa City.

[The Surf Ballroom and Museum](#), where Holly and the others played their last concert (which has maintained its vintage style).

[Matchstick Marvels](#), more than 70 incredibly detailed models constructed from matchsticks. Located in Gladbrook.

[Iowa’s Largest Frying Pan](#) in Brandon



FROM THE SOUTH



[American Gothic House and Center](#) in Eldon. Pictured in the iconic Grant Wood painting. A designated photo-op area ensures that you stand in the exact spot needed to replicate the painting. Admission to the Center includes use of costumes. *1 hour and 34 minutes south and west of Iowa City.*

[Maharishi Vedic City](#) near the town of [Fairfield, Iowa](#) is home to Maharishi International University. An unlikely Transcendental Meditation haven in the American Heartland. Fairfield has a diverse population, many ethnic restaurants, and a vibrant arts scene.

[Snake Alley](#) in Burlington, is an “unbelievably crooked” brick street with 5 half-curves and 2 quarter-curves.

[Riverside, Iowa](#) is the future birthplace of Star Trek Captain James T. Kirk (future date of birth is 2028). Home of an annual TrekFest each June. *20 minutes south of Iowa City.*

[The Oetken Heritage Museum at Midwest Old Threshers](#) in Mount Pleasant. Farming history, steam engines, and old tractors on display.

[Navoo, IL](#). This small town attracts visitors because of its historic importance and religious significance to The Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-day Saints. Joseph Smith led the Latter-day Saints there to escape conflict with the state government of Missouri. Eventually Smith’s journey west continued through Iowa City (the street Mormon Trek is named for their 1,3000 mile walk to Salt Lake City).

