

Heart of Iowa

SEPTEMBER 7-13, 2026

Uncover the Hidden Gems and Stories of Iowa

Journey through the heart of Iowa, where every stop reveals a new adventure, rich history, and Midwestern charm. Begin with a warm welcome to Iowa and travel through bountiful farmland and historic landmarks. Meet fascinating local personalities and immerse yourself in the stories and traditions that make Iowa so special. From scenic riverboat rides to guided tours of quaint towns, this tour promises to capture the true spirit of Iowa!

DAY 1: WELCOME TO DES MOINES!

Arrive in Des Moines and kick off your adventure with a Welcome Dinner at our hotel where you will meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers. *D*

DAY 2: ALPACA FARM/JOHN WAYNE BIRTHPLACE

After breakfast at the hotel, we're off to Winterset, stopping to view one of the many Freedom Rocks we will see throughout this tour. Once we arrive in Winterset, get up close and personal with dozens of charming alpacas at Rusty Stars Alpaca Farm. Next, witness the rich history of the American West at the John Wayne Birthplace & Museum, exploring exhibits filled with memorabilia and artifacts that celebrate the life of the legendary actor. Enjoy lunch at a local eatery, then head to Des Moines for a fascinating tour of JJ Gaffers Glassblowing Studio. Here, you'll witness skilled artisans transform molten glass into intricate works of art. End today with a visit to Fort Dodge and marvel at the impressive Grain Mural, which pays tribute to the area's agricultural heritage. *B, L*

DAY 3: FORT MUSEUM & FRONTIER VILLAGE/RIVERBOAT RIDE/HEARTLAND MUSEUM

This morning, visit the Fort Museum & Frontier Village in Fort Dodge. After lunch, enjoy a scenic riverboat ride and lunch on the Iowa River. The day continues with a visit to the Heartland Museum in Clarion, dedicated to showcasing life in the heartland of America. End today with a delicious dinner together. *B, L, D*



DAY 4: CARTOONIST/POW MUSEUM AND NATIVITY/IOWA'S PRETTIEST FARM

Meet the impressive Dave Carpenter, a renowned cartoonist from Iowa often featured in *Our Iowa Magazine*. Learn about Dave's artistic skill set and the inspiration behind his cartoons, some of which have appeared in *Harvard Business Review*, *Reader's Digest*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. Next, we'll visit the POW Museum dedicated to preserving the history of the Prisoner of War camp that existed in Algona, Iowa from 1943-1946. After lunch, head to Little Brown Church, a historic church located in Nashua. Stop at "Iowa's Prettiest Farm" gaining the distinction from *Our Iowa Magazine* before heading to your hotel in Cedar Falls. **B, L**

DAY 5: OELWEIN AMISH COMMUNITY

Visit the Amish Community in Oelwein, with a guided tour and lunch at an Amish home. Continue exploring the community before returning to Cedar Falls. **B, L**

DAY 6: CEDAR FALLS TOUR/ICE HOUSE/SULLIVAN BROTHERS MUSEUM

Start today with a guided tour of Cedar Falls, including a Freedom Rock, Barn Quilts, and more! Visit historic sites in Cedar Falls like the Ice House Museum, built to hold 16 million pounds of ice. After lunch, we will visit The Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum, honoring the service and sacrifice of all Iowa veterans from the Civil War to present. Step into their stories through traditional exhibits, interactive activities, and an electronic Wall of Honor. **B, L**

DAY 7: NEWTON/HOME

This morning, get a behind-the-scenes look at the town of Newton. Visit Dalton's Farm Toys, home to over 2,400 farm toys! Tour the Newton Arboretum and learn about the town's historic art and architecture with a step-on guide. Then, say goodbye to your fellow travelers before heading home with cherished memories of Iowa. **B** 🌍



Reminisce on Iowa's deep agricultural roots at the Fort Dodge Grain Mural

TOUR DETAILS

7 Days • 13 Meals

Sep 7-13, 2026

Price Per Person:

Double: \$2,199; Single: \$2,699

Pre/Post Hotel: \$159/night

Depart/Return:

Des Moines, IA

HIGHLIGHTS

- Meet and interact with friendly Alpacas
- Enjoy a boat ride on the Iowa River
- Meet renowned cartoonist Dave Carpenter
- Visit "Iowa's Prettiest Farm"

INCLUSIONS

- Free airport shuttle or hotel parking
- Welcome Dinner and meals as indicated (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- Fees and tips for included attractions and meals
- Luggage handling at most hotels
- 24-hour emergency call service
- Free bottled water on coach

ACCOMMODATIONS

Night 1: Holiday Inn, Des Moines

Night 2: Holiday Inn Express, Fort Dodge

Night 3: GrandStay Hotel, Algona

Nights 4-5: Hampton Inn & Suites, Cedar Falls

Night 6: Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Marshalltown

