



# Lincoln Highway

## HERITAGE BYWAY

Group Travel Itinerary



Spanning the State of Iowa

Explore stunning natural areas, visit picturesque communities, attend a variety of cultural events, and enjoy many breweries, distilleries and wineries





photo by: Mike Kelly



## Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway Travel Itinerary

Established in 1913, the Lincoln Highway transformed automobile travel in America and the lives of Iowans as it became the first improved transcontinental road. The route starts in Times Square in New York and ends in San Francisco, California. In Iowa, the route travels from the Mississippi River to the Missouri River. Today the thoroughfare obviously continues to play a major role in the lives of Iowans, as nearly two-thirds of Iowa residents live in the counties along the Lincoln Highway.

Sit back and enjoy a travel experience that can change from very urban to very rural in a matter of minutes. A drive along the Lincoln Highway will take you back in time, yet offer modern day amenities.

### Unique Adventures

The development of river towns relied heavily on river industry. Explore the **Sawmill Museum** to discover when Clinton was the epicenter of the bustling businesses of lografts, sawmills and railroads.

Lions in Iowa? It happened! **Brucemore Mansion** in Cedar Rapids has plenty of colorful stories from the three Cedar Rapids families that called it home. Enjoy the many opportunities for concerts, theater, programs and tours of the incredible house and grounds.

This stop is a lovingly preserved iconic Lincoln Highway legacy. The **Preston's Station Historic District** in Belle Plaine is anchored by the Standard Oil station built in 1912, one year before the Lincoln Highway was dedicated.

Looking for a Lincoln Highway photo op? Head into Tama to visit the **Lincoln Highway Bridge**. In 1915, as an act of gratitude for the Lincoln Highway route running through their town, residents of Tama built a concrete slab bridge with the words Lincoln Highway cut out of the guard rails. Although Lincoln Highway was rerouted out of town only 11 years later, the bridge remains an active and cultural piece of transportation infrastructure.

The railroad was the first mode of transportation to traverse the State of Iowa and was developed along the easiest traversing route. For that reason, the Lincoln Highway was built in the same corridor. The railroad still runs along much of the Lincoln Highway. Try the **Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad** dinner train for an unforgettable experience as you cross the 156' tall Bass Point Creek High Bridge over the Des Moines River!

**RVP~1875** is the world's leading historical furniture shop and museum. Robby Pederson is a master craftsman who continues to practice the art of handmade furniture production in the century old Milligan Lumber Grain and Coal building in Jefferson, Iowa.

Need to stretch? Try goat and sheep yoga! **Doe's & Diva's Dairy**, in Honey Creek touts the health benefits of their yoga classes held in a natural setting right along with their farm animals. Try some of their delicious farmstead sheep and goat milk products.

Also located in Honey Creek is the ultimate adventure spot, **Mount Crescent Ski Area**. Depending on the time of your visit, try a summer night trail run, family mud run, spooky forest trail run, skiing, snowboarding and the longest/fastest/highest ziplines in all of Iowa and Nebraska.

**Historic Squirrel Jail**. A squirrel jail? Actually, a person jail. These prisons were dubbed "squirrel cage" jails because of their revolving cell design. Tour the only three-story revolving jail in the world in Council Bluffs, one of only 18 ever made.

### Scenic Spots

Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway has stunning views across the entire route. The Byway's most eastern point in Iowa is marked by the elegant **Gateway Bridge over the Mississippi River** connecting Fulton, Illinois to Clinton, Iowa.

**Eagle Point Park** dates back to the late 1800s and was sold by one of the area's first settlers. Visit this park to see the "Serpentine Road", 1930s WPA structures - the stone tower, Limestone Footbridge, the Lodge and miles of trails. The park overlooks the Mississippi River.

Continuing on the Lincoln Highway past the bluffs of the Mississippi River Corridor offers wide expanses of the Iowa River bottom area and marshes. Soak in this landscape when traveling **from Belle Plaine to Chelsea, Tama and on to Meskwaki Settlement**. Watch for wildlife on the south side of the Settlement as the area has remained undisturbed from agriculture.

Incredible vistas await you from the **Kate Shelley Bridge** near Boone. Built at the turn of the century, the Bridge is 2,685 feet in length and 185 feet high overlooking the Des Moines River Valley. Catch a seat on the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad for the best view and learn about the heroine for whom the bridge was lovingly nicknamed.

On a clear day you can see 5-6 counties from the 120 ft high observation deck of the **Mahanay Bell Tower in Jefferson**. Time your trip right and you'll be serenaded by the newly added 47-bell carillon.

The **Loess Hills** on Iowa's Western border at the end of Iowa's portion of the Lincoln Highway National Scenic Byway in Harrison County are part of an incredible land formation. They were created by deposits of very fine, windblown soil, also known as loess, at the end of the last ice age. The ridges of the Loess Hills are scenic locations unclipped by most any spot in the state and are lush with colorful native plants.

## Points of Discovery

The **Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge** is located in four states along the Mississippi River. The Refuge, which was designated in 1924, was created for fish, wildlife and migratory birds. It is considered a Globally Important Birding Area and the movement of migratory birds through the Mississippi River Corridor is incredible. Stop at the Refuge to learn more about the wide variety of wildlife that calls the Mississippi home throughout the year. The **DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge** in Missouri Valley on the Western Side of the state offers a similar wildlife immersion experience.

Within the Lincoln Highway Corridor is a gem of a museum. A Smithsonian Affiliate, the **National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library** in Cedar Rapids is a celebration of freedom, community and identity. Cedar Rapids' connection to this immigrant population dates back to the late 1800s. At that time, a large group of Czech and Slovak immigrants moved to the area when news of a successful meat packing plant ensured employment for those looking to come to America. Today, Czech Village is one of the trendiest areas of Cedar Rapids.

Years in the making, the **Lions Club Tree Park**, east of Grand Junction is a fascinating art installation that is an ode to Iowa's growth and settlement. Sculptures at the site, that some say are reminiscent of Stonehenge, represent Iowa statistics like population, miles of road and number of registered cars. A thought provoking site for all - Iowa native or not!

Iowa history is intricately linked to the famous explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, who paved the way for the settlement of Iowa. At the base of the Loess Hills is the **Harrison County Historical Village & Welcome Center**, Missouri Valley. This museum is a tribute to the stalwart people who first came to the area. The Village consists of five buildings and dozens of interesting collections.

The **Union Pacific Railroad Museum** in Council Bluffs is one part of a collection of "railroad attractions" in downtown Council Bluffs. Enjoy the Historic General Dodge House, the RailsWest Museum, Golden Spike Monument and the Durham Museum for a well-rounded railway history lesson.

## Local Flavors

There are many "classic dining" options as you travel across the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway. Try these restaurants that have served countless hungry byway travelers and are still in operation today.

The **Youngville Café** in rural Benton County is one of the original rural filling stations and cafes created in response to the designation of the Lincoln Highway and remains along its original route. Joe Young built the station and cafe for his daughter. The restored Skelly Filling Station serves lunch on Tuesdays. \*Open seasonally.

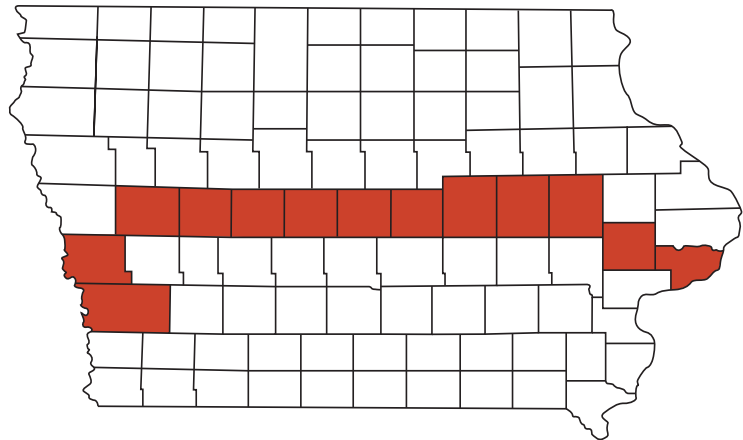
**Niland's Cafe**, in Colo at the intersection of the Jefferson Highway and Lincoln Highway, is one of the top 5 places in the nation for Lincoln Highway travelers to stop. This cafe was a stop for Jefferson Lines and Greyhound.

For a taste of Iowa, grill your own Iowa-raised steak at **Rube's Steakhouse** in Montour, or try **Taylor's Maid-Rite** in Marshalltown. The Maid-Rite sandwich was invented in Iowa in 1927. The Marshalltown franchise was purchased in 1928 and operates out of an authentic 1950s cafe-style building.

Iowa also boasts many great breweries. Try these along your route: **Lion Bridge Brewing, Iowa Brewing Company, Clock House Brewing, Torrent Brewing, Alluvial, Boone Valley Brewing, Carroll Brewing, Templeton Distillery**

## Lodging Locales

**AmericInn (DeWitt)**  
**Double Tree by Hilton, Tru by Hilton (Cedar Rapids)**  
**Holiday Inn Express, Hampton, Baymont, Comfort Inn (Marshalltown)**  
**Hilton Garden Inn (Ames)**  
**Wild Rose Casino & Resort (Jefferson)**  
**Carrollton Inn (Carroll)**  
**Boulders (Denison)**  
**Harrah's (Council Bluffs)**



*For More  
Group Tour Options*

**Contact**

Prairie Rivers of Iowa  
 3116 South Duff Ave., Suite 201  
 Ames, IA 50010  
 Phone: 515-232-0048  
 Website: [www.prrcd.org](http://www.prrcd.org)