

LOCAL TRAVEL

History Lives Here

Step into Iowa's past at these historic homes.



◀ Eldon

AMERICAN GOTHIC HOUSE

In 1930, artist Grant Wood used the home as the backdrop for his *American Gothic*. The visitor center has information on Wood and the many parodies his painting inspired. Bonus: Clothes and props are on hand for re-creating the scene in a photo. americangothichouse.net

Council Bluffs ▶

GENERAL DODGE HOUSE

This three-story mansion was built in 1869 by Grenville M. Dodge, a Civil War hero, U.S. Congressman and chief engineer for the Union Pacific part of the transcontinental railroad. His stately home overlooks the Missouri River valley. dodgehouse.org



◀ Burr Oak

LAURA INGALLS WILDER HOME

Nine-year-old Laura and her family lived here in 1876 while her father helped manage the Masters Hotel. It's the only home where Laura lived as a child that's still in its original location. Stop for a tour when it opens for the season on May 1. lauraingallswilder.us



Lewis ▶

HITCHCOCK HOUSE

This sandstone home is part of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Built in 1856, it served as a waystation for slaves fleeing bondage and is one of the few Underground Railroad stops still standing in Iowa. Opening for the season on May 1. hitchcockhouse.org



Fast and Furious

Iowa's many car-racing venues rev into action this spring—and the fun really adds up.

186.809

Miles per hour reached by Helio Castroneves during qualifying at **Iowa Speedway** in 2014, setting a world record for short-track racing.



1/2 MILE

Length of the dirt oval at **Knoxville Raceway**.

4.5

Average number of G-forces experienced by IndyCar drivers in the turns at **Iowa Speedway** (astronauts typically experience a maximum of three Gs at launch).

\$900,000

Prize money to be given out at the **Knoxville Nationals**, Aug. 8-11.



The first year auto races were held at **Hawkeye Downs** in Cedar Rapids.

5,000

Visitors expected at the 2018 World Nationals for IMCA Modifieds (an open-wheel car), March 22-24 at the **Marshalltown Speedway**.



150

Trophies on display at the **National Sprint Car Hall of Fame and Museum** in Knoxville, with another 400 in storage.



HOW YOUR GARDEN GROWS

Usher in spring at **Reiman Gardens'** new Hillside Water-wise Garden. Opened last year in Ames, this high-tech patch showcases the beautiful possibilities of drought-resistant gardening. Wander the 10-foot-wide path of terraced stone to these stroll-worthy plots:

- The **Rain Garden** is filled with plants that can absorb the abundant rainfall from spring storms, yet still thrive in summer drought.
- The **Dutch Wave Garden** features both native and non-native plants, with varieties that give maximum ornamental impact in both their flowers and foliage. It's named after a style of naturalistic gardening pioneered in the Netherlands.

- In the **High Plains Garden**, you can find plants native to the Colorado area, where they thrive despite extreme winds, altitude and temperatures.

reimangardens.com





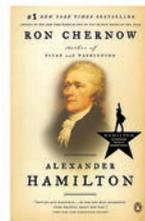
Hamilton comes to Iowa this summer.

HELLO, HAMILTON!

The Broadway smash comes to the Des Moines Civic Center June 27-July 15. Tickets went fast; whether you snagged one or not, here are three ways to catch *Hamilton* fever.



Download *Hamilton: The Official App* on your phone. It's chock full of news about the production, video clips and merchandise. (After seeing the show, you're really going to want a hat emblazoned with "A. Burr.")



Brush up on Revolutionary War history. Lin-Manuel Miranda was inspired to create the show after reading Ron Chernow's *Alexander Hamilton*—about an immigrant from the West Indies who became the nation's first treasury secretary.



Listen to the soundtrack. Almost all of *Hamilton's* dialogue is set to music (a fast-paced blend of rap, hip-hop, jazz, blues, R&B and Broadway), and it can be hard to understand all the words on the first hearing.

➔ Visit DMPA.org or hamiltonbroadway.com.

Get Up and Go!

Ways to enjoy Iowa this season.



Learn Chinese cooking at Des Moines' Culinary Loft.

3 OF THE BEST

COOKING LESSONS

CHINESE The "Dim Sum and Then Some" class at the Des Moines Social Club's **Culinary Loft** focuses on this Chinese treat, traditionally served in teahouses on weekend mornings. desmoinessocialclub.org

THAI At the **Kirkwood Culinary Kitchen** at NewBo City Market in Cedar Rapids, learn how to make Thai street food. kirkwood.edu/newbo

ITALIAN Alessandra, owner of **Cooking with Alessandra** in Des Moines, can instruct you in the fine art of making homemade pasta, including fettuccine, gnocchi, lasagna and more. cookingwithalessandra.com

MADE IN IOWA

Amana Clocks

These handcrafted timepieces reflect the traditions of what began as a communal religious society in 18th-century Germany. Today, they're still made by hand from butter-smooth woods, using many techniques of the craftsmen who first settled here in the Iowa River valley in 1855. They're so beautiful, you may not even mind setting them ahead when Daylight Saving Time begins on March 11. amanashops.com

DON'T MISS

Pella's **Tulip Time**, **May 3-5**, features hundreds of thousands of blooms amid the town's Dutch-style architecture. Don't miss the Pella Historical Museum's paintings by Maria Scholte, wife of Pella founder Hendrik Pieter Scholte. pellahistorical.org



ON STAGE

The Kite Runner, the acclaimed novel by Khaled Hosseini, comes to life as a one-man play, **April 27** at Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center in Cedar Falls. gbpac.com

ESSENTIAL EXHIBIT

At the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum in West Branch, **"Tallgrass to Knee High: A Century of Iowa Farming," April 14-Oct. 28**, traces agriculture in the state from 1910. hoover.archives.gov

