

Grant Wood

SCENIC BYWAY

Group Travel Itinerary



Jones and Jackson Counties in Northeast Iowa
Take in the striking landscape, inspiring art, and local wineries





GWSB

Group Travel Itinerary

It's not hard to see why this area, stretching 80 miles from Stone City to the Mississippi River, was so inspiring to its namesake, artist Grant Wood. Like his paintings, the countryside is a striking patchwork of farmland and limestone bluffs connecting three rivers, the Wapsipinicon, Maquoketa, and Mississippi. Although the Byway's identity is closely linked to art, you will also enjoy a 19th-century prison museum, stunning scenic views and mysterious caves, and local wineries and breweries. Come for the inspiring landscape and discover all that the Grant Wood Scenic Byway has to offer.

Unique Adventures

Known as "Big Annie" to those inside and "The White Palace of the West" to those outside, the **Anamosa State Penitentiary** has become a cultural icon, famous for notorious inmates and its role in movies such as "Penitentiary." Built from 1875 to 1899, the fortress-like design is popular for its Gothic revival architecture. The maximum-security prison is still in use today and offers tours of the Penitentiary Museum that will help visitors understand life in the prison.

Found in rural Maquoketa the **Codfish Hollow Barnstormers** features live performances hosting some of the nation's most prolific artists. The barn sits on a gravel road between rolling hills, towering trees and gorgeous eastern Iowa fields. Some would say it's in the middle of nowhere; others could argue it's the center of everywhere.

Scenic Spots

Bellevue State Park offers stunning views overlooking Bellevue's historic buildings and boats and barges traversing the Lock and Dam on the Mississippi River. Birdwatchers can catch glimpses of bald eagles, hawks, falcons, and migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds. Three miles of hiking trails offer opportunities to explore a butterfly garden, primitive lime kiln, and Pulpit Rock.

With more caves than any state park, **Maquoketa Caves State Park** is one of Iowa's most unique outdoor attractions. Enormous bluffs tower throughout the park, and a six-mile trail system winds

through geologic formations and forests brimming with natural beauty. As one of the state's earliest state parks, Maquoketa Caves has been a popular destination for picnickers and hikers since the 1860s. Grab your hiking shoes and a flashlight before traveling to Maquoketa Caves, because this state park is nothing short of adventure.

Points of Discovery

Byway travelers can explore and learn about natural resources at their leisure while visiting the **Hurstville Interpretive Center** in Jackson County. Interior and exterior interpretive materials provide information behind the region's natural and historic resources through live animals, scale models, displays, and exhibits. One of the most popular attractions is a live bee hive with a 360-degree viewing opportunity. Travelers can enjoy the beauty of prairie and wetland ecosystems on the walking trails, spy a pair of nesting trumpeter swans, or seek and find reptiles, colorful wildflowers, and a world of insects first hand.

Home of over 400 motorcycles, the **National Motorcycle Museum** near Anamosa has accumulated a collection of bikes from around the world dating back 100 years. Along with bikes, the facility contains a variety of memorabilia such as parts and advertisements. The museum even has Evel Knievel's "Captain America" chopper Harley from the movie Easy Rider! Not just for bikers!

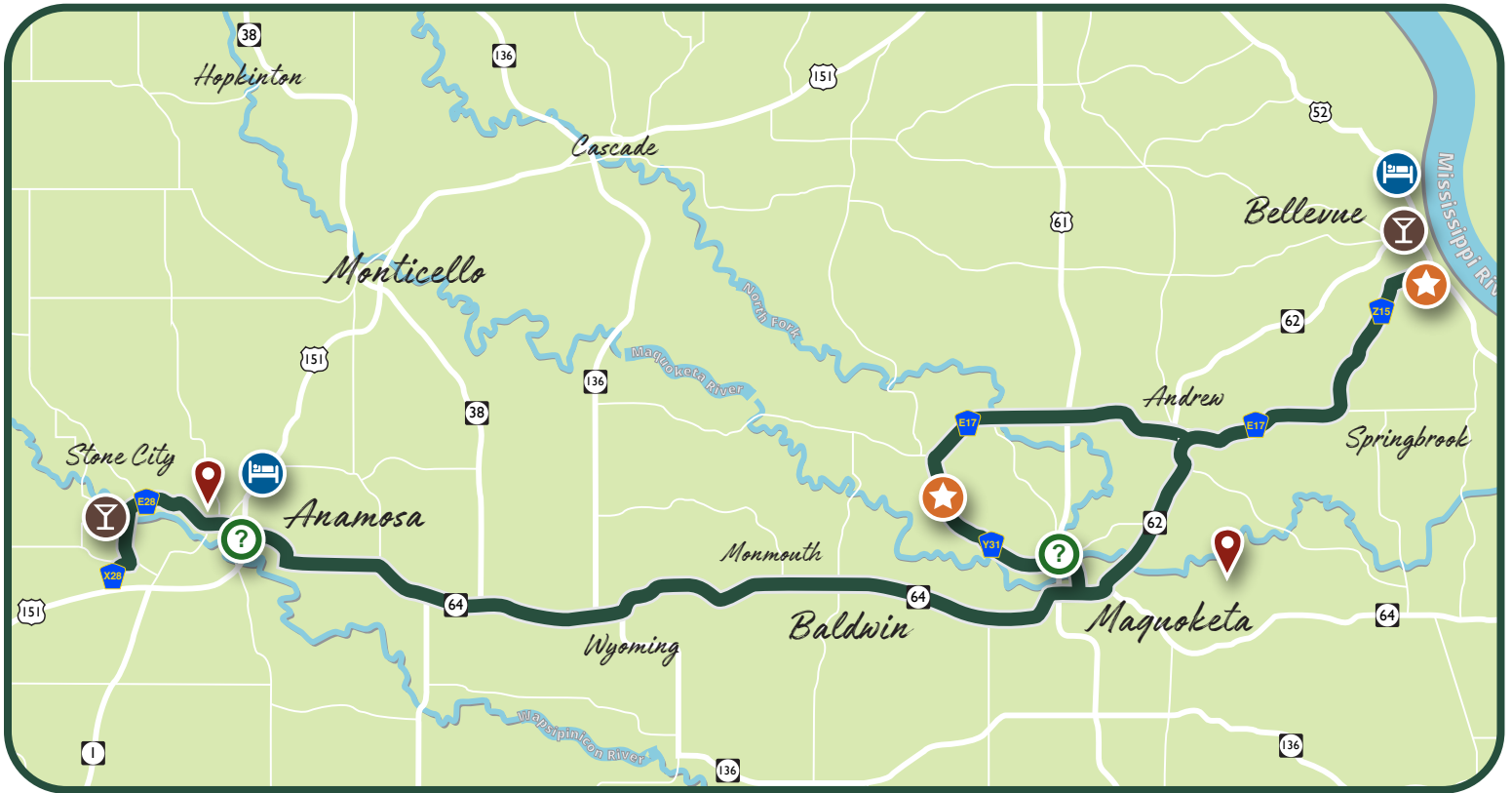
Local Flavors

Along the banks of the Wapsipinicon River the **Stone City General Store Pub** is a historic eatery built in 1897. This celebrated establishment is immortalized in the artist Grant Wood's painting titled "Stone City, Iowa." The Pub has a large outdoor deck overlooking the river, which makes it the perfect place to host a unique group meal.

Home to award winning cuisine and internationally acclaimed musicians, **Flatted Fifth Blues + BBQ** in Bellevue, is a destination for all foodies. Located in a historic 175-year-old grist mill on the banks of the mighty Mississippi River, stop in to experience a unique place where the jazz and southern food of bourbon street meet the blues and BBQ of Beale Street.

Lodging Locales

Americhn Lodge & Suites (Anamosa)
Off Shore Resort Inn & Suites (Bellevue)



For More Group Tour Options

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