

Glacial Trail

SCENIC BYWAY

Group Travel Itinerary



O'Brien, Clay, Buena Vista and Cherokee Counties in Northwest Iowa
Discover Iowa's agricultural roots, Native American history, and the glacier-carved landscape





GTSB

Group Travel Itinerary

The Glacial Trail Scenic Byway provides a compelling experience where nature, scenery, archaeology and history intersect. This 36-mile corridor encompasses a landscape like no other in the region. The Glacial Trail Scenic Byway will immerse you in the prairie landscape of the Little Sioux River Valley, which harbors native Iowa grasslands second only in land area to those in the Loess Hills to the west. Remnant prairies and oak savannas dot the bluffs above the river. Native flora and fauna abound in more than a dozen public parks and preserves along the byway. You'll appreciate the Glacial Trail Scenic Byway, a place that still has a little touch of "wildness".

Unique Adventures

The Glacial Trail Scenic Byway has a rich cultural heritage with tangible evidence of early settlement history and the prehistory of the region. Historic **Peterson, Iowa** provides an in-depth look at the settlement of Iowa and the United States. Walk through the **Kirchner Farm Machinery Museum, Fort Peterson Blockhouse,** and more. View Iowan history at its core including antique farm equipment, western memorabilia, Native American artifacts, wildlife displays, and military items ranging from the 1700s to WWII.

At **Bogenrief Studios**, staff excel at the antiquated craft of stained glass restoration and creation. This studio has become world-famous for their skill in cut and blown glass. You'll be amazed by their projects and the process to create these amazingly intricate works of art.

Scenic Spots

A trail meanders through the diverse and rare ecosystem at **Waterman Prairie**. In addition to spectacular vistas of the Little Sioux River Valley and the breathtaking prairie in full bloom, be sure to look at the Hanging Valley. This geological wonder was created when a glacial melt water surge changed the course of the Little Sioux River about 12,000 years ago. Hike to the bluff-top grave of 'Dutch Fred' on the very homestead he established in 1868. The **Linn Grove Dam Area** provides outdoor recreation including

watersports, camping opportunities and more. Learn more about the history of the area from informative interpretive panels located on-site and don't forget your fishing gear. The 12-acre park is a chance for anglers to catch their next trophy on the Little Sioux River.

Points of Discovery

Enjoy the displays, visit the bison, hike the trails, savor the beauty of the wildflowers, and engage in bird and wildlife watching. Check out all of the events and activities at **Prairie Heritage Center** west of Peterson that celebrate Iowa's natural wonders. Learn about the unique prairie environment as well as preserving and protecting prairie heritage in O'Brien County.

Archaeology, art, astronomy, geology, natural history, or paleontology up your alley? The **Sanford Museum & Planetarium** in Cherokee, established in 1951, was created for historical, cultural, and educational purposes. It has welcomed over one million visitors! The museum is an amazing natural science adventure and offers wonderful programming that will take you to the moon, the stars, and the neighboring planets.

Local Flavors

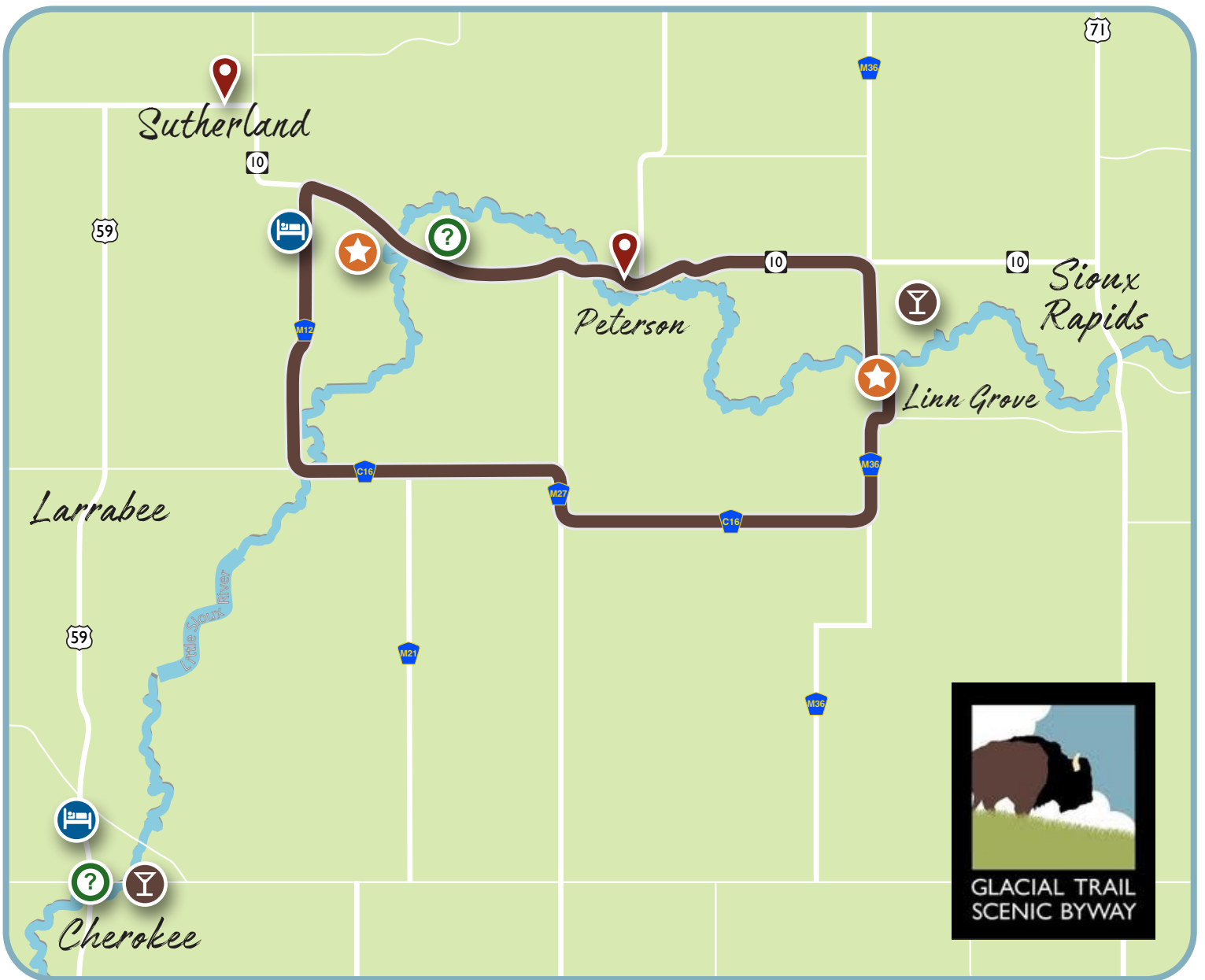
Established in 1984, **The Gasthaus Bar & Grille** in Cherokee features a wide array of burgers, sandwiches, dinner entrees and appetizers. With a fully stocked bar and rotating tap beers, this local favorite is sure to please everyone!

Stroll through picturesque vineyards, taste amazing wines made from local grapes and enjoy the calming views overlooking the pond and orchard at **Innspiration Vines & Wines**. Started as a bed and breakfast, this family-owned seasonal location has grown into a full vacation destination. It's a great place to unwind on the Glacial Trail Scenic Byway.

Lodging Locales

Best Western La Grande Hacienda (Cherokee)

For the more adventuresome travelers, **Dog Creek Park** offers a unique lodging opportunity. Grain bins have been converted into cabins that sleep 12, with heat and A/C, walk-in showers, and kitchens. Located two miles from Sutherland alongside the lake, the park and campground, there are many outdoor activities to choose from including hiking, swimming, and fishing.



For More Group Tour Options

Contact

Byway Coordinator: Rebecca Castle
 Golden Hills RC&D
 712 US-6
 Oakland, IA 51560
 Phone: 712-482-3029
 Website: www.goldenhillsrcd.org
 Email: info@goldenhillsrcd.org

