



Western Skies

SCENIC BYWAY

Group Travel Itinerary



Guthrie, Audubon, Shelby, and Harrison Counties in Southwest Iowa
Journey off the beaten path to discover Danish heritage, majestic windmills,
working farmsteads and tranquil small town living





WSSB

Group Travel Itinerary

Western Skies was one of the first scenic byways dedicated in the state. The 142-mile route weaves through four rural counties in Southwestern Iowa and offers unexpected opportunities for cultural, historical and outdoor immersion. Set aside time for the glorious sunsets and sunrises which this byway is best known for.

Unique Adventures

Formed 10 years ago to manage one of the largest land gifts in the history of Iowa, **Whiterock Conservancy** stewards 5,500 acres along the scenic Middle Raccoon Valley near Coon Rapids. The gorgeous landscape attracts visitors from all over the state, region, and nation. The countryside is a mix of savannas, rolling pastures, native and restored prairies, wetlands, riverside bluffs, fishing ponds, crop ground and unique historic, geologic and archaeological sites.

Visit the building once voted the Most Beautiful Church in Iowa. The Catholic church in Stuart fell victim to a hate crime in 1995 by an arsonist. The city and the Project Restore Foundation didn't give up hope and successfully rallied for its restoration. The old church was successfully transformed into a community cultural center. The **Saints Center for Culture & the Arts** now serves as host to concerts, school events, weddings, family gatherings and more.

Scenic Spots

Harrison County Historical Village is just north of Missouri Valley. The Historical Village Center features an original log cabin, a general store, and a school. Climb or drive to the lookout point at the upper parking area with a one-of-a-kind Lincoln Highway guardrail. The Village is also an Iowa Welcome Center and has a wonderful gift shop with sweet Iowa keepsakes.

Enjoy the **Ridgetop View on Highway 44 between Hamlin & Kimballton**. This stretch of road offers breathtaking views of the rolling countryside. Contact Audubon County while passing through for other tourism opportunities.

Points of Discovery

History buff? You'll enjoy this stop. Located on a beautiful four-acre complex on the southwest side of Panora, the **Guthrie County Historical Village** is just a few blocks away from the scenic Middle Raccoon River, historic Lenon Mill Park, and the Raccoon River Valley Trail. The Village was a community labor of love that blossomed from the acquisition of the first building, The Panora Depot, in 1968. Since then, the Village and the historic collections, which feature numerous exhibits and thousands of artifacts from 1850 to the early 20th Century, have been donated by community members anxious to share their part of Guthrie County history. Today, this Historical Village is a vibrant remnant of days gone by.

Find a taste of international flair in Elk Horn, which has one of the largest concentrations of Danish immigrant descendents in the United States. It is home to the **Museum of Danish America** and the only authentic, working, **Danish Windmill** in America. The mill, built in Denmark in 1848, was purchased by the community of Elk Horn in 1976. It was carefully deconstructed, shipped to America, and rebuilt here based on a 1/10 scale model made by the carpenter who dismantled it in Denmark. The Windmill has become one of the most popular and successful tourist attractions in Iowa.

Local Flavors

Home of the original "Best Tenderloin in Iowa", **Darrell's Place** in Hamlin has plenty of delicious food and drink options, and is located right on the T-Bone Recreation Trail.

Great options from homestyle comfort food to unique artisan specials, await you at **Good Fellows** in Woodbine. You'll find a classy but casual atmosphere in this historic Odd Fellows building, plus craft beer and cocktail options at the full bar..

Lodging Locales

Settle Inn & Suites (Harlan)
The Port at Lake Panorama (Panora)



For More Group Tour Options

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