

PlanIt IOWA!

What's **New,**
Unusual &
Just Plain **Different**

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IOWA
life | changing™

Iowa Department of
Economic Development
200 East Grand
Des Moines, IA 50309

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Cinematic Cowboy Centennial

This year marks the centennial of John Wayne's birth (May 26, 1907). This momentous occasion is a good reason to visit Winterset, location of the "Duke's" birthplace home. The modest four-room house is restored to reflect its appearance a century ago and is chock-full of Wayne memorabilia. **Contact:** Chris Nolte, Madison County Chamber, chamber@madisoncounty.com; www.johnwaynebirthplace.org; 515.462.1185; 800.298.6119.



www.traveliowa.com

Savor some Flavor



Near Woodward, a cluster of on-the-farm businesses offers literally “a taste of Iowa.” Hometown Kitchen Classics, Northern Prairie Chevre, Picket Fence Creamery, and Prairieland Herbs. Hometown Kitchen Classics prepares pies and cakes with farm-fresh eggs, hand-picked fruit and other ingredients right from the garden. Northern Prairie Chevre demonstrates old-fashioned cheese-making with the help of a small herd of goats led by two Nubian bobbies named Mik and Maude. Picket Fence Creamery is the only farm in Iowa still raising dairy cattle, bottling the milk and selling it – all on the farm! Last, but not least, Prairieland Herbs features natural products made in small batches from herb gardens planted right outside the door to their shop. The four are packaged under the theme “The Grace of Place” and can be woven into your next central Iowa itinerary. **Contact:** Sharon Dixon, Inbound Iowa, sharon@inboundiowa.com; 515.278.4950; 800.990.6679.

Iowa: Uncorked



Park Farm Winery,
Bankston - Iowa’s licensed wineries soared from 11 to 56 between 2000 and 2007. Park Farm is a prime example of this phenomenon. The French chateau-style winery overlooks a wooded valley, creating a vista more European than Midwestern. Inside its elegant tasting room, visitors sample the product of its five acres of French and American hybrid grapes. Many Iowa wineries offer special tours and private tasting events. **Contact:** info@parkfarmwinery.com; www.parkfarmwinery.com; www.iowawineandbeer.com; 563.557.3727.

It’s Nifty to be Fifty



Okoboji Summer Theatre - The big 5-0 never looked so good as it does on the venerable Okoboji Summer Theatre. In addition to the 50th anniversary, 2007 celebrates the completion of a major renovation of the theater’s interior including the replacement of its seating. All that said, the summer theater’s mainstay is its nine-show run (June-August) featuring Broadway hits, thought-provoking dramas, entertaining musicals and lively comedies. Find out the 2007 shows and dates through the Okoboji Tourism Office. **Contact:** Abbey Larson, abbey@vacationokoboji.com; 712.332.2209; 800.270.2574.

June 2007 ~ Top 100 Month



The American Bus Association (ABA) named the following Iowa festivals to its 2007 Top 100 Events in North America:

Sturgis Falls Celebration - June 22-24 Cedar Falls hosts the annual Sturgis Falls Celebration with its variety of free musical entertainment including jazz, blues, rock ‘n’ roll, and country. **Contact:** Kim Burger, Cedar Falls CVB, kim@cedarfallstourism.org; www.sturgisfalls.org; 319.268.4266; 800.845.1955.

Des Moines Arts Festival - June 29-July 1 This three-day event draws 230,000 visitors to downtown Des Moines to see its decorated streets, 150 juried artists, and live entertainment. All of which made it the nation’s third-best fine arts festival. Admission is free. **Contact:** Stephen King, sking@downtowneventsgroup.org; www.desmoinesartsfestival.org; 515.286.4927.

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NEWSLETTER

A resource for group tour planners.

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