

Insider tips for fall fun ...



We asked the experts to share their suggestions with you!

Where are some top spots to enjoy fall foliage?

“Driving on tree-lined highways along the river is a great way to see the million of different fall colors in Mother Nature's palette. Iowa's [Great River Road](#) parallels the Mississippi River from Minnesota to Louisiana. Green and white pilot wheel highway markers show you the way along the Great River Road National Scenic Byway that showcases the dramatic landscape of the Mississippi River.”

“A great fall foliage trip that's a little different is through the [Loess Hills](#), which begin in western Plymouth County and go along Iowa's western border.”

“I would suggest [Hitchcock Nature Center](#) in Honey Creek.”

“The fall foliage in [Clayton County](#) is breathtaking ... rolling hills with vibrant colors along Highway 13 to Strawberry Point, and then along the [scenic byway](#) to the Great River Road along the Mississippi River. Absolutely gorgeous in the fall.”

“A great fall foliage spot for Sioux City would be [Stone State Park](#), right off the Loess Hills Scenic Byway. The Park features an overlook of the entire tri-state area - Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota - that's stunning in the fall.”

“The [Cordova Tower](#) is the best place to view the colors of the Des Moines River Valley. The tower is just over 120 feet tall and located on the north shore of Lake Red Rock in Cordova Park.”

Are there special events to celebrate fall?

“The [Scenic Drive Festival](#) October 10-11 allows visitors to take in the beautiful fall scenery of Van Buren County while visiting each of our 12 historic villages for special events and activities scheduled for that weekend.”

“Harvest Fest in [Atlantic](#) will be held October 10th at the Rock Island Depot. This free family event features crafters, a variety of vendors, fall produce, tractor rides, kettle corn, live music, a quilt show, kiddie train rides, and free pumpkin decorating.”

“The October 4 [Farm Crawl Event](#) [south central Iowa] includes several farms that are open for one day and provide all types of special foods and experiences.”

“[Dan-D Farms](#) near Knoxville has a Harvest Moon Festival October 10 with pumpkins, corn maze, giant slide, hay rides, bonfires, pig races, and more.”



Autumn means apples and pumpkins to me.

Where can I find them?

“An apple a day keeps the doctor away! Get your apples at the 21st annual Apple Festival at the [Mississippi Valley Welcome Center](#) in Le Claire. The free festival is on Sunday, October 11. Samples of fresh apples and cider to tempt your taste buds, as well as a variety of apples, desserts and more. There are activities for kids from hayrack rides to a petting zoo. Visitors can also enjoy brats, hot dogs, chili, and baked potatoes. There is also a display of antique cars and black smith demonstrations. The view from the river bluff is beautiful!”

“Fourth Annual Pumpkins and Ponies event at SpringVale Farm, 2603 Lone Tree Road, Humboldt, October 10. Hayrides to pumpkin patch, other harvest fare and farmers market, baked goods and homemade jams.”

Isn't there a well-known art show in October?

“If you want to mix arts and fall colors, the [Red Rock Arts Alliance](#) has their Third Annual Autumn Studio Tour October 10-11. Visit more than 20 studios in Pella, Knoxville and Lake Red Rock area.”

“The [Northeast Iowa Artists' Studio Tour](#) features 45 artists at 35 locations, October 9-11. Many of Northeast Iowa's best-known artisans will open their studios for the 12th annual scenic, drive-yourself studio tour! Nestled among the wooded hills and winding rivers, award-winning fine artists, many who exhibit in national caliber art fairs through-out the United States, will open their work-spaces for a behind-the-scenes view into how their work is created, some exclusively for this event.”

“Explore Northwest Iowa art on the [Artisan's Road Trip](#) (A.R.T). Professional artists will welcome guests into their studios to discover and purchase quality original works during the fifth annual Artisans Road Trip (A.R.T.) October 2-4. The free tour will include 30 northwest Iowa artists in seven counties.”

How can I get back to nature this fall?

“The [Iowa Arboretum](#) in October glows with the fall colors of maples, ashes, and oaks. We have 40 acres of trees on managed grounds with strolling paths and outdoor shelters, and 300 acres of forest with managed trails and trail maps. Also in October the Arboretum hosts a scarecrow contest. Some are living, some are funny. In 2008, the crowd included a bride and groom in formal wear. Who knows what 2009 will bring?”

“The fall colors are great on [Seven Oaks Recreation](#)'s full-service canoe and kayak trips. The Des Moines River valley is awesome for fall colors sightseeing.”