

White Pole Road

SCENIC BYWAY

Group Travel Itinerary



Saints Center for Culture and the Arts

Dallas, Adair and Guthrie Counties in Southwest Iowa

Steeped in historic adventure, visit Iowa's heartland on one of the first East-West routes across the State





WPRSB

Group Travel Itinerary

Take a historic route! The **White Pole Road** has an extensive history dating back to the early 1900s. At a time where the popularity of automobiles was exploding, Iowa had earned a reputation for having an extremely poor transportation system. In fact, the poor roads not only deterred tourists, but prevented many farmers from traveling to railroads and towns for weeks at a time when the roads were impassable. State and community leaders took the matter seriously and hosted a convention in 1912. This precipitated a race across the state to develop the best East-West route from border to border. Even then, community leaders connected the roadways to economic development and knew the more traffic through their towns the more business they would have. Community leaders in this area of Southwest Iowa chose to denote their road, "The Great White Way" with white painted poles and the route was marketed as the "straighter, leveler, and shorter" way across the state. As time passed, the popular route merged with other roads, experienced several name changes, and was the impetus for the development of Interstate 80 in the same corridor. Today, 26 miles of the original route regained the name of "White Pole Road" and is noted by the famous white poles.

Unique Adventures

The history of the White Pole Road also includes the rampage of the infamous **Bonnie and Clyde**. Stop near Dexter to see where the Barrow Gang was recovering from a previous shootout when they were ambushed by a local posse. The location is marked by an interpretive granite marker. Bonnie and Clyde were both wounded in the shootout but managed to escape on foot. Nine months later, the ruthless couple returned to the area and robbed a bank in Stuart. The bank building is still standing in downtown Stuart and is a great spot for a photo op!

Bonnie and Clyde weren't the only gangsters with an Iowa Connection. Visit Adair to see the **Jesse James Historical Marker** where he pulled off the world's first moving train robbery. Contact Adair County tourism for more information.

Scenic Spots

Iowa was a major thoroughfare for pioneers crossing to the Western part of the United States. Imagine their plight at the **Wagon Trail Ruts near Casey, Iowa**. Take McPherson Street north of town to the T intersection to see the abandoned track that led to the county seat of Guthrie Center.

Admire the beauty of the **Adair Viaduct**, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and marking the Western entrance of the White Pole Road Scenic Byway. This railroad overpass is an interesting example of artistic state-commissioned infrastructure.

Points of Discovery

Historic adventure in this area wasn't just for gangsters. Famous adventurer/author Jack Kerouac made the **Former Rock Island Railroad Depot** in Stuart, Iowa famous when he wrote about how he and his friend were stranded there in his best-selling novel, "On the Road."

For an amazing example of brilliant architecture in small town Iowa, book a tour at the **Saints Center for Culture & the Arts**. Once voted the Most Beautiful Church in Iowa, the Catholic church in Stuart fell victim to an arsonist hate crime in 1995. Today it has been transformed into a breathtaking community cultural center.

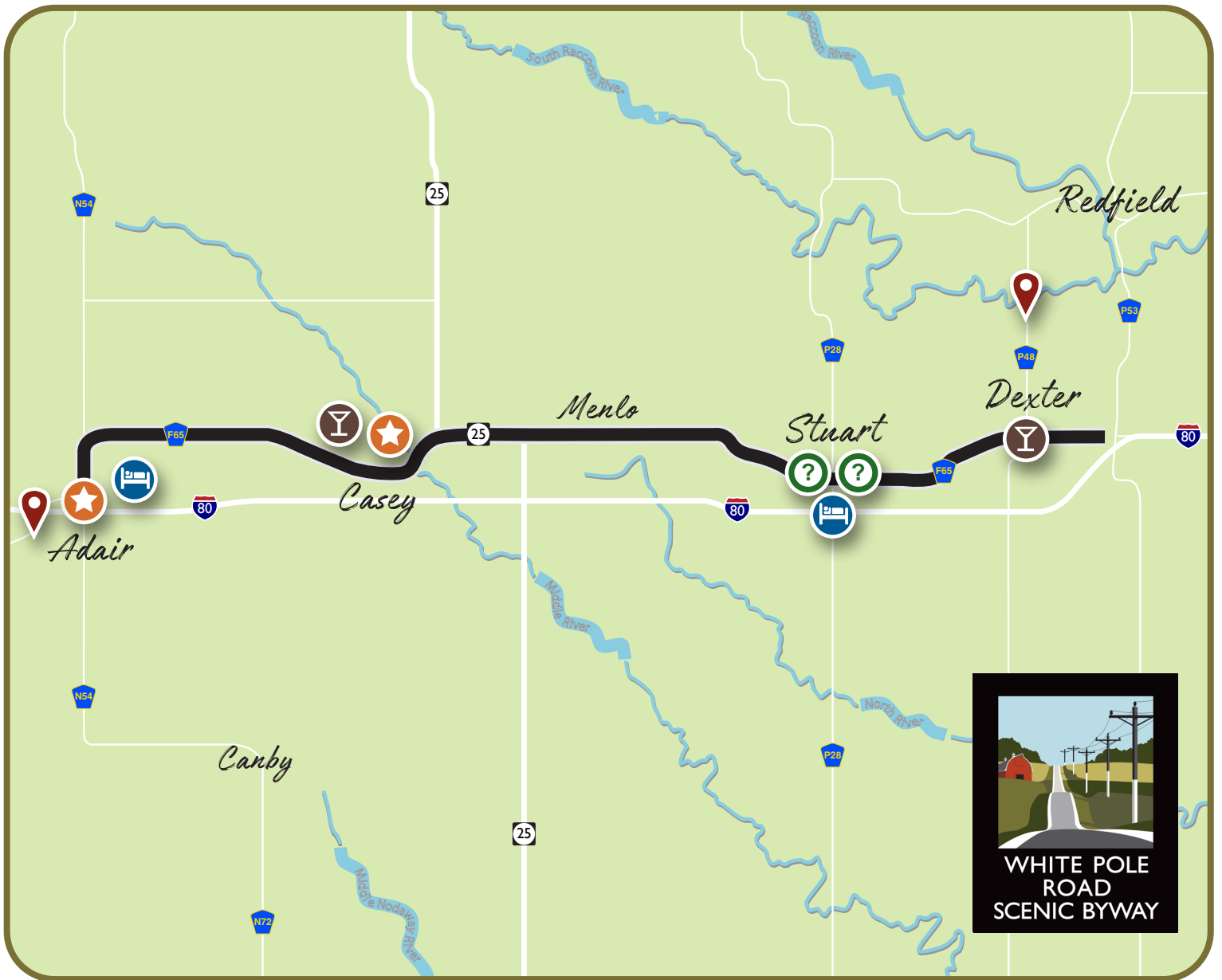
Local Flavors

For a taste of heirloom chocolate recipes, stop at **Drew's Chocolates**. In 1927, Helen Drew started a chocolate shop in Dexter and her original recipe is still in use today. The candies are fork-dipped in chocolate by hand and made fresh daily!

White Pole Road has two great steak places. Located along the rustic brick streets of Casey, **Pioneer Pub and Grub** boasts a full bar and serves lunch and dinner, offering an array of tasty sandwiches and delectable meals. Winner of the 2011 Best Burger contest, Dexter's **Rusty Duck Bar and Grille** is locally owned and features 14 oz burgers, Steak DeBurgo, a fully stocked bar, and homemade salad dressings.

Lodging Locales

Americinn by Wyndham (Stuart)
Stuart Motor Lodge
Relax Inn & Suites (Adair)



For More Group Tour Options

Contact

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