

CATCH DES MOINES



CATCH THE QUILTING FEVER

Whether your group is coming in for the [American Quilter's Society QuiltWeek](#) in the fall, the new [Quilts of Valor](#) in May, or just a fun outing, this quilting tour will have you "stitchin and patchin" all year long!

Day 1

[Historic Valley Junction](#)—Catch quilting shops galore! During the American Quilter's Society Quilt Show and Expo, participate in a Quilt Walk, featuring open houses, exhibitions, gallery openings with artists and much more. During any time of year, have the Historic Valley Junction staff welcome you with a step-on guide as well as set up a *free* behind the scenes, hands on experience with the store owners! Past activities have included a fashion show, wine and chocolate tastings or antique appraisal classes. Contact (515) 274-8407 for more information.

[State Historical Museum of Iowa](#)—Catch Iowa's past through its people, its issues and events. The museum's Mary Barton Quilt Collection is on display in conjunction with the American Quilter's Society Quilt Show & Expo. Barton, a native of Iowa, became one of the world's foremost experts on quilts, patterns and other issues that impacted women in the 19th and 20th centuries. The museum has more than 1,500 of her items. (515) 281-5111.

[John & Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park](#)—Catch 28 sculptures on 4.4 acres in the heart of Downtown Des Moines. Recognized in New York Times. Guided tours available. (515) 271-0344.

[Iowa Arboretum](#)—Next, travel 30 minutes to the small town of Madrid —home to the Iowa [Arboretum](#). Catch a love for the outdoors. Visit the 378 acres of trees and woodland trails. See beautiful flowers and outdoor shrubbery stretched over the plains. (515) 795-3216.

Day 2

[Perry Chamber of Commerce](#)—Catch a personal tour of this unique and quaint downtown by contacting (515) 465-4601. Formerly a major railroad junction, Perry is also home to the historic [Hotel Pattee](#), with themed rooms including many related to the railroad.

Carnegie Library Museum—While in Perry, catch a museum on the National Register of Historic Places. Tour the basement that served as the city’s courtroom in the 1900s. (515) 465-7713.

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden— Recently renovated and added on, catch all of the new blooming flowers, exotic plants and more in the center’s tropical dome. Have a master gardener talk with your group or give a demonstration. (515) 323-6290. While there, dine at **Trellis Café** where they use fresh, local ingredients to sew together the perfect meal! (515) 323-6290.

Des Moines Art Center—While back in Des Moines, catch an artistic tour of their nationally-known gallery. (515) 271-0328.

Historic Jordan House—A stately Victorian home of Italianate Gothic design. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Member of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program. Catch one of the oldest structures in Polk County. (515) 225-1286.

Doherty’s Flowers—Catch a special event for your group for both women and men. Create a flower or holiday arrangements. Learn what seasonal plants to put in your garden. Take a wine or beer class. Have dinner catered in. Contact Robyn Sloan at (515) 288-6557.

Day 3

Birthplace of John Wayne—Catch where it all began for the legendary actor. Visit his home in Winterset, Iowa. Embark on a “History with a Roof Tour” where you will see covered bridges and take a Barn Quilt tour, thanks to the **Madison County Chamber of Commerce**. Contact (515) 462-1185 to set up a city tour.

While in Winterset, visit the new, **The Iowa Quilt Museum** (opening its doors in May of 2016). Located on the town’s historic square, this museum will change exhibits three to four times a year and display both vintage and new American quilts. Contact info@iowaquiltmuseum.org for more information.

Chocolaterie Stam—Catch a tasty one-hour gelato experience. Savor flavors like pistachio, salted caramel, crème brûlée and more. Learn the history of the establishment and the owners who brought their delicious chocolate recipe over from Europe. (515) 282-9575.

Heritage Carousel—Catch a whimsical ride this turn-of-the-century replica wooden carousel. Accommodates up to 35 riders. It will bring out the kid in everyone! (515) 323-8200.

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For more information, contact:
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