

CATCH THE EASE OF THE CITY



Des Moines is easy. Accessible. Connected. Catch a flight to the Des Moines International Airport. Commute around downtown using the free trolley. Four miles of downtown skywalks. 25 minutes from east to west or north to south. Des Moines is a big city. A big city that doesn't act too big.

TRANSPORTATION

DRIVING- At the intersection of the first and third most traveled interstates in the United States: I-80 (coast-to-coast) and I-35 (border-to-border).

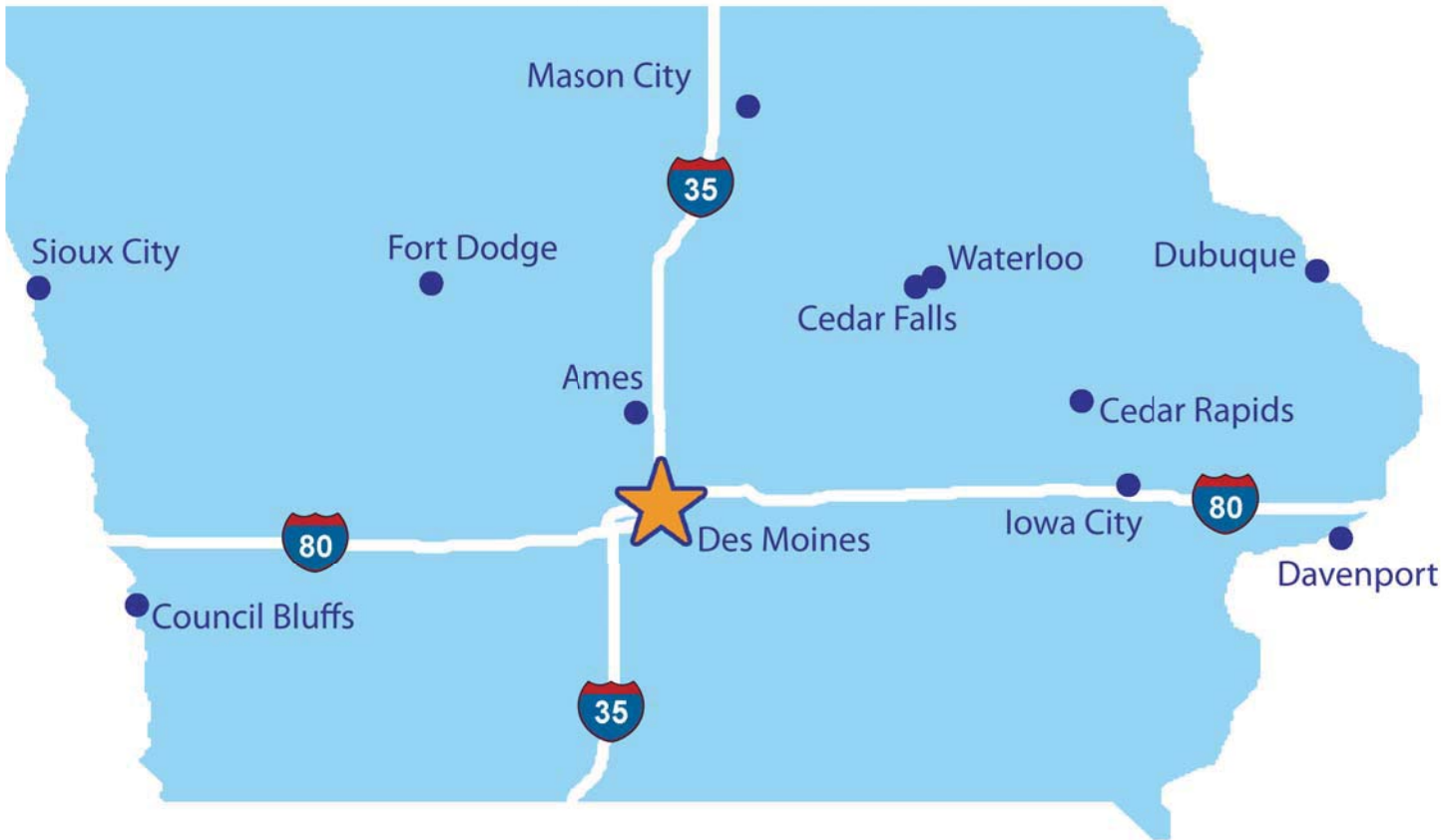
SKYWALK- Walk indoors to downtown venues 24/7. Downtown is connected by over 4 miles of climate controlled skywalks.

D-LINE TROLLEY

Catch a free ride! The nostalgic downtown trolley. Ride past downtown attractions including the \$40 million John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park. The Iowa State Capitol. East Village shops. And Western Gateway restaurants. Catch a ride every 10 minutes.

catchdesmoines.com

DRIVING MILEAGE - IOWA



Ames – 37 miles

Cedar Rapids – 130 miles

Cedar Falls – 125 miles

Council Bluffs – 128 miles

Davenport – 170 miles

Dubuque – 200 miles

Iowa City – 114 miles

Mason City – 121 miles

Sioux City – 199 miles

Waterloo – 131 miles

CATCH THE VIBE



Des Moines is everything you want to find in a city. It is a Friday night at a Broadway musical. A Saturday morning at the Farmers' Market. And the juiciest burger you've ever devoured. Des Moines is a city that makes it easy to catch more.

EXPLORE. LAUGH. SAVOR.

Great attractions – from the Science Center, Zoo and Living History Farms for families to the Art Center, Civic Center and Sculpture Park for the art buffs

Shop the day away at Jordan Creek Town Center. The Historic East Village. Valley West Mall. Boutiques and shops. Vintage clothing. Local cupcakeries. Fro-yo shops.

More than 1,060 restaurants – unique culinary options, locally-owned gems and private dining options galore.

World-famous annual events – Principal Charity Classic, Des Moines Arts Festival, World Food Festival, the Iowa State Fair – the list goes on and on.

YUMMY ACCOLADES

James Beard Foundation
2015 Best Chef semi-finalist:
Sean Wilson - *Proof*

James Beard Foundation
2015 Rising Star of the Year:
Nic Gonwa - *Eatery A*

The Crab Rangoon Pizza at
Fong's Pizza is the must-try
pie in Iowa by *Food Network Magazine*.

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MUST EXPERIENCE - Spring/Summer

John & Mary Pappajohn Sculpture

Park: One of the Metro's art attractions, the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park kicks off the list of things to do in Greater Des Moines, and for good reason!



Breakfast burritos at the **Downtown Farmers' Market:** These burritos are freshly made on site by Farm Boys and are a favorite among market patrons. So prepare to wait in line for this tasty treat.

Adventureland Park and Adventure Bay: In addition to the more than 100 rides, shows and attractions, the Altoona amusement park is unveiling an expanded water park with water slides, the longest lazy river in the state and plenty more fun in the sun.

Friday night fireworks at the **Iowa Cubs:** What better way to end the workweek than with a relaxing night at Principal Park, followed by a spectacular fireworks display lighting up the night sky?

West Glen Town Center nightlife: Arguably the new downtown of West Des Moines, West Glen is home to bars both fun and classy. Try the Fish Bowl drink at Blue Moon Dueling Piano Bar and Restaurant.

Gong Fu Tea: The owners travel throughout the world to hand-select the loose leaf teas found in this one-of-a-kind, Asian-inspired teahouse that features selections such as Silver Needle tea from China's Fujian province.

Horseback riding at Jester Park:

Take a one-hour guided trail ride past Saylorville Lake and through the peaceful, secluded woods of Jester Park.



Sleepy Hollow Sports Park: Enjoy year-round outdoor fun and recreation at this 60-acre park with bumper boats, miniature golf, a 30-foot climbing wall, go-karts and batting cages, as well as the annual Renaissance Faire in September.

Boot of beer at **Hessen Haus:** Head to an authentic German bier hall with some friends and order a boot of beer to pass around the table, but be sure you know the rules or you'll be buying the next one.

Seven Oaks Recreation: Grab a cooler and hit the waters of the Des Moines River for a relaxing 8-mile tube ride that takes you through the scenic river valley.

Blank Park Zoo: Arrange for a behind-the-scenes tour in the months of November through March to learn about various species of animals from the zookeepers, and get up close for feedings and training sessions.

Meredith Corp. Test Gardens: Tour the beautifully designed gardens where the publishing giant evaluates plants and gardening techniques for its flagship publication, Better Homes and Gardens.

Living History Farms: Learn all about Iowa's agricultural history through the many historical interpreters who dress and play the part of pioneer farmers, craftsmen and other individuals in this outdoor living museum.

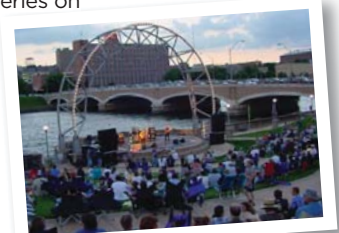
Iowa Hall of Pride: Check out the exhibit on 2008 Olympic gold medalist Shawn Johnson, a West Des Moines native who shot to fame as a member of the U.S. Olympic gymnastics team.

Science Center of Iowa Blank IMAX Dome Theater and A-ha! Gift

Shop: This state-of-the-art science center is complemented by the six-story Blank IMAX Dome Theater that makes films come to life, and the A-ha! Store that is filled with merchandise that makes science fun.

Boating at Saylorville Lake: Rent a pontoon boat from the Saylorville Lake Marina and spend a long summer day soaking up the sun and exploring the 26,000-acre lake.

Music at **Simon Estes Riverfront Amphitheater:** Nitefall on the River, the long-running summer concert series on the east bank of the Des Moines River downtown, plays to all ages as they relax on lawn chairs and blankets, and enjoy the backdrop of the city skyline and twinkling stars.



Tour the **Salisbury House and Gardens:** This 42-room English Tudor-style mansion, built in the 1920s, holds a collection of 10,000 pieces of art and antiques.

Horse racing at **Prairie Meadows:** Grab a front-row seat for all the action of life horse racing at Prairie Meadows from April through October. Then relax at the swanky Prairie Meadows Hotel.

Locally brewed beers: Visit Raccoon River Brewing Company or Court Avenue Restaurant and Brewing Company, both located downtown, to sample some of the various handcrafted beers produced by brewmasters on site.

Raygun: This apparel shop in Des Moines' Historic East Village carries its own line of edgy T-shirt designs featuring slogans such as "Des Moines: French for 'The Moines'" and "Iowans: The Few, The Proud, The Extremely Attractive."

Terrace Hill tours: Plan a visit to this ornate Victorian mansion that is home to Iowa's governor and his family.

Apple Store, Sephora, Coach and Pottery Barn at **Jordan Creek Town Center:** No need to head to Chicago or New York. West Des Moines' Jordan Creek Town Center brings the big names to Iowa.

Take a hot air balloon ride at the **National Balloon Classic:** Soar over the skies of Central Iowa during this world-class ballooning event in Indianola.



Rock climbing at **Climb Iowa:** Families, groups and individuals of all skill levels can engage their inner adventurer at one of the Midwest's largest indoor climbing facilities.

Take a riverboat ride on the **Jon Anderson White Riverboat:** The authentic sternwheel paddlewheeler has been refurbished and is available for private charters.

Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad: Travel north to Boone for a scenic ride through the Des Moines River valley on one of the railroad's excursion trains.

MUST EXPERIENCE - Fall/Winter

Ice skating at **Brenton Skating Plaza**: A must during the winter, this big-city outdoor skate rink sits on the river with a view of the skyline. Drop in for affordable lessons, or to watch a friendly league game between broomball teams most Sundays.



Jolly Holiday Lights at Des Moines Water Works Park: This is a can't-miss experience. See 3.5 miles of displays each night starting in late November through January 1.

Annual **Night Eyes at Blank Park Zoo**: This merry, not scary, event transforms the zoo into a world of storybook characters for costume-clad kids.

Pumpkin patches, corn mazes and apple orchards throughout Greater Des Moines: Fall is a colorful, tasteful time in Iowa, and the season's farmers' markets and annual locations won't disappoint.

Festival of Trees & Lights: An annual favorite fundraiser held at The Plex downtown benefits Blank Children's Hospital.

Drake Basketball games: "Get your blue on" and cheer the Bulldogs of Drake University in the Knapp Center.

Check out the **downtown nightlife** at Court District bars and clubs: If you're looking for an easy street to visit for a good time, this historic district of bars and restaurants offers great variety and tons of energy.

Botanical Blues at the **Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden**: See spectacular seasonal displays of plants and flowers while listening to great music.



Snow-shoeing or cross country skiing on the 100 miles of recreational trails: Connected and quiet, Central Iowa's trails are more extensive than ever, and used year-round. Polk County Conservation is a good place to start for details.

Go for a walk at **Iowa Arboretum**: Billing itself as a "Library of Living Plants," you'll stroll through hundreds of species of trees, shrubs and flowers in a tranquil 40-acre scenic fall setting.

Lace up your bowling shoes for a round at **Bass Pro Shop's bowling alley**: A first for Bass Pro Shops, the Altoona store features a 12-lane nautical-themed bowling alley.

Movies and popcorn at one of the area movie theaters: Indie flick or big-screen blockbuster? Glass of wine at Fleur Cinema or a giant soda? Settle in for an affordable movie in one of the metro's 10+ cinemas.

Check out the new, colorful sculpture at the **John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park**: Any season is the perfect season to explore the sculpture park, and the playful dancing figures by world-class artist Keith Haring will lift your spirits.

Civic Center of Greater Des Moines: Broadway comes to town...get your tickets for the Willis Broadway Series.

Horse-drawn sleigh rides at Jester Park: When the snow is flying, you can be riding in style, with 45-minute horse-drawn sleigh rides for groups at \$10 per person with a \$50 minimum fee per reservation.

Skiing, snowboarding and tubing at Seven Oaks Recreation: Get totally tubular with the new snowboard options at this winter sports facility.

Pumpkin Express and Santa Express on the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad: Catch the fall foliage on a train trip to the Pumpkin Patch or to the North Pole on the Santa Express.

Grape stomping at local wineries: You heard it through the grapevine...most of Iowa's 50+ wineries feature a Grape Stomp through the fall.

Tour the **State Capitol**: It's absolutely free to see the gorgeous gold dome from the inside of our cool Capitol, built between 1871-1886.

Des Moines Playhouse: High-energy local talent brings high quality shows.



Make your own smores with **Beaverdale Confections**: 11 - count them - 11 flavors of fluffy gourmet marshmallows to work with. Oh, yes, and 45 varieties of candies.

Des Moines Art Center: A world-class collection of 19th and 20th century artists, contemporary art, sculptures, five-star restaurant and more housed in architecturally-renowned structures. And it's free.

IMAX movies at **Science Center of Iowa and Blank IMAX Dome Theater**: Get swept away with a nature film or a feature film shown in IMAX.

State Historical Museum of Iowa: Located at the foot of our capitol, is home to many permanent exhibits chronicling Iowa history.

Indoor golfing inside the 40,000 square foot dome of **Longview Golf Centre**: Clubs are available, lessons are taught by PGA and LPGA professionals, and, or a fun family activity during the cold winter months, check out Longview's new 18-hole indoor miniature golf course.

Try your luck at **Prairie Meadows**: Loose slots, table games and a smoke-free poker room make this a favorite place to play.

Bike through the colors of the fall on over 100 miles of trails: Iowans like to bike, thus the large network of wonderful trails throughout Central Iowa.

Historic group dinners at **Living History Farms**: Go back in time with a hearty group dinner by lantern-light and play parlor games in the 1875 Tangen House or the 1900 Farm House.



Take a ride down the slides at the indoor water park at **Ramada Tropics Resort and Conference Center**: Enjoy a reprieve from the winter chill with a day spent poolside at this indoor tropical retreat.