



GREAT RIVER ROAD
NATIONAL
SCENIC BYWAY

GREAT RIVER ROAD

endless possibilities

UNWIND IN RIVERFRONT PARKS, HISTORIC DOWNTOWNS, AND AT SCENIC RIVER OVERLOOKS.

Follow the Mississippi River between Iowa's southern and northern borders on the Iowa portion of the Great River Road National Scenic Byway. You will find world-class vistas, charming river towns, magnificent limestone bluffs, and so much more. Part of a 3,000-milelong network of federal, state, and county roads, the Great River Road stretches the length of the Mississippi River from Lake Itasca in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. The views of the river are ever changing along the 328-mile route in Iowa. You may be looking down from the bluff at a panoramic scene or be right on the riverfront where you can dip your toes in the water. One constant as you travel this world-renowned route, is the stories you'll hear of the Mighty Mississippi and the nation it helped build.



RECREATION

- 1 Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, Iowa/Minnesota border to Clinton/Scott County border
- 2 Yellow River State Forest, Harpers Ferry
- 3 Pikes Peak State Park, McGregor
- 4 Dubuque Heritage Trail, Bellevue
- 5 Hurstville Interpretive Center, Maquoketa
- 6 Green Island Wildlife Management Area, Sabula
- 7 Felix Adler Children's Discovery Center, Clinton
- 8 Eagle Point Park, Clinton
- 9 Mississippi River Ecotourism Center, Rock Creek Park, Camanche
- 10 Mississippi Riverfront Trail, Davenport and Bettendorf
- 11 Environmental Learning Center, Muscatine
- 12 Odessa Water Trail, Wapello
- 13 Flint River Trail, Burlington
- 14 Heron Bend Conservation Area, Montrose



HISTORY

- 15 Effigy Mounds National Monument, Harpers Ferry
- 16 Guttenberg Fish Hatchery and Aquarium, Guttenberg
- 17 National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium; National Rivers Hall of Fame, Dubuque
- 18 E.B. Lyons Interpretive Center, Dubuque
- 19 George M. Curtis Mansion, Clinton
- 20 Sawmill Museum, Clinton
- 21 Buffalo Bill Museum, Le Claire
- 22 Putnam Museum and Science Center, Davenport
- 23 Nahant Marsh Education Center, Davenport
- 24 Pine Creek Grist Mill, Muscatine
- 25 Muscatine History and Industry Center; Pearl Button Museum, Muscatine
- 26 Toolesboro Indian Mounds and Museum, Wapello
- 27 Old Fort Madison, Fort Madison
- 28 George M. Verity Riverboat Museum, Keokuk

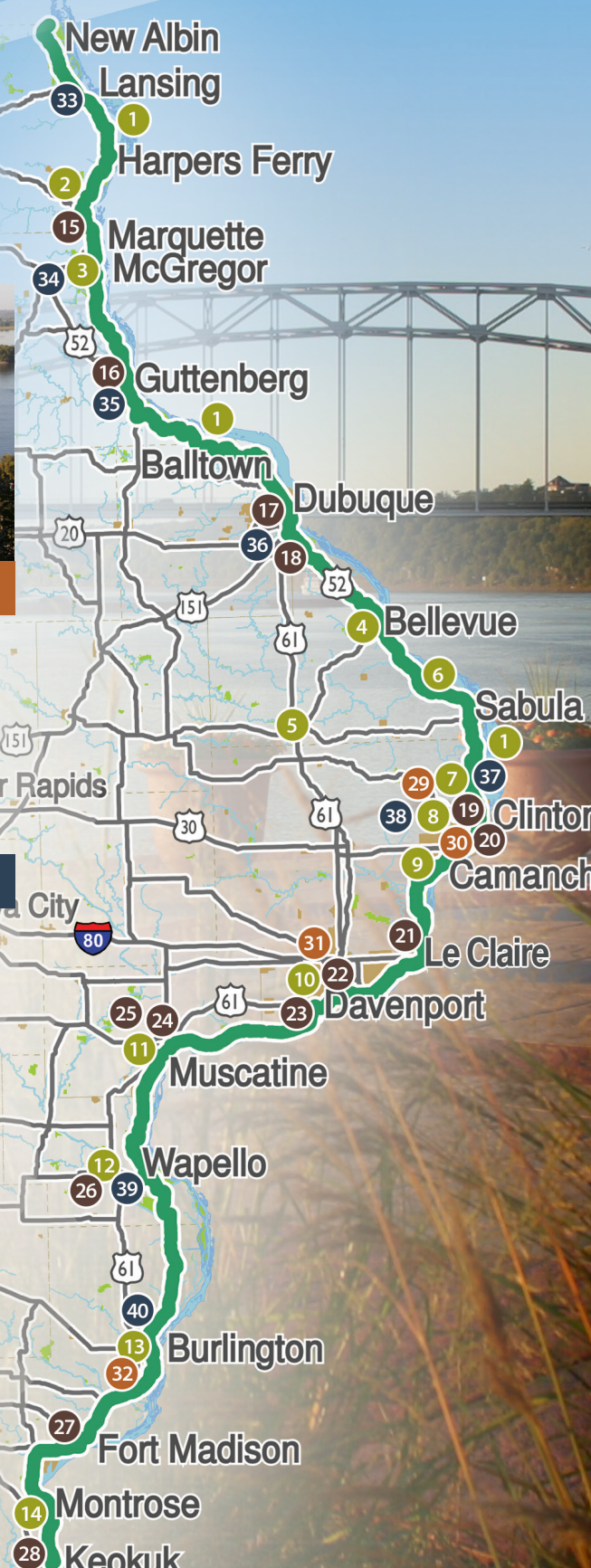


CULTURE

- 29 River Arts Center, Clinton
- 30 Clinton Area Showboat Theatre, Clinton
- 31 Figge Art Museum, Davenport
- 32 Art Center of Burlington, Burlington

SCENIC VIEWS

- 33 Mount Hosmer City Park, Lansing
- 34 Pikes Peak State Park, McGregor
- 35 Guttenberg Roadside Overlook, Guttenberg
- 36 Mines of Spain State Recreation Area, Dubuque
- 37 North Overlook, Eagle Point Park, Clinton
- 38 Clinton Marina and riverfront, Clinton
- 39 Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge Overlook, Wapello
- 40 Crapo Park, Burlington



www.iowagreatriverroad.com

www.iowabyways.org

● Iowa Great River Road interpretive centers



**GREAT RIVER ROAD
NATIONAL
SCENIC BYWAY**

GREAT RIVER ROAD

Romantic riverfronts



NATURAL BEAUTY

The Mississippi River, which defines this byway, is the ribbon of life for people, plants, and animals that call the river home. As you travel the Great River Road you are also following the Mississippi Flyway, a major corridor for migratory birds. Two national wildlife refuges on the Mississippi River in Iowa offer safe resting and feeding habitat to ducks, geese, and other birds making their way to Canada, Mexico, and beyond. The refuges and other public lands offer wildlife viewing, as well as opportunities to hunt, fish, paddle, and more. If you like your outdoor adventures a little less on the wild side, many towns have transformed their riverfronts into parks with extensive bicycling and walking trails.

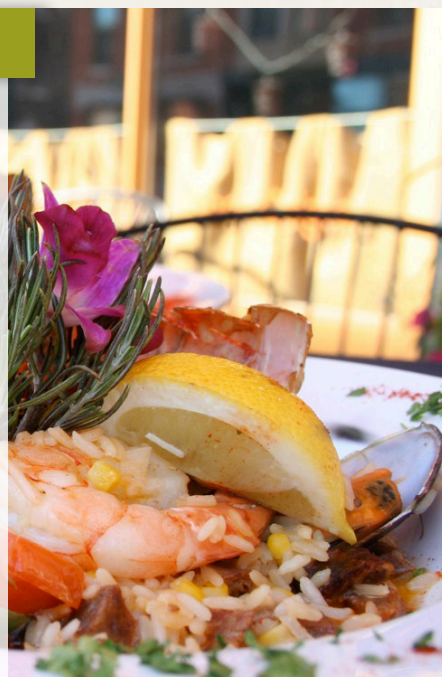


MOVING ON THE RIVER

The river has also changed over the years as people have tried to tame it, mainly for transportation. A stop at one of the 11 lock and dam systems is worth your time. Some offer tours and at others you may happen to see barges carrying their loads of corn or coal. Learn more about transportation at one of the riverboat museums in Dubuque and Keokuk. Today, you are as likely to see recreational boats as working vessels. You may spot canoes, kayaks, sailboats, fishing boats, and jet skis on the water. If you've got a hankering to take a ride yourself, you'll find a variety of options up and down the river, ranging from pontoon ecotours to a dinner cruise on a replica steamship.

CHARMING RIVER TOWNS

The tug of the river also affects businesses you'll find along the byway. Bed and breakfasts, hotels, and guest cabins are often situated with a view of the water. Restaurants feature catfish and offer outdoor decks for warm weather dining. Local artists are inspired by the natural beauty. You can visit galleries and studios along the way to purchase works from watercolors and photographs to pottery and jewelry. Whether it's history, recreation, scenery, art, or even shopping; the river takes center stage on your journey along the Great River Road National Scenic Byway.



FOLLOWING HISTORY

It's hard to escape history on the Great River Road because people have inhabited the Mississippi River valley for thousands of years. You'll find evidence of prehistoric Native Americans at Effigy Mounds National Monument in northeast Iowa and Toolesboro Indian Mounds about 7 miles east of Wapello. You'll also be following in the footsteps of the first Europeans to visit Iowa, French explorers Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet. Later, immigrants from Germany, Ireland, France, and Scandinavia settled into the beautiful spaces along the byway. Sixteen national interpretive centers and countless museums along the byway retell the histories of the people who have lived here.



? WELCOME CENTERS

Davenport Union Station
102 S. Harrison St.
Davenport
563-322-3911 ext. 834

**Mississippi River
Visitors Center**
Arsenal Island
Davenport
309-794-5338


**Guttenberg Development
and Tourism Welcome Center**
323 S. River Park Drive
Guttenberg
563-252-2323

**Osborne Nature Center, Iowa
Welcome Center**
Hwy 13
Five miles south of Elkader
563-245-1516

Iowa Welcome Center
280 Main St.
Dubuque
800-798-8844

**Port of Burlington
Welcome Center**
400 Front St.
Burlington
319-752-8731

**Jackson County
Welcome Center**
60488 Highway 64
Sabula
563-687-2237

 **Need more maps?**
Visit an Iowa Great River Road welcome center.

🏠 CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAUS

Burlington
River Park Place,
610 N. Fourth St.
319-752-6365

Muscatine
215 Sycamore st.
563-272-2534

Clinton Area
721 S. Second St.
Clinton
563-242-5702

Keokuk Area
429 Main St.
Keokuk
319-524-5599

Dubuque
300 Main St.
800-798-8844

Quad Cities
1601 River Drive, Suite 110
309-736-6833

Fort Madison
614 Ninth St.
319-372-5471

IOWA MISSISSIPPI RIVER PARKWAY COMMISSION

www.iowadot/iowasbyways/mississippi_river.htm

THE GREAT RIVER ROAD BEYOND IOWA

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