

TRAVEL THE LOCAL ROADS

TO FIND THE LITTLE HIDDEN GEMS

Centerville — America's Hometown is the largest city in Appanoose County, and the county seat. Appanoose is a Sac Indian name meaning "Chief When A Child."

The city is located only seven miles south of Rathbun Lake and twelve miles north of Missouri on the historic Mormon Trail. Set in the midst of generally rolling topography, it is surrounded by rivers, creeks and water-sheds.

A mixture of crop and woodlands produces a natural habitat that all may enjoy in every season.

The stately, historic county courthouse rises from the center of the world's largest square in the heart of a thriving business district. Unique family owned shops make recreational shopping a delight.

From Free Pancakes to Santa Claus

Festivals express the spirit of small Iowa towns, and Centerville is no exception. From Croatian Fest to Pancake Day to Christmas in Centerville, the variety of festivals make an interesting backdrop for friends and neighbors to visit and mingle. The memories linger long after the lights have been turned out, the band goes home, and the streets are swept.

Centerville began its annual Pancake Day festival in 1949, and now hosts some 25,000 visitors each year to this fun filled day of free pancakes and entertainment. Held on the last Saturday in September, this day is filled with food, fun, craft shows and professional stage shows.

Family Activities

Visit Sharon Bluffs State Park where 3.5 miles of meandering trails can be found or Lelah Bradley Park and Reserve where fish, turkey and deer abound. Picnic shelters and playgrounds are available for family gatherings or canoe on the Chariton River and enjoy its serenity and beauty. Launch below Rathbun Dam and float the river to Sharon Bluffs State

Park.

On the corner of Highway 2 and Main Street is the former U.S. Post Office building which now houses the Historical Society Museum. This building is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In this museum is a replica of an underground coal mine along with other exhibits comprising furnishings and clothing circa the middle 1800's.

For more information on the Centerville area or to receive a visitor's guide, call 641-437-4102 or write: Tourism Information, Chamber of Commerce, 128 N. 12th St., Centerville, IA 52544. Visit us on the web at www.centervilleia.com.

ALBIA & MONROE COUNTY

Albia and Monroe County (formerly known as Princeton and Kishkekosh County) have a unique history of coal mining days, restored Victorian buildings, and eloquent antiques. But that's not all to see and do in our charming southern Iowa area.

Early in this century, Albia was a thriving metropolis of industry, trade and culture during the boom years in the coalfields. Remnants of this era gone by can be witnessed first hand by visiting the Monroe County Historical Museum, the replica of an old country schoolhouse, the

1930's restored locomotive and caboose, the Foster Tallest Curved Railroad Trestle, St Patrick's Church in Georgetown, the ruins at Buxton, and the Avery pyramids at Hickory Grove Cemetery.

History buffs will enjoy the walking tour of the downtown business district with its 92 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, or a step-on guide will take you on a drive-by tour of several beautifully restored Victorian homes, and/or a guid-

ed tour through First Iowa State Bank's antiques and the grandeur of the Robert T. Bates apartment and its eclectic collection of Victorian furniture, paintings and memorabilia.

Visitors can relax for an overnight stay at our local motel and RV park and then enjoy our new aquatic center, the Monroe County Sport's Complex, jogging path and bike trail, racquetball court, Frisbee golf, and newly constructed basketball court. Outdoor enthusiasts will want to visit Lake Miami, the Albia Reservoir Park, or Cottonwood Pits for excellent fishing, boating, hunting, and other wildlife fun.

Local restaurants offer a variety of excellent food and the Albia retailers welcome visitors to their shops.

Specialty tours of two of our manufacturing plants can be made by reservations. Albia and Monroe County have wonderful things to share in Southern Iowa and we will make our guests feel like family.

In Albia we are "Embracing the Future - Cherishing the Past". Come see us anytime. For specific details on scheduling your trip, contact the Albia Area Chamber of Commerce, 18 South Main, Albia, IA 52531, (641-932-5108) or via

e-mail: albiachamber@albiachamber.org. Or visit us on the web at www.albiachamber.org

CORYDON & WAYNE COUNTY

Wayne County invites you to enjoy historic treasures and picturesque landscapes in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Corydon, the county seat, is located only 17 miles southwest of Rathbun Lake and 27 miles east of Interstate 35 at the junction of Highway 2 and 14.

Historical Sites - When you visit, plan to spend several hours in Corydon at the award winning Prairie Trails Museum of Wayne County. Southern Iowa's rich rural heritage is showcased in an outstanding display of over 50,000 items. A fascinating "Prairie to Present" exhibit highlights the settlement of southern Iowa. Turn-of-the-century "Main Street" shops feature a bank safe robbed by Jesse James. A barn was added to the site in 2002 to house an extensive farm machinery collection and interactive area.

Mormon Trail enthusiasts appreciate the museum's exhibit of the Mormon exodus. Trail followers should also visit Tharp Cemetery southwest of Seymour. William Clayton penned the words to the popular Mormon trek hymn, "Come, Come Ye Saints," at this site in April 1846.

Be sure to tour the Historic Round Barn Site one mile east of Allerton. The site features a fully restored 1912 Round Barn, an 1869 country school and 1887 New York Christian Church. Take time to admire the murals decorating the town of Allerton.

The village of Cambria invites you to tour the restored Cambria Savings Bank Museum.

In Humeston, restoration is complete on the 1872 Union Depot that also features a restored wooden railroad water tower. The depot houses city offices and may be toured weekdays.

Recreation - Several beautiful parks offer outdoor recreation. Corydon Lake Park features a 6-acre lake, camping with showers, a 9-hole disc golf course and elk exhibit. A 9-hole public golf course and playground highlight Walden Park in Corydon. Five miles east of Lineville, the Medicine Creek Wildlife Area includes upland timber, restored prairie and 140 acres of wetland. The Cinder Path Bike Trail runs from Humeston to Chariton.

For more information visit us on the web at www.waynecountyiowa.com

MELROSE

Melrose is proud of its Irish heritage. The street signs, building signs, the Blarney Stone Park, and even the little leprechauns sitting all over town, confirm that legacy.

Melrose celebrates its accomplishments each July when on the weekend of the Fourth, it invites everyone for a real old-fashioned party with ball games, good food, and fireworks. At any time of the year, Melrose extends an Iowa invitation to all Rathbun Lake visitors to stop in this village - the northwest gateway to the lake - and enjoy a quiet time savoring the flavor of a pretty little southern Iowa town.

Stop for a tour of the beautiful St. Patrick church, built in 1971, and see the unusual mural, painted by Dennis Adams, a renown Iowa artist, and school children, which graces an entire wall in the red brick schoolhouse. Come once and come again — kiss the blarney stone...it always brings good luck!

RUSSELL

Russell is a clean, friendly community six miles east of Chariton, then one mile south on Hwy. 97. Parks are located downtown and the community building, containing picnic tables and playground equipment. A large horseshoe court is the site of several tournaments annually. Visitors are always welcome to use the parks. Located just south of Russell are the state wildlife areas,

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