

District Tourist Weekend Itinerary

Experience the art of hospitality with a weekend getaway to Mason City, Iowa – home of “The Music Man” and the only remaining Frank Lloyd Wright-designed hotel in the world!

DAY ONE:

Check into the **Historic Park Inn Hotel** (15 West State Street). Recognized by CNN Travel as “An Architectural Hotbed,” Mason City is home to the only remaining Frank Lloyd Wright-designed hotel in the world – The Historic Park Inn. Re-opened in 2011, the 27-room boutique hotel is a treasured example of Wright’s “Prairie School” style (geometric, understated, wood galore) while providing contemporary and comfortable accommodations. To book your hotel room > [CLICK HERE](#)

Take in the fresh, afternoon air and the beauty of Mason City’s Cultural Crescent while exploring **the River City Sculptures on Parade** (various locations) – a 1.7 mile walk throughout the Downtown District. This outdoor exhibit of 40+ sculptures features art from some of the greatest sculptors in the world. Self-guided tours are free.

Don’t miss the colorful **Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired murals** (various locations) that have transformed downtown buildings into breathtaking works of art.

Whether you’re looking for an intimate setting or casual dinner, the **1910 Grille’** (15 West State Street) is sure to impress! Located within the Historic Park Inn, this venue offers a unique blend of vintage beauty and impressive architecture (Breakfast is also available).

DAY TWO:

Start the day with a good ol’ cup of Joe at **Beanzy’s** (111 S. Delaware Avenue). This locally-owned coffee shop and micro roastery provides a variety of fresh, handcrafted coffee drinks and made-from-scratch baked goods!

Perhaps one of Mason City’s most revered treasures is the collection of more than 500 marionettes and puppets created by America’s premier puppet master (and Mason City native), Bil Baird. Some of the most recognized marionettes in the world including The Lonely Goatherd which was featured in the Academy Award-winning film The Sound of Music can be seen at the **Charles H. MacNider Art Museum** (303 2nd Street SE). **Hours:** Wednesday, Friday & Saturday, 9:00am-5:00pm/ Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00am – 8:00pm **Admission:** Free for self-guided tours; \$5 guided tours

Dive into history with a tour of The **Historic Park Inn** (15 West State Street) which stands as international tribute to the great architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The guided tour showcases the hallmark details of the last remaining Frank Lloyd Wright-designed hotel in the world. Explore the historic building and learn the amazing story of how an active group of citizens saved the historic hotel from the wrecking ball while walking the same halls as big band stars Jack Jenney and Glenn Miller. **Tour Times:** Thursday & Friday 11:30 am & 1:00 pm; Saturday 11:30 am; Sunday 11:30 am & 1:00 pm or by appointment any day during 11:30 am – 3 pm for groups 10 or more. **Admission:** \$10 per person

Be sure to stop by the **Wright on the Park Headquarters** (17 S. Federal Avenue) for additional Wright-related exhibits and unique gifts and souvenirs.

For lunch, the **Hungry Mind** (16 S. Commercial Alley) has been serving the best soups, salads, sandwiches and gourmet hamburgers in the Mason City area since 1976. Be sure to try one of the local favorites such as the Philly Cheese Steak, quiche, or the ultimate Bayou Burger.

Enjoy a tasty afternoon treat from **Birdsall's Ice Cream** (518 N. Federal Avenue). A North Iowa institution, Birdsall's has been serving homemade ice cream, malts, shakes, banana splits, hot fudge sundaes and happy memories since 1931.

Explore the **unique boutiques and shops** within the Downtown District including Moorman Clothiers, Real Deals, Lucy & Olive, Market 124 and many more!

We've got talent, right here in "River City"! Enjoy an entertaining performance by local thespians at the **Mason City Community Theatre** (located at 215 S. Delaware Avenue). Visit www.mcccommunitytheatre.com for performance schedule.

From live music, festivals, art openings, and so much more – **Downtown Mason City** is home to year-round events. Be sure to check out the Visit Mason City calendar of events (www.VisitMasonCityIowa.com) and discover what's happening.

If you're looking for great, locally crafted beer, look no further than Downtown Mason City; home to fine establishments – **Mason City Brewing** (28 East State Street) and **Fat Hill Brewing** (17 N. Federal Avenue)! Try a flight from each and sample all the local brews. Enjoy your favorite by the pint, or take a taste of Mason City home with you in a growler.

DAY THREE:

For breakfast (or lunch), pop into the **Suzie Q Café** (14 2nd Street NW) - one of only 52 surviving "Valentine" style diners in the United States. This quaint little diner was brought to Mason City in 1948 and has the appearance of a railroad car. Be sure to try the Omwich breakfast sandwich or the Spic 'N Span Tenderloin – rated second in the nation, and served with a side of magic!

Step back in time and experience Hollywood History come to life at **The Music Man Square** and **Willson Boyhood Home** (308 S. Pennsylvania Avenue), which celebrate the life and accomplishments of Mason City native, Meredith Willson – composer of The Music Man. **Tour Times: March-December**, Tuesday-Saturday 1pm-5pm; Closed Sunday, Monday & Holidays; **January – February**, Friday & Saturday 1pm-5pm, or by appointment. **Admission:** \$10 adults, \$5 students (Admission includes both The Music Man Square and Willson Boyhood Home)

OTHER "DON'T MISS" POINTS OF INTEREST

Escape Iowa (339 S. Delaware Avenue) provides a live entertainment experience in which a small group of people (4-6) are "locked" in a themed room and must find clues, solve puzzles, and crack codes to escape in the time allotted.

From May through October, the area's largest **Farmers' Market** can be found in Downtown Mason City (located at the corner of 1st Street NE and Delaware Avenue). Here you'll find the very best quality, best tasting and freshest produce and baked goods in all of North Iowa! Enjoy fresh fruits and veggies, as well as a vast variety of breads, pies, cookies, candies, and much more! The North Iowa Farmers Market is free and open to the public.