

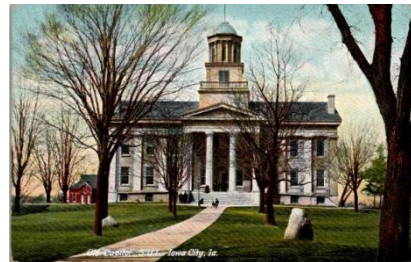


South Central Iowa Art, History, and Architecture *Get-On-the-Bus Overnighter*

June 25-29, 2025

Join the Northern Illinois University Art Museum on a delightful group trip through South Central Iowa to explore some Midwestern gems of art, architecture and American history. Over our several days journey, we will stay in a single hotel that is centrally located so we can make short day trips to various towns in the region for our daily adventures.

We will start our journey on Wednesday, heading west to the college town of **Iowa City**. There we will take a tour of the **Old Capitol Building** and visit the University of Iowa **Natural History Museum** before breaking for lunch and time to visit some of Iowa City's many bookstores and boutiques. We will rendezvous to go to UI's magnificent **Stanley Museum of Art**, opened in 2022 following the devastating Iowa River flood of 2008 that closed the university art museum but spurred construction of a new building further down on the other side of the river. The Stanley is renowned for its African Art, world-class ceramics and mid-century modern collections. We'll head over to the **Iowa River Landing** district of Coralville to visit their Sculpture Walk and Wetland Park and choose from its several options for dinner before checking into our hotel.



On Thursday we will head out early and have a history volunteer from the Amana Preservation Society join us on the bus for a guided tour both on and off the bus visiting the five museums within the seven German **Amana Colony Villages**, each a one-hour ox-cart ride apart (a 17-mile loop). We will lunch at the Millstream Brau Haus and pick up Sour Cream Raisin Pies (the state pie of Iowa) from the Ox Yoke Inn. We will then drive to the charming town of **Grinnell** where we will visit a former bank designed by Louis H. Sullivan that now serves as the area Visitor Center and then explore the galleries and German Expressionist Print collection at the **Grinnell College Museum of Art** and **Burling Library**. We will have dinner at The Periodic Table Restaurant in the Hotel Grinnell, a remodeled 1920s junior high school building before heading back to our hotel.



Friday we will venture to nearby **Cedar Rapids** for a special private tour at the **Grant Wood Home and Studio** before visiting the **WWI Memorial** on Mays Island with its tremendous stain glass window designed by Grant Wood. If the city council is not in session, we will swing by their chambers to view the restored WPA murals in what was the former courthouse. We will then break for lunch in Little Bohemia before our visit to the **National Czech Slavic Museum**. We will spend the afternoon at the **Cedar Rapids Art Museum** and touring the Queen Anne house at **Brucemore Estate** with a recently restored sleeping porch decorated by Grant Wood and landscaping designed by O.C. Simonds including a formal garden, children's garden and night garden. We'll have dinner at The Class Act, a culinary arts program at the Kirkwood Center before leaving Cedar Rapids.

Saturday we will drive a bit further to **Des Moines** and take a guided tour of Iowa's current **State Capitol Building**, the only one with five domes in the country. We will then head over to the **Pappajohn Sculpture Park** in Western Gateway Park with its 28 pieces of large public art and enjoy the award-winning **Des Moines Art Festival** featuring nearly 200 visual artists and a slate of live music. You will want to have lunch from one of the many food trucks near the park or go to the nearby Proudfoot & Bird restaurant in the historic Fort Des Moines Hotel. Late afternoon, we will rendezvous to head to the **Des Moines Arts Center**, with roots reaching back to 1916, and view the collections of this modern and contemporary art museum with sections built by Eiel Saarinen, I.M. Pei and Richard Meier. We will dine together in Des Moines or nearby Ankeny before heading back to the Fairfield in Coralville.



On Sunday after checking out, we'll drive to the quad city area and visit nearby **Le Claire**, home of **Antique Archaeology**, the first store of the History Channel's popular American Pickers show and the childhood town of Buffalo Bill, whose life is explored in a small museum that we will visit. We will then drive to **Davenport** and have lunch prior to our stop at the **Figge Art Museum** before at last making our way back home to DeKalb.

For those who were expecting this to be our trip to the Frank Lloyd Wright Hotel in Mason City and the Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake those stops will be on another adventure when we travel to Northern Iowa at a date yet to be determined. For those figuring that this trip would take us to the Herbert Hoover Presidential Museum and Library in West Branch (like me), it unfortunately is closed now until sometime in 2026 for remodeling.

The *Get-On-The-Bus Overnight Trips* of the NIU Art Museum are limited to a small group of explorers. Early bird discounts are available until April 25. Please contact Jo Burke for more information and to confirm registration. Some sites involve stairs and are not completely accessible.



8 a.m. June 25- 7:30 p.m. June 29, 2025

Early Registration Discounts Available Through: April 25

Final Registration Deadline: May 23

Limited group size, space limited.

815.753.1936 www.niu.edu/artmuseum/bus/trips.html

Registration Form - Three Easy Ways to Register

1. PHONE your reservation, using your credit card for payment to: (815) 753-1936.
2. MAIL your completed reservation to: NIU Art Museum, **South Central Iowa GOTBON**, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115
3. BRING completed form to the Museum, first floor, west end Altgeld Hall, NIU, DeKalb.

South Central Iowa Get-On-the-Bus Overnighter June 25 – June 29, 2025

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott, Coralville, IA

[] YES, include me/us in this delightful cultural, art and architecture-filled trip.

_____ only \$1505 (\$1369 if registered before April 25) per person.

_____ only \$1245 (**\$1132 if registered before April 25**) per person (**NIU Art Museum member**).

_____ \$270 single room supplement

\$_____ Total enclosed

All reservations confirmed by payment.

Fee includes: Roundtrip Motorcoach transportation between NIU and Coralville, Iowa with various regional excursions including Iowa City, Cedar Rapids, the Amana Colonies, Grinnell, Des Moines, Le Claire and Davenport; 4 nights, double occupancy (including taxes) at the Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott in Coralville; hop on historic tour of Amana Colonies led by Preservation Society tour guide, guided tours of the Old State Capitol and the current State Capitol; Bruce more gardens and estate, entry to the Figge Art Museum, Des Moines Art Center, Stanley Museum of Art, University of Iowa Natural History Museum, Grinnell College Art Museum, Burling Library, Cedar Rapids Art Museum, World War I Memorial, National Czech-Slavic Museum, the Grant Wood Home and Studio and the Buffalo Bill Museum. **Free daily breakfast** at the Fairfield Inn. All other meals on own, several options available. Pool (small), workout room and nature trail nearby hotel.

Limited group size. Visit website at <http://www.niu.edu/artmuseum/bus/trips.html>

Final Registration deadline: Friday, May 23. **Discount Registration deadline: Friday, April 25.**

Questions: Jo Burke, Director, NIU Art Museum, (815)753-7898, or via email: jburke2@niu.edu

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

E-mail address _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone (if different) _____

Cel Phone (if different) _____

Rooms have: Two Queen Beds, free Wifi, microwave and refrigerator.

I plan to share my room with (name): _____

_____ I would like to share my room with another traveler, if possible. Please introduce us.

I was particularly attracted to this excursion because of _____.

[] Check payable to NIU; check number _____. Charge fee to: [] VISA [] MasterCard [] Discover

Name as written on credit card _____

Account # _____ Exp. Date _____ CODE _____

Signature _____



Refunds: Cancellations are accepted and refunds minus \$50 are issued, if written notification is received at least 65 days prior to the trip (April 21). Cancellations after that time will be refunded if the trip is full and the ticket can be resold. Full refunds are given when NIU cancels a program, or when a program with limited enrollment is over-subscribed. Substitutions may be made, without penalty, any time prior to the trip departure. Itinerary is subject to change.