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September 15-17, 2009
3 Days

Back Roads Adventure in Northeast Iowa

This travel package planned & escorted by Jane Sorenson.

The most fun and rewarding way to experience any area has to be on its back roads! The scenery is spectacular with rolling hills, river valleys and farms. The variety of activities will make this a truly unique trip.

September 15 we pick up through our guaranteed departure cities (see below). We'll drive through **Parkersburg**, to see first-hand the devastation and progress of rebuilding from last year's tornado. Many people from all over have volunteered to help rebuild. You will leave with a sense of gratitude that we live in an area where people still care and are willing to reach out. We'll have **lunch at the Farm House Gathering Room**, overlooking the rural countryside with a one-room school house, pastures and vineyards. We then visit the **Little Brown Church** in Nashua, which inspired "The Church in the Wildwood" that we've sung from our hymnals. We will have a tour and a special happening (nobody on our trip is getting married...that we know of!) Next we'll visit the **Iowa Dairy Center**, where we'll learn about the dairy industry in Iowa. Then we travel to **Seed Savers**, the 890-acre heritage farm. Seed Savers Exchange is the largest non-governmental seed bank in the U.S., permanently maintaining more than 25,000 endangered vegetable varieties, most having been brought to North America by members' ancestors who immigrated from Europe, the Middle East, Asia and other parts of the world. We've probably worked up an appetite again. We'll have **dinner at Wildberry Winery**, nestled in the rolling hills. After dinner we can stroll through the vineyards. We stay the night in Decorah (home city to NorthLand Travel and Hawkeye Stages' corporate headquarters!).

September 16 after **breakfast**, we start our day with a tour of the **Decorah Fish Hatchery**. The picturesque limestone office and residence date back to the 1930s as a project of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Next a **local guide** will take us on a **tour of Decorah**. The city was settled by the English, but Norwegian immigrants also brought a rich heritage of culture and traditions. We'll enjoy the architecture, city sights and the Luther College campus. We'll have **coffee and rolls at the unique Oneota Community Coop**. We'll have a great time wandering the aisles of this place, which started as a group of families purchasing natural bulk foods in 1972. It has grown to more than 3,100 members and a staff of 55. We then head to Lansing, on the Mighty Mississippi, for a unique tour. We've done many Mississippi cruises but the **Mississippi Wildlife Eco-Tour** explores the backwater in search of bald eagles, great blue heron, egrets, otters, beavers and other animals. We'll enjoy a **box lunch** during our cruise. This evening we stay in Prairie du Chien, WI. Tonight we'll have a special **fish dinner!**

September 17 after **breakfast**, we visit **Effigy Mounds**. 206 prehistoric mounds have been identified of which 31 are in the form of animals. The others are in other shapes. A ranger will join us for a tour, telling us about the mounds and Native Americans who created them. We then continue to Elkader, on the banks of the Turkey River. We'll have **lunch at Schera's (Algerian) Restaurant**. Brian, a native Iowan hailing from New Hampton, and Frederique, who is of French-Algerian descent, met in Boston in



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2001. Both grew tired of city life. They bought the Keystone Restaurant, designed a menu of Algerian and North African dishes, and brought gourmet dining options to small-town Iowa. (Not bad for two guys with degrees far removed from the restaurant business: Frederique has a PhD in Computer Engineering, while Brian has an MFA in Creative Writing.) You'll have some time after lunch to explore **Turkey River Mall**, four floors of a former hotel, filled with antiques or the **Quilt Shop** or visit the beautifully restored **Opera House** or take a stroll along the river. Later this afternoon, we'll make a stop at the **Osborne Conservation Center** where we'll learn more about Iowa's natural history, take a look at some mounted animals and meet a few live ones! On our way back to our departure cities we'll stop to pay homage to the "**World's Largest Strawberry**" at Strawberry Point. Reflect on a fun-filled, eclectic trip as we travel homeward.



Your 3-day Back Roads Adventure in Northeast Iowa includes: Luxury motor coach transportation, lodging for 2 nights, luggage handling, tickets/admissions to bolded attractions, gratuities to step-on guides, 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners (meals inclusive of tax and gratuities).

\$379 per person, double occupancy

\$369 per person with 3 or 4 persons sharing a room with 2 beds

\$464 single room accommodations

Reservations: anytime as long as space is available

Deposit: \$25 per person, due with reservation

Balance Due: by August 10

Cancel by: August 17 for penalty-free cancellation

Peace of Mind Protection: 5% of the trip cost, due with deposit

Guaranteed departure cities: Scranton, Jefferson, Ames, Williams, Iowa Falls and Waterloo

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