

Driftless Area

SCENIC BYWAY

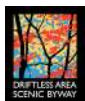
Group Travel Itinerary



photo by: Larry Reis

Allamakee and Winneshiek Counties in Iowa

Explore and learn about prehistoric mounds, state forest trails and cold-water trout streams in gorgeous Northeast Iowa





DASB Group Travel Itinerary

The Driftless Area Scenic Byway is a 144-mile route that zigzags its way across the distinctive landscape of Allamakee and Winneshiek Counties in Northeast Iowa. The terrain is among the most unique in the state with steep hills, dramatic bluffs and stream-carved river valleys. As the last glaciers passed over Iowa, this corner of the state remained untouched, resulting in this striking region known as the "Driftless Area." Named the *most scenic* state byway in Iowa, the dramatic forested hillsides are especially breathtaking in the Fall making it an extremely popular area for "leaf watchers". The area is also marked by signs of the previous settlers, from American Indians, to pioneers, to Norwegian immigrants, the Byway has an interesting cultural flair. Take your time to truly enjoy the exquisite scenery, rich history, unique shopping and delicious food along the Driftless Area Scenic Byway.

Unique Adventures

You'll be in awe of the spectacular 200 foot waterfall located in **Dunnings Spring Park** in Decorah - a surprising place to cool off on a hot summer day! Enjoy picnicking and hiking trails just minutes from downtown Decorah.

While you're in town stop at the **Decorah Fish Hatchery!** Although the hatchery is in operation primarily to raise and stock trout throughout Northeast Iowa, it is also an extremely popular destination for locals and out-of-town visitors. Pack a picnic, feed the fish, take a walk on the **Trout Run Trail** and visit **Decorah's world famous eagle's nest** to catch a glimpse of the area's biggest celebrities.

Scenic Spots

Travel to the **Yellow River State Forest** and stop at the scenic overlooks that provide opportunities for you to access panoramic views of the forested valleys, streams and rivers. Soak in the breathtaking Driftless Area landscape unique to this corner of Iowa.

Rising 450 feet above the community of Lansing and the Upper Mississippi River Valley, **Mount Hosmer** provides opportunities for picnicking and hiking; but is most well-known for its incredible "birds-eye" view of the **Mississippi River and Black Hawk Bridge**.

Points of Discovery

Don't miss the **Driftless Area Education & Visitors Center near Lansing!** Peruse the interpretive and dimensional displays housed at the center which cover topics such as geology, limnology (rivers/streams), archeology, wildlife studies, river town industries and economies. Contact Allamakee County Economic Development & Tourism for more information about the state of the art center and opportunities to explore the all the Driftless Area has to offer!

Immerse yourself in Norwegian culture. Yes, in Iowa! Learn about the Norwegian immigrants who made Northeast Iowa their home at the **Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum & Heritage Center**. With world-class exhibitions, 12 historic buildings and a folk-art school, this national treasure showcases the best in Norwegian art and explores the American immigrant experience. Very enriching experience in downtown Decorah!

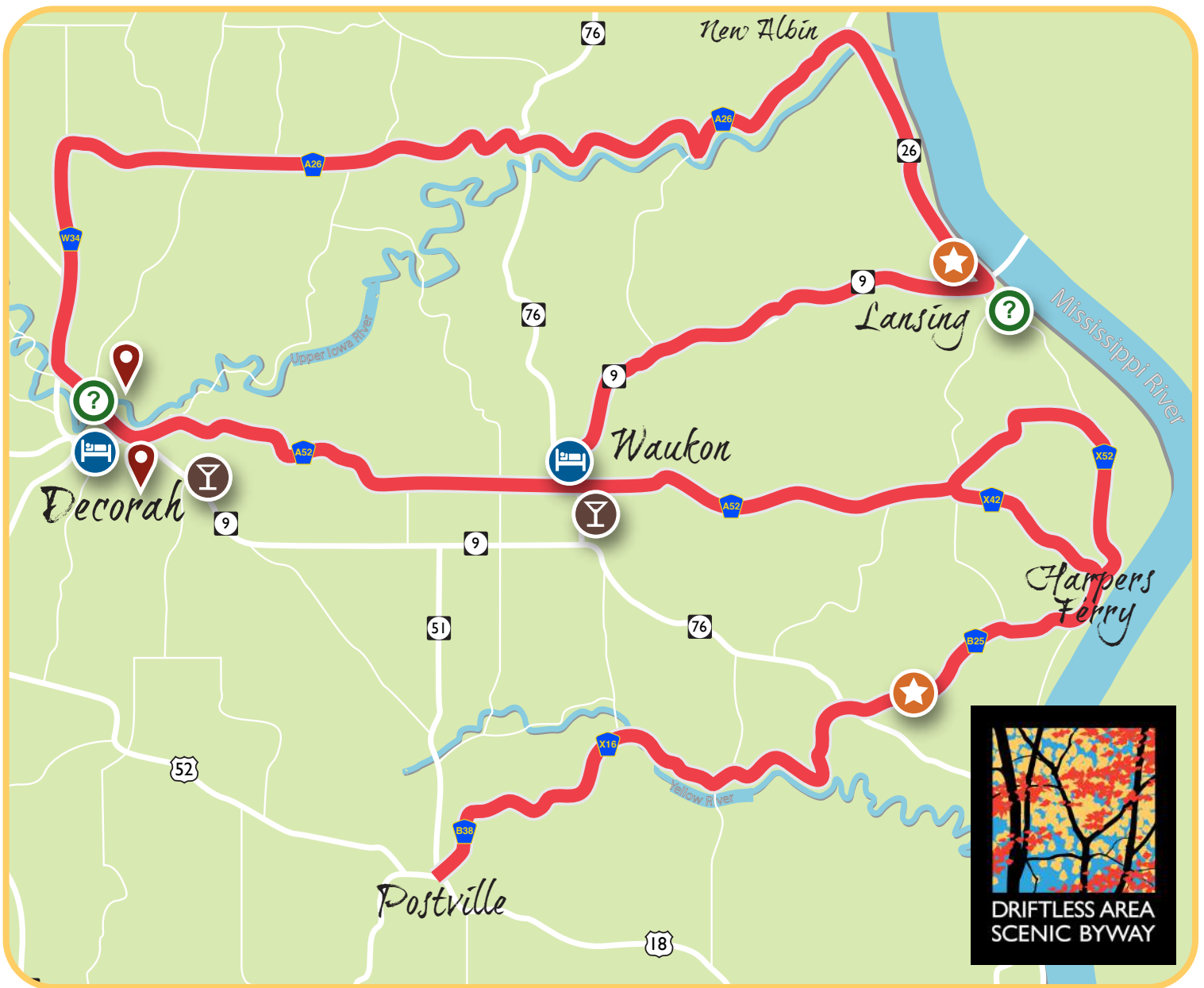
Local Flavors

Need a cold one? After runaway success in homebrewing **Toppling Goliath Brewing Company** has become world renowned for its IPAs and barrel-aged stouts. This local cornerstone distributes to over eight states. Enjoy one of their more than 30 beers and the delicious, unique menu. A perfect spot for a large group meal. Brewery tours available!

For a sweet treat or fresh, squeaky cheese curds make sure to go to **WW Homestead Dairy**, nestled in the town of Waukon. This creamery is comprised of individuals with one passion: producing and distributing the ultimate dairy products. Stop on in and taste the freshest products including cream-line milk, ice cream, cheese and butter. The public is encouraged to watch how products are made through large viewing windows and tour the facility.

Lodging Locales

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott (Decorah)
Stoney Creek Inn (Waukon)



For More Group Tour Options

Contact

Byway Coordinator: Jared Nielsen
 Northeast Iowa RC&D
 101 East Greene St, PO Box 916
 Postville, Iowa 52162
 Phone: 563-864-7112
 Website: www.northeastiowarcd.org

