



Raccoon River Valley Trail Bikers Tour

Jefferson, Iowa



ARRIVAL BRUNCH JUNKYARD CAFE



After a rigorous morning of biking, refuel at this café located just off the Bell Tower Square and minutes from the bike trail. [Junkyard Café](#), located at 108 W. State St., offers breakfast all day such as barracuda omelets, Mustang scramblers or cinnamon French toast. Call (515) 386-4979 for information.

MORNING SELFIE SPOT Arch Alley



[Arch Alley](#) is a renovated alley space that features three archways in the north alley of the downtown square. The three arches symbolize the different pathways for Jefferson and Greene County. There are also benches and a community poem on display. Artist David Williamson worked with Greene County students and adults, incorporating their work, Jefferson history & industry in the castings. The arches are lit up at night.

MORNING Mahanay Carillon Bell Tower



Take the elevator to the top of the [Mahanay Carillon Bell Tower](#), located on the southwest corner of the downtown square. The tower is 168 ft. 2 inches high and has a 4-octave carillon sounding every fifteen minutes. From the glass enclosed observation deck at 120 ft, view the RRVT bike trail and unique rooftop art. Call 515-386-2155 for more information.

AFTERNOON RVP~1875 Historical Furniture Shop



Bike over to [RVP~1875](#), within minutes of the Bell Tower at 115 S. Wilson Ave. It has over 100 pieces of furniture, each with a story of historical significance. Owner, Robby Pedersen, is a Master Furniture Maker with over 25 years experience, who has built over 800 pieces of historically accurate furniture using only the tools, techniques and finishes used in 1875 Iowa. He shares his love of historic furniture making and how it relates to Iowa history. Call (515) 975-3083 for more information.

LUNCH Doc's Stadium Bar & Grill



At this biker friendly eatery located on the east side of the square at 113 N. Chestnut, order a specialty sandwich, soup, and select from their fresh salad bar. The service at [Doc's Stadium Bar & Grill](#) can't be beat. Call (515) 386-2111 for information.

CAMPING OPTION RRVT Campground



Camp alongside the [Raccoon River Valley Bike Trail](#) and the historic Milwaukee Depot, only \$10 per tent. This [biking campground](#) has just what you need: hot showers and restroom facilities. Wake up rested and hit the trail tomorrow! For more hidden gems in Greene County, click [here](#). Call Jennifer at (515) 370-2123 for camping information.



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Legends and Lore

Jefferson, Iowa



BREAKFAST

Dunkers by Matt



Legends and Lore begins in the historic downtown square of Jefferson. Start your day with coffee and donuts at [Dunkers by Matt](#), located at 119 N. Chestnut. Call 386-3221 for information.

MORNING

Greene County Historical Museum



Immerse yourself in the legends and history of Greene County, preserved within the walls of the [Greene County Historical Museum](#). Located at 219 East Lincoln Way, the museum hours are on Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, from May 1 through October, and by appointment at (515) 386-8544 or (515) 386-2155. Admission is free.

MID-MORNING

RVP~1875



Four blocks from the museum at 115 S. Wilson Ave, is [RVP~1875](#), a historical furniture shop that has over 100 pieces of furniture, each with a story of historical significance. Owner, Robby Pedersen, is a Master Furniture Maker with over 25 years experience, who has built over 800 pieces of historically accurate furniture using only the tools, techniques and finishes used in 1875 Iowa. He shares his love of historic furniture making and how it relates to Iowa history. Call (515) 975-3083 for more information.

LUNCH

The Centennial



Located on the northwest corner of the downtown square at 100 E. State, [The Centennial](#) can't be beat. Order a specialty sandwich, soup, and don't forget a delectable dessert item. With a new menu every couple weeks, you'll always have a fresh option in this charming atmosphere. Call (515) 386-3888. After lunch, explore a [self-guided historic plaque tour](#) around the square.

AFTERNOON

Mahanay Carillon Bell Tower & Greene County Courthouse



Take the elevator to the top of the [Mahanay Carillon Bell Tower](#), located on the southwest corner of the downtown square. The tower is 168 ft. 2 inches high and has a 4-octave carillon sounding every fifteen minutes. From the glass enclosed observation deck at 120 ft, view the historic downtown square and unique rooftop art. Ask the guide for a tour of the Greene County Courthouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Call 515-386-2155 for more information.



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AFTERNOON

Interactive Presentation of the History of Iowa
Movie Theatres at the Sierra Community Theatre

Visit the historic [Sierra Community Theatre](#) and be treated to a free bag of popcorn while a local historian and movie theatre aficionado shows legendary movie trailers and explains their legends and lore. The host engages the crowd with Iowa trivia questions, connecting each film to Iowa history or an Iowa movie theatre. The presenter is a sure crowd pleaser as he creates an interactive environment.





Bird Watching Adventure

Jefferson and Greene County, Iowa



BREAKFAST Greene Bean Coffee



Start your day with a cup of Java at [Greene Bean Coffee](#), located just off the downtown courthouse square at 202 N. Wilson Ave. in Jefferson. Enjoy the historically renovated ambience with free Wi-Fi. Call (515) 386-3776 for more information.

MORNING Dunbar Slough



[Dunbar Slough](#) is 2,289 acres stretching about five miles from north to south and a half-mile from east to west. It attracts hundreds of different species including trumpeter swans, falcons, songbirds, marsh birds and eagles. It was named an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society. It offers hiking, bicycling, picnicking, canoeing, kayaking, & primitive camping. Click this [link](#) for a google map and more exploration options.

LUNCH Bett and Bev's BBQ Restaurant



Grab lunch at this local favorite BBQ, [Bett and Bev's](#), located on 808 N. Vine St., just east of the overpass on the north side of Jefferson. Enjoy the "smoked slow...served fast" home-cooked cuisine. Call (515) 386-4999 for information.

AFTERNOON Sally's Alley, Selfie Spot



Located on the south side of the square on Lincoln Way is this renovated alley space that features outdoor photography of Churdan native Sally White. Enlarged bird photos and original poetry are found throughout three small flower gardens and a lending library. [Sally's Alley](#) was featured on NPR's program Hear & Now as an example of creative placemaking.

AFTERNOON Spring Lake Park



The wooded area of the park as well as the waterfowl using the lake creates a popular location to view wildlife. Located at 1847 195th St., [Spring Lake Park](#) has over 2 miles of asphalt roads ideal for biking, jogging and walking. The wooded area also has several hiking trails. Be sure to look for the eagle's nest on the west side County Road P33 just south of Spring Lake Park. Click "[Greene County Adventures](#)" for more birding sites in Greene County.

LODGING

Cobblestone Hotel & Suites

Located at 771 Wild Rose Drive, this casino hotel, is within a 5-minute drive of Mahanay Bell Tower. Make yourself at home in one of the 73 air-conditioned rooms featuring refrigerators and flat-screen televisions. Your pillowtop bed comes with down comforters and premium bedding. [Cobblestone Hotel & Suites](#) also features an indoor pool, spa tub, complimentary wireless Internet access, breakfast and a picnic area. Call (515) 386-3535.



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Disc Golf Outdoor Adventure

Jefferson, Iowa



CAMP OR PLAY Spring Lake Park



Begin your disc golf adventure at a course perfect for beginners or as a warm-up. [Spring Lake Park](#), located at 1847 195th St., is a 240-acre park that includes a lake, lined with campsites with electrical hookup and two shower houses. In the main area of the park is the 9-hole disc golf course. There are over 2 miles of asphalt roads ideal for biking, jogging and walking. To download an app that shows disc golf courses in the U.S., including these, click [here](#).

LUNCH A & W



This timeless restaurant serving “all-American food” located at 300 N. Elm St., offers quick and delicious menu options so you can get back on your path for more disc golf. [A & W](#) has indoor and outdoor seating. Call (515) 386-4712 for information.

AFTERNOON Disc Golf at Daubendiek Park



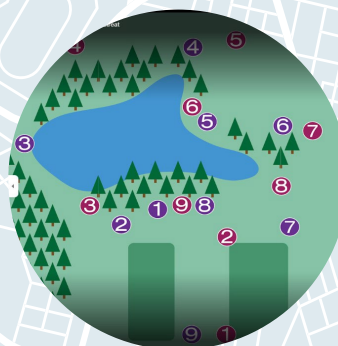
[Daubendiek Disc Golf](#) course offers an 18-hole course, sure to be a challenge. Located along side the Raccoon River and a public walking trail, this disc golf course is one of the best in the area.

DINNER Casa de Oro



Located at 1409 N. Elm St, [Casa de Oro](#) offers indoor and outdoor dining. This is one of the best Mexican restaurants in the area. Call (515) 386-4877 for information.

EVENING & LODGING JV Vineyard & Retreat



Located just west of Jefferson and north of Scranton, [JV Vineyard & Retreat](#) offers lodging and outdoor recreation, including a 9-hole disc golf course. Take a deep breath and enjoy the beauty of a perfect place to reconnect with yourself, your family, with nature. Explore the trails, float in a kayak, relax by the fire. Enjoy the vineyard and even picking berries. The onsite gift shop carries jellies, jams, juice and baked goods. Their beautifully renovated historic barn features private guest rooms, events space, full kitchen and is the perfect place for weddings and family gatherings.



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Explore Historic Lincoln Highway

The Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway is Iowa's only heritage byway.

Grand Junction and Jefferson, Iowa

MORNING

Lion's Tree Park,
Grand Junction



Start your adventure at the [Lion's Tree Park](#) at the intersection of the new Highway 30 and the Lincoln Highway, just east of Grand Junction. There are interpretive panels along a short walking trail. Greene County was the first county in Iowa to grade, gravel, and pave its section. The original [route](#) ran through Grand Junction, Jefferson and Scranton. Several segments and structures through the country are on the National Register of Historic Places.

COFFEE & BREAKFAST
Coffee Corner



Located on the historic Lincoln Highway is the [Coffee Corner](#). Stop by for a coffee and breakfast treat.

MID MORNING

Lincoln Highway Museum



Also, on the Lincoln Highway in Grand Junction is the [Lincoln Highway Museum](#). Visit with the experts, Joyce and Bob Ausberger, who have long been involved in highway interpretive initiatives at local, state and national levels. Located at 200 Main St. Open daily and Sunday by appointment at (515-370-3738)

LUNCH

Peony Chinese
Restaurant



Make your way 10 miles west along the Lincoln Highway to Jefferson where you can have lunch at the [Peony Chinese Restaurant](#) at 101 E. Lincoln Way. It might be one of the best hidden gems in small town Iowa. Call (515) 386-3928 for information.

AFTERNOON

Thomas Jefferson Gardens



Just one block east of the Peony Chinese Restaurant at 201 E. Lincoln Way, is [Thomas Jefferson Gardens of Greene County](#). As you enter the gardens, notice the Lincoln Highway replica painted on the sidewalk. Wander through the five gardens. The welcome center in the center of the gardens has visitor information and restrooms. Call (515) 386-2155 for more information.



AFTERNOON

Mahanay Carillon Bell Tower and Historic Square



One block to the west of Thomas Jefferson Gardens is the [Mahanay Carillon Bell Tower](#). Get a bird's eye view of the Lincoln Highway by taking the elevator to the observation deck at the top of the tower. The tour guide will explain the history of the bell tower as well as the sites around Jefferson. Ask for a complimentary tour of the Greene County Courthouse. Be sure to visit the two renovated alleys on the north and south sides of the square as well as the [Greene County History Museum](#) at 219 E. Lincoln Way.





Art Around the Square Tour

Jefferson, Iowa



BREAKFAST

Greene Bean Coffee



Start your day with a cup of Java [at Greene Bean Coffee](#), located just off the downtown courthouse square at 202 N. Wilson Ave. in Jefferson. Enjoy the historically renovated ambience with free Wi-Fi. Call (515) 386-3776 for more information.

MORNING

Mahanay Carillon Bell Tower



Take the elevator to the top of the [Mahanay Carillon Bell Tower](#), located on the southwest corner of the downtown square. The tower is 168 ft. 2 inches high and has a 4-octave carillon sounding every fifteen minutes. From the glass enclosed observation deck at 120 ft, view the historic downtown square and the five unique rooftop artwork. Call 515-386-2155 for information.

MID-MORNING

Greene County Courthouse



The [Greene County Courthouse](#) was dedicated in 1917 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Some of its [prominent features and architecture](#) are modeled after State Capitols throughout the U.S. There are four canvas murals, two tiffany-inspired skylights and a floor mosaic. The courthouse grounds display sculptures, a Medal of Honor Memorial, a Medal of Honor Flag and Abraham Lincoln Statue.

LUNCH

Peony Chinese Restaurant



Just to the southwest of the courthouse is the [Peony Chinese Restaurant](#) at 101 E. Lincoln Way. Upon entering, notice "The Peonies" murals. It might be one of the best hidden gems in small town Iowa. Call (515) 386-3928 for information.

AFTERNOON

Renovated Alleys



After lunch, enjoy the richness of the art around the square. Located 1/2 block east of the Peony on Lincoln Way is [Sally's Alley](#) that features outdoor photography of Churdan native Sally White. Enlarged bird photos and original poetry are found throughout three small flower gardens and a lending library. Directly across the square on State St. is [Arch Alley](#). It features three archways which symbolize the different pathways for Jefferson and Greene County. Artist David Williamson worked with local students and adults, incorporating their work, Jefferson history and industry in the castings.

AFTERNOON

Murals



Just steps to the north and east, is the mural "[Eyes on Washington Street](#)" designed by Roger Aegerter and painted by volunteers. Another 1/2 block to the north is the mural "Jefferson" at 302 N. Chestnut St, painted by high school students.

ICE CREAM STOP & LODGING

Twiins Shoppe & Cobblestone Hotel & Suites



Enjoy an ice cream break at [Twiins Shoppe](#), located at 111 W. Lincoln Way. There, you will see murals painted by high school art students. Call (515) 386-3815. This shop is open seasonally. [Cobblestone Inn & Suites](#) located at 771 Wild Rose Drive, next to the casino, is within a 5-minute drive of Mahanay Bell Tower. Each room has a refrigerator, flat-screen TV, pillowtop bed and premium bedding. It also offers an indoor pool, spa tub, complimentary Wi-Fi and breakfast. Call (515) 386-3535.



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Shop, Eat, Play & Stay

Jefferson, Iowa



BREAKFAST



Downtown Jefferson offers five restaurants or cafes where you can get coffee or breakfast to start your day. Download the [Jefferson, IA app](#) for a full listing of places to shop, eat, play and stay.

MORNING

Shop in the historic downtown square



Visit the [historic downtown](#) shopping district where you will find over 15 shops offering everything from women's clothing to jewelry to décor to furniture. Check this [link](#) for a complete listing.

LUNCH

Partake in one of many delicious options



Jefferson has five cafes and restaurants in the downtown area serving lunch. There are an additional 10 within a five-minute drive. Check this [link](#) for a complete list.

AFTERNOON

Mahanay Carillon Bell Tower



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AFTERNOON

More shopping



Continue your shopping experience in surrounding Jefferson. There are more than 10 retail shops within five miles of Jefferson. Click [here](#) for a complete listing of all Jefferson area shops.



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LODGING & "PLAY"

Cobblestone Inn & Suites & Wild Rose Casino & Resort

Located at 771 Wild Rose Drive, this casino hotel, is within a 5-minute drive of Mahanay Bell Tower. Make yourself at home in one of the 73 air-conditioned rooms featuring refrigerators and flat-screen televisions. Your pillowtop bed comes with down comforters and premium bedding. [Cobblestone Hotel & Suites](#) also features an indoor pool, spa tub, complimentary wireless Internet access, breakfast and a picnic area. Call (515) 386-3535. Be sure to try your luck at the connected [Wild Rose Casino & Resort](#).





Autumn, Apples & Adventure

Jefferson, Iowa



BREAKFAST

Dunkers by Matt



Adventure awaits in Jefferson, beginning in the historic downtown square of Jefferson. Start with coffee and donuts at [Dunkers by Matt](#), located at 119 N. Chestnut. Call 386-3221 for information.

MORNING

Deal's Orchard



One of Iowa's most popular fall destinations is [Deal's Orchard](#) with 45 acres of apple trees. Enjoy the family fun zone, Apple Acres, which has fun activities for the entire family. You'll love the jumping pillow, giant slides, human hamster wheel, corn pool, pedal tractors, goat run and more! You can also try to navigate your way through the corn maze and enjoy free weekend hayrack rides through the orchard and pumpkin patch. In November, the Apple Barn becomes a winter wonderland. Visit the Tree Farm and make memories finding and cutting your own Christmas Tree.

LUNCH

The Centennial



Located on the northwest corner of the downtown square at 100 E. State, [The Centennial](#) can't be beat. Order a specialty sandwich, soup, and don't forget a delectable dessert item. With a new menu every couple weeks, you'll always have a fresh option in this charming atmosphere. Call (515) 386-3888.

AFTERNOON

Mahanay Carillon Bell Tower



Take the elevator to the top of the [Mahanay Carillon Bell Tower](#), located on the southwest corner of the downtown square. The tower is 168 ft. 2 inches high and has a 4-octave carillon sounding every fifteen minutes. From the glass enclosed observation deck at 120 ft, view the fall colors, historic downtown square and unique rooftop art. Open everyday in September, weekends in October from 10-4 or call for appointment (515)386-2155.

MID-AFTERNOON

Historic Downtown Square



Enjoy the richness of the art around the square. On the north side of the square on State St. is [Arch Alley](#). It features three archways which symbolize the different pathways for Jefferson and Greene County. Artist David Williamson worked with local students and adults, incorporating their work, Jefferson history and industry in the castings. Located on Lincoln Way is [Sally's Alley](#) that features outdoor photography of Churdan native Sally White. Enlarged bird photos and original poetry are found throughout three small flower gardens and a lending library. Shop the [unique shops](#) around the square.

DINNER

Casa de Oro

Located at 1409 N. Elm St, [Casa de Oro](#) offers indoor and outdoor dining. This is one of the best Mexican restaurants in the area. Call (515) 386-4877 for information.



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