

AMES TRAVEL GUIDE



WELCOME TO AMES

We are thrilled you have chosen to visit the Iowa State University campus. We hope this visit provides you with the information you need to discover if Iowa State is the right fit for you.

Inside you'll find everything you need to know about what makes the City of Ames such a great place to live. Once you've checked out campus, flip through this guide to be sure you see everything else that Ames has to offer, including:

What to *DO*

Where to *EAT*

Where to *STAY*

If you have questions about Iowa State or Ames, please feel free to ask!



AMES FACTS

Population

Ames: 66,427

Story County: 98,566

Iowa: 3,207,004

*Based on Census Bureau data



SMALL TOWN. BIG CITY.

SO MUCH TO DO.

Beneath the small town charm of Ames, Iowa, beats the heart of a much larger city. A city that has become a player in developing the world's bio-economic future. A city with top-quality education, from kindergarten through graduate school.

A city that regularly draws performers like Jack Harlow, Chris Stapleton, and Matt Rife, along with international symphonies and Broadway musicals. A city with hundreds of acres of parks, numerous bike paths, and cultural festivals and celebrations. A city that's ranked the 2nd best college town in the nation by Livability.



Furman Aquatic Center

Ames is located
roughly 30
miles north of
the state capital
Des Moines.



Ames Farmers Market



Downtown Ames



High Trestle Trail

**THERE'S SO MUCH TO OFFER.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO FAR.**

THINGS TO SEE AND DO.

Ames has a great place to stay busy. From live music venues to outdoor activities and arts and culture, whatever your interest there is always something to do.

Attractions

Reiman Gardens

1407 University Blvd
515-294-2710

Main Street Cultural District

304 Main Street
515-233-3472

Furman Aquatic Center

1635 13th Street
515-232-7665

Ada Hayden Heritage Park

5205 Grand Avenue
515-239-5360

Center Grove Orchard

32835 610th Avenue // Cambridge, IA
515-383-4354

Seven Oaks Recreation

1086 222nd Drive // Boone, IA
515-432-9457

High Trestle Trail Bridge

Madrid, IA
515-795-3880

Ledges State Park

1515 P Avenue // Madrid, IA
515-432-1852

COME AND STAY.

Ames has more than 1,400 hotel rooms to choose from and all of them within miles of the action. Whether you want to be near the entertainment at Hilton Coliseum or Stephens Auditorium or in the heart of the Iowa State campus, Ames has a number of great places to stay.

Scan the QR code or visit discoverames.com/stay to plan your stay.



Center Grove Orchard



Dog-Eared Books

DINE AND SIP OUR AWARD-WINNING WATER.

Ames offers a plate and a taste for all its visitors, including many regional and national restaurants that you have come to enjoy at home or on the road.

Looking for a great place to eat? We've got you covered! Scan the QR code or visit discoverames.com/eat-drink to discover delicious dining options near you.



Clayton Farms Salads



The Great Plains Sauce & Dough Co.

Award-Winning Water

Ames was awarded the "Best Tasting Water in Iowa" and People's Choice award at the American Water Works Association Conference in 2024.

CONSISTENTLY RANKED AMONG
THE BEST CITIES TO
**LIVE
WORK
& PLAY**
(OH, AND GO TO COLLEGE)





7 WAYS TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR VISIT:

- 1 Take a selfie in front of the campanile.
- 2 Count the hammocks on central campus.
- 3 See how many works of art you can find—with over 2,000 pieces, ours is one of the largest campus collections in the country.
- 4 Spend some time in historic and charming downtown Ames.
- 5 Stroll around Lake LaVerne.
- 6 Find each of our 29 life-sized Cy statues.
- 7 Take a moment to reflect on your experience in the 17-acre oasis of Reiman Gardens. (And don't miss Elwood, the world's largest concrete gnome.)



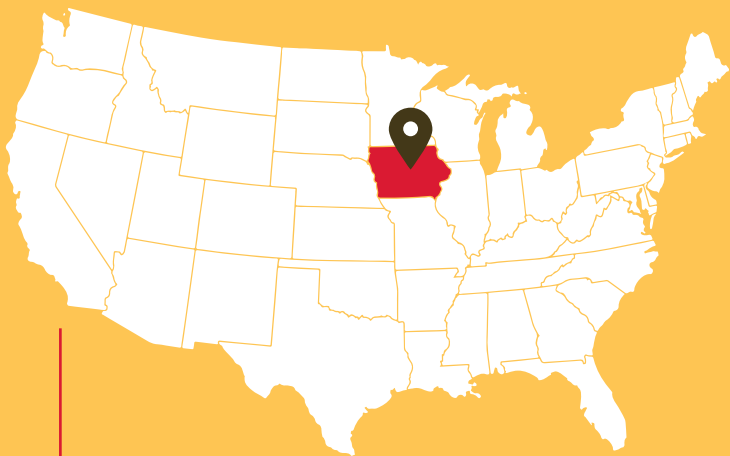
Getting Here

Traveling to Ames is easy: by car from north or south, use Interstate 35; east-west travelers use Interstate 80. By air, many commercial and commuter airlines serve the Des Moines International Airport.



WHERE A CYCLONE'S PATH BEGINS

From the very first moment on campus, you'll find supportive spaces where you belong.



Iowa State University Office of Admissions

Memorial Union
Soultz Family Visitor Center
2433 Union Drive
Ames, IA 50011-2011

Questions?

515-294-5836
admissions@iastate.edu
iastate.edu/admissions