



Take a stroll through our scenic 1800's village and explore pioneer life in 12 authentic buildings. Each building is restored and filled with interesting artifacts and informative displays depicting the rugged years our immigrant settlers spent taming the Iowa prairie.

Leave behind the stress of today's world and savor the family values, hard work ethic and unpretentious lifestyle of an earlier age.

1 Welcome Center

Friendly, knowledgeable staff members are eager to answer your questions and direct you to the exhibits you're most interested in. Perhaps your first stop will be the quilt galleries in the Welcome Center. There you will see the vibrant colors and patterns of Amish quilts. At the English Quilt Gallery, you'll find the traditional patterns and exquisite hand quilting from the late 1800s to early 1900s. Before leaving the Welcome Center, you may also want to view the Holy City display in the Gem & Mineral room.

2 Church

At this charming Country Church, a faithful member harvested walnut lumber from his own land to make the church's altar. He seasoned the lumber for 15 years before he felt the time was right to begin his beautiful carvings. We invite you to sit in the curved pews and think of the many contributions the people made. They offered their hands and hearts to build places of worship like this for their communities. This country church served the rural community from 1867-1984.

3 Wash House

Monday was “wash day,” a day of hard work and diligence. There were heavy buckets of water to carry to the Wash House. The crank had to be turned around and around to agitate the wash load. Since there was no spin cycle in these early machines, the heavy, wet clothes were wrung out by hand. Electric power couldn’t have come too soon for the hard-working women who operated these machines.

4 Joetown Well

Tired horses drank deeply at the Joetown Well, known as the “16 mile stop”, on the long stagecoach journey from Iowa City to Oskaloosa. The passengers also welcomed a little rest in the shade and a cool drink from the Joetown Well. A splash of cool water on the face must have felt like a luxury after a dusty, bumpy stage coach ride.

5 Wahl House

This Midwestern Victorian Home is an iconic example of those built in 1892. Notice the wood burning stove in the kitchen. The stove was the center of every rural home. There the family warmed their hands, cooked their meals, and preserved enough food for long Midwestern winters.

6 Wahl Museum

Take a step back in time in this 4800 square foot building, you will be guided thru the different pioneer communities that were here before Kalona including the Meskwaki Indians, how Kalona got the acceptance of the railroad which is where our town began, changes of communication and transportation over the years and stories of our local businesses from 1879 – 1940’s.

7 Log House

As you view the Log House, it will be easy to appreciate the challenges of daily living in the 1800s. Comfort was not the first priority in the life of a pioneer. For instance, trundle bed mattresses were often stuffed with dried grass and supported by stretched ropes. The supporting ropes had to be tightened often. This gives meaning to the words, “Sleep tight; don’t let the bed bugs bite.” This cabin is one of only a few remaining pioneer homes in this area.

8 School House

The School House hosted many much-anticipated yearly spelling bees. Students and families gathered in this one-room schoolhouse, excitedly waiting for the big bee. One teacher taught all the grade levels in one room. Students received instruction that was appropriate for living a better life as a pioneer on the prairie.

9 Post Office

The Post Office still has its original tongue & groove wooden walls. And if these walls could talk, “Oh, the stories they would tell.” From 1914 to 1988, townspeople came to the Post

Office to pick up their mail. It was common for people to take time to sit down with the postman and discuss the happenings of the day.

10 General Store

Most settlements had a General Store. It was a place to purchase items that couldn't be made at home. There was a little something for all members of the family there. The shopping concept modeled by general stores like this one is the forerunner to today's mega department stores.

11 Train Depot

At the Train Depot, it was common to see people standing in line to buy tickets. Some shop owners rode the train to Chicago to attend trade shows and replenish supplies. Farmers accompanied their livestock to the stockyards. Students traveled by train to Iowa City to go to college or to other towns for sporting events. Trains were used to visit relatives who lived far away. The significant Depot was the first building in this area. The town of Kalona formed around it, businesses sprung to life and neighborhoods created. To celebrate the Train Depot's importance, it is placed in the Center of the Kalona Historical Village. Its placement represents the creation of the town of Kalona and the creation of the Kalona Historical Society.

12 Loom House

The soft, rhythmic whir of the spinning wheel can be heard in the Loom House when Grace, our resident spinner, is making her beautiful textiles. Although Grace doesn't actually shear the sheep to get the wool for her projects, she does answer your questions and show you first-hand the process of weaving at the Loom House. When Grace is not scheduled visitors can view the impressive looms, other tools and beautiful woven textiles.

13 Grandpa House

The Grandpa House is usually built close to the family home. In their senior years, the grandparents are able to continue their enjoyment of farm life near their families. From this quaint, smaller living space, they can enjoy their grandchildren and help with some chores on the farm while living in a quiet space of their own.

14 Buggy Shop

This Buggy Shop was constructed in 1929 by Sam T. Miller for his father Uriah. Building the buggy in the lower level and hoisting to the second floor for painting was no small feat. Buggies like the ones built here continue to serve as the main transportation for the Amish community.

15 Line Shaft Building

The Line Shaft Building houses the machinery of early community grain mills. The grain mill was vital to every farming community. Farmers cooperatively built this one in 1880. They brought their harvested grain to grind into cornmeal or flour, which were staples in the

farmers' diet. During the annual Kalona Fall Festival visitors can witness the process of milling grain in action and purchase freshly ground cornmeal.

16 Water Tank & Windmill

The first trains chugging through Kalona were steam powered. They needed water to operate, just like our cars need gas. Water tanks like this were constructed every 7 miles so the train could fill up before it "ran out of steam." Towns formed around train stops with water tanks. Many of these towns (like Kalona) are still alive and thriving today. The Water Tank you see serves as a reminder today of times past along the railroad route.

17 Agricultural Museum

The antique farm tools and machines you see here seem primitive when compared to the giant machines of today. Your observant eyes can track today's sophisticated machinery back to these early agricultural implements. Think of how much work can be accomplished today compared to the heavy demand of labor associated with these primitive machines. Many small steps have been taken to develop today's modern machines and technology from the simple, primitive tools displayed.

18 Iowa Mennonite Museum and Archives

The Iowa Mennonite Museum and Archives features artifacts, archives, books and stories from the Mennonites and Amish in the Kalona area—and throughout Iowa. Guides are available to tell the stories of the first Amish and Mennonite settlers. They can answer questions like, "What's the difference between the Amish and the Mennonites?" or "What do the words, Amish, Mennonite or Anabaptist even mean?" They are also glad to show visitors around the museum.

Visitors will find displays on the theology, history, and current practices of the Amish and Mennonites in Iowa. In addition, you may browse various collections in the museum. Or you might enjoy the museum's collection of women's bonnets and coverings, and quilts. There is an "industry" room featuring a giant loom, a treadmill for animals, a man-powered lathe, and an extensive display about the historic Twin County Dairy. You can also see a "Mennonite" bedroom, living room, and kitchen.

The Archives house many historical documents including personal collections, pastoral recollections, and diaries. They also contain other primary source materials, genealogical books, periodicals, and a lending library of Amish/Mennonite/Anabaptist theology and history. Archivists are happy to accommodate researchers doing local and/or Mennonite history and aspiring genealogists.

The Iowa Mennonite Museum and Archives is owned and operated by the Mennonite Historical Society of Iowa.

Kalona Historical Society Tours

Complete List of Destinations:

Amish Casket Maker - Visit this unique wood working shop where the craftsman spends his days creating beautiful hardwood caskets used in funerals for the local Amish community.



Amish Dairy

Goat Farm - Discover the local dairy goat industry at this Amish farm, which milks an average 200 goats twice daily. Learn about the feeding regimens and what equipment their religion allows them to utilize.

Amish Farm Operation - Visit an Amish farmstead, and discover the exhausting work day of the Amish farmer. View chickens, turkeys, and goats that are raised organically (with no chemicals or GMOs), and learn about why they farm the land with steel wheel tractors.



Bunker Mill Bridge Historic Site



An 1887 King iron Pratt through truss bridge crosses the English River at the site of the former grist mill that serviced area farmers in 1800s. The mill burned in 1899 and the bridge in 2013, but was restored. Your guide explains the historical importance of the site. **\$\$**

Community Country Store - Amish Country general stores specializes in kitchen and household goods, like your grandparents used, and still used by Amish today. We will select the shop best suited to your size and form of transport. Closed Tues **\$\$**



Conservative Mennonite Program - Learn the basic beliefs of the Mennonite faith, and the changes it has undergone since its origin in 16th Century Europe. The speaker will be happy to answer your questions. * **KHS Exclusive**

Creekside Ebikes - Discover the latest fad in the area - electric bikes. New order youth have embraced this eco-friendly method of traveling & our guide will explain why. **\$\$ * KHS Exclusive**



Farmers Hen House - Witness the daily collection of eggs, learn about the care given to layers, and contemplate the economic importance of egg money to the multi-generational Amish family vs large conglomerate operations.



Golden Delight Bakery - Discover the workings of this popular Amish bakery, where everything is made from scratch in the way our grandparents. **\$\$**



JK Creative Wood & Gifts - Visit a family owned wood-working operation. Observe the creative process as the distinctive pieced designs, created with solid kiln-dried wood, are painstakingly produced. Shows showcases Amish quilts, custom furniture, pottery, glass, jewelry and other hand-made gifts. **\$\$**



Kalona Buggy Shop - Discover what goes into the construction of a custom created Amish buggy, built by hand at this Amish family operation. If you wish, you may place your own order, but plan to wait a year for its delivery. **KHS Exclusive**



Kalona Chocolates - Get a sneak peak at the Hershberger family operation, as these delectable handmade confections are created right before your eyes. **\$\$**



Kalona Creamery - Previously known worldwide as the Kalona Cheese Haus, this locally owned dairy has been modernized and now gives local farmers a novel option for their milk. Visitors tour the plant and learn about the fresh

products, including organic and Non-GMO dairy products, being processed daily.

\$\$ Kalona Historical Village - Re-live the 1800's when you visit authentically restored buildings, lovingly preserved and filled with interesting and informative displays depicting the lifestyle of the early Iowa pioneer. **\$\$**





Kalona Quilt & Textile Museum

- The museum features galleries for both Amish and English (non-Amish) quilts, showcasing quilt history of the midwest and beyond. New exhibits are installed quarterly in a variety of themes, so if you have visited in the past, chances are you will discover something new. **\$\$**

Max-Cast Sculpture Foundry -

Founded in 1983 by artists, Steve Maxon & Doris Park, Max-Cast is a full-service foundry, casting in bronze, iron, and aluminum. Your guide explains the unique steps and different processes used in the metal casting of fine art sculptures.



Old Mans Creek Winery - Tour the newest local vineyard and if age appropriate, sample some of their Iowa wines at this scenic family owned winery north west of Kalona. This venue can only accommodate groups of 15 or less **\$\$**

Stringtown Grocery & Produce

- This famous Amish bulk food grocery is a favorite of locals, and a landmark for visitors interested in ingredients for baking and snacking. It recently opened a produce department to the north, and a cold room for organically grown meats and products grown & made locally. **\$\$**



Kalona Sale Barn - Depending upon the day, your tour will encompass the procedures necessary to operate a livestock auction and may witness the sale of a variety of livestock at this 4th generation family owned auction house.



Local Fabric Shops - Especially for quilt groups, we can stop at several of the local fabric shops, both English and Amish, where you can pick up tips from the experts, and view demonstrations.

While we offer this listing, many of these sites are family operated and may or may not be able to accommodate your group on any particular day. The more flexible you are, the more likely we can meet your expectations.

Menus for the Home Cooked Family Style Meals

All meals are served family style, which means you are served large bowls and platters of your menu, and you spoon the size of portion you are comfortable with onto your personal plate. If the bowl is emptied, the cook sees to it that you never leave hungry.

Groups reserving the noon and evening meals are allowed the selection of one meat:

Roast Beef - Turkey - RoastPork - Ham - Chicken

The rest of the meal consists of

Choice of dressing or noodles

Choice of potato (mashed or fried) with gravy

Choice of Vegetable - Green Beans, Peas, Lima Beans, Mixed Vegetables or Corn

Choice of Lettuce or Cabbage (ColeSlaw) Salad

Tapioca salad & home-baked bread.

Choice of dessert - homemade pies or angel food cake & fruit topping

Everyone gets their choice of drink: water, iced tea or coffee



Please alert us if anyone has allergies or dietary restrictions our cooks need to accommodate.



Groups reserving morning or brunch receive the breakfast menu,

which consists of a lavish sampling of fresh-baked pastries, fruits, scrambled eggs, ham or sausage, fried potatoes, fruit, tapioca, juice, coffee or tea.