

# DES MOINES SIGHTS, EATS & DRINKS GUIDE

# resilience

AIA IA CON 2025 | SEPT 25–26

## SIGHTS

- Farmer's Market: One of the country's largest Saturday from 7-12
- DSM Art Center: Landmark architecture & contemporary art
- Botanical Garden: Beautiful indoor & outdoor gardens
- Pappajohn Sculpture Park: Outdoor collection of modern & contemporary sculpture
- Grey's Lake: Take a walk on the 2.0 mile loop
- Drake University
- Raccoon River Boat House: Rent kayak's, paddle boards, or canoes!
- ★ Valley Junction: Local shops and Farmer's Market on Thursday's
- Lauridsen Skate Park: Nation's largest skate park and home of the 2021 & 2022 Dew Tour
- Blank Park Zoo
- Iowa Capital Building
- Des Moines River Trail

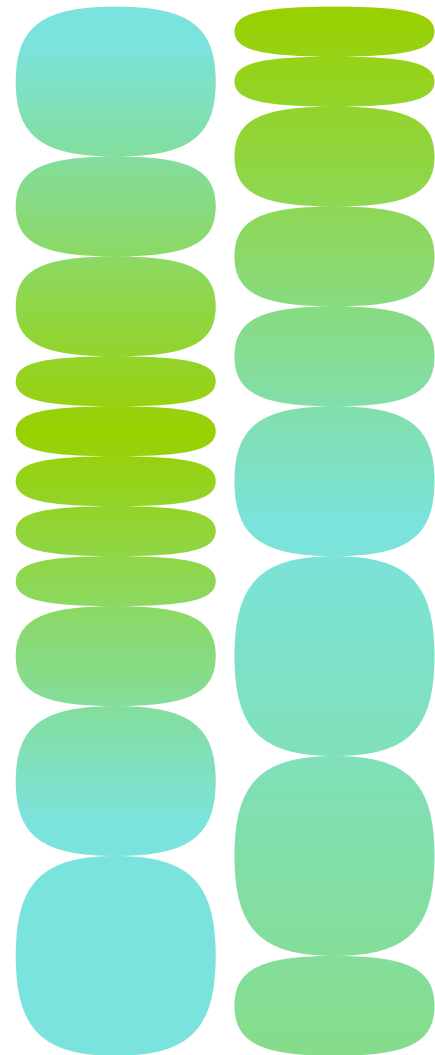
## COFFEE

- Smokey row: Lots of seating options, great place to get some work done
- Zanzibars: In house roasting and all day breakfast
- Horizon Line: Unique house-made syrups!
- Ritual Café: Vegetarian options
- La Mie Express: The convenient satellite location
- ★ St Kilda: Café
- ★ PerKup Cafe
- Scenic Route Bakery
- ★ Cafe Diem
- West End Architectural Salvage Coffee Shop
- Grounds for Celebration
- ▲ Daisy Chain: Specialty coffee and local honey

## DRINKS

- Star Bar: Great Sidewalk patio
- Jasper Winery: Local wine and craft beer
- ▲ The Republic: Cocktails with a view
- ▲ Beechwood Lounge: Dive bar
- El Bait Shop: 200+ beer on tap and more in cans

- Des Moines
- ▲ East Village
- ★ West Des Moines
- Ankeny



## DRINKS CONT.

- Hello Marjorie: Craft cocktails in a cozy, retro setting
- Juniper Moon: Cocktail bar
- Bartender's Handshake: Cocktail bar + patio
- Good News Darling: Speak-easy
- ▲ Bellhop: Retro tiki bar
- Lua: The definition of craft brews
- Secret Admirer: Cozy spot with craft cocktails
- In Confidence: Upscale bar in a historic hotel
- ▲ Coa Cantina: Tequila bar
- ▲ The Contrary: Cool cocktail bar
- Revival House: Immersive tiki bar
- ▲ Iowa Tap Room: 99 taps featuring all Iowa craft brews
- ★ G Migs 5th Street Pub: Food and drinks
- Carl's Place: Classic dive bar
- Noce: Jazz and cabaret cocktail bar

## LUNCH

- South Union: Amazing soup, salad and sandwiches
- Americana: Burgers and sandwiches
- ▲ Fong's: Crazy pizzas
- Lucky Lotus: Thai food in a great atmosphere
- Smokey D's: Great barbecue with several locations
- The Walnut: American sandwiches
- Exile: Upscale American brewpub
- Smitty's Tenderloin Shop: One of the best tenderloin's in the state!
- Buzzard Billy's: New Orleans Cajun
- Lachele's Fine Foods: Small diner with greasy burgers, hot dogs and Philly cheesesteaks
- ▲ Zombie Burger: Burgers and zombies
- The Cheese Bar: Cheese!
- Gateway Market: Quick options for soup, salads and sandwiches
- Bubba: Southern comfort
- Manhattan Deli: Des Moines staple
- Palmers: Deli
- Hessen Haus: German food
- Royal Mile: British Pub
- ★ Tasty Taco's: Fried tacos

## BREAKFAST

- La Mie: Pastries, eggs, tartines
- Homegrown: Known for their homemade pop-tarts
- Americana: Saturday brunch buffet
- Scenic Route: Pastries, java, café
- Waveland Café: Good dive-style breakfast
- Library Café: Hole-in-the-wall breakfast
- Drake Diner: Diner-ific food and breakfast
- ★ Eggs and Jam: 90's Hip Hop meets unique renditions of breakfast classics
- ★ Breakfast Club: Fusion breakfast options
- Nosh: Healthy small bites

## DINNER

- Eatery A: Mediterranean and wood fired pizza
- 801 Chop House: Upscale steakhouse
- Splash: Seafood flown in daily
- Big Grove: Great beer and small bites
- Lucca: 4 course Italian
- Jesse's Embers: Old school steakhouse
- ▲ Cylde's Fine Diner: Stylish diner food
- Court Ave Brewing Company: Upscale American
- Harbinger: South East Asian fusion
- ▲ HOQ: Farm-to-table
- ▲ Continental: Small plates and tapas
- Flying Mango: Caribbean BBQ
- Parlor: Detroit style pizza
- Centro: Pizza and pasta
- Akebono: Sushi bar
- W-Tao: Sushi and Asian dishes
- Django: French food and oyster bar
- Roca: Small plates and wine
- ▲ Alba: Creative American cuisine
- ▲ Latin King: American Italian
- Louie's Wine Dive: Good wine and food
- El Bait Shop: Good, greasy bar food, with over 200 beers on tap
- Proudfoot and Bird: Fine dining in a historic hotel
- Basic Bird: Korean fried chicken

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