



WELCOME TO IOWA COUNTY

MILES AND MILES OF MAGNIFICENT VIEWS

Photo credit: Danka Wehling

**ARENA • AVOCA • BARNEVELD • BLACK EARTH • BLANCHARDVILLE • COBB • DODGEVILLE
HIGHLAND • HOLLANDALE • LINDEN • LIVINGSTON • MAZOMANIE • MINERAL POINT
MONTFORT • MUSCODA • REWEY • RIDGEWAY • SPRING GREEN**

IOWA COUNTY ENCOMPASSES SO MUCH OF THE CHARACTER OF WISCONSIN AS A WHOLE: ROLLING HILLS, WELCOMING STATE PARKS, FLOURISHING FARMS, AND AWARD-WINNING WINES AND CHEESES.

It is steeped in the history of Wisconsin's early years and home to a theater company that's become one of the most celebrated in the Midwest.

For nature lovers, Iowa County's gem is Governor Dodge State Park, just north of Dodgeville. One of Wisconsin's largest state parks, it has 5,000 hilly acres to hike and is a popular destination for camping, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and horseback riding. In the winter, skiers and snowmobilers take over the trails while the park's two lakes offer ice fishing. There's even a cliff near the waterfall area that you can ice climb when it freezes.

Dodgeville is the home of Wisconsin's oldest active courthouse, built of native limestone in 1859 by immigrants from Cornwall, England, who had come to the region to mine lead, and later, zinc.

In Mineral Point, history buffs can also connect with the area's early settlers by visiting Pendarvis—a cluster of restored Cornish-style homes, a restaurant, and a pub built in the 1840s. The Cornish tradition carries throughout the community, with restaurants known for their Cornish pasties—hearty turnovers filled with meat, potatoes, and vegetables.

Mineral Point is where Henry Dodge was sworn in as the first governor of the newly established Wisconsin territory in 1836. With homes dating back before the Civil War, Mineral Point was the first city in Wisconsin named to the National Register of Historic Places.

Many smaller hidden gems are scattered throughout the county. For example, you can find the Grandview historic site on State Highway 39, and east/west road connecting Mineral Point to New Glarus. Recently

added to the State and National Registers of Historic places, Grandview offers a free visit and, in the summer, provides scores of interesting art classes for a very low cost.

Another event that draws thousands is the Wisconsin Grilled Cheese Championship, held in Dodgeville every April, as a way to honor the state's tradition of dairy farming. And Iowa County celebrates farmers themselves at Farm Appreciation Day, an annual July gathering in Dodgeville that features a parade, festival, and fireworks.

Iowa County's historical significance also revolves around renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Taliesin is the 800-acre property near Spring Green where Wright had his home and studio. It offers programs on organic living and the intersection of nature, culture, and construction design.

Theater lovers, meanwhile, flock to the nearby American Players Theatre, where a highly lauded company of actors performs plays by Shakespeare and more current playwrights in an open-air theatre and a smaller, enclosed venue throughout the summer.

Iowa County also is home to the House on the Rock, built in the 1940s atop a 60-foot chimney of rock near Spring Green by Madison native Alex Jordan. The structure began as a retreat for Jordan but soon became a curiosity, and it opened to the public for tours in 1960. In addition to the unique house itself, built right into the rock, the building houses an eclectic series of exhibits that include model airplanes, doll houses, theater organs, and an automated circus band.

FOR CALENDAR OF EVENTS & CURRENT INFORMATION: WWW.HIDDENVALLEYS.COM

TOP 10 IOWA COUNTY DESTINATIONS

1

GOVERNOR DODGE STATE PARK/DOBY STABLES
Dodgeville

2

HOUSE ON THE ROCK
Dodgeville

3

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S TALIESIN
Spring Green

4

SPURGEON WINERY
Highland

5

NICK ENGELBERT'S GRANDVIEW HISTORIC SITE
Hollandale

6

HISTORIC HIGH & COMMERCE STREETS
Mineral Point

7

SHAKE RAG ALLEY
Mineral Point

8

RIDGEWAY PINE RELICT STATE NATURAL AREA
Ridgeway

9

QUALITY BAKERY
Dodgeville

10

DON Q INN PLANE
Dodgeville



Don Q Inn Plane. Photo Credit: Sean Oster



Shake Rag Alley



Governor Dodge State Park.
Photo by Beverly Adams Sugden



Quality Bakery



Nick Engelbert's Grandview Historic Site



Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin



Spurgeon Winery



Mineral Point High Street

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Mineral Point - Pendarvis
New Glarus - Little Switzerland
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Mount Horeb - Trollway
Historic Hyde's Mill



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Governor Dodge. Photo Credit: Dena Nechkash

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Governor Dodge. Photo Credit: Dena Nechash

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