



## A Spiritual Journey through Western Iowa

West Bend



Algona

### Algona, Council Bluffs, Elk Horn, Sioux City, Stuart, West Bend

#### Camp Algona POW Nativity Scene, Algona

Between 1942 and 1946, enemy combatants captured during World War II were held captive in the US. One of the Prisoner of War (POW) camps was in north central Iowa, just outside Algona. Although POW camps in the US have been largely forgotten in American history, Algona has a yearly reminder of the Camp that was just outside the town: a nativity scene that is displayed every year around Christmas time. Learn about the divine inspiration behind this enduring symbol of unity for the people of Algona and those who visit it.



Sioux City



Elk Horn

#### The Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption, West Bend

Often referred to as the “8th Wonder of the World”, the Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption is testament to a young priest’s faith and determination to fulfill a promise. The Shrine is comprised of nine grottos depicting scenes in the life of Jesus. It is considered to be the world’s largest grotto and the most complete man-made collection of minerals, fossils, shells and petrified wood in one place.



Stuart

#### Queen of Peace/Trinity Heights, Sioux City

If you’re looking for a sanctuary to get away from everyday hassles — you’ll find it at Trinity Heights. This pastoral setting offers more than two dozen shrines, memorial garden spots and quiet corners for prayer and reflection amidst 14 acres of spacious walkways and soft green spaces.

The statues of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Queen of Peace and the Sacred Heart of Jesus that grace the grounds are awe inspiring. There are shrines to the Blessed Virgin Mary and The Way of the Saints honoring 60 Saints in the Catholic Church, an Outdoor Cathedral area and Trinity Gardens. Inside St. Joseph’s Center across from the Marian Center Gift Shop you’ll find an impressive life-size carving of the Last Supper.



Council Bluffs

#### Morning Star Chapel, Elk Horn

Charles Johann Walensky was born in Copenhagen, Denmark and as a young man, learned the building trade. Walensky was a deeply religious man. When he was 83-years old, he began to build a miniature chapel in his own backyard as a place for people to meditate, pray and relax. The tiny

*(Continued on page 2)*

chapel is just six feet wide and eight feet long. The interior is complete in every detail with an altar and pulpit. It has four pews with each just large enough to hold one person. Scriptural text illustrated with oil paintings adorn the walls and the windows are stained glass.

#### **Historic All Saints Catholic Church, Stuart**

Historic All Saints Church was built from 1908-1910 in the Byzantine and Romanesque style with an Italian Baroque interior. It served the Catholic parish in the Stuart area and was once voted the "most beautiful church in Iowa". In 1995, an arsonist set the church on fire to, in his words, "take the heart and soul out of a small town". It didn't work. After the parish built a new church at a different location, the community banded together to restore the building as a community cultural center.

The Learning Museum located in Saints Center for Culture and the Arts offers a self-guided video tour on interactive kiosks that explain the world's religions including Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Indigenous, Chinese Traditional and even Non-Religions.

#### **Kanesville Tabernacle & Visitor Center, Council Bluffs**

Kanesville, which served as a Mormon emigration hub for several years, was an early name for the community that later became Council Bluffs. In the Kanesville Tabernacle, built by 200 pioneers in just two and a half weeks, Brigham Young was sustained as the second prophet and president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The present log tabernacle is a replica of the original meeting hall. The tabernacle now serves as a visitors' center, where you can learn more about the epic history of the Latter-day Saints' migration westward.

*\*\*Note\*\* The above itinerary is a SAMPLE itinerary. Other attractions and activities can be substituted based on your preferences and the current seasonality to create a unique itinerary for your next visit.*

*Dining Suggestions – Some of the most memorable experiences when traveling involve the foods you eat. By sampling local cuisine, you get an authentic taste of place, its unique history and culture, as well as regional specialties and favorites. Western Iowa is home to a wide range of locally owned and operated restaurants, farms and artisanal food providers, wineries, craft breweries and distilleries. Ask the locals for their recommendations!*

---

#### **Contact:**

Algona Chamber of Commerce  
515.295.7201 | [www.algona.com](http://www.algona.com)

Camp Algona POW Project  
515.395.2267 | [pwcamp.algona.org](http://pwcamp.algona.org)

Council Bluffs Convention &  
Visitors Bureau  
712.256.2557 | [unleashcb.com](http://unleashcb.com)

Danish Windmill  
712.764.7472 | [danishwindmill.com](http://danishwindmill.com)

Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption  
515.887.2371 | [westbendgrotto.com](http://westbendgrotto.com)

Kanesville Tabernacle  
712.322.0500 | [lds.org/locations/kanesville-tabernacle](http://lds.org/locations/kanesville-tabernacle)

Queen of Peace/Trinity Heights  
712.239.8670 | [trinityheights.com](http://trinityheights.com)

All Saints Catholic Church | Saints Center for  
Culture and the Arts  
515.205.6202 | [saintscenter.com](http://saintscenter.com)



WESTERN IOWA TOURISM REGION  
info@visitwesterniowa.com  
shirley@visitwesterniowa.com  
[visitwesterniowa.com](http://visitwesterniowa.com)  
712.830.6768