



# DES MOINES. THE Ss ARE SILENT.

— Our city says —

# “WELCOME!”



When you come to Greater Des Moines, you'll notice the buzz. Our restaurants are sizzling, and our attractions are electric! Below you'll find some of the top places and things that make us Des Best, all conveniently located within a quick drive of Cownie Sports Complex. Enjoy your visit!

## ATTRACTIONS

- ▶ **EASTER LAKE — 3.1 MILES / 7 MINS.**  
Pack your sunscreen for an afternoon of swimming at Easter Lake. This 178-acre lake is the centerpiece of a beautiful park with playgrounds and picnic shelters surrounding the water. Enjoy the beach during a warm summer day in Iowa and pack a picnic for lunch while you're at it!
- ▶ **IOWA CUBS — 3.8 MILES / 10 MINS.**  
Catch a rising star (or a hot dog) with the Chicago Cubs AAA affiliate at beautiful Principal Park along the river. Purchase advance or same-day tickets conveniently online using your phone.
- ▶ **DOWNTOWN FARMERS' MARKET — 4 MILES / 11 MINS.**  
No trip to Des Moines is complete without a visit to the #2 Farmers' Market in America. (Who's #1? We'd like to file a grievance.) Every Saturday morning from May to October, you'll find more than 100 vendors selling fresh produce and farm and artisan packaged food. This is possibly the best place to get a true taste of Des Moines!
- ▶ **SCIENCE CENTER OF IOWA — 4.1 MILES / 11 MINS.**  
Take the kids to the Science Center of Iowa, where learning is REAL fun. Located in the heart of downtown, SCI includes permanent exhibits like Why the Sky? (space), Brick by Brick (LEGO), and What on Earth (zoology/geology), along with a host of cool traveling exhibits like the recent appearance by SUE: The T. Rex Experience.
- ▶ **SLEEPY HOLLOW ADVENTURE PARK — 6 MILES / 15 MINS.**  
It's an event park with go-karts, batting cages, mini-golf, sand volleyball, inflatables, and laser tag. There's something that everyone in your family will love!
- ▶ **BLANK PARK ZOO — 7 MILES / 17 MINS.**  
Lions and tigers and red pandas, oh my! This 49-acre zoo on the south side of the city includes exhibits such as tigers, seals, lions, giraffes (that you can feed!), lemurs, red pandas, and rhinos (including a recent addition, baby Kamara). With add-ons like train rides, face painting, a carousel, and camel rides, we're not lion when we say the fun is almost unbearable.
- ▶ **GREAT ESCAPE AND SOCIAL EATS & CRAFTS — 10.5 MILES / 16 MINS.**  
The Great Escape dubs itself as "The Ultimate Experience," and who are we to argue? With 24 bowling lanes, laser tag, more than 50 arcade games, and virtual reality experiences, it really is the ultimate playground for both kids and adults. For those who would rather spectate and grab a bite to eat, Social Eats & Crafts is located on-site with modern American cuisine like burgers, flat-breads, fish and chips, and salads.
- ▶ **OUTLETS OF DES MOINES — 13 MILES / 20 MINS.**  
The only outlet mall in Greater Des Moines, Outlets of Des Moines is an open-air shopping destination conveniently located at I-80 and US-65 in Altoona. Shop and save up to 70% at your favorites including Michael Kors, kate spade new york, Polo Ralph Lauren, Under Armour Factory House, and more.
- ▶ **ADVENTURELAND — 13 MILES / 22 MINS.**  
An amusement park and water park destination all in one! More than 100 rides, shows, and attractions for all ages, including popular coasters, The Monster and Phoenix. Water park admission is included and features more than a half dozen slides, a lazy river, wave pool, Kokomo Kove for the young kiddos, and a swim-up bar for the grown-ups. Rent a cabana in Adventure Bay to use as your home-base and stay at either Adventureland Inn or the adjacent campground to stay close to the action. Thrill rides and chill vibes abound!
- ▶ **BASS PRO SHOPS — 13.5 MILES / 21 MINS.**  
Yes, it's an outdoor store, but did you know it's also home to a bowling alley, antique store, aquarium, restaurant, and an entertainment center?

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**DES MOINES**



## RESTAURANTS

▶ **TRUMAN'S KC PIZZA TAVERN** — 3.3 MILES / 8 MINS.

Enjoy a taste of Kansas City with a spin on your classic favorites, such as the French Dip Pizza, Bobby Bell BBQ pizza, or our Burnt End Eggs Benedict for Breakfast on the weekends. Truman's decor incorporates Kansas City Chiefs booths and memorabilia from the Chiefs and Royals.

▶ **RITA'S CANTINA** — 3.3 MILES / 9 MINS.

Check out downtown's Rita's Cantina, a Des Moines summer hotspot, serving Tex-Mex food along with queso flights on their huge outdoor patio.

▶ **MULLETS** — 3.6 MILES / 9 MINS.

Fun riverside roadhouse with a two-tiered patio, views of downtown, something for everyone on the menu, and yes... photos of mullets on the wall.

▶ **IOWA TAPROOM** — 3.8 MILES / 10 MINS.

The popular family-friendly beer hall-style restaurant is nice and loud inside, so if your kids are loud, people will be none the wiser as you sample the 99 Iowa beers on tap. They offer a variety of locally sourced New American fare favorites, so everyone will be sure to find something on the menu.

▶ **SPAGHETTI WORKS** — 3.9 MILES / 10 MINS.

Downtown pasta place with more than 700 pasta and sauce combinations and the best plate of buttered noodles your toddler has ever had.

▶ **ZOMBIE BURGER** — 4 MILES / 11 MINS.

You're in for a treat at Zombie Burger. Their "post apocalyptic chic" space serves fast food with a culinary edge. With dozens of burger combinations, you're sure to find something to your liking. Order a cereal milkshake to make your meal complete.

▶ **FONG'S PIZZA** — 4.1 MILES / 11 MINS.

Here in Des Moines, we've solved the age-old dilemma "Crab Rangoon or pizza?" by putting the Crab Rangoon directly on the pizza and serving it with a tiki drink and jet fighter helmet. See why celebrity chef Alton Brown called it "the best thing I ever ate." Don't worry — there are plenty of less exotic (but no less delicious) options for the pickier eaters in your brood.

▶ **BUZZARD BILLY'S** — 4.3 MILES / 12 MINS.

Cajun, creole, and American food in a fun atmosphere just a stone's throw from Wells Fargo Arena if you find yourself there for a show or event.

▶ **TURSI'S LATIN KING** — 4.8 MILES / 12 MINS.

For more than 69 years Tursi's Latin King Restaurant has stood as a hallmark of quality traditional Italian dining in Des Moines. Considered an "East-side institution," Tursi's Latin King delivers an authentic piece of Italy in the heart of the Midwest.

▶ **JETHRO'S BBQ** — 6.5 MILES / 18 MINS.

Popular local BBQ chain with eight locations, each with a unique specialty (steaks, fish, pork chops, bacon, etc.). Huge portions is an understatement.

▶ **BURGER SHED** — 13 MILES / 20 MINS.

Located in Altoona, Burger Shed offers more than ten burgers, including vegetarian options. You can't go wrong with choices like the Mac Attack Burger (mac and cheese and bacon jam!) and Reuben Burger. And they even top their buns with a branded BS.

DES  
BEST

Everyone loves a good list. We've got Des Best ones.

For more things to do, check out our locally-sourced Des Best lists by visiting [catchdesmoines.com/desbest](https://catchdesmoines.com/desbest).

It's **Des Best** resource around for learning about all the things you won't want to miss!



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