



Explore your European Ancestry in Western Iowa



**Corning, Stanton, Elk Horn, Kimballton, Manning, Orange City, Emmetsburg**

Did your ancestors come to America from Europe? Western Iowa was fertile ground for many European immigrants to settle. Get in touch with your cultural heritage and learn about some of the traditions, foods and interests that are celebrated in these communities!

**France — Corning**

Bonjour and bienvenue! In 1848 France, the Icarians pursued a special vision for their future. To carry out this ideal, they made a remarkable journey from France to Adams County in the new state of Iowa. The Icarians were French immigrants whose “all for one and one for all” philosophy brought them to America and Adams County Iowa to establish an equalitarian community. Get a glimpse of a child of Icaria’s school day, visit the communal dining hall. While in Corning, take in a local winery and vineyard to enjoy a taste of their award-winning wines while relaxing on a floating tasting room with a view of the vineyard.



**Sweden— Stanton**

Välkomna to Stanton, a community that was established in the mid-1800’s by a small settlement who came from the Halland region of Sweden. The Swedish Heritage and Cultural Center, housed in an 1885 building, relates the history of the Swedish settlement with such artifacts as a handmade loom of the 1870’s, original photographs, and a restored one-room schoolhouse. You’ll marvel at their coffee pot water tower, honoring native Virginia Christie, who played Mrs. Olsen in ads for Folger’s Coffee. Sample local Swedish delicacies, such as spritz cookies, cheeses, breads, pickled herring and perhaps some pepparkakor or ostkaka with lingonberries dished up with small-town hospitality.



**Denmark— the Danish Villages of Elk Horn and Kimballton**

Velkommen to the Danish Villages of Elk Horn and Kimballton! More people of Danish ancestry live in this area than in any other rural community outside of Denmark. Tour an authentic 1848 Danish Windmill, a 900 AD Viking smithy’s long house known as a VikingHjem, see a replica of the Little Mermaid statue that sits in the Copenhagen harbor, the Museum of Danish America’s changing exhibits and a 30-acre prairie landscape park and Bedstemor’s House (Danish Grandmother’s House), a restored 1908 immigrant home. Annual Danish heritage festivals are Tivoli Fest in May and Julefest in November. Enjoy sampling æbelskivers and medisterpølse, smørrebrød open-faced sandwiches, kringle and more!



*(Continued on page 2)*

### Germany—Manning Hausbarn-Heritage Park, Manning

In 17th century Germany, it was common practice for a farmer’s house to be shared by families and their livestock. Go inside an authentic hausbarn built in 1660 that was moved to Manning and today is a unique museum dedicated to the German cultural heritage of the community.

Get out your lederhosen and see a keg tapping done the old German way, enjoy a traditional style German meal, music, games and polka dancing each October during Oktoberfest!

### Holland—Orange City

Founded by Holland settlers in 1870, Orange City was named after Prince William of Orange, a prominent royal figure in The Netherlands (Holland) in the 17th Century. Since the 1930s when the first annual Tulip Festival was held, Orange City has built upon its Dutch and Northern European heritage through architecture, “Dutch Village” style shopping, parks, windmills, arts, culture, and events. The Orange City Tulip Festival is known for its tulips and night show as well as its authentic Dutch costumes, dances and food. The festival is held the third weekend of May.

### Ireland—Emmetsburg

In 1856, a group of Irish immigrant families established a frontier colony in Palo Alto County which became Emmetsburg. Because of the large number of Irish immigrants, the culture and customs of the Emerald Isle were preserved in the area such as the observance of St. Patrick’s Day.

The weekend in March closest to St. Patrick’s Day, the three-day celebration begins on Friday with the arrival of the special guest from Ireland, typically a member of the Irish Parliament. In the afternoon, a tea is held for the honored guests. Saturday features a full day of activities, including include the Miss Shamrock pageant, Little Irish dancers, the “O’Round the Loch”, an Irish Stew dinner, teas, and the famous St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

#### **\*\*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:**

ACEDC Adams County Economic Development Corporation  
641.322.5229 | [adamscountyia.com](http://adamscountyia.com)

Danish Villages Improvement Organization  
712.764.3263 | [danishvillages.com](http://danishvillages.com)

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

Emmetsburg Chamber of Commerce  
712.852.2283 | [emmetsburg.com](http://emmetsburg.com)

French Icarian Colony Foundation  
641.322.4717 | [icaria.net](http://icaria.net)

Manning Chamber of Commerce  
712.655.3541 | [manningia.com](http://manningia.com)

Manning Hausbarn-Heritage Park  
712.655.3131 | [germanhausbarn.com](http://germanhausbarn.com)

Museum of Danish America  
712.764.7001 | [danishmuseum.org](http://danishmuseum.org)

Orange City Tulip Festival  
712.707.4510 | [octulipfestival.com](http://octulipfestival.com)

Stanton Historical Society  
712.829.2840 | [stantoniowa.com](http://stantoniowa.com)



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