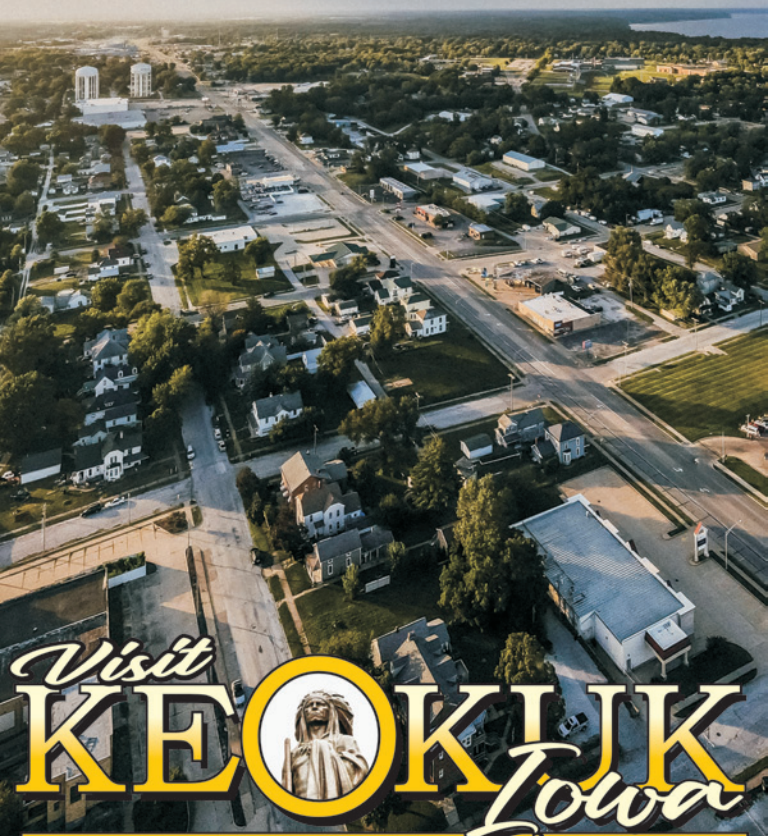


2023-2024 Visitor's Guide

# KEOKUK

*Where the geode's rock  
and the Mississippi rolls!*



*Visit*  
**KEOKUK**  
*Iowa*

KEOKUK AREA CONVENTION AND TOURISM BUREAU

428 Main Street, Keokuk, Iowa 319-524-5599

[www.keokukiowatourism.org](http://www.keokukiowatourism.org)

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*Cover photo: Doug Ewing*



**KEOKUK AREA CONVENTION & TOURISM BUREAU**

428 Main St. • Keokuk, IA 52632

319-524-5599

[info@keokukiowatourism.org](mailto:info@keokukiowatourism.org) • [www.KeokukIowaTourism.org](http://www.KeokukIowaTourism.org)

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**Executive Director:**

**Kirk Brandenberger**

**KACTB Board of Directors:**

**Kathy Asbury, Mike Beard  
Pam Bierwirth, Kat Blakely  
Ron Bonney, Kari Grogan  
Leah Jones, Judy McDonald  
Wes Pohorsky, Kirstin Protsman  
Earl Walrath**

# Facts & Figures

## Keokuk Population

Keokuk — 10,780  
Male — 5,142  
Female — 5,638  
Median Age — 38.1  
Ave. Family Size — 2.30

(Information from 2010 US Census)

## Keokuk Weather

### SEASONAL AVERAGES

(over 30 yr. period)

High-Low Temperatures & Precipitation

Spring	62°	41°	3.85"
Summer	85°	65°	3.70"
Fall	64°	45°	3.32"
Winter	36°	19°	1.57"

## Fun Facts

- Keokuk was home to Younkers' first store.
- The American Fur Company opened a trading post in 1828 which was known as "Rat Row".
- Orion Clemens published Keokuk's first City Directory in 1857 with the help of his brothers, Samuel & Henry. Samuel later became known as Mark Twain.
- Keokuk received electricity in 1885.
- Bud Fowler was the first African-American to play professional baseball and played for the 1885 Western League Keokuks.
- Two Keokuk citizens served in a president's cabinet, both as Secretary of War. William Belknap (1869-76) under Grant, and George McCrary (1877-79) under Hayes.
- Keokuk has the record high temperature for Iowa with 118 F on July 20, 1934.
- The Samuel Curtis statue in Victory Park first sat in the middle of 3rd and Main Streets. It was removed in 1934 when it became a traffic hazard.
- Keokuk has 20 entries in the National Register of Historic Places, and Lee County has 42. One of these, the Grand Avenue/Park Place Residential Area in Keokuk, is 15 blocks long.
- During the Civil War, Keokuk had the highest enlistment rate in Iowa. After the war, many of Keokuk's leading citizens were Union Army veterans.
- Famous people with Keokuk connections: Mark Twain, Theodore Roosevelt, Andrew Carnegie, Betsy Ross, Robert E. Lee, William Jennings Bryan, Carrie Nation, Roger Maris, John Phillips Sousa, the Marx Brothers, Howard Hughes, Montgomery Meigs, the Younkers, Buffalo Bill, Ringling Brothers Circus, Charles Emerson Winchester III, Krusty the Clown and many more.
- In 1887, JC Hubinger roared into Keokuk with a big fortune and big dreams. 20 years later he died almost penniless - a riches-to-rags story.

## Iowa Facts

Birth Date: December 28, 1846  
Capital City: Des Moines  
Population: 3,046,355  
U.S. Ranks: 1st in Corn, Soybean, Hog, Egg & Ethanol Prod. 2nd in Wind Energy Prod.  
Major Industries: Agriculture, Mfg, Retail/Wholesale Trade, Services, Tourism  
Highest Point: Hawkeye Point, north of Sibley in Osceola County (1,670')  
Lowest Point: Keokuk - Des Moines & Mississippi Rivers Meet (470')  
Time Zone: Central  
Nickname: The Hawkeye State  
State Motto: "Our liberties we prize and our rights we will maintain"  
State Tree: Oak — adopted in 1961  
State Flower: Wild Rose — adopted in 1897  
State Bird: Eastern Gold Finch — adopted in 1933  
State Rock: Geode — designated in 1967  
Only In Iowa: Iowa is the only state bordered by two navigable rivers!

# Events Calendar

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<b>When</b>	<b>Event/Location</b>
<b>January (3rd Full Weekend)</b> .....	<b>Annual Bald Eagle Appreciation Days</b>
Day One: 1st Christian Church / 3476 Main St., Keokuk IA	
Day Two: Riverfront Landing / 203 N. 1st St./ Montrose IA / 319-524-5599	
<b>February (1st Full Weekend)</b> .....	<b>Untold Nauvoo Stories Symposium</b>
Joseph Smith Historic Site Visitor Center / 865 Water St., Nauvoo IL / 217-453-6648	
<b>Jul 4</b> .....	<b>Independence Day Celebrations</b>
Rand Park / 17 <sup>th</sup> St and Orleans St., Keokuk IA / 319-524-2050, ext. 105	
<b>July (begins the 1st Tues after July 4th for 4 weeks)</b> .....	<b>Nauvoo Pageant</b>
260 N. Partridge St, Nauvoo IL / 217-453-2429	
<b>July 5-9, 2023</b> .....	<b>Lee County Fair</b>
Donnellson Fairgrounds / 1100 N. Main St., Donnellson IA / 319-835-5517	
<b>August (1st Full Weekend)</b> .....	<b>Western Illinois Old Threshers</b>
Old Threshers Grounds / 1570 North County Road 900 (N. 19th Street)	
Hamilton IL / 217-845-3041	
<b>August (begins Thur before the 3rd Sat)</b> .....	<b>Watermelon Festival</b>
Festival Grounds / 710 Main St., Montrose IA / 319-463-5824	
<b>August (3rd Fri and Sat)</b> .....	<b>Rollin' on the River Blues Fest</b>
Victory Park / 311 Mississippi Dr., Keokuk IA / 660-754-6679	
<b>Labor Day Weekend</b> .....	<b>Midwest Old Threshers' Reunion</b>
Threshers Grounds / 405 E. Threshers Rd., Mt. Pleasant IA / 319-385-8937	
<b>Labor Day</b> .....	<b>Labor Day Parade</b>
Main Street from 20 <sup>th</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> Streets, Keokuk IA / 319-838-2901	
<b>September (Wed following Labor Day through Sat)</b> .....	<b>Tri-State Rodeo</b>
C.E. Richards Arena / 2103 303 <sup>rd</sup> Ave., Fort Madison, IA / 319-372-2550	
<b>September (3rd Full Weekend)</b> .....	<b>Clark County Mule Festival</b>
Clark County Fairgrounds, Kahoka MO / 660-341-4835	
<b>September (Last Full Weekend)</b> .....	<b>Geode Fest</b>
1st Christian Church / 3476 Main St. / Keokuk IA / 319-524-5599	
<b>Veteran's Day</b> .....	<b>Veteran's Day Memorial Service</b>
Keokuk Veterans' Memorial / 1701 J St., Keokuk IA / 319-524-7831	
<b>Thanksgiving through Jan 1</b> .....	<b>City of Christmas Display of Lights</b>
Rand Park / N. 17th St. & Park Lane, Keokuk IA / 319-524-1127	

# Travel Information

## Emergency Numbers

Keokuk Police Department  
319-524-2741  
Keokuk Fire Department  
319-524-5225  
Lee County Sheriff  
319-524-1414  
Great River Health System Urgent Care  
319-524-6274  
Winter Road Conditions  
Dial 511  
Emergency  
Dial 911

## Services

### Auto Towing

Newberry, Inc.  
24-Hour Service, 319-524-4014  
Rairden's Towing Service  
24-Hour Service, 319-524-3721

### Laundromats/Dry Cleaners

Artistic Cleaners  
23 N 4th St., 319-524-5563  
Maytag Coin Laundry  
2641 Main St., 319-524-1220

### Marine Towing

Hall Towing, Inc.  
319-372-3078

### Shipping/Mail Delivery

Cardboard Box - UPS & FedEx  
1300 Main St., 319-524-2078  
Fed Ex Drop Box  
1215 Main St. (Walgreens)  
Keokuk Post Office  
214 S. 2nd St., 319-524-9923  
Western Union (Hy-Vee Foods)  
3111 Main St., 319-524-2902

### Travel Agencies

Gemini Travel & Shuttle  
629 Blondeau St., Suite #101  
319-524-1461

## ATM Locations

Connection Bank  
2119 Main Street  
19 N. 5th Street  
104 North Park Drive  
MOD Convenience Store  
3345 Main St., 319-524-9237  
Pilot Grove Savings Bank  
200 Main Street  
601 Main Street  
201 Boulevard Road  
1600 Morgan Street (Keokuk Hospital)  
335 Messenger Road (SCC)  
Two Rivers Bank  
320 Concert Street  
3345 Main Street  
115 Boulevard Road

## Service Stations

Casey's General Store  
3530 Main St., 319-524-7688  
326 Main St., 319-524-2007  
Hy-Vee Gas  
3001 Main St., 319-524-4894  
MOD Convenience Store  
3345 Main St., 319-524-9237  
Murphy USA  
3450 Main St., 319-524-2164  
Site Food Mart  
1301 Main St., 319-524-3454

## Transportation

Amtrak Rail Service  
810 10th St., Suite 1  
Fort Madison  
Gemini Travel & Shuttle  
629 Blondeau St., Suite #101  
319-524-1461  
Keokuk Municipal Airport  
2504 340th St., 319-524-6203  
Trailways Bus System  
629 Blondeau St.,  
319-524-6782  
United American Cab Co.  
319-524-5555

# Lodging

## Bed & Breakfasts

### **Pelican Peg's Mississippi River Front Bed & Breakfast**

3046 Koehler Ln, Montrose  
319-463-5955 / 319-470-3147  
www.pelicanpegs.com

## Cabins/Vacation Houses

### **Eagles Nest Apartment** 1229 Grand Avenue

319-524-8643 / JuliaLTy@mail.com  
Located on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, this entire third floor in one of Keokuk's most historic homes is available for the night or week. Sleeps four. Living & dining areas, fully equipped kitchen, two bedrooms, bath and private rooftop patio.

### **Hoffman Mansion**

2 Cooper St., Hamilton, IA  
info@hoffmanmansion.com

The Hoffman Mansion is an exclusive destination on the Mississippi River. The unique upscale venue plays host to weddings, receptions, corporate and other private events while also being a distinctive locale for overnight stays, getaways, and private tours.

### **Mighty Mississippi Bluff Cabin**

Mississippi River Rd., Montrose  
319-463-7482 / jackikleekai@gmail.com

Loft-style cabin on a bluff overlooking the mighty Mississippi River. Relax on the porch with a gorgeous view of river with private gardens and Koi pond. Big whirlpool tub, nicely equipped kitchen, washer & dryer. Linens provided. Sleeps 8 - 2 queen, 1 full, 2 twin. Nature's getaway for a night or weekly stay!

### **Mississippi Hillside Cabin**

3501 Mississippi Rd. / 319-795-2570  
www.homeaway.com/vacation-rental/p169191 / hjhowell@live.com

Two bedrooms. One queen bed and one with a full and a twin bed. Fully furnished kitchen and bath. Cable TV. View of the Mississippi River.

### **Montrose River House**

Schlatter Addition, Montrose  
641-328-0124 / www.vrbo.com/612772

This split level home is fully furnished & located 50' from the Mississippi River. Sit on the deck watching the sunrise as the river flows by with waterfowl & barges. During the day, play on the river. Canoe & inner tubes are available. Three bedroom, 1 & 1/2 bath, living/dining room, family room, enclosed porch & 2 1/2 car garage. Wireless high speed internet, cable.

### **Wilson Lake Cabins**

2195 220th St., Donnellson, IA / 319-463-7673

www.leecounty.org/offices/conservation/lakewilson.htm

Four season family get-away. Cabins come equipped with stove, refrigerator & microwave, bathroom & shower, central air & heat. Prairieview Cabin sleeps 8 and is handicap accessible. Timberview Cabin sleeps 8.

## Campgrounds

### **Hickory Haven**

2413 353rd St. / 319-795-4822

Open year-round. 50 sites. Restrooms, showers, laundry, water, electricity, sewer, fishing pond, picnic tables & grills, playground, firewood. Shaded walking trails in quiet, peaceful setting.

### **Victory Park**

City of Keokuk Riverfront

311 Mississippi Dr. / 319-524-7122

5 spaces with water & electric hook-ups. Fees payable at Southside Boat Club, 625 Mississippi Drive.

### **Hubinger Landing**

City of Keokuk Riverfront

711 Mississippi Dr. / 319-524-7122

10 drive through spaces with water & electric hook-ups. Fees payable at Southside Boat Club, 625 Mississippi Drive.

## Hotels & Motels

### **Baymont by Wyndham Hotel**

325 Main St. / 319-313-9000

Free hot breakfast. Fitness center, free WiFi, business center. Rooms are non-smoking and feature TV/cable, refrigerator, microwave, coffee/tea maker, desk, iron, hair dryer. Free parking, 24/7 front desk staff. Fee for Pets.

### **Budget Inn**

3764 Main St. / 319-524-3252

45 completely remodeled guest rooms. Free high speed internet. Pet friendly. Cable TV. 24-hour front desk. Motorcoach parking.

### **Chief Motel**

2701 Main St.

800-728-0599, 319-524-2565

www.chiefmotelkeokuk.com

Low rates. Very clean and comfortable rooms. Free breakfast. Microwave, refrigerator & 32" LED TV in all rooms. Free high speed internet. Cable with HBO, ESPN & FSN. Weekly & corporate rates. Non-smoking rooms available.

### **Hampton Inn**

3201 Main St.

319-524-6700, 1-800-Hampton

http://hamptoninn.hilton.com

63 rooms. Indoor pool, whirlpool, board room and complimentary breakfast. Hilton Honors

### **Keokuk Super 8**

3511 Main St. / 319-524-3888

www.super8.com

61 guest rooms, all non-smoking. Complimentary Super Start Breakfast, fitness room, guest laundry room, in-room coffee makers, refrigerators and microwaves available. Pets welcome with daily fee.

### **Quality Inn & Suites**

3404 Main St. / 319-524-9000

www.choicehotels.com/ia/keokuk/quality-inn-hotels/ia226/rates

The Quality Inn has 61 guest rooms, indoor pool, and a deluxe breakfast area. Guest laundry. Fitness room. Non-smoking.



# Shopping

## Apparel

- Cato Fashions  
3360 Main St., 319-524-5724
- Courtois Creations  
810 Main St., Suite 1E
- Dollar General Store  
300 Main St., 319-313-4254
- Hibbitt Sports  
3245 Main St., 319-524-2354
- RKO LOCO Clothing Boutique  
27 N. 4th St., 319-520-7377
- Suite Escape Tanning Salon Clothing Boutique  
629 Blondeau St., Ste 102, 319-524-2606
- The Athletic Center  
521 Main St., 319-524-9808
- Wal-Mart Super Center  
300 N. Park Dr., 319-524-6941
- Younggren Shoes  
412 Main St., 319-524-3071

## Automotive

- Auto Zone  
2215 Main St., 319-524-7022
- Derr Motor Co.  
4057 Main St., 319-524-5142
- Discount Tire & Service  
1003 Main St., 319-524-5000
- Eckland Motors  
1802 Main St., 319-524-2010
- Elston Auto Repair  
824 Johnson St., 319-524-0600
- Goodyear Auto Services Center  
724 Main St., 319-524-3311
- Keokuk Auto Credit  
1728 Main St., 319-524-2334
- Kraus Automotive  
25 N. 17th St., 319-524-2025
- O'Reilly Auto Parts  
2700 Main St., 319-526-2691
- T.O. Haas Tire Co.  
2816 Main St., 319-524-6384

## Florists

- Hy-Vee Floral  
3111 Main St., 319-524-7482
- Occasions  
417 Main St.
- Watering Can Floral & Gifts  
926 Main St., 319-524-3800

## Gifts - Souvenirs

- Cahill-Pribyl Jewelry & Gifts  
511 Main St., 319-524-3801
- Keokuk Art Center  
210 N 5th St., 319-524-8354
- Keokuk Tourism Bureau  
428 Main St., 319-524-5599
- Muddy River Music  
27 N. 4th St., 319-524-2877
- Occasions  
417 Main St.
- Simply Home Boutique & Antiques  
527 Main St., 563-580-5257

- The Lost Canvas Gallery & Coffee Shop  
719 Main St., 319-331-2164
- Walgreen Drug Store  
1215 Main St., 319-524-0145
- Watering Can Floral & Gifts  
926 Main St., 319-524-3800

## Grocers

- Aldi  
3371 Main St.
- Dollar General Store  
300 Main St., 319-313-4254
- Hy-Vee Foods  
3111 Main St., 319-524-2902
- Wal-Mart Super Center  
300 N. Park Dr., 319-524-6941

## Home Supplies

- Ace Hardware  
2122 Main St., 319-524-1398
- Farm & Home Supply  
2028 Main St., 319-526-6001
- Gate City Seed  
824 Main St., 319-524-1892
- Hartrick's Independent Lumber  
921 Johnson St., 319-524-2793
- Keokuk Homestore  
320 Des Moines St., 319-524-1172
- Sherwin-Williams  
3533 Main St., 319-524-6683

## Office Supplies

- McFarland Supply Co.  
24 S. 10th St., 319-524-2153

## Pet Supplies

- Keokuk Veterinary Hospital  
1325 Johnson St., 319-524-4348
- Krichel Animal Hospital  
1912 Main St., 319-524-6835
- The Animal House  
712 Main St., 319-524-2218
- Two Rivers Veterinary Center  
3415 Main St., 319-524-5262

## Pharmacy

- Hy-Vee Pharmacy  
3111 Main St., 319-524-9535
- Walgreen Drug Store  
1215 Main St., 319-524-0145
- Wal-Mart Pharmacy  
300 N. Park Dr., 319-524-4071

## Re-Sale Shops

- Angels Over You Resale Shop  
1201 High St., 319-795-3297
- Dan's Pawn & Gun Shop  
602 Main St., 319-524-3897
- Fazes Resale Shop  
523 Main St., 319-524-1335
- Goodwill Store  
1226 Main St., 319-524-2525
- The Crossing Thrift Store  
300 Main St., 319-313-8138

# Area Antique Shops

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## **KEOKUK, IOWA**

Auntie Lou's – 1906 Johnson Street, 319-524-8616

Heritage Antique Mall – 4054 Main Street, 319-524-1452

Simply Home Boutique and Antiques – 527 Main Street, 563-580-5257

## **BONAPARTE, IOWA**

Waterfront Place – 606 First Street, 319-592-3773

## **BENTONSPORT, IOWA**

The Historic Greef General Store – 21964 Hawk Drive, 319-592-3579

## **DONNELSON, IOWA**

Apple Tree Antiques – 1805 180th Street, 319-835-9883

## **MT. PLEASANT, IOWA**

Iris City Antique Mall – 1415 West Washington Street, 319-385-7515

## **HAMILTON, ILLINOIS**

Carriage Works – 1050 & 1066 Broadway Streets, 217-847-6500

## **NAUVOO, ILLINOIS**

Nauvoo Market Place – 1385 Mulholland Street, 217-242-4286

Rita's Romantiques – 2592 N. Sycamore Street, 217-453-6480

## **ALEXANDRIA, MISSOURI**

Gregory's Antique Mall & Fireworks – 27166 US Hwy 61, 660-341-0193

## **KAHOKA, MISSOURI**

H & M Antiques & More – 150 West Main Street, 660-727-1600





# Dining & Lounges

## Dining

- American Legion  
727 Main St., 319-524-7831
- Angelini's Ristorante Italiano  
1006 Main St., 319-524-9009
- Arby's  
3444 Main St.
- Beef, Bread & Brew  
2601 Main St., 319-524-7476
- Burger King  
2329 Main St., 319-524-2822
- Casey's Pizza-Carryout  
3530 Main St., 319-524-7688  
326 Main St., 319-524-2007
- Chintz's  
1310 Main St., 319-524-9372
- Dairy Queen  
2656 Belknap Blvd., 319-524-8352
- Domino's  
1027 Main St., 319-524-9770
- Dr. Getwell's Bar & Grill  
1100 Main St., 319-313-8200
- Fat Jimmy's Smokehouse & Spirits  
3065 Mississippi River Rd.  
319-463-5003
- 4th Street Cafe  
22 S. 4th St., 319-524-2079
- Ft. Worth Cafe  
526 S. 5th St., 319-524-9880
- Hy-Vee Deli Cafe  
3111 Main St., 319-524-2902
- Java River  
2528 Main St., 319-524-2586
- KFC  
3010 Main St., 319-524-8033
- Los Tapatios  
706 Main St., 319-313-8035
- Lucky's Grub, Pub & Sports Bar  
528 Blondeau St., 319-524-1135
- McDonald's  
1407 Main St., 319-524-2005
- Meyers' Courtyard  
629 Blondeau St., 319-524-4407
- Pizza Hut  
3338 Main St., 319-524-2555
- Rascal's Pub & Grub  
820 Main St., 319-524-2839
- Santana's Mexican Restaurant  
3753 Main St., 319-313-8127
- Sonic  
3325 Main St., 319-524-1919
- Subway  
1029 Main St., 319-524-2550  
300 N. Park Dr., 319-524-3650
- Taco Bell  
3356 Main St., 319-524-4544

## Dining

- The Hawkeye Restaurant  
105 N. Park Dr., 319-524-7549
- Wendy's  
1623 Main St., 319-524-7525

## Lounges

- Black Sails Pirate Bar  
1324 Main St., 319-520-7620
- Beef, Bread & Brew  
2601 Main St., 319-524-7476
- Chintz's  
1310 Main St., 319-524-9372
- Driftwood 13  
1324 Main St., 319-524-9318
- Dr. Getwell's Bar & Grill  
1100 Main St., 319-313-8200
- Fat Jimmy's Smokehouse & Spirits  
3065 Mississippi River Rd.  
319-463-5003
- L'Treyns  
1108 Main St.
- Lucky's Grub, Pub & Sports Bar  
528 Blondeau St., 319-524-1135
- Rascal's Pub & Grub  
820 Main St., 319-524-2839
- The Hawkeye Restaurant  
105 N. Park Dr., 319-524-7549

## Specialty & Coffee Shops

- Java River  
2528 Main St., 319-524-2586
- Lost Canvas  
719 Main St., 319-331-2164
- Scooter's Coffee Shop  
2801 Main St.
- Stan's Pastry Shop  
814 Main St., 319-524-2991

## Winery & Distillery

- Baxter's Vineyard & Winery  
2010 Parley St., Nauvoo IL  
217-453-2528
- Christian Herschler Winery  
503 Franklin 6th St., Donnellson IA  
319-835-9432
- Green Frog Distillery  
3345 270th Ave., Keokuk  
319-795-3346
- Lake Hill Winery  
1822 E County Rd 1540, Carthage IL  
217-357-2675
- Press House  
2142 N County Rd 800, Nauvoo IL  
217-453-2029

# Parks & Recreation

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**Keokuk's numerous parks provide scenic overlooks, picnicking, disc golf, tennis and basketball courts, walking/jogging trails, playgrounds, softball and baseball fields, in-line skating and an outdoor swimming pool. To reserve a park shelter, contact the Keokuk City Offices at 319-524-2050.**

**Bluff Park – G & Park Street** – A great spot to see three local states: Iowa, Illinois & Missouri. The park has playground equipment and a picnic area.

**Estes Park – 5th & Main Street** – With gazebo, gardens & sidewalk, this park was named after the Estes House which was a military hospital during the Civil War.

**Gateway Park – 1st & Main Street** – This beautiful park can be viewed upon entering Keokuk from the bridge. Combined efforts of the city of Keokuk, Main Street, Inc., master gardeners and area volunteers revitalized this area with lighting, gardens, pathways and seating to welcome visitors and locals alike.

**Joyce Park – Highway 218 North** – Keokuk's newest park is home to one of the finest softball/baseball fields around plus a concession stand.

**Kilbourne Park – 20th & Timea Street** – Three short blocks from the National Cemetery. The park has a playground, picnic area and a shelter house.

**Kiser Park – 14th & Palean Street** – Offers basketball, baseball/softball, and a playground.

**McCredie Park – 4005 Main Street** – Little League and USSSA standard baseball fields for softball and baseball.

**Pickleball Court – 427 N 5th Street** – Call Keokuk Public Library for equipment, 524-1483.

**Rand Park – 17th & Orleans Street** – 57 acres of rolling green hills and a manicured bluff to witness a breathtaking, panoramic view of the Mississippi River. This park offers a large playground, stone shelter houses, flower gardens, fishing, ice skating, 18 hole Frisbee golf, tennis courts and a baseball/softball field.

**Rees Park – 7th & K Street** – Two large pillars welcome you to this little park that offers basketball, baseball/softball field and a playground. The pillars were saved from a fire in Chicago and brought to Keokuk to pay tribute to Thomas Rees' mother and father in 1921.

**Riverview Park – 2nd Street & Bank Street** – Large shady green area with horseshoe pit and playground.

**Tolmie Park – 2938 Plank Road** – Keokuk's second largest park offers you walking/exercise trails, shelter house, basketball & tennis courts, ice skating, roller blading, Keokuk Aquatic Center and a handicap-accessible playground.

**Triangle Park – Corner of Park Place & Grand Avenue** – Sight of the 1853 Keokuk Mormon Encampment. It was here that many of the Mormon faith started their migration to Salt Lake City, Utah. Today, it is a small triangular park with 1960 refurbished Rocket Slide, a basketball court and a marker remembering those at the Encampment.

**Tumelty Park – North 17th & High Street** – Adjacent to the Keokuk Area Hospital and is 3 blocks away from Rand Park. It includes a softball field and a basketball court.

**Victory Park – Mississippi Drive** – Located on the riverfront and is home to the Maj. Gen. Samuel Ryan Curtis statue and the George M. Verity Riverboat Museum. This park contains a playground, picnic area, fishing area, walking/exercise trail and a great view of barges going through the Lock & Dam.

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**Keokuk Aquatic Center** - 2930 Plank Road, 319-524-1013

**Hoerner YMCA** - 2126 Plank Road, 319-524-6724

**Deer Run Golf Course** - One Deer Run Road, Hamilton, IL, 217-847-3623

**Keokuk Elks Fairview Golf Club** - 2200 Lincoln, 319-524-1074 (guests of members only)

**Arrowhead Bowl** - 3535 Main Street – 319-524-4391

**Glasscock's Shooting Preserve** - 2359 320th Street, 319-524-4345

# Parks & Recreation

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**Keokuk Public Library – 210 N 5th St., 319-524-1483**

In addition to its 70,000 + collection, the Keokuk Library contains an excellent genealogy section.

A Keokuk history room also houses many historical photos and books by Keokuk authors. A painting of Samuel Clemens as a young man is owned by the library and is thought to be the earliest painting of this famous author and riverboat captain.

Located on the Mississippi River, water sports are a natural in the Keokuk area, from boating and water skiing to fishing. Two boat clubs (one above and one below the dam) and a municipal boat ramp provide easy access. A canoe and kayak trail is along the Des Moines River, from its beginnings in northwest Iowa to its confluence with the Mississippi River at Keokuk.

As a major flyway for migrating water fowl, the Mississippi provides vast opportunities to observe and/or hunt ducks and geese, and the rural areas surrounding Keokuk are teeming with deer, squirrel, wild turkey, pheasant, quail and other four-legged game. Nearby Lee County wildlife areas and parks offer trails, historic sites, equestrian trails, camping and archery ranges. Contact the Lee County Conservation Department for more information about our county's parks at 319-463-7673 or visit [www.leecounty.org](http://www.leecounty.org). Rock hounds can search the area for geodes and fossils.

**Keokuk Yacht Club – 2029 River Rd., 319-524-9469**

**Southside Boat Club – 625 Mississippi River Dr., 319-524-7122**



# History

## Mark Twain

In 1855, Samuel Clemens came up river to pay a visit to his younger brother Henry and older brother Orion, who had married a Keokuk girl, Mary "Mollie" Stotts. Henry worked for Orion, who operated the Ben Franklin Book and Job Printing Office. Orion urged Sam to stay in Keokuk and offered him five dollars a week and board as inducement to remain. He accepted and stayed in Keokuk for nearly two years.



Keokuk Public Library

During his time in Keokuk, Sam made his first after-dinner speech, set type for the first Keokuk City Directory and sold his first written material to the Keokuk Post in the form of the "Snodgrass Letters." Samuel Clemens left Keokuk in late 1856. However, he returned several times between the years of 1867 and 1890. In 1889 he bought a house for his mother Jane Clemens. This house still exists today as a private residence.

## The Hughes Family

Felix Turner Hughes, the grandfather of Howard Hughes, Jr. lived and served as Mayor, a Supreme Court Judge and was President of the Keokuk & Western Railroad. Felix and Jean Hughes had three super achieving children which included Howard Robard "Bo" Hughes, Sr. who developed the drill bit used in deep well drilling for oil. The invention made him an instant millionaire.



The second son Rupert was a noted writer, Hollywood director and screenwriter. Greta was a tall, stately beauty with a grand soprano voice. She studied in Paris and New York, where she started a successful singing career as Jean Greta, a combination of her mother's name and her own.

Jean had a strange phobia and when Robard offered to build her a home on Keokuk's Grand Avenue, she demanded the house be built without closets for this was surely where diseases grew. This fear of disease grew to enormous degree with her grandson, Howard Hughes, Jr. making frequent trips to visit his grandparents. The Hughes Family plot is in Keokuk's Oakland Cemetery and Felix and Jean are buried there.

## Annie Wittenmyer

Annie Wittenmyer was Iowa's most famous women of the 19th century, and one of America's great philanthropists and "first" ladies. Soldiers to whom she ministered on the front lines of the Civil War first called her the "angel of the Civil War" hence the title "God's Angel". On April 17, 1862, the Estes House in Keokuk became the main unit of a hospital complex established by the U.S. Army Medical Department. By January, 1863, there were 652 beds and 525 sick and wounded soldiers receiving treatment at the Fifth and Main Street building. It was to this hospital that Annie Wittenmyer returned with some of the first wounded men from the Battle of Shiloh.



## Elsa Maxwell

Elsa Maxwell was born in Keokuk, Iowa in 1883 but moved to California as a small child. She left school at the age of 14 to work as a theater pianist and accompanist. She reigned as America's top party-giver in the mid-twentieth century. Labeled "the Hostess with the Mostest" by the press, her rise to command the ballrooms of New York, Vienna and London took her worlds away from her humble Iowa beginnings. Elsa's parties were noted both for her chic guests and for the novelties she devised to keep them amused. She invented the "scavenger hunt", for example, a party game which swept to popularity in the 1930s. And she was fond of costume parties, often requiring her male and female guests to wear costumes of the opposite gender. Elsa Maxwell, who never married, died in New York on November 1, 1963. Of her celebrity-studded life, she declared that it was "not bad, for a short, fat homely piano player from Keokuk, Iowa, with no money or background, [who] decided to become a legend and did just that."



## Keokuk's Role in the Civil War

While seemingly removed from the Civil War, Keokuk did in fact play a most important role. It was the central swearing-in point for all of the Iowa volunteers in the Civil War. At one time, four camps were located here: Camp Ellsworth, 200 acres located at Decatur and Messenger Roads; Camp Rankin, named for Keokuk's Colonel J.W. Rankin, located between 11th and 12th Streets on Grand Avenue; Camp Halleck, located at 5th and Johnson Streets; and Camp Lincoln, located in the Rand Park area. This camp held as many as 1000 men at one time.

Another of Keokuk's roles was to administer to the sick and wounded brought by boat from the southern battlegrounds. Seven Civil War hospitals were located in Keokuk with the largest, The Estes House, having 652 beds. The location of The Estes House was at 5th and Main Streets, now the site of Estes Park.

Keokuk's National Cemetery is a direct result of the Civil War soldiers who died enroute to Keokuk or after arriving at one of the hospitals. Both Confederate and Union soldiers are buried in this National Cemetery, one of the original twelve established by in 1862 by Abraham Lincoln. It is Iowa's only National Cemetery.

Perhaps the most famous Keokuk Civil War hero was Major General Samuel Curtis, a former Mayor of Keokuk and a civil engineer who resigned his seat in Congress to lead the 2nd Iowa Regiment. Later given command of the "Department of Missouri", Curtis led the Union victory at Pea Ridge, Arkansas which saved Missouri for the Union.

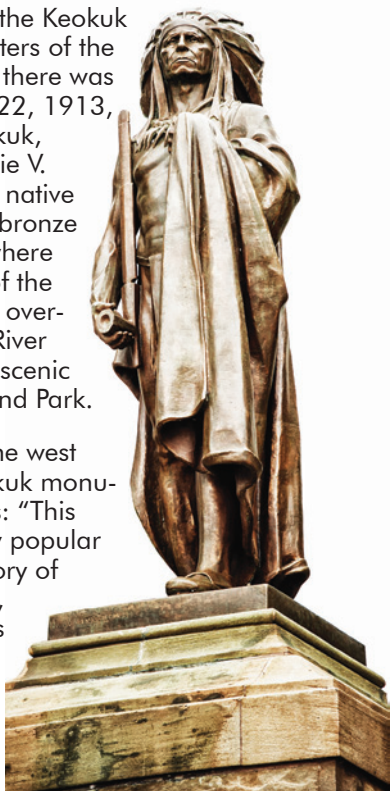
# Native American Sites

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## Chief Keokuk

Through provision of the Keokuk Chapter, Iowa Daughters of the American Revolution, there was unveiled on October 22, 1913, a statue of Chief Keokuk, modeled by Miss Nellie V. Walker of Chicago, a native Iowan. This beautiful bronze piece, upon the site where now rests the bones of the famous Sac chieftain, overlooks the Mississippi River at one of the notable scenic points in Keokuk's Rand Park.

The marble slab on the west side of the Chief Keokuk monument reads as follows: "This monument erected by popular subscription, in memory of the Sac Chief Keokuk, for whom this city was named, in 1883. His remains together with the marble slab on the reverse side of this die were brought from Franklin County Kansas where he died and was buried. "



*Doug Ewing*

The first tale of Keokuk's life as a warrior and eventual leader speaks of bravery that earned him the right to appear on horseback during tribal gatherings, even if all others were on foot. Keokuk was a well-proportioned man, rather tall, and of splendid appearance. He prided himself on his horsemanship and dancing. Keokuk insisted that artist George Catlin paint him on horseback in 1835 at Head of the Rapids, Fort Des Moines. Most available written history, however, supports his reputation as a fine orator. Not only his people, but persons meeting him during visits to Washington spoke in awe of this ability.

Keokuk was a rare exception to most of the great chiefs of Indian history because he sought justice for his people through wisdom and oratory....and through friendship with the white man.



# Great River Road

The Great River Road follows the Mississippi River from its humble headwaters in the northwoods of Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. As you travel along the Great River Road, you'll discover a rich and diverse history, culture and landscape. The Mississippi River is one of North America's greatest natural wonders. Its place in history winds boldly along 10 state borders, connecting people, places and cultures.

The Mississippi River in Iowa is a ribbon of life for people, plants and animals. Visitors can anticipate viewing a wide variety of plant and animal species comprising a significant component of the continent's biodiversity. The river acts as an international migratory corridor for water-fowl populations. You'll find many areas along the river relatively pristine and isolated despite the environmental transformation caused by historic and contemporary human activity.

All along the river the traveler encounters historic villages and cities.

The river itself was the reason these communities were settled. Each has its own rendition of river life as heard in the indigenous music including folk, gospel, blues, rock, country and bluegrass. Many communities celebrate their heritage with festivals, tasting fairs, parades and

art shows. Most towns boast at least one museum sharing the history of the area.

The Mississippi's economic influence is also evident as you watch the barges manipulate the waters. Commercial fisherman still haul the day's catch for transport to far-off markets. Locks and dams tame the river to make travel safer. Beautiful bridges span water and islands for highway traffic. Power plants provide energy for homes, industry and farms.

Sixteen Interpretive Centers are located along Iowa's portion of the Mississippi. Each is intended to enhance the travelers' river experience and provide information on events, locations and histories. The George M. Verity Museum in Keokuk is one of the eleven Interpretive Centers.

Excerpt from [www.experiencemississippiriver.com](http://www.experiencemississippiriver.com)



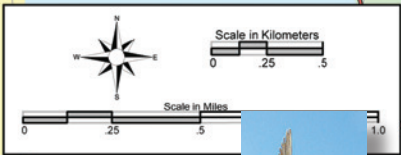


# Keokuk, Iowa

Iowa  
LEE COUNTY

LEE COUNTY

Missouri



Illinois

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

HAMILTON HANCOCK COUNTY

Illinois

# Keokuk-Hamilton Dam Museum

The newest attraction in Southeast Iowa is the Keokuk-Hamilton Dam Museum. Located at 428 Main St., Keokuk, Iowa this museum showcases the construction of the power plant and dam from the time the idea was conceived until the completion in 1913. Many of the displays are tools and equipment used in the actual construction from 1910 – 1913 and after. A highlight of the museum is the virtual video showing the interior of the power plant today. Since tours of the plant are no longer available, this gives the visitor the opportunity to view all aspects of the plant and learn the many details as told by a 1913 tour guide.



There were many firsts associated with this power plant and dam as shown in one display. One section of the control room panels used in 1913 has been installed for your viewing. This truly was an engineering marvel and has something for all ages to see.



The museum hours are Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm. These will be extended during the spring and summer seasons. Since

we are a 501C3 non-profit organization and do not receive funding from the city, county or state, there is an admission charge ranging from \$5.00 to \$7.00. If you have a special group and need to make other arrangements, please call our office at 319-524-2102. For more information, please call our office or visit our website at [www.keokukhamiltondammuseum.org](http://www.keokukhamiltondammuseum.org).

Our museum is handicap accessible, so we welcome any and all visitors to our area.

# Lock & Dam No. 19

Lock and Dam No. 19 is located on the Upper Mississippi River near Keokuk, Iowa. In 2004, the facility was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as Lock and Dam No. 19 Historic District, #04000179 covering 1,605 acres, 7 buildings, 12 structures, 1 object. The lock is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The dam is owned and operated by Ameren Missouri.



*Doug Ewing*

The lock and dam obliterated the Des Moines Rapids which had effectively been the northern barrier for traffic on the Mississippi until efforts began in 1837 to address the Mississippi's 2.5-foot depth in the rapids. The movable portion of the dam is 4,620 feet long with 119 separate 30 feet rectangular, steel-skin plated, sliding gates and its construction began in 1910, and completed in 1913. The gates are either installed or removed and river flow is controlled by the number of gates installed. They are removed by a gantry crane that travels on the service bridge above the dam. At the time it was completed, it was second in length only to the Aswan Low Dam on the Nile River. Hugh L. Cooper was the designer of the Keokuk Dam. The pool created behind the dam, Lake Cooper is named in his honor and is the largest pool in the series of dams with 240 miles of shoreline. Construction began in 1910 and when completed in 1913, it was the largest capacity, single powerhouse electricity generating plant in the world. The Power House and spillways are owned and operated by Ameren Power Company and has a 134 MW capacity. The powerhouse contains 15 generators, originally designed to produce 25 Hz instead of the 60 Hz alternating current used today. In the 1930s, Union Electric purchased this 25 Hz power for Streetcars in St. Louis, Missouri. This 25 Hz power configuration is still used for Amtrak's 25 Hz traction power system in the Northeast Corridor.

## Mississippi River Lock 19 Live Webcam

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=KglFyCnp65Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KglFyCnp65Y)

This camera is sponsored by the Keokuk Area Convention & Tourism Bureau, hosted by the City of Keokuk and serviced by Streamtime Live Internet Streaming Company.



# Attractions

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## Bridge Observation Deck

With completion of the new bridge, the Keokuk side of the old bridge was transformed into an Observation Deck. The deck provides a wonderful view of the River, Lock & Dam 19, the George M. Verity and Victory Park.

## The George M. Verity River Museum

is located in Victory Park on the riverfront. The paddle boat was built in Dubuque, Iowa by the U.S. Government in 1927 to revive river transportation and move barges from St. Louis to St. Paul. It was then known as the S.S. Thorpe. Armco Steel Corporation bought the boat in 1940 and put it into service on the Ohio River, renaming it after the founder of their company, George M. Verity. The George M. Verity was donated to the City of Keokuk in 1961 after being retired from service. The museum is open daily from 9 to 5 beginning Memorial Day through Labor Day and open from 9 to 5 on weekends only from April 1 to Memorial Day and Labor Day to October 31. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, \$2 for children ages 8-18, children 7 & under free.

## Keokuk Union Depot

The Keokuk Union Depot was designed in 1891 by the Chicago architectural firm, Burnham and Root to serve the five railroads that converged in Keokuk. The Depot is listed in the

National Register of Historic Places. Distinctive architectural features include the vaulted oak-paneled waiting room, the

hexagonal ticket booth, the platform umbrella and the Romanesque Revival brick arches. The City of Keokuk acquired the building in 2011 and established the Keokuk Union Depot Commission, which has begun an extensive preservation project of the building's exterior and interior. [www.keokukuniondepot.org](http://www.keokukuniondepot.org)



hexagonal ticket booth, the platform umbrella and the Romanesque Revival brick arches. The City of Keokuk acquired the building in 2011 and established the Keokuk Union Depot Commission, which has begun an extensive preservation project of the building's exterior and interior. [www.keokukuniondepot.org](http://www.keokukuniondepot.org)



## Hickory Grove School & Cemetery

Established in 1870, the Hickory Grove School District remains one of the oldest school buildings in Lee County. The one room school is furnished much the way it was when the Keokuk School System annexed Jackson Township in 1960 and began busing students to town. The school sits beside the Hickory Grove Cemetery, which has a history going back to 1839, when many families were finding their way to the West. The school is open for tours, by appointment, by calling 319-524-1612.

## Keokuk National Cemetery

1701 J. Street

During the Civil War, the presence of the College of Physicians and Surgeons caused the federal government to locate

a military hospital in Estes House (formerly at 500 Main Street), and six other sites in Keokuk.

The sick and wounded were transported to the hospitals in



*Doug Ewing*

Keokuk by riverboats on the Mississippi River. Many soldiers, from the North and South died at the hospitals in Keokuk during the Civil War, and were buried in what became Iowa's only National Cemetery.

- The first burial was conducted in 1861
- The cemetery serves an estimated 61,000 veterans.
- Approximately 100 burials are conducted each year.
- It is one of the nation's original national cemeteries.
- One Medal of Honor recipient is interred here.
- The cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

## Samuel F. Miller House

Samuel F. Miller House is located at 318 North 5th Street and is owned by the Lee Co. Historical Society. The home was built by Samuel Freeman Miller in 1859. Miller was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by Abraham Lincoln in 1862, and served until his death in 1890.

# Natural Attractions

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Ernie Burchett

## American Bald Eagle

With each coming winter we are reminded of America's freedom with the return of large numbers of American Bald Eagles. The combination of Lock & Dam 19 and favorable roosting conditions, Keokuk has become the winter home for many representatives of our National Symbol. Keokuk is the sight of Iowa's first Bald Eagle Appreciation Days in 1984. Seeing the eagle population grow and the frequency of sightings increase through the years is a success story for which we can all be proud.

Keokuk invites you to one of our favorite winter activities, eagle watching, through our "picture window" at Victory Park or sights up & down Mississippi River Road. We have become a favorite destination of both amateur and professional photographers, watching for that perfect photo of eagles in their natural habitat. You are invited the third weekend of January to Bald Eagle Appreciation Days or any time between December and late February to enjoy the Eagles in flight.

## Commemorative Markers of Historical Significance

- Chief Keokuk - *Rand Park*
- The Estes House - *5th & Main Streets*
- First Permanent Jewish House of Worship in Iowa - *7th & Blondeau Streets*
- Morman's Immigrant Camp - *Triangle Park*
- The Founding of the National Association for Music Education - *Corner of 7th & Blondeau Streets*
- Samuel Clemens - *200 Main Street*
- Samuel F. Miller - *318 N. 5th Street*

# Natural Attractions

## Keokuk Geodes

Although geodes of different kinds are found all over the world, the greatest abundance and variety are found in the outcropping of the Mississippian lower Keokuk bed within a 70 mile radius of the intersection of the Mississippi and Des Moines Rivers.

- Geodes were designated "Iowa's State Rock" in 1967.
- The word "Geode" comes from the Greek meaning "in the shape of the earth".
- The large number of mineral inclusions and the exquisite crystal groups that they form have made the Keokuk Geodes the most beautiful and the most sought after of all geodes by museums and collectors the world over.
- Because of over-collecting, good quality "Keokuk Geodes" are becoming much harder to find. Collectors have come from all over the United States to try their luck.
- Keokuk Geodes should be opened by chisel and hammer. Using a saw could cut through a secondary mineral or crystal, ruining the specimen.
- Keokuk Geodes sometimes reach 2 feet across and larger. These sizes are rare. The most common size of Keokuk Geodes is about 3-4 inches across.
- Most Keokuk Geodes occur within a 35-mile radius of Keokuk, IA.
- Southeastern Iowa is one of the state's best Geode collecting areas. Geode State Park in Henry County is named for the occurrence of the geode.

## Bevard Collection

The Bevard Collection of Keokuk Geodes found in the tri-state area are displayed at the Keokuk Area Convention & Tourism Office, 428 Main St., Keokuk

## Geode Exploring

### Fabulous Keokuk Geodes

309-313-2077

woodiessuites@gmail.com

### Jacob's Geode Mine

823 E. County Rd 1220

Hamilton, IL

217-847-3509

### Josh Tipton Geodes

1724 Dirado Ln. • Hamilton, IL

217-248-8568

### Sheffler's Rock Shop • Hwy 61 (7 miles south of Alexandria, MO)

660-754-1134 • shefflersrockshop@hotmail.com

### St. Francisville Geodes • Hwy 27 • St. Francisville, MO

660-754-6361 • www.randkfireandice.com

### Vickers Geodes • 511 S. 9th St. • Hamilton, IL

319-795-1219 • johnnyvckrs@yahoo.com

### Wildcat Springs Park • Hamilton, IL



Rebecca Brandenberger

# Grand Avenue Tour

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## **A Tour of Grand Avenue**

Despite the fact that Keokuk's origin and economic development were intimately connected to the Mississippi River, it was not until the building of the dam between 1910 and 1913 that the idea of having a house with a river view really took hold. The "Original City of Keokuk" had been platted in 1837 growing away from the river. A building boom in the 1850's caused "suburbs" to be laid out, and the plat for the area of our walking tour featured a street called "Grand Avenue", beginning at 5th, running parallel to the bluff along the river, and extending as far as the approximate site of the Keokuk Country Club.

In 1857 a financial panic spread westward, putting a halt to the big dreams of Keokukians. In consequence, the outer suburbs were wholly abandoned and Grand Avenue was never open to actual traffic beyond 23rd Street and almost unpopulated until the 1880's. In that decade, developments occurred which shaped the future.

## **Mormon Immigrants**

The first people to "reside" on the Avenue were temporary. The Mormon church had selected Keokuk as the staging area for its immigrants from Europe in 1853. From April through June that year, some 2500 immigrants arrived by steamboat and many labored to level Keokuk's streets, while the women learned survival skills for "housekeeping" for the weeks on the trail to Utah. After the Mormons departed, the owner of this land, Charles Mason (who, as Chief Justice of Iowa Territory, had overseen land title squabbles and the only person to graduate ahead of Robert E. Lee in the class of 1829 at West Point) decided that the booming City of Keokuk needed more space and so he platted "Mason's Upper Addition", with Grand Avenue as its thoroughfare.

## **Park Place**

In the late 1880's construction of a row of large frame houses began at the 5th Street end of Grand Avenue. With the city's acquisition of the triangular piece of land for a small park (Triangle Park), someone decided these new houses on the river side of Orleans should be numbered distinctively. Consequently, Park Place was born—just across the street from Orleans Avenue.

## **Grand Avenue**

Keokuk's beautiful Grand Avenue is referred to in one publication as the "Miracle Mile". To quote the late local author Ray Garrison, "In earlier years admission to the sacred precincts of the Avenue was through family name and achievement". A most prestigious location for Keokuk's elite of the late eighteen- and early nineteen-hundreds, "today the atmosphere is more cosmopolitan". Many leaders in Keokuk have resided on the "Avenue" and remains unchanged today, as does the beauty of the "Miracle Mile". The Grand Avenue Tour begins at the intersection of Fourth Street, Orleans Avenue, and Park Place. The tour will end at Rand Park, which was established in 1883. Much of the area you will pass was the private estate of J.C. Hubinger from 1887 to 1908.

## **Rand Park**

In 1883 undeveloped land along Grand Avenue from 15th to 17th was

# Grand Avenue Tour

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acquired by the City for a public park. Because lumber mill owner George Rand was serving as Keokuk's mayor, his name was bestowed on the park. Landscape architect and engineer Conrad Eimbeck, employed as Keokuk's City Engineer designed a visually and recreationally pleasing park out of land that had been used as a cow pasture. In 1901 Charles Birge, who had prospered in the wholesale grocery business in Keokuk since 1856, presented the city with a "classical" fountain as a centerpiece for the flower garden, the only feature that has remained constant for a century. In the 1930's, WPA laborers added shelters built with glacial boulders from the river bluff.

The monument to Chief "Keokuk" was an original feature of the park, however not in its present form. A civic committee led by Caleb Davis gained permission to remove Keokuk's bones from the reservation in Kansas where he died in 1848 and rebury him under a sandstone column about 30 feet high. The bronze statue symbolizing the chief was dedicated in October 1913, when civic pride bloomed upon completion of the hydroelectric project. Mark Twain and Theodore Roosevelt, among others addressed crowds in the park.

The river view from here included a canal stretching along the Iowa shore for 7.5 miles, built by the Corps of Engineers from 1867 to 1877 to facilitate steamboats passage of the Lower Rapids.

**2 Park Place** William Sinton, a Scottish immigrant and generous Mason, built this Queen Anne Revival home in 1888. Sinton's mule-drawn wagons moved much of the freight from Keokuk's wholesales to the railroad depots.

**4 Park Place** Built in 1889 by Thomas R. Ayers, a jewelry and music merchant.

**5 Park Place** Built by Iram Sawyer, a partner in his father-in-law's Irwin Phillips Company, a wholesale dry goods business, in the 1880's.

**404 & 414 Orleans** Samuel M. Clark, editor of the Gate City newspaper and a three-term Congressman, lived here in his father-in-law's house which was constructed shortly after the Civil War. Upon his death in 1900, the property was acquired by the Baker family, heirs to a patent medicine fortune. Jesse Baker rebuilt the Clark house to its present appearance with Grecian columns, while Ross Baker, Jesse's brother, built a new house on the property at 404. The stone for Ross Baker's new house was planed and cut in Bedford, Indiana and probably used in the remodeling of 414.

**424 Orleans** Wholesaler grocer John M. Bisbee lived here from the 1860's to the 1900s.

**507 Grand** Built in 1913 on the last available site affording a view of the dam and powerhouse, this modified Prairie-style home had identical floor plans on the first and second floors for occupation by two families. Sisters Birdie and Grace Sutlive daughters of candy merchant Harrison Sutlive, had married Keokuk Dental College graduates Fred Arnold and Ralph Sinotte ('07), in a double wedding ceremony. Arnold and Sinotte practiced dentistry together as well as occupying this home together. Fred and Birdie lived downstairs, and Ralph and Grace lived upstairs. The sisters had a "speaking tube" from kitchen to kitchen to communicate.

# Grand Avenue Tour

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**11 Park Place** Technically 525 Grand, this home built for lawyer James C. Davis has used a Park Place designation since the early 1900s. Davis served as Mayor of Keokuk and later moved to Des Moines then Washington, D.C., where he was administrator of all railroads nationalized during World War I.

**610 Grand** The oldest house on the "Avenue", this quaint gothic revival cottage was the home of Patrick Gibbons, builder of the Gibbons Opera House at 6th and Main Street currently known as the Knights of Columbus Hall. Gibbons auctioned off the house in 1872 to prepare for an extended return to the "Ould Sod".

**611 Grand** E. Carroll Taber lumberman, social leader and promoter of amateur tennis in Keokuk, built this Tudor style home of mansion proportions in 1915 on the foundation of an earlier house.

**625 Grand** This Colonial Revival brick house was built in the 1880's for grocer James E. Johnson. The Judge William Logan family occupied it from the 1890's to the 1940's, nearly doubling the size of the home. Logan, founder and first President of State Central Bank was the local liaison for the dam and hydroelectric project.

**633 Grand** The second oldest home on Grand Avenue was built in 1857 at a cost of \$3500 by a pioneer from Pennsylvania, John Daughterly and later occupied by another of Keokuk's prominent citizens, John Nichol Irwin. Irwin served 5 terms as Mayor, was Territorial Governor of Idaho and Arizona, and U.S. Minister to Portugal. His son John Rankin Irwin was Keokuk Postmaster and Speaker of the Iowa House of Representatives. This home's architectural style is Adam style with 5 ranked façade and palladium windows and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**702 Grand** Actually facing North 7th, this Colonial Revival house was built of sandstone from the old river canal wall which paralleled the river rapids as far up the Mississippi River as Galland. When the dam was built, the canal was flooded and stones removed for building purposes. The home was built for Oxel W. Sandburg, Superintendent of the Union Station and later City Clerk.

**719 Grand** Called "Greenwillow", this brick Prairie style with classical features was built in 1923 for Laura Covington of the Pond Family, whose butter and egg business was later sold to Swift and Company.

**729 Grand** This 1902 brick Renaissance Revival was built by Master Builder John Young for newlyweds Archibald and Edith Jenkins Logan. Logan was the son of Judge William Logan. When Archibald Logan died in 1905, the house became home to Charles Streeter who developed a chain of lumberyards. In 1926, it became the home of Gerard Huiskamp, operator of a shoe factory for forty years.

**730 Grand** Lawyer Samuel T. Marshall built this brick Italianate in 1856. Marshall's family include five bachelor sons and a daughter, Maude Marshall Hassall, who endowed an award still given today to Keokuk High School's Valedictorian.



# Grand Avenue Tour

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**801 Grand** The lot was purchased for \$1,793.20 in 1903 and the house completed in 1904 for its original owner, Henry W. Huiskamp, head of a family who had sold and manufactured shoes in Keokuk since the 1850's. A marble fireplace from a pre-Civil War Keokuk home was added to this Greek Revival home at a later date.

**816 Grand** This 1897 Queen Anne Revival home was designed by George Barber and constructed for Clyde Royal Joy, who had worked his way up from office boy to controlling stockholder of two businesses and served as a National Director of the Y.M.C.A. Listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places. On July 21, 2018, an electrical fire damaged the home beyond repair.

**901 Grand** Built in 1914 for James Huiskamp, Sr., associated with the Huiskamp Shoe Company and State Central Savings Bank, and his wife Eva Logan Huiskamp, the first story of the English Tudor also utilized canal stones. It was built to face the newly completed dam.

**911 Grand** Built by "Captain" A.C. Decker, who received his honorary title as a result of his efforts in founding the Keokuk Power Squadron, now the Keokuk Yacht Club. Decker moved his barbed wire manufacturing business to Keokuk in 1884. The business is known today as Decker Manufacturing. Captain Decker's boat was part of the official flotilla that accompanied President Theodore Roosevelt on a cruise down the Mississippi in 1907.

**925 Grand** This Colonial Revival type house was built by Howard Hughes, Sr., inventor of the oil well drill and father of the most famous Howard Hughes, Jr. He built it without closets for his mother, Jean who had a phobia about disease and feared closets were the breeding grounds for such.

**1001 Grand** Built in 1910 by Hugh W. Green, brother-in-law of J.C. Hubinger, who served as General Manager of the starch company. This was built with quarried rough cut limestone from plans originally drawn by a Quincy, Illinois architect for a house there.

**1031 Grand** Neo Classical. Built by Myrle Baker, who also built today's Grand Theatre after his Keokuk Opera House burned.

**1107 Grand** Built prior to 1923 by Cephas Harrison whose father had worked his way up from foreman to owner of the Keokuk Box Company. Harrison's daughter and son-in-law added a river side room with fireplace built from stone from the Westminster Presbyterian Church which had burned in 1963.

**1111 Grand** Built in 1925 by John Dillon who was the co-founder of Keokuk Electro-Metals and today's Beaux Arts architecture. This home is a fine example of Neo Classical.

**The Hubinger Estate** In terms of magnificence, Grand Avenue's destiny was formed in 1887 when a hometown boy who had made good in the East returned. John Carl Hubinger hit upon a formula for "Elastic Laundry Starch". He started a factory in New Haven, CT, where his brothers joined him. Overflowing with ambition, he returned to Iowa and Keokuk in 1887. He rented a building to begin production and also began buying

# Grand Avenue Tour

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undeveloped lots along Grand Avenue – 125 in all – stretching from 10th to 15th on both sides.

Construction began immediately on a bluff-side mansion at 1219 Grand. The estate included two lakes large enough for boating, a stable, an orchard, and a chicken ranch. It also included an amusement park, a bathing beach with water slide, a baseball field, and a Casino seating hundreds that hosted such notables as Sousa's band, William Jennings, Bryan, Carrie Nation and others.

Content with the steady profits from Elastic Starch, J.C.'s brothers bought him out in 1890. Heirs sold the business in 1925, but the plant still operates as Roquette America.

J.C. Hubinger dreamed big and tried to live out his dreams, but he went classically "bust" in 1907 from investing in telephone systems, dying in poverty the next year. His mansion stood unoccupied until 1918 when it was leveled by the next "super rich" Keokukian, Corydon Rich.

**1201 Grand** Built by Corydon Rich prior to 1923 for his mother who lived in it briefly. It was designed by the same architect who designed the Rich Mansion at 1229 Grand – Barry Byrne, a student of Frank Lloyd Wright. It was long the home of Albert D. Ayres, manager of the Keokuk Electric Company between its ownership by Hubinger and its merger into the Mississippi River Power Company. Part of the original Hubinger Estate lake was preserved here as a sunken garden.

**1229 Grand** Corydon Rich who presided over an oatmeal business, Purity Oats, constructed the single-family home on the foundation of the Hubinger "Palace" in 1918. Rich's family, which consisted of a son and three daughters, resided in this home which features Spanish Revival with Prairie School variation on the exterior and English Manor on the interior. This home remained a single family dwelling until 1936 when it was divided into apartments. The elk gracing the front of the home, remind one of the elk which J.C. Hubinger had placed in the middle of the lake when his mansion stood here.

**1307 Grand** This Colonial Revival was built prior to 1929 as a retirement home for Montgomery Meigs, Jr., who served 40 years as the Corps of Engineers Manager at Keokuk, supervising the canal, drydock and original Lock 19. It was expanded by G. LaMonte Weissenburg, owner of Keokuk Electro Metals recently Keokuk Ferro-Sil.

**1321 Grand** Designed by Karl Kiedaisch, Sr., and built in 1950 for Richard Hoerner, Sr., a philanthropist who expanded the Iowa Fiber Box Company into a nationwide business, this house carries the nameplate "Ramblewood". It was style from Scandinavian designs and built in part by Finnish woodcarvers.

**1329 Grand** Built around 1920, this Tudor stucco has always been the home of the Edward Knox Johnstones, father and son, both past presidents of the Keokuk Savings Bank.

# Church Services

## Assembly Of God

Living Waters Assembly of God  
[www.lwagchurch.org](http://www.lwagchurch.org)  
1928 Main St., 319-524-5423  
Sunday Service - 10:00 a.m.

## Baptist

Bel Air Baptist Church (SBC)  
2101 Orleans St., 319-524-2715  
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Service - 10:15 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m.

Bethany Baptist Church  
2340 McKinley Ave., 319-524-6440  
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Service - 10:15 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Service - 6:30 p.m.

Calvary Baptist Church  
1028 Exchange St.  
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Service - 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church  
[www.keokukfbc.org](http://www.keokukfbc.org)  
25 N. 8th St., 319-524-3684  
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Service - 10:20 a.m.

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church  
1328 Exchange St., 319-524-2474  
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m.

## Catholic

The Church of All Saints  
[www.allsaintskeokuk.org](http://www.allsaintskeokuk.org)  
310 S. 9th St., 319-524-8334  
Live Streams:  
[www.allsaintskeokuk.org/live](http://www.allsaintskeokuk.org/live)  
Tue - 4:30 p.m.  
Wed, Thurs, & Fri - 8:30 a.m.  
Sun - 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Drive-Up Mass - 98.5 FM, Sat - 4:30 p.m.  
Indoor Mass - Sun, 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

## Christian

First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
[www.fcckeokuk.org](http://www.fcckeokuk.org)  
3476 Main St., 319-524-5266  
Sunday Service - 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

New Testament Christian Church  
[www.churchonhiltonroad.com](http://www.churchonhiltonroad.com)  
1578 Hilton Rd., 319-524-8727  
Sunday Service - 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

## Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints

Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter Day Saints  
3238 Brookshire Dr., 319-524-7341  
Sacrament Meeting - 8:00 a.m.  
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

## Community of Christ

Community of Christ  
2460 Jackson Ave., 319-524-6673  
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Service - 11:15 a.m.

## Episcopal

St. John's Episcopal Church  
208 N. 4th St., 319-524-4672  
Holy Eucharist - Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

## Evangelical Free

Evangelical Free Church  
[www.keokukefree.org](http://www.keokukefree.org)  
2315 S. 7th St., 319-524-1090  
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Service - 10:15 a.m.  
Sunday Youth Program - 5:00 p.m.

## Foursquare

Calvary Foursquare Church  
[www.calvaryfoursquare.org](http://www.calvaryfoursquare.org)  
2020 Palean St., 319-524-3517  
Sunday Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Service - 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Service - 6:30 p.m.

## Lutheran

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)  
1101 Blondeau St., 319-524-3475  
Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.

## Nazarene

Church Of The Nazarene  
[www.keokuknaz.org](http://www.keokuknaz.org)  
3116 Plank Rd., 319-524-5634  
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Service - 10:00 a.m.

## Non-denominational

Bethel Church Of Keokuk  
1217 Morgan St., 319-524-3806  
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Service - 11:15 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

Cornerstone Church  
[www.cornerstonechurchkeokuk.info](http://www.cornerstonechurchkeokuk.info)  
928 Blondeau St., 319-524-2161  
Sunday Service - 10:15 a.m.  
Thursday Service - 6:00 p.m.

# Church Services

**Crossview Fellowship**  
1807 High St., 319-524-3080  
[www.crossviewkeokuk.com](http://www.crossviewkeokuk.com)  
Sunday Service - 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m.

**Faith Family Church**  
[www.ffcckeeokuk.com](http://www.ffcckeeokuk.com)  
425 Blondeau St., 319-313-8382  
Sunday Service - 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Student Service - 7:00 p.m.

**Family Worship Center**  
2439 Belknap St.  
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Service - 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

**God's Way Christian Center**  
1623 Des Moines St., 319-524-8329  
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Service - 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study - 5:00 p.m.

**Salvation Army**  
31 S. 30th St., 319-524-1144  
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Services - 11:00 a.m.

## Pentecostal

**Anchor Of Hope Fellowship**  
1628 Concert St., 319-524-4874  
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Service - 6:00 p.m.

**Apostolic Faith United  
Pentecostal Church**  
24 S. 4th St.  
Sunday Service - 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

**Church of Full Gospel**  
2201 Timea St., 319-795-2870  
Sunday Service - 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.

## Presbyterian

**United Presbyterian Church**  
[www.churchbytheriver.net](http://www.churchbytheriver.net)  
102 Main St., 319-795-8118  
Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m.

## United Church Of Christ

**St. Paul United Church Of Christ**  
[www.keokukstpaulucc.org](http://www.keokukstpaulucc.org)  
2030 Plank Rd., 319-524-1191  
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Service - 10:00 a.m.

## United Methodist

**Emmanuel United Methodist Church**  
1129 Exchange St., 319-524-7717  
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m.

**Trinity United Methodist Church**  
2330 Plank Rd., 319-524-1081  
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m.



# Day Trips

## Burlington, Iowa

Burlington Area Convention & Tourism Bureau

319-752-6365 • [www.greaterburlington.com](http://www.greaterburlington.com)

- Des Moines County Heritage Center
- Fun City/Catfish Bend Casino
- Port of Burlington Welcome Center
- Snake Alley
- Starr's Cave Nature Center

## Fort Madison, Iowa

Ft. Madison Partners

319-372-5471 • [www.fortmadison.com](http://www.fortmadison.com)

- Quarry Creek Elk & Bison Co.
- Christian Herschler Historic District
- Old Fort Madison
- Old Santa Fe Depot Historic Complex
- Santa Fe Swing Span Bridge

## Mount Pleasant, Iowa

Mount Pleasant Tourism

319-385-3101 • [www.mountpleasantiowa.org](http://www.mountpleasantiowa.org)

- East Lake Park Disc Golf (18 baskets)
- Iowa Wesleyan College
- Midwest Old Threshers Reunion & Museum
- Henry County Heritage Center
- Theatre Museum of Repertoire Americana

## Van Buren County, Iowa

Villages of Van Buren

800-868-7822 • [www.villagesofvanburen.com](http://www.villagesofvanburen.com)

- Bentonport National Historic District
- Bonaparte Main Street
- Indian Lake Park – Farmington
- Lacey-Keosauqua State Park
- Dutchman's Store – Cantril

## Hannibal, Missouri

Hannibal Convention & Visitors Bureau

573-221-2477 • [www.visitihannibal.com](http://www.visitihannibal.com)

- Hannibal Trolley Company
- Mark Twain's Boyhood Home & Museum
- Mark Twain Cave Complex
- Mark Twain Himself Theater
- Mark Twain Riverboat Cruises

## Nauvoo, Illinois

Nauvoo Tourism Office

217-453-6648 • [www.beautifulnauvoo.com](http://www.beautifulnauvoo.com)

- Baxter's Village & Winery
- Flood Museum
- Historic Nauvoo Visitors Center
- Joseph Smith Historic Site Visitors Center
- Weld House

## Quincy, Illinois

Quincy Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

800-978-4748 • [www.seequincy.com](http://www.seequincy.com)

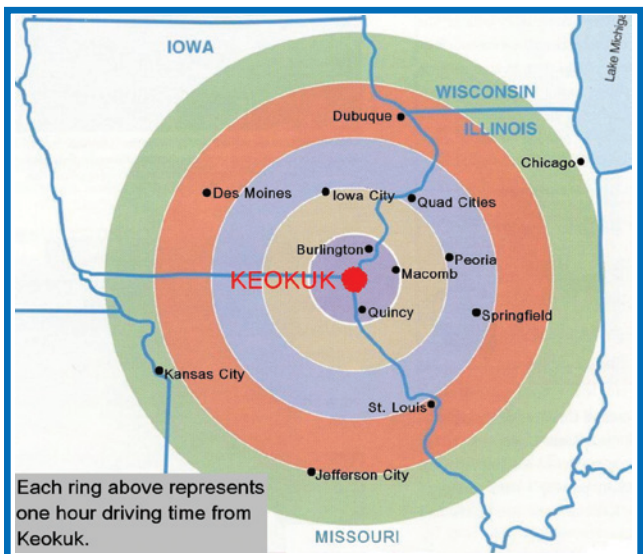
- All Wars Museum-Illinois
- Veterans Home
- Governor John Wood Mansion
- Quincy Art Center
- Quincy Museum
- Villa Kathrine Quincy's Tourist Center

## Macomb, Illinois

Macomb Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

309-833-1315 • [www.makeitmacomb.com](http://www.makeitmacomb.com)

- McDonough County Courthouse Square
- McDonough County Historic Barn Tour
- Museum Of Geology
- University Art Gallery/Museum
- Western Illinois University



*Make It Yours*  
**KEOKUK**  
I O W A

KEOKUK AREA CONVENTION AND TOURISM BUREAU

[www.keokukiwatourism.org](http://www.keokukiwatourism.org)

319-524-5599

428 Main Street • Keokuk, Iowa 52632