

101 Things To Do in the Amana Colonies

1. Take a peaceful stroll on the Nature Trail by Homestead.
2. Check out the local artisans and their work at the Arts Guild in High Amana (10:30-4:30 Wed-Sat, 11-4 Sun, May-Sept, weekends only in October).
3. Find an interesting place to take a picture of you and your family in each of the seven villages (including East Amana).
4. Take a tour through the Amana Woolen Mill – there's more to see than just a sales floor. Check out the looms and other machinery that make those terrific products.
5. Sneak a peek at our very own microbrewery, Millstream Brewing Co., Amana.
6. Take in a "Struwwelpeter" performance with the kids, Amana Heritage Museum, Thursday – Saturday, June 25 – August 14.
7. Get some exercise on the Kolonieweg – walk, roller blade or rent bikes from the RV Park.
8. After a hot day of sightseeing, grab a cone at Schatzl's Ice Cream & Sandwich Shop (mid-February - early December).
9. Drive through the colonies to identify the different siding materials used on historic homes (cedar, brick, sandstone).
10. Compare the different ways sandstone was cut on the north and south sides of buildings.
11. Look for common architectural features in the historic homes (i.e. grape trellises, return gables, 7/12 roof pitch, 9-over-6 windows).
12. Tour the Amana Colonies furniture shops and see the beautiful hand-crafted furniture in the making (Amana Furniture and Clock Shop-Amana, Krauss Furniture and Schanz Furniture-South Amana).
13. Take a flower garden tour in each of the villages.
14. Sit at the Lily Lake to view wildlife activities on the pond – especially during the lily season (late July, early August).
15. Drive to East Amana – the only completely residential village – and take a self-guided historic homes tour.
16. Find the Millrace overflow behind the Woolen Mill near the Amana Society Builders – good fishing! (get permit from the Amana Society Main Office first...must also have state fishing license).
17. Attend an Amana Arts Guild workshop (contact the Welcome Centers or Arts Guild for schedule).
18. Check out the largest known collection of miniatures made by one man -- Henry Moore -- in the scale of 1"=1' (Mini-Americana Barn Museum, South Amana, Apr-Oct).
19. See the basket makers at the Amana Broom & Basket Shop (when sign is posted).
20. Get rolled at the roller "wall of fame" (Powder House-Amana).
21. Find out what a typical communal menu would include by visiting the Communal Kitchen Museum in Middle Amana (May-Oct).
22. Find the three pine groves (Amana, Homestead, South Amana).
23. Play a round of golf at the 18-hole championship Amana Colonies Golf Course.
24. Get up early and smell the goodies being baked at the Stone Hearth Bakery (Amana), then try some!
25. Get a permit from the Amana Society Main Office to pick mushrooms and nuts in season.
26. Go back in time at the Iowa Renaissance Festival, Middle Amana Park, Labor Day weekend.
27. Make yourself aware of the ongoing activities in the Amana Colonies and visit us again soon.
28. Give yourself a sampling tour of our terrific wineries.
29. Zip to Zubers Restaurant in Homestead – enjoy the food and memorabilia of the 1943 Yankees.
30. Check out the side streets and back streets...you never know what treasures await you.
31. Watch the eagles and many other bird species on the Iowa River.
32. Go sledding on the rolling hills of the colonies (trespass permit from the Amana Society Main Office required).
33. Go cross country skiing on the Nature Trail or the Kolonieweg Recreational Trail.
34. Go to a live professional theatre performance at the Old Creamery Theatre Company (Visitors Center, April-Dec).
35. Go for a swim at the Amana Elementary indoor pool during public swim hours (call pool for hours, 622-3792).
36. Play a game of tennis at the Amana Elementary tennis courts.
37. Picnic at the Middle Amana Park – take along Amana wines, beer, meats and cheeses.
38. Visit South Amana, the "village of flowers."
39. Take the back roads of the colonies for a scenic fall color tour.
40. Swing peacefully in the Peace Park (near Powder House, Amana).
41. Photograph the lotus lilies in bloom on the Lily Lake (late July, early August).
42. Rent a condo at the golf course and bring the whole family!
43. See the broom maker in West Amana and enroll in his club.
44. Visit the Homestead Store Museum in Homestead and learn about commerce in communal-era Amana.
45. Attend a church service on Sunday morning in Middle Amana (8:30 German service, 10:00 English service).
46. Find Christmas everyday by browsing a Christmas shop.
47. Use the Amana Colonies Historical Audio Driving Tour to learn more about the rich culture and unique history of the Colonies.

48. Watch candles being made at Colony Candleworks.
49. Find the apple orchard northwest of Zubers Restaurant.
50. Go to Amana General Store Appliances (behind Woolen Mill in Amana) to see the display on the history of Amana appliances.
51. See the smokehouse and get some meat samples at the meat shop in Amana.
52. Find out what a "Schnitzelbank" is and then buy a postcard with the song on it as a memento.
53. Go antiquing in the antique shops and many other businesses with Amana Colonies artifacts.
54. Learn about the religious background of the Amana Colonies when visiting the Community Church Museum in Homestead (10-5 M-Sat, 12-5 Sun, May-Oct).
55. Go to an Old Creamery Theatre Company performance at the newly renovated Depot in Amana (call Old Creamery box office for show times, 622-6194 or 800-352-6262).
56. Find out what piestengel is by visiting the wineries.
57. Find the "hill of slopes" agricultural display near the Visitors Center.
58. Take note of the architecture of the over 70 barns in the area.
59. Find a brick chicken house (Hint: there are two in South Amana).
60. Find out how the drying house was used in Homestead (near the meat market).
61. Take an evening walking tour of the village of Amana (July -August).
62. Sample the different types of fudge found in many different shops.
63. Visit Hahn's Bakery to see the 100+ year old hearth oven and purchase it's taste-tempting products. (7:30 a.m. until sold out Tues.-Sat, Apr.-Oct., Wed & Sat. only in Nov., Dec. and Mar.)
64. Discover the interesting history of the Amana Colonies cemeteries.
65. Visit the Communal Agriculture Museum (May-Sept) to find out why the three board fence was used in communal times. Watch for them today.
66. Check out the pioneer grave on highway 6 near Homestead.
67. Visit the Museum of Amana History and find out what "Amana" means (Apr-Oct and Saturdays year round).
68. Learn the difference between the Amana and Amish people.
69. Get up early, stroll quietly through one of the villages and plan your day's itinerary.
70. Canoe the Iowa River.
71. Find the "sleepy machine" at the Amana Woolen Mill.
72. Check out the view of all seven villages from the Upper South Amana hill.
73. Find the church building in each of the villages.
74. Shop "Little Amana" until 7 or 8 PM (depending on season).
75. Take a Gallery Tour of artisans studios on the first Thursday evening of every month from May – October, 5-8pm.
76. Take a nice quiet evening walk with your honey.
77. Show your kids what a "klickerbahn" is at Schanz Furniture Shop.
78. Find the Feuer Haus (German for fire house) in Amana, Middle, Homestead and South.
79. Sunset, bottle of wine, Lily Lake.
80. Buy an Amana appliance.
81. See ironwork made at Custom Cutlery and Ironworks.
82. Stay in a unique bed & breakfast.
83. Find the World Ag Expo clock tower.
84. Picnic in the Old Creamery Theatre courtyard — if not in use – behind the Visitors Center.
85. Find out how Amish and Amana quilts differ.
86. Take a family picture at the big, downed cottonwood tree northwest of the Lily Lake.
87. Check out the spectacular view from the hills of the Amana Colonies Golf Course (count the water towers).
88. Find the spot where George Foerstner developed the first beverage cooler (hint: think High Amana).
89. Get up early and go deer watching.
90. Admire the largest native hardwood forest in Iowa as you drive through the Amana Colonies.
91. Learn the history and significance of the Millrace at the Museum of Amana History (Apr-Oct and Saturdays year round).
92. Find the old railroad depot which has been restored and is used as a trailhead for the Kolonieweg Recreational Trail and a performance area for the Old Creamery Theatre Company (Hint: think Amana).
93. Drive through Iowa's largest farm – check out the crops and cattle.
94. Get a copy of a prairie plant guide from the Iowa DNR and see how many varieties of grasses and flowering plants you can spot on our various prairie sites.
95. Discover the "golf ball run that plays the xylophone" at Schanz's in West Amana.
96. Catch some tunes at one of the many music concerts taking place at the newly-renovated century-old Festhalle Barn in Amana (call the Convention & Visitors Bureau for the schedule, 622-7622).
97. Check out the Iowa County Conservation Board native prairie grass display.
98. Give the kids an Iowa geography lesson and teach them interesting facts about some of Iowa's hidden treasures using the terrific brochures from our two Iowa Welcome Centers.
99. What kept the industries of communal Amana humming? Visit the Industrial Machine Shop Museum (adjacent to Custom Cutlery and Ironworks in Amana) to find out more.
100. Take your picture in the world's largest rocking chair (Hint: think West Amana).
101. Having done ALL of the above, sit down for a huge (and fantastic) family-style meal at any of the restaurants.

Call the
**Amana Colonies
 Convention &
 Visitors Bureau**
 for more information,
 319-622-7622 or
 1-800-579-2294

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An Iowa Treasure