



MISSOURI



WE'RE SURROUNDED!

100 sights and surprises in Missouri's eight bordering states

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POP QUIZ: Which two U.S. states border the most others? For lifelong Missourians, the answer is easy—the Show-Me State and Tennessee, tied with eight. This fact might seem trivial to some, but it's a thing of beauty for enthusiastic travelers. Hop in the car, and a handful of hours later, you can be partying on Memphis' Beale Street, peering over Chicago from The Ledge, or coasting along the canal in Oklahoma City's Bricktown. "Been there, done that," you say? The Midwest's charm resides beyond big-city limits. Consider a sunset in Kansas' Flint Hills, a glass of wine at Illinois' Owl Creek Vineyard, or a blissful soak at Bathhouse Row in Hot Springs, Ark. There are plenty of other hidden gems within driving distance—if you know where to look. Turn the page, and discover why having so many neighbors has its perks.

ILLINOIS • KENTUCKY • TENNESSEE • ARKANSAS • OKLAHOMA • KANSAS • NEBRASKA • IOWA

IOWA

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Iowa. Our northern neighbor's very name brings to mind endless farmland vistas and dusty back roads. This is the birthplace of some of America's best-known Everymen, from Johnny Carson to Ashton Kutcher—on to *Star Trek's* fictional Capt. James T. Kirk, a backcountry boy who rises to a 23rd-century starship's command. Take the Avenue of the Saints (Route 61 in Missouri to Route 27 in Iowa) to Iowa City, and take your pick of two off-beat destinations: Riverside and Amana.



AMANA COLONIES

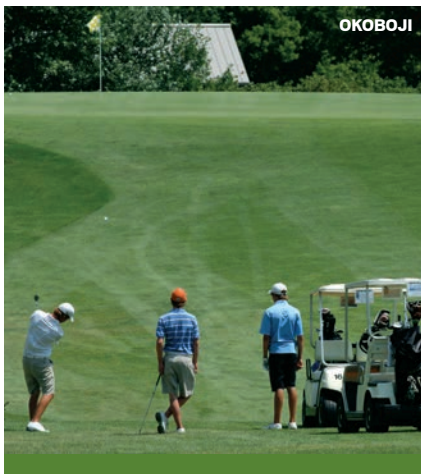
As Kirk's "future birthplace," the former is worth a stop, just to see the U.S.S. *Riverside* starship and accompanying **VOYAGE HOME MUSEUM** (and, each June, the internationally attended TrekFest, trekfest.com). If *Star Trek* isn't your thing, try the town's **CASINO AND GOLF RESORT** (river sidecasinoandresort.com). Amana, on the other hand, brings visitors back in time to a world of "handcrafted escape" amid the historic **AMANA COLONIES** (amana colonies.com). Drop your things off at one of nearly a dozen bed-and-breakfasts, then go golfing or hiking; dining on artisan meats, bread, wine, and beer; or shopping for handmade goods and artwork.

THE RIVER OF DREAMS

A bit farther north, you'll find **DUBUQUE** (dubuquechamber.com), the quintessential go-at-your-own-pace river town. Try sailing or strolling along the Mississippi River; in colder months, sleigh rides and ice-skating are local specialties. Baseball buffs should consider a trip to nearby Dyersville, where the original **FIELD OF DREAMS** (fieldofdreamsmoviesite.com) movie site, a ballpark carved in the middle of a cornfield, has been preserved and is perfect for a free pickup game.



FIELD OF DREAMS



OKOBOJI

REAP THE WILD WIND

For a more eclectic escape, try Iowa's Great Lakes region. At its heart is **OKOBOJI** (vacationokoboji.com), home of the mythical **UNIVERSITY OF OKOBOJI** ("U of O"), a.k.a. "the best-known nonexistent university in the country." In 1988, the imaginary "college of fun," dreamed up by a local storeowner, lent its name to a foundation devoted to area arts and recreation, which has aided the success of a number of local ventures. Nearby **SPIRIT LAKE** thrives with galleries, beaches, and fishing excursions; in Storm Lake, key draws include **KING'S POINTE WATER-PARK RESORT** (kingspointresort.com),



SPIRIT LAKE

SUNRISE POINTE GOLF COURSE (storm lake.org), and one of the country's largest wind farms. Finally, for amateur historians, try an excursion to Arnolds Park's **GARDNER CABIN & MUSEUM** (iowahistory.org/historic-sites), **IOWA ROCK 'N' ROLL MUSEUM AND ASSOCIATION** (iowarockroll.com), and **IOWA GREAT LAKES MARITIME MUSEUM** (okobojimuseum.org). 📍

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