

..... FAIRFIELD, IOWA 2021-2022

# THE Vibe Guide

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**Fairfield**  
*Tune Into Our Vibe*





# Tune Into Our Vibe

**F**airfield gives off a bit of a different vibe than other small, Iowa towns. From the time of our creation, our city has been defined by those daring enough to be bold, courageous, and innovative, from our early settlers to our Civil War icons to the international movement that made its home here. Today, that spirit is reflected in a diverse, multicultural population that thrives on creativity, ingenuity, and entrepreneurship.

It's that welcoming spirit that's helped to define Fairfield as one of the coolest, most unique places in America, both to visit and to live. We invite you to stop in and explore what our city has to offer — you may be surprised at how easy it is to tune into our vibe.



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### FAIRFIELD IOWA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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# Historic Times

## AND Good Vibes

In the land of Fairfield, Iowa, the vibes have always been positive. After all, from the moment settler Nancy Bonnifield laid eyes on the expanse that would become our city, she knew such fair fields were deserving of a name to suit them. As the years went on, Fairfield became a hub of good vibes for the State of Iowa — we hosted the first two Iowa State Fairs in 1854-55, opening with the presentation of a 360-pound “Great Denmark Cheese.” Our early history is on display to this day through the many historic sites around town. The Carnegie Museum, for example, is housed in Fairfield’s original Carnegie Library, the first such library west of the Mississippi. Early settler architecture is on display with the Bonnifield Cabin at Bonnifield Park, the oldest two-story log house in Iowa, and the McElhinney House, a stunning New England-style manor built in 1846.

Visitors can also peer back in time through sites such as the Elm Grove School House, one of 400 remaining one-room schools in Iowa, and Maasdam Barns, which bred and raised award-winning draft horses from 1910-1938 and pioneered agricultural machinery with its use of the Loudon monorail system. We’ve always valued higher education here, serving as home to Parsons College for nearly a century. Today, Maharishi International University carries on that tradition to provide knowledge to all who seek it, as well as shaping Fairfield into a hub for arts and culture in the Midwest. The establishment of MIU in Fairfield enhanced the cultural trajectory of the city, drawing in talent from all over the globe and transforming Fairfield into a center for the arts in Southeast Iowa.

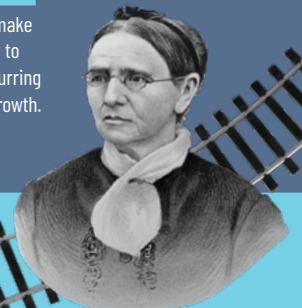
1853

Fairfield becomes the first city in Iowa to offer library services. The Fairfield library eventually becomes the first Carnegie Library west of the Mississippi River in 1893.



1858

Railroads make their way to Fairfield, spurring economic growth.



1839

Fairfield is settled. Named by settler Nancy Bonnifield, it becomes the county seat the same year.



1854

Fairfield hosts the first Iowa State Fair. Fairfield would host the State Fair once more in 1855 before the event is moved to Des Moines.



1862

Maj. Mehitabel E. Woods begins her first mission to transport medical supplies to Union troops in Springfield, MO. Throughout the Civil War, Maj. Woods would make 13 trips carrying nine cargoes weighing between 2 and 37 tons apiece.



**TODAY.** Fairfield is proud to be one of the coolest, most eclectic small towns in the United States. When you immerse yourself in the culture we've created in our humble, 6.5-square-mile city, you'll find out just how easy it is to tune into our vibe.



**1875**

Parsons College is established as a private liberal arts college by the estate of Lewis B. Parsons Sr.



Maasdam Barns founded on the south side of town by J.G. Maasdam. From its foundation to its closing in 1938, the site becomes one of the top breeders of draft horses as well as a pioneer in revolutionary new farming equipment such as the Louden overhead monorail system.

**1910**

**1974**

After Parsons College closes in 1973, Maharishi International University founded by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi with an education system that includes Transcendental Meditation, moves to Fairfield.



**2007**

The Fairfield Arts & Convention Center opens with the Stephen Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts.

# THE CARNEGIE MUSEUM: Telling The Fairfield Story



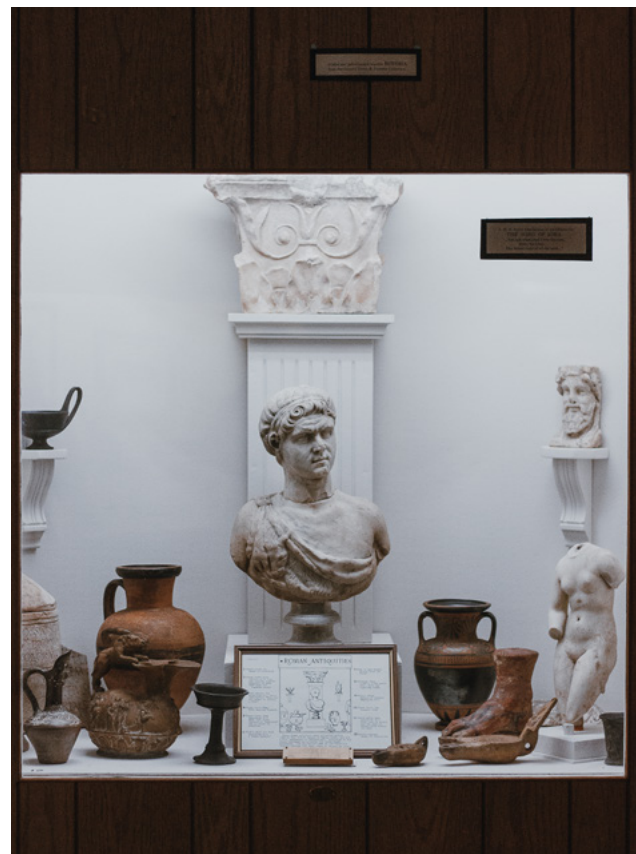
**S**ometimes to learn about your hometown, you have to do a little digging. Depending on where you come from, that task can be easier said than done. Fairfield isn't one of those places. For years, the Carnegie Museum been a regular part of the community, telling the fascinating stories of Fairfield and the people who built and shaped it into the city it is today. Housed in what was originally Fairfield's Carnegie Library, the museum tells the harrowing stories of local heroes like Maj. Mehitabel E. Woods, a Civil War hero who cared for Union soldiers in Iowa and ran supplies to troops all along the Mississippi River, reaching as far south as Louisiana. But the curios that fill the Carnegie Museum go far beyond those you'd be accustomed to finding in any small-town museum. Sure, fossils found locally and memorabilia from the old Parsons College fill the halls, but the collection becomes much more eclectic as you wander from display to display.

"We have an incredible variety from the Smithsonian including some 19th-century taxidermy," said museum staff member Therese Cummiskey, adding the taxidermy goes well beyond the local fauna to include sea lions, penguins, alligators, and more.

**"We have a lot of Native American pottery that dates back to the early years. We have Civil War and Lincoln artifacts on display along with a really cool collection of World War II posters. We have pioneer tools and we have firearms. For such a small museum, we have just a wealth of antiquities and collections."**



You can visit the library at the corner of South Court Street and East Washington Street in lovely Fairfield, IA.



“ Everything has a story and it tells you the richness of Fairfield and our early settlers,”  
 “And of our connections – not just locally, but from all over the world. I think it tells a story of the strength of our early settlers, their interests, and their interest-seeking. They wanted to know more. They wanted to reach out and become part of the world.”

- THERESE CUMMISKEY, Carnegie Museum



## ART IN FAIRFIELD, IOWA: A Not So Hidden Gem

**B**e honest — you probably wouldn't imagine a cultural, artistic hub could take root outside a major metropolitan city, much less Southeast Iowa. But as the old saying goes, there's inspiration everywhere. When artists flock to Fairfield, they don't just see another small town. Instead, they see a town bustling with opportunity and inspiration.

**"FAIRFIELD IS SERIOUSLY  
UNIQUE FOR A SMALL TOWN  
IN IOWA."** - Local Artist Bill Teeple



For more than 50 years, various initiatives have been instrumental in the growth of Fairfield's art scene. The Fairfield Art Association, founded in 1966, began offering classes and workshops to local artists of all ages based in the old Carnegie Library building. Since 2007, the association has been headquartered in the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center. In 2002, Stacey Hurlin founded the First Fridays Art Walk, attracting thousands to revel in the local art and music of Fairfield. Additionally, galleries such as Art 52 and ICON Gallery serve to boost the visibility of artists in Fairfield and provide them with a creative outlet.

That need for a creative outlet is why Bill Teeple himself founded ICON Gallery 20 years ago. At that time, he had been teaching art in one of the buildings downtown and rented some of the empty rooms to hang art in. Eventually, artists gathered on the third floor for makeshift openings and the gallery grew beyond its humble origins, necessitating a move to its current location at 58 N. Main St. in 2007. The ICON Gallery has since become a creative nucleus for the artistic community, longing for the art scenes of larger cities.

**"ALL THESE PEOPLE WOULD COME HERE, AND THEY  
WERE MISSING THE CULTURE OF THE BIG CITY AND THE  
CULTURE OF THE EAST COAST AND WEST COAST,"**  
Teeple said.

"So, when I opened the gallery and these music venues started happening, everyone felt this relief that the things they'd been missing were now starting to happen in Fairfield. Now, it's been going on in Fairfield so long that people are moving here just to be part of the art scene."



Teeple himself came to Fairfield from Los Angeles, but he's not the only one who made the pilgrimage to Southeast Iowa. Barry Ross — a professional illustrator whose work has appeared in *Sports Illustrated*, *Golf Magazine*, and *Flying Magazine* and has been featured at the Museum of Flight in Seattle, the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum, and the EAA Aviation Museum — took up permanent

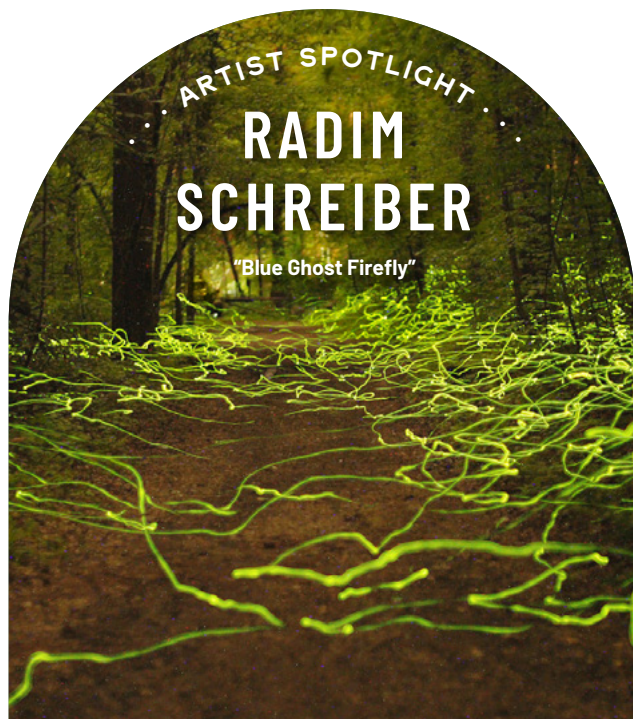
residence in Fairfield after discovering Transcendental Meditation in 1974. Other nationally recognized artists like John Preston (above) — creator of breathtaking Midwest landscapes featured by Iowa State University, John Deere, and the Chicago Federal Reserve — and David Kupferman — whose art has been shown from San Francisco to Miami and been spotlighted by J.P. Morgan Bank and Fidelity Investments — came to Fairfield from the East Coast to find a thriving, exciting art community.



**“THERE IS SUCH A PARTICIPATION ON THE PART OF THE OTHER TOWNSPEOPLE IN FAIRFIELD, SO WHEN YOU HAVE A SHOW OR PUT SOMETHING ONLINE, YOU GET ALL THESE WONDERFUL, LOVING REACTIONS,” Ross said.**

“In New York, you go to an opening and everyone's looking around saying, ‘Who's that? And who's that? Can they help me?’ Everything is about making money and making sales. Out here, it was all about the art — it was all about how beautiful it was. Life just settled down into a sweet, everyday experience... I don't have the same stresses that I had in New York City. I still love being here. It's still exciting. I couldn't possibly have the studio that I have in Fairfield in New York.” Thanks to galleries like ICON and Art 52 — and the innumerable contributions from artists who have made temporary or permanent homes here — Fairfield's art scene has grown wildly to establish the city as a Midwestern creative hub.

“Today, we must have 300 or 400 artists here,” Teeple said. “And there are a ton of musicians with three or four significant musical venues. We even offer live poetry reading. Fairfield has become an art center... [It] has a certain flavor that sort of seeps into your bloodstream once you get here. There's a lot going on here in little nooks and crannies that people can discover.”



## ARTIST SPOTLIGHT RADIM SCHREIBER

“Blue Ghost Firefly”

### ILLUMINATING ARTWORK

Radim Schreiber has always been fascinated with fireflies. The insects are rare in his native Czech Republic, so they were a captivating sight when he first came to Fairfield in 1998. That image stuck with Schreiber for several years, during which time he patiently waited for camera technology and lighting to catch up to his idea. Finally, with a high-speed lens and full-frame DSLR, he managed to snap a couple photos in his garden and was instantly blown away. “I got so excited that the following year, I spent the whole summer photographing fireflies,” Schreiber said. One of those photographs, “Amber Firefly,” ended up earning Schreiber high praise, winning the 8th Annual Smithsonian Magazine Photo Contest in 2010.

**“I'M TRYING TO CONVEY MY EXPERIENCE... VERY SOOTHING, VERY PEACEFUL — ALMOST SPIRITUAL,”**

Schreiber said, adding that because he shoots at night, there are much fewer distractions. “It's very beautiful and a great connection with nature. That is what I want to convey. So, when I create videos, the music that I add is to support the kind of experience that I want to share.” That ability to build a connection and share an experience with people is one of the biggest reasons Schreiber continues to shoot. “I can connect with people and bring joy to their hearts,” Schreiber said. “They share with me not only how much they like my work but how much they like fireflies and nature. That is a fulfilling feeling — somebody connects with me and the same level of joy, and I can trigger that level of joy and those feelings that they remember from their childhood.”

Schreiber's work as well as his book, *Firefly Experience*, can be found at [fireflyexperience.org](http://fireflyexperience.org).



LIVE MUSIC & THEATRE:

# On With The Show





**W**hat kind of shows can you expect to see in our humble, Southeast Iowa city? Well, A little bit of everything, to be honest!

**“YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING FROM BROADWAY TOURS TO INTERNATIONAL ACROBATICS ACTS OR MUSICIANS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE AS WELL AS HERE IN FAIRFIELD AND THE UNITED STATES.”**

**- Lindsay Bauer, Director of the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center**

“We host national tours — everything from ballet to Irish dance to hip-hop dance to rap, classical music, and theatre, as well.”

The Arts & Convention Center, home to the Sondheim Center for the Performing Arts, has become a cultural focal point for Fairfield, hosting nationally recognized shows such as *Chicago* and *Rent*. The Arts & Convention Center maintains a rotation of nationally recognized plays, concerts, and shows from September through May.

“We try to host something that’s unique for this part of Iowa — and the region as well,” Bauer said. “When I program, I try to choose things that are excellent, saying something that needs to be said right now, right here by the people that I know, but also things that are surprising. I love to share something that we haven’t seen here before.” The creativity in the performing arts you find at the Arts & Convention Center radiates throughout the entire town. At night, live music fills the air as local shops transform into mini concert venues.

Take Café Paradiso, for example. There, you’ll see a daytime coffee shop transform into a venue for folk, indie rock, jazz, and more. You can also catch the Fairfield nightlife vibe at the Depot House, whose robust calendar of events, diverse performers, and great food makes it one of Fairfield’s premier destinations.

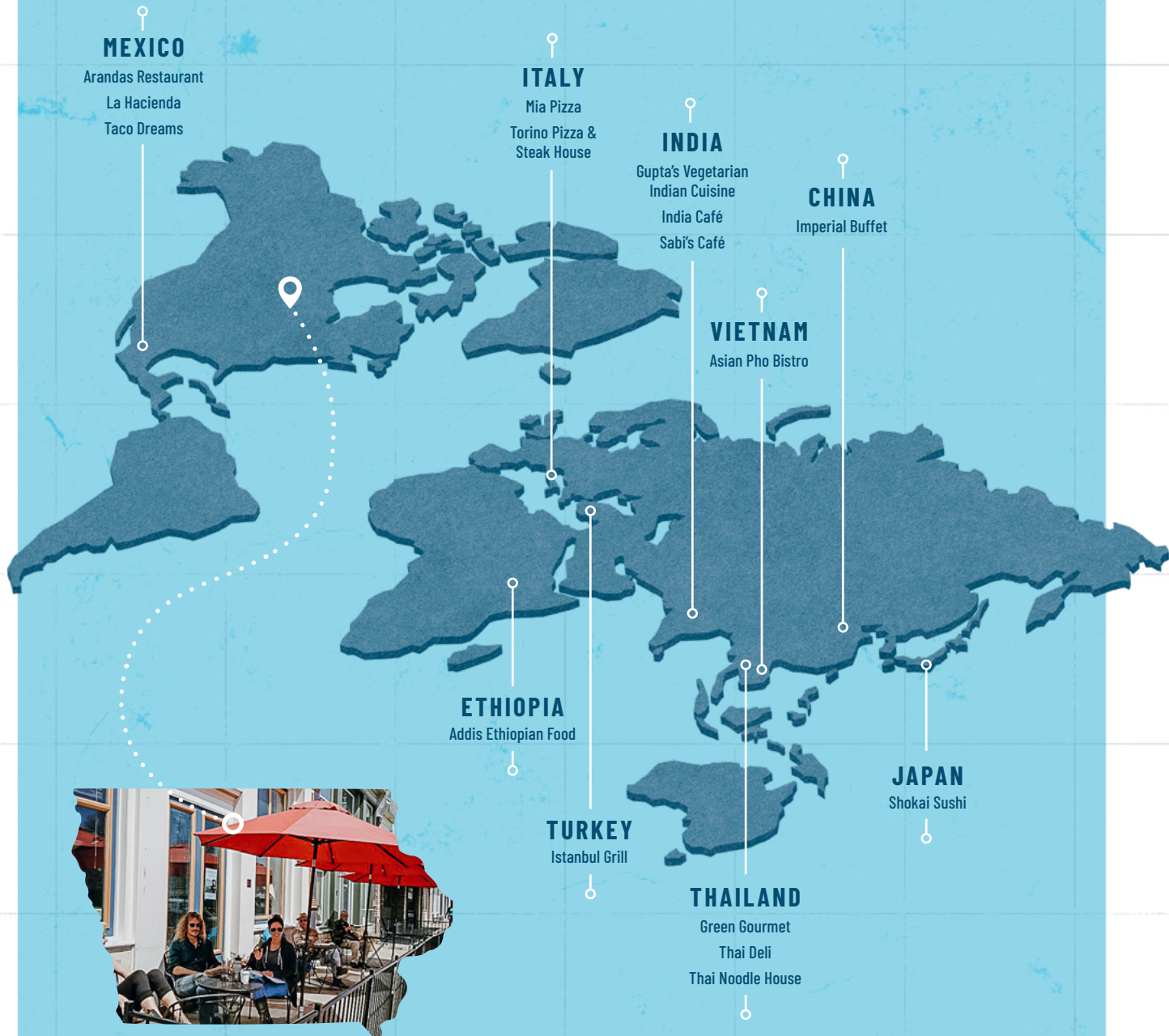


**“THAT REALLY IS KIND OF THE VIBE WE HAVE HERE, JUST TO BE ABLE TO SIT OUTSIDE AT THE CORNER CAFÉ AND THEN BE ABLE TO HEAR GREAT MUSIC AND GRAB A GREAT MEAL ALL IN A ONE-BLOCK RADIUS,”** Bauer said.

# Foodie Heaven

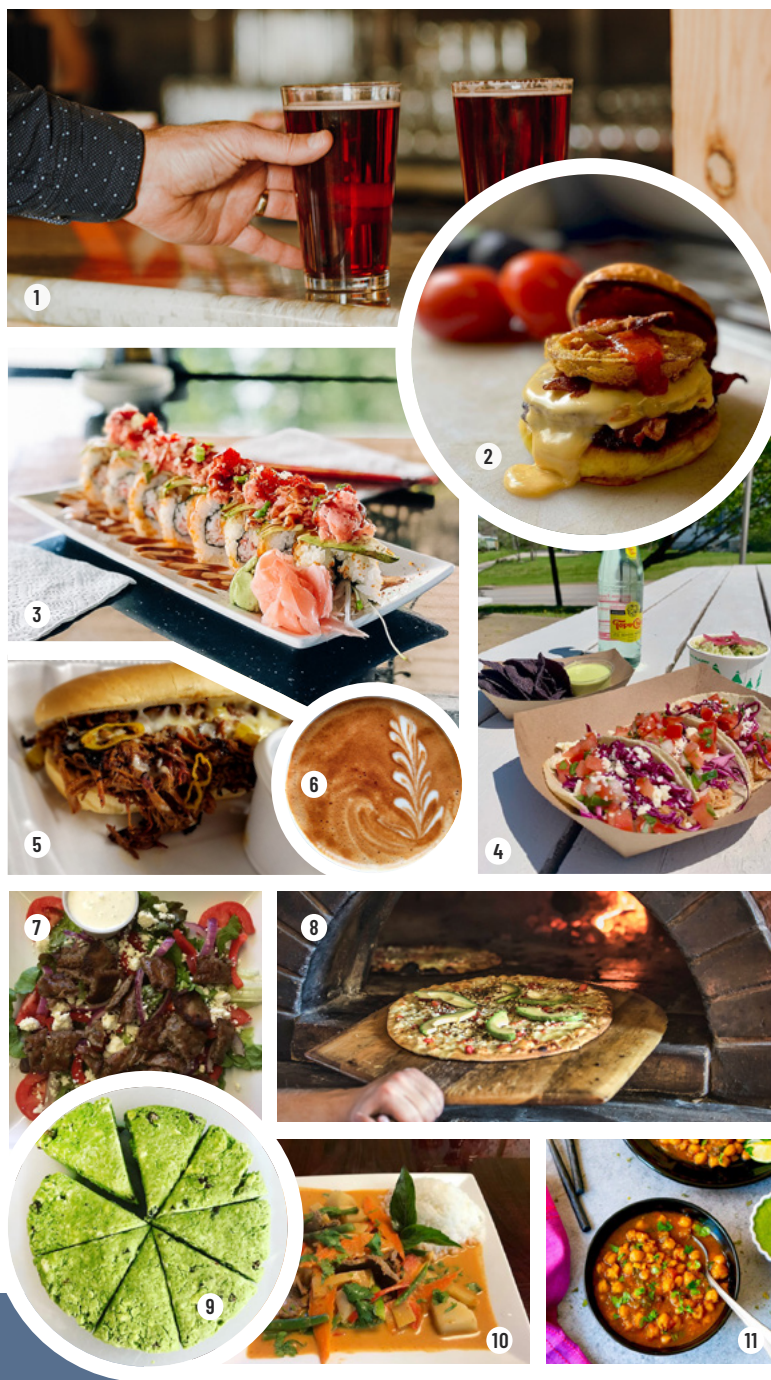
In Fairfield, we believe anyone who comes here won't leave hungry. After all, with the wide variety of food options representing an entire world of flavor, your dining options are practically limitless.

TAKE A WORLD TOUR IN FAIRFIELD AND IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE TASTES THAT DEFINE OUR CITY.



# OUR FAVORITE PLACES TO GRAB A BITE

- 1 **FISHBACK & STEPHENSON CIDER HOUSE** — Home to one of the best dang burgers you'll find in Iowa.
- 2 **LUNCHBOX** — Comfort food with an innovative twist. Find out why the chicken sandwich easily wins the Chicken Wars!
- 3 **SHOKAI SUSHI** — Big-city sushi in a small-town setting. You don't want to miss their incredibly innovative sushi rolls!
- 4 **TACO DREAMS** — Southwest flavor with locally sourced, grass-fed beef. Try them barbacoa or carne molida!
- 5 **SWEET 'N SAUCY** — Southern-style, wood-fired barbecue. Brisket, pulled pork, tenderloins... is anyone else getting hungry in here?
- 6 **CAFÉ PARADISO** — Intimate coffee shop with world-class espresso. Be sure to stick around for live entertainment!
- 7 **ISTANBUL GRILL** — Freshly made Mediterranean and American options. Try the zesty kebab and falafel plates or try a taste of the Windy City with their deep-dish pizza!
- 8 **REVELATIONS** — Wood-fired pizza and homemade soup and sandwiches. Love avocados? You'll love the California pizza!
- 9 **HAZEL MOON CAFÉ** — Espresso, tea, and gluten-free treats. Kick back and relax with their South Pacific-inspired kava drinks!
- 10 **ASIAN PHO BISTRO** — Authentic pho restaurant with fresh, made-to-order entrees. The glass noodles with chicken will shatter your expectations!
- 11 **SABI'S CAFÉ** — Home to authentic Indian food. Try the chickpeas seasoned with freshly roasted pomegranate seeds, cumin seeds, and tamarind!



**FISHBACK & STEPHENSON  
CIDER HOUSE BURGER**

If you're looking for a good burger, you've come to the right place. Fishback & Stephenson Cider House makes one heck of a burger — rated one of the top 10 in the state, as a matter of fact. The taproom features an award-winning restaurant with a full menu, but the burger is the star of the show. Fishback & Stephenson buys its beef exclusively from a farm in Fairfield owned by the Adrian family, lifelong friends of co-founder Clint Stephenson, ensuring your burger is a one-of-a-kind taste of Fairfield. "All of our beef is locally grown and sourced," said Stephenson, adding the beef is given an extra twist before it's processed.

**"WE ACTUALLY TAKE THE APPLE MASH FROM OUR CIDER PRESS AND FEED IT TO THE CATTLE. WE ALSO DON'T CUT THE STEAKS OUT — WE USE WHOLE COWS. SO, IT'S NOT REGULAR GROUND BEEF."**

## A HOMEGROWN SUCCESS STORY:

# The Cider City

### . FISHBACK & STEPHENSON CIDER HOUSE .

**W**hat does it take to bring a world-class cidery to the city you grew up in? If you ask Clint Stephenson, a lot of ambition, creativity, and washing machines. Stephenson — one of four friends along with Hopi James, Annalisa Thompson, and Cole Fishback, who co-founded Fishback & Stephenson Cider House — helped take what started as a hobby between friends in the basement of one of their homes to one of the premier cideries in Iowa.

**“WE STARTED WALKING AROUND THE COUNTY PICKING APPLES AND COMING UP WITH CREATIVE WAYS TO MAKE CIDER,”** Stephenson said,

adding residents around town were eager to have the group come and pick apples that had fallen from their trees and were attracting insects. “We started putting ads in newspapers, Craigslist, and Facebook to go pick people’s apples.” The operation has grown quite a bit since its genesis in 2014. Fishback & Stephenson processes anywhere from 16,000–20,000 pounds of apples in a week with distribution in Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri. The cidery also boasts a large belt press along with several heating and cooling tanks. And now, Fishback & Stephenson will begin canning its own cider in-house.



Situated on 33 acres of gorgeous Iowa scenery, the taproom — a timber-framed structure completed in 2018 — offers a wide selection of ciders from their original Coyote Verde green apple cider to their Maple Starship spiced maple apple cider.

And the result? Fishback & Stephenson was named the 2020 Iowa Cider Producer of the Year by the New York International Cider Competition. The cider house even hosted a pop-up Mooby’s restaurant based on the fictional restaurant chain in director Kevin Smith’s films, producing a limited-edition cider called Jay & Silent Bob Cherry Kush to coincide with the event. “It’s things like that with Fairfield. There’s that creativity,” Stephenson said. “There’s usually some sort of connection from the art department from (Maharishi International University) or the film school, or someone meets somebody or gets here from around the globe or the coasts.”



## CIDER WORKS . . . . .

In 2013, Fairfield natives Jesse Narducci and Katie Greenfield began making cider sourced from locally grown apples. That dream lives on today through Jefferson County Ciderworks, a cidery located just west of Fairfield on 200th Street. Hand-crafted and rooted in American cider-making traditions, each batch of apples is pressed on site to guarantee a one-of-a-kind flavor with every sip with no artificial flavors or additional sugars. With a wide variety of flavors — from core ciders like Original Apple and Sour Cherry to seasonals such as Cranberry Orange and Winter Botanical — you're sure to find a taste that suits you in the cidery's onsite restaurant and taproom. Oh, by the way, if you want beautiful snapshots of the natural beauty around Fairfield and Jefferson County, you're definitely going to want to follow them on Instagram @jeffcocider.



## Wine & Dine

### CEDAR VALLEY WINERY

Who says you need to go all the way out to California for a good wine? Just west of town of Route 34, Cedar Valley Winery features an array of wines made right here in Fairfield using grapes grown by the Miller family. Utilizing an eight-acre vineyard with seven grape varieties grown onsite, Cedar Valley produces about 2,500 gallons of award-winning red and white wine annually. Whether you're looking for something rich and full-bodied or sweet and light, find the flavor you're looking for in the winery's tasting room. Or if you prefer a little fresh air with your wine, enjoy breathtaking vistas from the winery's deck overlooking the vineyard.



### SOMM WINES

Feel like just grabbing a glass and kicking back? SOMM Wines (102 E. Briggs Ave.) offers by-the-glass wine service in its lounge along with an incredible array of wines from around the world. Owner Krista Matthes brings nearly two decades of experience as a sommelier to SOMM Wines, where she has hand-selected more than 200 bottles from every major wine region on the planet. Enjoy a glass — as well as their "Best in the Midwest" cheese and charcuterie board — and relax in their lounge or take a bottle home with you from their retail store.

### VERAISON WINE BAR

For a sample of European flavor, Veraison (508 N. 2nd St.) offers a menu of wines hand-selected by owner and world traveler Julia Punj. With a menu featuring 120 wines from all over Europe, you'll have no trouble finding a taste to suit you. Order by the glass or by the bottle, then head outside and enjoy Veraison's gorgeous, European-inspired patio. And of course, be sure to pair your wine with some tapas!

## FAIRFIELD LOOP TRAIL MAP



# OUTDOORS & BIKING: In The Loop

**T**he highlight of our outdoor recreation, the Loop Trail, a 16-mile paved path encircling the city, is an ideal destination whether you prefer to get around by foot or by two wheels. Built in 2009 when the state added a four-lane bypass for U.S. Route 34, the Loop Trail serves as a connector between Fairfield and other outdoor areas around Jefferson County.

"Biking is huge in Iowa — that's undeniable," says Mark Smith, owner of Fairfield's local bike shop, The Ride. After all, with its smaller communities and wide-open spaces, the entire state —

not just Fairfield — is perfect for biking. Road riders will even find a relatively safe environment as opposed to areas with more traffic. "Southeast Iowa has a certain charm. It's hilly and there are more woods than usual," Smith said.

**"THERE'S THAT SORT OF CHARM HERE, AND NOT JUST FAIRFIELD, BUT THE ENTIRE REGION. THAT SCENERY IS A CONTRAST TO THE REST OF THE STATE."** — Mark Smith, Owner of local bike shop The Ride

- 1 **MAASDAM BARNs** - Historic Maasdam Barns and Museum offers a snapshot of an early 20th-century draft horse farm and agricultural innovation where J.G. Maasdam raised and sold award-winning draft horses and was at one time home to Louis D'Or, the largest horse in the world.
- 2 **LAMSON WOODS STATE PRESERVE & NEFF WETLANDS** - Lamson Woods State Preserve and Neff Wetland Area feature 43-acres of woodland and more than 100 species of birds, making it a must-visit destination for any birdwatcher. Originally Fairfield's first golf course, groomed trails and bridges make this area perfectly suited for outdoor enthusiasts.
- 3 **CHAUTAUQUA PARK** - One of Fairfield's most popular parks, Chautauqua Park offers recreational opportunities for all ages, including a playground, grills and shelters for special events, and a disc golf course. Be sure to drop in on the park's community orchard, where residents tend to and grow organic fruits and vegetables for all to enjoy.
- 4 **WALTON, PLEASANT, & BONNIFIELD LAKES** - The Lakes Segment of the Loop Trail takes you to Walton, Pleasant, and Bonnifield Lakes, all retired reservoirs now used for recreational purposes. Take in the scenery of these beautiful waterways from the shore, paddle your way around by canoe or kayak, or cast a line on all three for a chance to reel in bass, bluegill, catfish, crappie, sunfish, and more. Looking for relief on a hot summer day? Bonnifield Lake is also home to **Waterworks Park** — which features a small sand beach for swimmers as well as a playground, boat launch, and shelters and grills for get-togethers — and **Bonnifield Cabin**, the oldest two-story log house in Iowa, built by Rhodham Bonnifield and sons in 1838.



- 5 **MATKIN PLAZA** - The beautifully designed Matkin Plaza serves as a perfect blend of Fairfield's artistic and outdoor heritage. Honoring engineer Bill Matkin, who designed the nearby bowstring truss bridge that spans over Route 1, Matkin Plaza features beautifully sculpted concrete benches by artist Judy Bales, plus natural, ornamental grasses and wildflowers that provide a serene stop for riders and hikers to rest.
- 6 **HERITAGE PARK** - Heritage Park features a dedicated pickleball court for all skill levels, from beginners to experts. Play a round of pickup basketball, get a friendly game of softball or kickball in, or kick back and let the little ones explore the playground.
- 7 **WHITHAM WOODS** - Originally the site of the C.W. Whitham Nursery, Whitham Woods features an incredibly diverse population of plant life with more than 100 species of trees in the park. Along with a four-acre prairie plot and a one-acre pond, Whitham Woods offers outdoor opportunities for all seasons, from cross-country skiing in the winter to fishing in the summer.
- 8 **THE CEDAR VIEW TRAIL** - Cedar View Trail is connected to the Fairfield Loop Trail and also connects to the seven miles of trail within Jefferson County Park. The first segment of Cedar View Trail follows the old railroad right-of-way for approximately one mile to the Cedar View Trail Bridge, where you can have an amazing view of the Cedar Creek Timber & Wetlands.
- 9 **JEFFERSON COUNTY PARK** - Reconnect with the great outdoors at Jefferson County Park. Located on the southwest corner of Fairfield, Jefferson County Park is home to 24 campsites with 20-, 30-, and 50-amp electric hookups, as well as two cabins available for rental — an ideal spot for campers from May to October. While you're there, check out the park's seven miles of trails through timber, prairie, and wetlands. Feeling brave? Head across the park's 75-foot swinging bridge — just don't look down!





# LIVIN' IN FAIRFIELD: A Lifetime Of Good Vibes

**W**hat lures people to live in our small, Southeast Iowa city? How about a lifetime of good vibes? How about a small-town city with big city amenities?

How about a calm, peaceful, multicultural city where everyone knows everyone and the people you see on the street always wave back? You see, the people who come to Fairfield don't just make it a stepping-stone to something bigger and better. They make it home. In many cases, residents arrive through the Maharishi International University, and after spending years in our community, discover they don't want to leave.

**"I CAME HERE TO GO TO MIU. INITIALLY I THOUGHT I WOULD MOVE BACK HOME TO THE EAST COAST. BUT AFTER GRADUATING, I JUST FELL IN LOVE WITH THIS LITTLE TOWN,"** - said Sankari Wegman, a local Ayurvedic

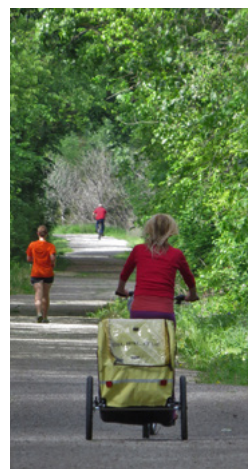
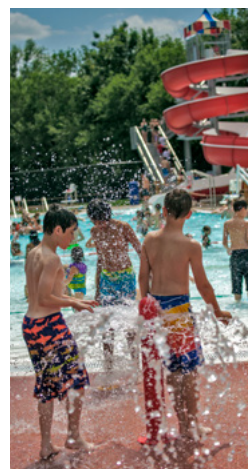
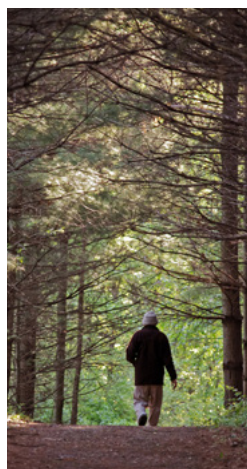
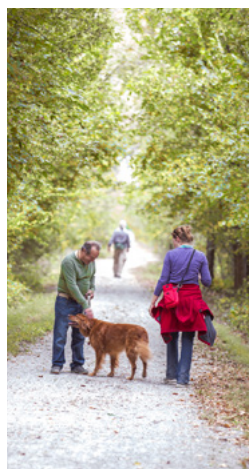
Consultant who came for an education and stayed for the love of the city.

"It just feels so quiet and simple. I just ended up staying here. It's been years since I graduated, but I just love living here. I feel like I've made so many dear family friends.

"It's just a very lovely place to live. After I got married and had kids, it just felt like a very, very sweet place to raise our children."

"I did notice a really big contrast from where we used to live. We were definitely lacking a sense of community. The D.C. metro area is very transient," said Fairfield resident Jessica Hatchette. "That's not to say a lot of new people don't live in Fairfield, but I find that there's a different vibe here. As soon as we moved here, people just wanted to know who we were and talked to us — so open, so friendly. It made it easy to feel comfortable right away."

Once here, you'll find the same quality of life you'd find in any larger city — but scaled down in a safe, welcoming community. "There are plenty of activities for the kids and family to do all year-round. I went and visited my brother in a larger city, and the things that we did in the larger city were the same things that we do here in Fairfield," said Fairfield City Engineer Melanie Carlson. "We went to a museum; we have the Carnegie Museum right here in Fairfield. Then we went to a playground, which we have lots of playgrounds in Fairfield. And then we went out for dinner and the variety in that larger town was probably less than the variety we have in Fairfield."





The only difference is the pace at which life moves. Because when you're not spending half your life stuck in traffic, you find much more time to devote to your hobbies and passions.

"When you're trying to raise three kids in a city and it takes you 45 minutes to get to a grocery store in traffic, a lot of your life is just sucked up with commuting and that carries through the rest of your life," said Jessica Hatchette. "You just have so much less time for simple pleasures. Living in Fairfield allows us to have time to be together as a family and really bond and nurture that family structure."

**"FAIRFIELD REALLY SPENT A LOT OF TIME THINKING ABOUT WHAT FAMILIES WANT."**

- said Jessica Hatchette



The same goes for children, who find the same activities and extra-curriculars they'd find in any city. Fairfield is home to several youth sports and programs through Fairfield Parks and Recreation. "We came to Fairfield originally in June 2018. There were a number of reasons, but the biggest was probably we have three small kids and we really wanted to give them something different. The energy was not right in the D.C. area. We wanted the opposite of D.C. — less traffic, less angry, more homey, more community feel. And Fairfield filled those boxes," said Fairfield resident Greg Hatchette.

Best of all, Fairfield is a city that not only welcomes all cultures and traditions but embraces and celebrates them as well — from our annual Diwali celebration to our holiday festivities on the square, in Fairfield you'll find a community that fosters, rejoices, and celebrates its diversity. "It feels so nice to be able to celebrate in the ways that we would traditionally with this beautiful town around us," Wegman said.



**"IT JUST FEELS VERY WELCOMING AND OPEN THAT YOU CAN CELEBRATE YOUR ROOTS, LEARN AND DISCOVER NEW THINGS IN THIS SWEET, LITTLE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD."**

- said Sankari Wegman



# 14 Must-Do Activities

## 1 MAASDAM BARN

Immerse yourself in the history of agriculture and innovation. This historic site and museum on the south end of Fairfield offers a snapshot of J.G. Maasdam's draft horse breeding business that operated from 1910-1938.



2

## FAIRFIELD FIRST FRIDAYS

Celebrate the arts and culture of Fairfield during the First Fridays celebration, held on the first Friday of every month – rain or shine. This free event offers entertainment for all age groups.



3

## FAIRFIELD FARMER'S MARKET

Looking for the freshest produce in town? You won't want to miss the Fairfield Farmer's Market, running every Saturday from May through October in Howard Park. Pick up locally grown fruits and vegetables and browse a vast selection of handmade crafts and baked goods.



4

## GREATER JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR

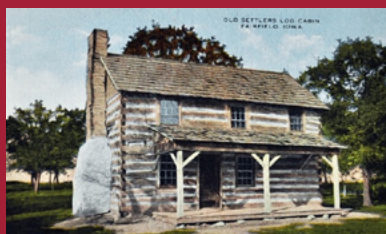
One of the largest 4-H fairs in the state of Iowa, the Greater Jefferson County Fair features a myriad of activities for the whole family, including rides, games, agricultural shows, and live entertainment.





## 5 MAHARISHI VEDIC OBSERVATORY

A truly one-of-a-kind installation reminiscent of ancient observatories such as Maachu Picchu and Stonehenge, the Maharishi Vedic Observatory, located just north of Fairfield, is a 1.5-acre, open-air observatory consisting of gorgeously sculpted concrete and marble astronomical instruments and sundials to show in one compact form the movement of the sun, planets, and stars.



## 6 BONNIFIELD CABIN

Located adjacent to Waterworks Park, Bonnifield Cabin stands as the oldest two-story log house in the state of Iowa, a testament to the hard work of the settlers who first arrived in Fairfield in the 1830s. This historic site offers a snapshot of early pioneer life and is believed to be the site where the city of Fairfield was officially named.



## 7 JEFFERSON COUNTY WATER TRAILS

Paddle your way through Jefferson County on the beautiful water trails in the eastern and southern parts of the county. The Skunk River Trail includes a 10.5-mile stretch through eastern Jefferson County, while the Cedar Creek Water Trail includes a scenic, 6-mile section in southern Jefferson County, a perfect opportunity for canoers and kayakers.



## 8 CARNEGIE MUSEUM

Explore the rich, eclectic history of Fairfield in the original Carnegie Library building downtown. Discover fascinating curios from around the world and learn more about the local history through exhibits honoring local heroes such as Maj. Mehitable E. Woods.

## 9 WATERWORKS PARK

Come on in — the water's fine! Available for family gatherings and a quick dip in the hot summer sun. Bring your fishing pole or kayak and enjoy a day on the lake.

## 10 JOHNNY CLOCK MUSEUM

Located in nearby Lockridge, the Johnny Clock Museum features a spectacular collection of hand-crafted, wood clocks designed and hand-carved by curator John McClain.

## 11 KIWANIS KIDS' DAY

Celebrating the future of Fairfield, the annual Kiwanis Kids' Day is packed with kid-friendly activities, kicking off with a pancake breakfast and including a parade, barrel train rides, bouncy houses, and much more!

## 12 BIRD WATCHING

Fairfield is a birder's paradise with many outdoor spots around town serving as perfect opportunities to spot the many species that call Fairfield home — or the ones that make Fairfield a stopping point on their long migration. Check out the many parks and conservation areas around Fairfield and be sure to bring a pair of binoculars.

## 13 VINTAGE POWER WAGON ANNUAL RALLY

Rev up your engines — you gearheads won't want to miss the Vintage Power Wagon Annual Rally every June in downtown Fairfield. See these gorgeous, vintage Dodge trucks in action during the Grand Power Wagon Parade and get an up-close look during the open-air truck show on the square.

## 14 JEFFERSON COUNTY PARK

Located on the southwest edge of town, this 227-acre park features miles of hiking and biking trails, as well as plenty of opportunities for fishing, camping, birdwatching, and more. Be sure to check out the park's 75-foot swing bridge while you're there!



## SHOPPING IN FAIRFIELD: Unique Finds

It's no wonder people flock to Fairfield — the shopping in Fairfield is not your average experience. You'll find everything from herbal apothecaries to home decor to gifts and even imported wines. These quaint shops are the perfect place for a relaxing day of shopping with friends or family. Friendly service and knowledgeable staff are always available to help you find the perfect item. Plus, with so many places to stop for lunch, you can take your time browsing through stores without feeling rushed to get back on the road. The best part about this little town? You won't find the same stores anywhere else.

**Americus Diamond**, for example, is loved by thousands of happy couples for their outstanding quality and value. Every ring tells a story, and their diamond specialists are always ready and willing to help you tell yours with the perfect diamond. **At Home Store** is a family-run knitting and kitchen shop specializing in European food imports and yarn from local sheep ranches — and it's bound to please your senses! Whether you're looking for a new knitting project or some food and kitchen inspiration, the owner would be happy to recommend something special — she really knows her stuff. Behind the red door, **Adela's** offers more than just a variety of beautiful home goods — it's a one-of-a-kind shopping experience with gifts for every occasion. With an ever-changing and eclectic mix of gifts, jewelry, and décor, this shop always feels cozy and inviting with just the right amount of fun!

At **Thymely Solutions**, your wellness is their business. You're invited to step into their world of relaxation and explore natural remedies like Ayurvedic and herbal teas, calming bath salt kits in varieties of scents, and unique gifts for your favorite people. You can get lost for hours at **Cindy's Art Beat** with an expansive inventory including canvases and paper in every size imaginable, paints, brushes, palettes, and much more! Cindy knows the best sources and would love nothing more than to help you spark your muse. And regardless

of what spurs your child's imagination, **Chickadee Kids** has the clothes, accessories, and toys to keep them happy all day long with an inventory of eco-friendly products, both new and consigned.



## GETTING TO FAIRFIELD:

# Plan Your Trip



From warm, sunny bike rides on the Loop Trail to snowy, nighttime walks around our festively decorated town square, you're never at a loss for ways to enjoy Fairfield no matter what season you visit. Whether you travel by car or by plane, your Fairfield adventure is just a short trip away.

### BY ROAD:

#### DRIVING DISTANCE FROM:

- Des Moines — 113 miles, 1 hr 54 min
- St. Louis — 239 miles, 4 hrs 4 min
- Kansas City — 244 miles, 4 hrs
- Chicago — 282 miles, 4 hrs 28 min
- Milwaukee — 327 miles, 5 hrs 6 min
- Minneapolis/St. Paul — 351 miles, 5 hrs 16 min

### BY AIR:

#### DES MOINES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (DSM)

##### Des Moines, IA

Fly into the capital and head east on Route 5 through the gorgeous Iowa countryside.

#### THE EASTERN IOWA AIRPORT (CID)

##### Cedar Rapids, IA

Head south on I-380/U.S. 218 before jumping on Route 1 as you pass through Iowa City and the iconic University of Iowa.

#### QUAD CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (MLI)

##### Rock Island County, IL

Cross over the Mighty Mississippi into Davenport and work your way southwest through the small towns of Southeast Iowa.



## AVERAGE SEASONAL TEMPERATURES



🌸 **SPRING — 63°**



☀️ **SUMMER — 85°**



🍁 **FALL — 64°**



❄️ **WINTER — 35°**



## FOOD & DRINK

### **ADDIS ETHIOPIAN CUISINE**

200 N. Main St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 233-7134

### **ANDY'S JUICE JOINT**

200 N. Main St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(319) 855-7889

### **ARANDAS MEXICAN BUFFET**

500 N. 2nd St. (at BP Shop)  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-0819

### **ARANDAS RESTAURANT**

203 W. Broadway Ave.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-4328

### **ASIAN PHO BISTRO**

110 W. Burlington Ave.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 209-1790

### **BIG ACAI**

61 S. Court St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556

### **THE BOOKHOUSE**

56 E. Burlington Ave.  
Fairfield, IA 52556

### **BOUNTIFUL BAKERY**

303 S. Main St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 451-0750

### **CAFE PARADISO**

101 N. Main St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-0856

### **CEDAR VALLEY WINERY**

2034 Dewberry Ave.  
Batavia, IA 52533  
(641) 662-2800

### **DAIRY BAR**

1002 W. Burlington Ave.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-2417

### **DEPOT HOUSE**

500 N. 4th St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 469-3012

### **DEW DROP**

306 Fairfield Rd.  
Libertyville, IA 52567  
(641) 693-4281

### **EVERYBODY'S CAFE**

501 N. 2nd St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 209-9383

### **FISHBACK & STEPHENSON CIDER HOUSE**

1949 Pleasant Plain Rd.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 451-0894

### **GOLDEN DOME CAFE**

1112 Granville Ave. (MIU)  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 470-1376

### **GREEN GOURMET**

117 E. Broadway Ave.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-2277

### **GUPTA'S VEGETARIAN INDIAN CUISINE**

51 S. Court St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-0548

### **THE HAZEL MOON CAFE**

115 N. Main St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-8338

### **HY-VEE DELI (IN THE FOOD STORE)**

1300 W. Burlington Ave.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-4119

### **IMPERIAL BUFFET**

500 W. Burlington Ave.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 469-3118



### INDIA CAFE

50 W. Burlington Ave.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-1792

### ISTANBUL GRILL

50 S. 2nd St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 209-1458

### LA HACIENDA

2803 W. Burlington Ave.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-1036

### LUNCHBOX

403 N. Fourth St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 209-5700

### MAD HATTER BILLIARDS

116 N. Main St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 209-1005

### MIKE & NIKKI'S GREEK/AMERICAN MIX

53 E. Broadway Ave.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 209-5588

### MIU - ANNAPURNA DINING HALL

1000 N. 4th St. (MIU)  
Fairfield, IA 52556

### PECK'S PUB

107 W. Maple Ave.  
Libertyville, IA 52567  
(641) 693-4020

### PROOF102

102 N. 2nd St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 451-1716

### REVELATIONS CAFE & BOOKSTORE

112 N. Main St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-6733

### RIVERSIDE FAMILY RESTAURANT III

605 W. Burlington Ave.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 209-9119

### SABI'S CAFE

2094 185th St. Golden Gate  
Building, Suite #22  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 233-0064

### SHOKAI SUSHI

101 W. Broadway Ave.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 469-3277

### SOMM WINES

102 E. Briggs Ave.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(702) 528-8101

### STARBUCKS

1300 W. Burlington Ave.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-4119

### SWEET 'N SAUCY BBQ

115 N. Court St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 469-3331

### TACO DREAMS

400 N. 2nd St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 451-1306

### THAI DELI

120 W. Broadway St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-3902

### THAI NOODLE HOUSE

59 N. Court St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-0222

### TORINO PIZZA & STEAK HOUSE

115 W. Broadway Ave.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-9071

### VERAISON WINE BAR

508 N. 2nd St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556



## HOTELS

### AMERICINN HOTEL & SUITES, FAIRFIELD

2104 S. Main St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 451-6600

### SUPER 8 MOTEL

3001 W. Burlington Ave.  
(Bus 34)  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 469-2000



## BED & BREAKFAST

### SEVEN ROSES INN

1208 E. Burlington Ave.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 209-7077



## CABINS

### JEFFERSON COUNTY PARK

2003 Libertyville Rd.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-4421



## HARVEST HOSTS

### CEDAR VALLEY WINERY

2034 Dewberry Ave.  
Batavia, IA 52533  
(641) 662-2800

### FISHBACK & STEPHENSON CIDER HOUSE

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Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 451-0894





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(641) 472-1824

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Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-2082

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(641) 472-1016

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### CHICKADEE

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## GALLERIES

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Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 209-3632

### FAIRFIELD ART ASSOCIATION GALLERIES & STUDIO

200 N. Main St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-5374

### ICON GALLERY

58 N. Main St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 469-6252



## ATTRACTIONS

### CARNEGIE LIBRARY MUSEUM

112 S. Court St.  
Fairfield, IA 52556  
(641) 472-6343

### JOHNNY CLOCK MUSEUM

711 W. Main St.  
Lockridge, IA 52635  
(319) 696-3711

### MAASDAM BARNs

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Fairfield, IA 52556  
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