








Read It/See It Tour

Itinerary for "The Bridges of Madison County"

	<p>Begin the day at Madison County Chamber of Commerce's Welcome Center, located at 73 Jefferson Street in Winterset's town square. While at the Welcome Center, catch snippets of the movie <i>The Bridges of Madison County</i> and view items from the movie production. The Welcome Center is also where you'll find public restrooms, souvenirs and locally-made products, including bottles of wine from all three of Madison County's wineries.</p>
	<p>Start your tour out at the Roseman Covered Bridge, which figured prominently in the book and movie (it's the bridge Robert is looking for when he first stops at the Johnson's farmhouse, where Francesca pins a note inviting Robert to dinner and where she asks her children to scatter her ashes). Examine the many initials and names carved or written on the walls (thousands of love stories have been documented here).</p>
	<p>Next stop is the Holliwell Covered Bridge, the longest of the remaining covered bridges in Madison County. It is where Francesca and Robert go after visiting the town.</p>
	<p>Your third stop on the tour is at Winterset's City Park, home of the Cutler-Donahue Covered Bridge, and the stone bridge Robert and Francesca cross to have a picnic. The park is also home to an English hedge maze and Clark Tower, a three-story limestone monument dedicated to the county's first pioneer family. Often listed on "Hidden Gem" lists, you won't want to miss driving or hiking the mile up to this castle-like structure.</p>
	<p>Return to Winterset's town square, stopping by movie sites like "The Blue Note Lounge" (now the Pheasant Run Pub & Grill) where Francesca and Robert go dancing away from town, and the intersection by Frostee's where the "truck scene" was filmed. There are wonderful boutique stores all around the square, if you have time to shop.</p>
	<p>Enjoy lunch at the Northside Café, where Robert Kincaid drinks a cup of coffee at the counter and offers Lucy Redfield a seat. (Clint Eastwood sat on the third stool from the door at the counter.) It has also been reported that author Robert Waller wrote portions of the novel in a booth at the restaurant.</p>
	<p>Drive north on Cumming Highway and turn east on 130th Street in order to drive past the site of Francesca's House (first house on the left), the 1870 Victorian home used as the Johnsons' farmhouse in the movie. (The house and grounds are privately owned and no longer open to the public, so you can only view the house from the road. Please do not trespass.)</p>

To schedule a tour guide, please contact the Madison County Chamber of Commerce at (515)462-1185 or email tourism@madisoncounty.com.

