

One-Day Itinerary in Winterset, Iowa

Start your day at the **Madison County Chamber of Commerce's Welcome Center** (73 Jefferson Street), where you can pick up maps and directions to the covered bridges, find public restrooms, souvenirs, and locally-made products, as well as *Bridges of Madison County* movie memorabilia. Check www.madisoncounty.com for seasonal hours and contact information. You can also schedule a personal guided tour of the bridges through the Chamber.

Start your tour at the **Roseman Covered Bridge**, which figured prominently in the 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 requests that her ashes be scattered.) On the way back from the Roseman, stop out at the water ford at **Pammel**

State Park, where Michael and Carolyn read their mother's diaries.

Arrive at **City Park** (corner of 9th and South streets). Just past the Cutler-Donahoe Covered Bridge is the stone bridge that Robert and Francesca cross to have a picnic in the grass.

A few miles away is the **Holliwell Covered Bridge**, which Francesca and Robert visit after spending some time in town.

Return to Winterset's town square, where many of the movie's exterior shots were filmed. The intersection of Green Street and 1st Street/John Wayne Drive is where the "truck scene" was filmed. **Frostee's** is still here, but the general store and Texaco gas station are gone.

Fuel up for the day with a true Midwestern meal at the **Northside Café** (61 E. Jefferson, Winterset). Recently named one of "99 Restaurants to Try" in the state of Iowa, and voted 2nd Best Tenderloin in the state, the Northside Café has become a bit of an institution. (A scene was even filmed here in the movie *The Bridges of Madison County*. Sit on the 4th stool from the window at the counter if you want to channel your inner Clint Eastwood.

Tour the only museum in the world dedicated to Hollywood legend John Wayne. The **John Wayne Birthplace & Museum** (205 S. John Wayne Drive, Winterset) honors Winterset's own in grand style and features the largest private collection of John Wayne memorabilia in existence. Be sure to pose with the full-size bronze statue out front. Open daily excluding major holidays from 10 am to 5 pm. www.johnwaynebirthplace.museum.

Stop in to **Montross Pharmacy's Fountain** for an old-fashioned cherry Coke or a slice of pie, and rub elbows with the locals.

Visit the **Winterset Cidery** (1638 Hwy 169, Winterset) for a tasting of their handcrafted hard apple cider, and sit on the deck overlooking the apple orchard (or challenge a friend to a game of Foolsball inside their gorgeous post-and-beam building. Check www.wintersetcidery.com for seasonal hours. (Prefer wine? Madison County boasts three wineries in the area - **Covered Bridges Winery**, **Madison County Winery** and **Two Saints Winery** - and they all have tasting rooms!)

If you're at the Cidery or Covered Bridge Winery, then a visit to the **Hogback Covered Bridge** is in order. If you visit one of the wineries in St. Charles, then be sure to stop at the **Imes Covered Bridge**, just off of the Saint Charles Highway.

After dinner in Winterset, take in a movie at the newly renovated **The Iowa Theater** on Winterset's town square. Catch either a new movie or a classic picture during their Way Back Wednesday series. Enjoy freshly popped Iowa popcorn with real butter, and locally-roasted coffee by Pammel Park Coffee Company. For a schedule, visit www.the-iowa.com.



Make it an overnight adventure by booking a room at one of our two hotels (**Cobblestone Inn & Suites** or the **Covered Bridge Inn**), or at one of our cozy B&Bs. For more lodging information, visit www.madisoncounty.com/accomodations.

