

A Quilting Retreat 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.

Tour the new **Iowa Quilt Museum** (located on the south side of the square in the old J. C. Penney's building). The museum offers changing exhibits - three to four per year - of American quilts both vintage and modern. Admission is \$6.00 per person. For a list of exhibits and more information, visit www.iowaquiltmuseum.org.

Inspired? Start shopping for your own materials all along Court Ave. First stop in at **Ben Franklin** (located next to the IQM), and then the award-winning **Piece Works Quilt Shop** (recently named a *Quilt Sampler Top Shop*). Piece Works offers numerous classes and workshops for all levels, and has work spaces available to rent (www.pieceworksquiltshop.com). **Madison County Mercantile** has something for everyone, including vintage quilts available to purchase.

Enjoy lunch at one of our many eateries around the courthouse square. For a quick sandwich or soup (and coffee!), stop in to **The Cellar**, located just around the corner of Court and 1st Avenues.

If you are into fiber arts, don't miss **Heartland Fiber** on 1st Avenue, where you can find a plethora of materials for crocheting, knitting and needlework. They also offer classes for all levels, and host a popular "Stitch and Bitch" gathering on Thursday nights. Visit www.heartlandfiber.net for more information.

Drive a couple of miles out of the town square to the **Madison County Historical Complex**. This unique 18-acre complex is home to a two-story historical museum, the 1856 Victorian Bevington-Kaser House, and a dozen other authentic historical buildings (such as a three-hole privy, a blacksmith shop, a field mercantile store, a one-room country schoolhouse, a Zion Church and much, much more). Inside the museum, quilters will want to view the antique quilts carefully preserved and displayed by the museum. www.historyonthehill.org.

Of course, Madison County is also home to the infamous covered bridges and the site of the 1995 movie *The Bridges of Madison County*. In addition, we have the John Wayne Birthplace & Museum, a historic town square full of boutique shops and eateries, three wineries and a hard apple cidery, and

much more!

If you stay into the evening, be sure to take in a movie at the newly renovated **The Iowa Theater** on Winterset's town square. Catch either a new or classic film during their Way Back Wednesday series. Enjoy freshly popped Iowa popcorn with real butter, and locally-made wine, hard cider or coffee. Several times a year, local theater company **The Winterset Stage** produces a play or musical. For a complete schedule, visit www.the-iowa.com or www.thewintersetstage.org.

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.

