

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.the-iowa.com) or [www.thewintersetstage.org](http://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](http://www.madisoncounty.com/accomodations).

