

Mancation (A Vacation for Men) in Madison County, Iowa

Start your day at 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.



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, 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.)

Travel back in time at the **Madison County Historical Complex** (815 S. 2nd Ave., Winterset), which includes 14 buildings set on 18 picturesque acres. Visit the furnished 1871 Winterset railroad depot (part of the John Wayne Birthplace Trail), the blacksmith shop and Martin Brothers gas station, all authentic buildings, and the 2800 square foot McKee barn full of antique farming equipment which will have you marveling at the way your ancestors homesteaded. Don't miss the military uniforms dating from the Civil War to Desert Storm that line the far wall of the museum's basement floor. www.historyonthehill.org

Visit the **Winterset Cidery** (1638 Hwy 169, Winterset) for a tasting of their hand-crafted hard apple cider, and sit on the deck overlooking the apple orchard or inside their gorgeous post-and-beam building. Check www.wintersetcidery.com for seasonal hours.

Follow the signs off Highway 92 to the **Holliwell Covered Bridge**. Bring your kayak and canoe, and easily enter the Middle River here.

If inner tubing or fishing is more your

thing, head to **Pammel State Park** and drive through the first highway tunnel in Iowa, then across the water ford. Keep an eye out for birds, wild turkeys, deer and the like. Middle River slices through the park and has some of the best channel catfish angling in the area.

Get up close (but hopefully not personal) with nearly 300 head of plains and woods bison at the 350-acre **Bare Bison Ranch**, just ten minutes north of Winterset. www.barebison.com

Grab a quick dinner at one of our many eateries, such as **China Café** or **Mi Puelito**, which are located right on the town square.

Take in a movie at the newly renovated **The Iowa Theater** on Winterset's town square. For a schedule, visit www.the-iowa.com



Make it an overnight adventure by staying at one of Winterset's hotels (Cobblestone Inn & Suites, or Covered Bridge Inn) or at one of our B&Bs. Check www.madisoncounty.com/accommodations for more information.

