

## FIELD TRIPS AND ATTRACTIONS

Weather will determine if outdoor sites are open. Please check before going

### Field Trips Near Cedar Rapids

U of I Paleo Repository & Iowa Hall Museum  
Iowa City

**Date & Time to be Determined**

**Approximately 3 ½ hours (includes travel time)**

**Drive 25 mi. to UI Trowbridge Hall. Tiffany Adrain will lead the tour.**

**Indicate interest on Application. We will contact you with details.**

The oldest university museum west of the Mississippi River, the University of Iowa Macbride Hall Museum of Natural History is an outgrowth of the Cabinet of Natural History established by the Iowa State Assembly in 1858. The Museum houses the largest ornithological display and repository collection in Iowa (with 12,300 North American birds) as well as a mammal collection with 3,200 mounts, skins, and skulls. Iowa Hall in the museum utilizes a series of dioramas and rock and fossil displays to illustrate all of the periods of Iowa's Geologic History. The Iowa Hall tour ends with displays of Iowa's Native American culture and a look at the natural ecological environments to be found in the state. The museum's Paleontology Repository in nearby Trowbridge Hall features one of the country's largest collections of fossils and related geologic specimens. Curator Tiffany Adrain will lead the tour of the repository and show and discuss some of the museum's incredible specimens.

Click for U Iowa campus map

### Cornell College Anderson Geology Museum

600 1st St SW

Mount Vernon IA

**Date & Time to be Determined**

**Approximately 2 hours (includes travel time)**

**Drive 14.3 mi. to the museum. A Geology Faculty Member will lead the tour of the museum.**

**Indicate interest on Application. We will contact you with details.**

The Anderson Geology Museum, located in Norton Hall, on the east end of the Cornell College campus, provides the visitor a progressive understanding of our geologic heritage and graphically demonstrates how scientists analyze the geologic past and present in order to better manage our geologic future. Detailed displays and models demonstrate Earth processes and the planet's formation and development, illustrate the latest techniques for studying geologic history and predicting the geologic future, and stress geology's interrelationships with other sciences and with our everyday lives.

Click for Cornell campus map

### Devonian Fossil Gorge and Coralville Dam Coralville Lake, between Cedar Rapids & Iowa City Self-Guided

Walk on Iowa's 375 million year old sea floor and view the environments and the fossils of the animals who lived in them at the Devonian Fossil Gorge. Exposed by the Iowa River floods of 1993 and 2008, the fossils and limestone bedrock dates back to almost 200 million years before the dinosaurs! Brochures

### Cedar Rapids Area Attractions

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is the second largest city in Iowa with a population of around 130,000. We are called the "City of Five Seasons: - spring, summer, fall, winter and the fifth season "a time to enjoy life!" A bit of Cedar Rapids Trivia: Our city is the only city in the world currently whose city hall and courthouse are built upon an island.

There are many things to do while in the Cedar Rapids area; we have listed just a few for you here.

#### Brucemore

The Queen Anne-style mansion is the focal point of a 26-acre park-like estate in northeast Cedar Rapids. A National Trust Site.

#### Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center

Exhibits: Native American & archaeological, interactive prairie, wetland and woodland, live native reptile and fish. Bird viewing area, which includes a cascading waterfall over limestone outcroppings. Acres of wetland, prairie, woodland, and savanna. Several miles of trails.

#### Indian Creek Nature Center

Enjoy trails through prairies, woodlands and wetlands in southeast Cedar Rapids. Exhibits: indoor honeybee hive, maple sugar house.

#### The Nation Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Czech Village

A museum and library of Czech and Slovak history and culture, located along the Cedar River at the Bridge of Lions along 16th Avenue SW near downtown Cedar Rapids. Czech Village contains an interesting variety of ethnic, gift and specialty shops, bakery and restaurants.

#### Cedar Rapids Museum of Art

View the world's largest collection of paintings by Grant Wood, plus art by other important American artists. Seventeen fantastic galleries with changing exhibitions.

#### The Amana Colonies

**Amana, Iowa** Seven German villages that make up one of Iowa's top visitor attractions are located just 19 miles southwest of Cedar Rapids via U.S. Highway 151. Tour the museums, furniture and clock-making shops, wineries and bakeries. Stop at the Amana Visitor Center for info on the National Historic Landmark.

#### Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

##### West Branch, Iowa

The buildings and grounds are preserved by the National Park Service to commemorate the life of the 31st President of the US. Visit the small cottage where Hoover was born in 1874, a blacksmith shop similar to the one owned by his father, the first West Branch school house and the Friends Meetinghouse where the Hoover family worshipped. Also located on the grounds are the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, the gravesites of the President and Mrs. Hoover, and a 76-acre tall-grass prairie.

available at the entrance to the fossil area include descriptions of features to be seen near each of 20 monuments; a cell phone based audio guide is also available. The Visitor Center/Office on the East Side of the Dam features actual fossil specimens removed for preservation from the Devonian Fossil Gorge as well as other exhibits depicting the local plant and animal life of the area.

### **Our Lady of Sorrows Grotto**

#### **Cedar Rapids**

#### **Self-Guided**

In 1929 William Lightner began building a grotto at Mount Mercy College. What began as a single structure became a twelve-year multi-structure obsession. On his quest to build the shrine, Lightner travelled more than forty thousand miles throughout the United States and Mexico looking for building materials. He contacted suppliers around the world in search of more than three-hundred unusual varieties of stones. Over twelve-hundred tons of stones were used, at a personal cost exceeding forty-thousand dollars. Four structures are still standing, providing a multitude of geological specimens, including coral from Hawaii, petrified wood, lapidolite, white quartz, blue azurite, and rose quartz from Colorado and the Black Hills of South Dakota.

### **Field Trips on the Way**

#### **Fryxell Geology Museum**

639 38th St, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL. (309) 794-7318

One of the largest and finest collections of rocks, minerals and fossils in the Midwest.

#### **Maquoketa Caves State Park**

10970 98th St. Maquoketa, IA. (563) 652-5833

Maquoketa Caves is probably Iowa's most unique state park.

#### **Burpee Museum of Natural History**

Rockford, Illinois

Permanent exhibits include: Jane, the world's most complete and best-preserved juvenile *T. rex*, Homer, Burpee's "teenaged" *Triceratops*, a realistic, two-story tall, prehistoric carboniferous coal forest, and a large collection of specimens from the Green River Formation in southwestern Wyoming.

### **Our Lady of the Redemption Grotto**

#### **West Bend, Iowa**

The Grotto is frequently considered the "Eighth Wonder of the World" and has been described as a "Miracle in Stone." The location was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in 2001 and has been included in such features as *Roadside America* and Disney's *The Straight Story*. A composite of nine separate grottos, each portraying a scene in the life of Christ, the structure is the largest man-made Grotto in the world, the Grotto contains the largest collection of precious stones and gems found anywhere in one location!

#### **Jacob's Geode Mine** (unofficial Facebook page)

Jacob's Geode Mine (directions)

Hancock Co., Illinois

(217) 847-3509 - Be sure to call to see if open.

Private property. \$20/5-gallon bucket. Testimonial: *Great place to dig for geodes... Gary Jacobs is really friendly and helpful... Plentiful geodes with a high percent hollow.*