



BOONE & SCENIC RAILWAY, AMANA COLONIES AND THRESHERS

3 Days, 2 Nights

Trip 22-C

Friday, July 15, 2022

Through Sunday, July 17, 2022

Join the 20th Century Railroad Club for a motorcoach excursion to the Amana Colonies and the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site. We will ride the Boone & Scenic Valley Railway and enjoy an elegant dinner in a dining car.

We will also visit the Threshers Heritage Museum and Midwest Central RR in Mt Pleasant, IA.

Day 1:

Depart Friday morning July 15 from Cumberland CTA Blue Line Station (parking garage attached with paid overnight parking) or from Wheaton - METRA College Ave Station (with weekend parking available).

Travel thru the cornfields of Illinois, cross the Mississippi River at a scenic overlook and stop at the world's largest truck stop in Iowa.



Ox Yoke Inn, Amana Colonies

A family style 3 entrée lunch will be served at the Ox Yoke Inn, followed by a step-on guided tour of the seven villages of Amana Colonies

The **Amana Colonies** are seven villages on 26,000 acres located in Iowa County in east-central Iowa: Amana, East Amana, High Amana, Middle Amana, South Amana, West Amana, and Homestead. The villages were built and settled by German Pietists, who were persecuted in their homeland by the German state government and the Lutheran Church. They first settled in New York near Buffalo in what is now the town of West Seneca. However, seeking more isolated surroundings, they moved to Iowa (near present-day Iowa City) in 1856. They lived a communal life until 1932.

For eighty years, the Amana Colony maintained an almost completely self-sufficient local economy, importing very little from the industrializing American economy. They were able to achieve this independence and lifestyle by adhering to the specialized crafting and farming occupations that they had brought with them from Europe. Craftsmen passed their skills and techniques on from one generation to the next. They used hand, horse, wind, and waterpower and made their own furniture, clothes, and other goods. The community voted to form a for-profit organization during the Great Depression, the **Amana**, which included the Amana Corporation.



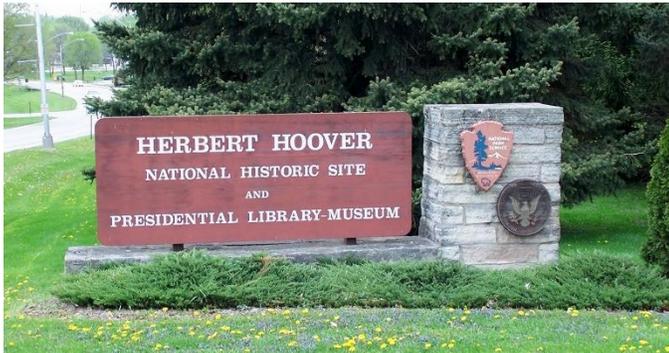
Amana Colonies, IA

Today, the Seven Villages of Amana are a tourist attraction known for its restaurants and craft shops. The colony was listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1965.

Overnight is at the Holiday Inn Express in Coralville, Iowa.

Day 2:

On Saturday you will visit the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site in West Branch, IA.



Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

The **Herbert Hoover National Historic Site** is a unit of the National Park System. The buildings and grounds are managed by the National Park Service to commemorate the life of Herbert Hoover, the 31st president of the United States. The park was established in 1965, shortly after it was named a National Historic Landmark. It now encompasses 186.8 acres.

Continuing on your adventure, we travel to the **Kate Shelley High Bridge**. Officially called the **Boone Viaduct** when it was completed in 1901, it is one of the highest and longest double-track railroad bridges in the United States. It is located approximately 3 miles west of Boone, Iowa.



Kate Shelly Bridge, Boone, Iowa

It was nicknamed after the Iowa railroad heroine, Catherine Carroll Shelley, better known as Kate Shelley. On July 6th, 1881, when she was 15 years old, Kate Shelley risked her life to warn the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad company that the Honey Creek bridge was out. A "pusher" train had fallen through the bridge near her home. Kate heard the accident and knew the train schedules, so Kate attempted to save a passenger train scheduled to travel over the Honey

Creek bridge by crossing the Des Moines River Bridge near her Moingona home. It was night, during a raging thunderstorm. Wearing only her nightdress and armed with a lantern, she crossed the bridge on her hands and knees. She made it to the station and saved the train. She then led rescuers back to save the men who had fallen from Honey Creek Bridge. Of the four men who fell, two were saved, one was found dead, and the fourth was never found, presumed to be dead. In some versions of the tale, Kate was 17 years old, asserting that the birthdate on her own gravestone is inaccurate. They also claim the passenger train had already stopped, but no actual evidence has been presented proving either of those two disputed facts. Her bravery was heralded in many newspapers. Kate's lantern is housed at the Boone County Historical Society Museum in Boone, IA.

This will bring us to the **Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad and Museum in Boone, IA.**



Boone and Scenic Dining car

Experience elegant dining on the rails as it was during the golden age of rail travel in the United States. This enchanting two hour and fifteen-minute ride through the beautiful Des Moines River Valley features historic 1950's passenger cars used on the Union Pacific Railroad's famous "City of Los Angeles" and "City of San Francisco" streamliners which traveled between Chicago and the west coast. This train crosses the 156' tall Bass Point Creek High Bridge, as well as the Des Moines River, on its journey through the scenic Des Moines River Valley. After passing through the old coal mining town of Fraser, our dinner train climbs its way back out of the river valley on an impressive grade. We will make our way across some of Iowa's rich farmland, eventually making our way to the end of our line at the unincorporated town of Wolf.

Overnight lodging is at the Springhill Suites in Ames, IA.

Day 3:

On Sunday you will travel to **Mt Pleasant, IA** where the **Old Threshers Heritage Museum** is located. You can spend the afternoon riding a vintage open-air trolley, checking out the antique steam threshers and tractors or exploring in the back shop of the **Midwest Central Railroad** and their collection of steam engines.



Midwest Old Threshers



Midwest Central RR Shops, Mt Pleasant, IA

Lunch on your own in Mt Pleasant, IA.

Leaving Iowa our motorcoach will bring you back to home to Wheaton-College Ave or Cumberland CTA Blue Line by early evening leaving you with wonderful memories of your Iowa journey.

Inclusions:

*Roundtrip motorcoach transportation
2 nights hotel lodging
2 breakfasts
Ox Yoke Inn lunch
Dinner Train
All admissions and fees*

Trip 22-C

Friday, July 15, Through Sunday, July 17, 2022

\$ 580 pp double occupancy

\$ 710 single occupancy

20th Century Club members and their guest

\$ 550 pp d.o./ \$680 single occupancy

**Deposit \$ 150 per person when making
reservation**

Final payment due by June 10, 2022