

Uniquely MASON CITY

NO OTHER PLACE
BUT HERE

YOUR GUIDE to experiences that can only be found in Mason City, IA!

1. An Architectural Hotbed: Mason City is home to the last remaining **Frank Lloyd Wright-designed hotel** in the world, as well as **Wright's first and only Prairie-style house in Iowa!** Learn more about these and other architectural gems on a walking tour of the Rock Glen-Rock Crest Historic District - **the world's largest unified of Prairie-style architecture!**

2. Step back in time and experience Hollywood History come to life at **The Music Man Square and Willson Boyhood Home**, which celebrate the life and accomplishments of Mason City native, Meredith Willson - composer of *The Music Man*.

3. Perhaps one of Mason City's most revered treasures is the collection of more than 500 marionettes and puppets created by America's premier puppet master (and Mason City native), Bil Baird. Some of the most recognized marionettes in the world including *The Lonely Goatherd* which was featured in the Academy Award-winning film *The Sound of Music* can be seen at the **Charles H. MacNider Art Museum**.

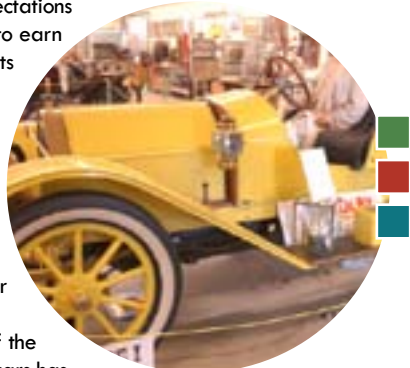
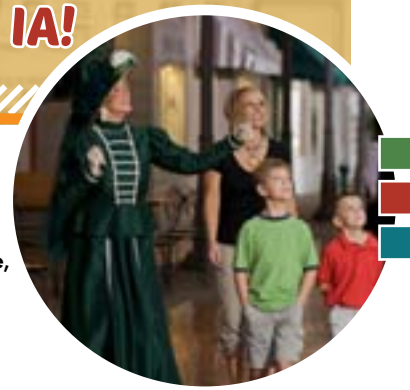
4. For breakfast or lunch, pop into the **Suzie Q Cafe...** One of only 52 surviving "Valentine" style diners in the United States. This quaint little diner was brought to Mason City in 1948 and has the appearance of a railroad car. Be sure to try the Omwich breakfast sandwich or the Spic 'N Span Tenderloin - rated second in the nation!

6. For dinner, enjoy a mouth watering, Greek-style steak (with a side of savory spaghetti) at the **Northwestern Steakhouse** - recently named the "Most Iconic Restaurant in the State of Iowa" by *thrillist.com*. A Mason City tradition, this steakhouse has been family-owned since 1920.

7. Another Mason City tradition - **Birdsall's Ice Cream** - has been serving refreshing hand-made ice cream since the 1930's. Local favorites include the hot fudge sundae, hot fudge marshmallow malts, and everyone's summertime favorite - peach!

9. Mason City is home to one of only two remaining electric freight railways in America - the **Iowa Traction Railway!** The line is still active today, interchanging over 1,300 carloads a year with CP Rail, UP and I&CE. Visitors to the area can see the fleet of old, but well maintained Baldwin locomotives in action as they run back and forth with strings of hoppers and other freight cars. Traction fans and train enthusiasts will find the operation most interesting. With most of the line running alongside the road, there is plenty of opportunity to take photos or capture video. NOTE: IATR is a not a museum or tourist attraction. It is a working railroad. Be courteous. Respect the equipment & observe safety precautions.

10. While you're in the area, be sure to take the short drive to Clear Lake and visit the **Surf Ballroom** - the last concert site of Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson. For those interested in paying tribute to these rock-n-roll legends, driving directions to the crash site and memorial are available.



#MasonCityIA