



MIDWEST

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# TRAVEL GUIDE

2015



MAYBE *the*  
*call of the wild*  
is GROWING  
LOUDER.

Maybe you want to get your kids off the couch for more than an hour. Or maybe you just want to head out of town for a long weekend.



## Whatever your REASON FOR RVING,

it's time for you to travel. The stress of work is piling up, and you're tired of the monotony. Now is the perfect time to escape, even if it's just for a small window of time.

But with soccer practices and ballet classes and crushing deadlines at work, who can manage taking all that time off? Good news: you don't have to.

There are plenty of places within a few hours' drive of Des Moines for RVing families to explore. Pack your bags, get your fishing tackle together and bring a few lawn chairs. It's time to hit the road and find your slice of the Good Life.

- 3 Lincoln, Nebraska
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- 9 New Glarus, Wisconsin
- 11 Beatrice, Nebraska

# LINCOLN, NEBRASKA



wgunther

## NEBRASKA STIRS UP A LOT OF EMOTION

in the hearts of many Iowans, especially during college football season. And while Nebraska may face off with the Hawkeyes on the gridiron, there's no reason why Iowans should blitz the idea of checking out our neighbor to the west.

Lincoln, the second-most populated city in Nebraska, offers the best of cultural, natural and historical attractions for RVers of all ages.

There's a reason why it earned the No. 1 spot on Gallup-Healthways' list of healthiest cities.

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## LINCOLN CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

1135 M Street, Suite 300

PO Box 83737

Lincoln, NE 68501

(402) 434-5335

<http://www.lincoln.org/>

## Where to Stay

### CAMPAWAY

Full time RVers, vacation travelers and everyone in between enjoys the sense of community that makes Campaway so special. With reasonable rates, beautiful environs and easy access to everything that Lincoln has to offer, this campground is the perfect spot for RVers to land for a long weekend.

Even if you're not into checking out the sights of downtown, Campaway offers a heated pool and frequent activities to give the kids something active to do.

## Where to Visit

### LINCOLN CHILDRENS ZOO

It's no secret: kids love animals. Zoos are a great place to sneak a little learning in with the fun kids have at zoos. With over 30 different animals on



Karin Dalziel



*When traveling from Des Moines to Lincoln, a great place to stop along the way is Atlantic, Iowa. Located right along the East Nishnabotna River, this cute town has a thriving downtown area with antique shops, great dining and various hiking and cycling trails.*



*Atlantic is the Coca-Cola Capital of Iowa and hosts an annual Coca-Cola Days festival, usually held in September. It's the second largest mini-convention of Coca-Cola collectors in the United States.*



display from all corners of the animal kingdom, this place is a perfect spot for families to have fun. Its special emphasis on children and first-hand learning offers kids and families a place to learn more about the wild without going on a safari.

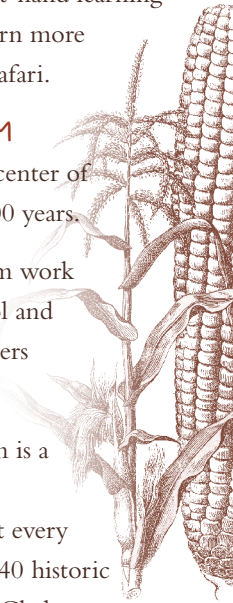
### LESTER F. LARSON TRACTOR MUSEUM

The humble tractor has been at the center of agricultural and rural life for over 100 years.

What was once just a tool to get farm work done has turned into a status symbol and historical icon for thousands of farmers across the country.

The Lester F. Larson Tractor Museum is a great place to check out the historic background that helps Americans eat every day. It has a collection of more than 40 historic tractors, including a Ford 8-16, Allis Chalmers G and a Ford-Ferguson 2N.

It also boasts the distinction of being the only tractor testing laboratory in the world, which helps prevent unsafe, unreliable, and inefficient tractors from being produced.



# HANNIBAL, MISSOURI



Go RVing

## HUCK FINN, TOM SAWYER, WIDOW DOUGLAS—

do any of these literary characters stick out to you? Chances are, you're a Mark Twain fan.

Twain, the famous author and literary powerhouse of the late 1800s, produced dozens of hilarious, thrilling and moving novels throughout his lifetime. He gave birth to the concept of "the great American novel." And he did it almost entirely from his hometown of Hannibal, Missouri.

Far from just another river town, Hannibal offers some gorgeous scenic views of the Mississippi River, access to great fishing and hunting and some of the most interesting historical sights around. Not to mention, it's a great stop for RVers and their families.

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Nauvoo, Illinois, located right along the Mississippi River just north of Keokuk, Iowa, is a hidden gem of history in the Midwest.

Initially settled by Mormons in the 1830s, the town is a pivotal place for members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Today, Nauvoo is one of America's premier historic communities, where visitors can explore more than 40 historic sites from the 1840s. It's a great place to immerse yourself and your family in the diverse history of the area.



NOTHING says "MISSISSIPPI RIVER"  
MORE than A  
STEAM-POWERED RIVERBOAT



## Where to Stay

### MARK TWAIN CAVE CAMPGROUND

Mark Twain Cave Complex boasts a beautiful campground with 99 campsites, ranging from shady and quiet to sunny and social. With a family fun park and convenience store within easy access, it's a great place to stop your RV for a long weekend with the family that still has all of the scenic amenities you want.

The campground offers full hookups for RV's, laundry, restrooms and showers, a dump station, a safe playground for kids, basketball area, volleyball court and a brand new official horseshoe area



## Where to Visit

### MARK TWAIN MUSEUM

Aside from natural sights, Hannibal is a great place for immersive history, and the Mark Twain Museum is the perfect place for that. The museum



complex includes Mark Twain's Boyhood Home & Garden, where Sam Clemens (Twain's real name) grew up, and where the real adventures of "Tom Sawyer" took place.

It also features the Huckleberry Finn house, the Becky Thatcher house, various gift shops and the Museum Gallery, a lovely two-story building featuring interactive exhibits and treasured Clemens family artifacts.

### MARK TWAIN RIVERBOAT

There's nothing that says "Mississippi River" more than a steam-powered riverboat chugging its way down the Big Muddy, and Hannibal has them in spades.

The Mark Twain Riverboat has been a unique feature on the Hannibal riverfront for more than thirty years and offers visitors of Hannibal a unique riverboat experience on the "Mighty Mississippi". The boat, which was built in 1964 in Dubuque, Iowa, is 120 feet long and can hold 400 people during its one- to two-hour cruises. Its dinner cruises are perfect for couples, and offer excellent food, music, dancing, and beverages.



HANNIBAL CONVENTION  
AND VISITORS BUREAU  
505 N 3rd St.  
Hannibal, MO 63401  
(573) 221-2477  
<http://www.visithannibal.com/>

# MT. HOREB, WISCONSIN



## IF YOU'RE NOT A FAN OF THINGS THAT

go bump in the night, Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin may not be the place for you. This small town not far from the Wisconsin capitol, Madison, is full of trolls!

Well, not really. The mythological creature that Mt. Horeb holds as a mascot, the troll, is scattered around town as a nod to the Scandinavian heritage of the area. Since the city was founded in 1861, the city has become the troll capital of the world, and offers various troll-themed festivals throughout the year.

But more than that, Mt. Horeb is a great place for families, and has all the amenities that RVers are looking for.

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IF YOUR IDEA of ADVENTURE involves BEING  
BEHIND HANDLEBARS, MILITARY RIDGE STATE  
TRAIL is a GREAT PLACE for YOU



### Where to Stay

#### VIKING VILLAGE CAMPGROUND

Located just down the road in Stoughton, Wisconsin, the Viking Village Campground offers every amenity RVers could need, and provides easy access to the area. It also offers the opportunity to find nature and escape.

Featuring water, sewer and electric sites, a pool, a miniature golf course and various other family attractions, Viking Village is an attraction in itself, and a nearby county park is a great place to unwind and enjoy nature.

### Where to Visit

#### MILITARY RIDGE STATE TRAIL

If your idea of adventure involves being behind handlebars, Military Ridge State Trail is a great place for you. This trail offers cyclists, hikers, runners and walkers the opportunity to explore more than 40 miles of scenic Wisconsin countryside, connecting the towns of Dodgeville and Fitchburg and running through Mt. Horeb.

Most of the trail follows the former Chicago and North Western Railway corridor, which has a shallow grade of only 2 to 5 percent, so there's no steep climbs involved.

#### HAVENS PETTING FARM

Open Labor Day through Memorial Day, Havens Petting Farm offers kids and adults a great opportunity to see nature up close and even feed farm animals. Your kids will love petting and spending time with goats, donkeys, pigs and other animals!

#### TYROL BASIN SKI AND SNOWBOARD AREA

If winter activities are more your speed, you can get your thrills at the Tyrol Basin Ski and Snowboard Area.

Offering some of the best ski and snowboard slopes in the midwest, Tyrol Basin has slopes from beginner to double black diamond. And even if you've never even strapped on skis before, the park offers lessons from experienced professionals and equipment rental.

Snowboarders will especially be excited about the slopes – Snowboarding Magazine named Tyrol Basin as the No. 1 snowboard park in the midwest, with plenty of obstacles to try new tricks on.

Mt. HOREB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
300 E. Main Street  
Mt. Horeb, WI 53572  
1-88-TROLLWAY (888-765-5929)  
<http://trollway.com/>



Along the way: Brodhead, Wisconsin is an idyllic small town in southern Wisconsin, and is a perfect stopping point for your family to check out along the way. Aside from a great downtown area with shopping, the Decatur Dairy is a popular place to visit, and they offer tours and fresh cheese samples.



Also popular is the Sugar Maple Emu Farm. Visitors can check out these huge flightless up-close and take a short tour of the farm. Also available is a gift shop that features various emu products.



# NEW GLARUS, WISCONSIN



Go RVing

## SWITZERLAND, THE SCENIC EUROPEAN COUNTRY

nestled between France, Germany and Italy, often gets overshadowed by its neighbors. France's food, Germany's beer and Italy's art often take center stage, but that's not to say that Switzerland doesn't have anything to offer.

We're not suggesting you drive your RV across the Atlantic Ocean. But we are suggesting you check out New Glarus, Wisconsin, the stronghold of America's Swiss heritage and culture – and it's located not too far from Iowa. If you're in the mood for scenic camping, great adventures and a craft-brewed beer or two, New Glarus is right for you.

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*Along the way: Deep in the Wisconsin woods is a hidden gem: Yellowstone Lake State Park. It may seem relatively small at just under 1,000 acres (half of which is a lake), but it still provides a nice getaway for people looking to get back to nature. Don't miss the beaches, parks, forests and trails all around this park. And winter visitors will be surprised at the pristine cross-country ski trails.*

## Where to Stay

### NEW GLARUS WOODS

New Glarus Woods has 20 drive-in campsites in the Lead Road Circle campground for RV or pop-up trailer camping, and it's perfect for the discerning camper looking for peace, quiet and an opportunity to relax around nature.

Located close to the Sugar River State Trail, you'll find wooded campsites and quiet solitude here, and you'll also find a number of nearby trails to hike, bike or run on. Woods are all around, so it's a perfect spot to start a campfire, let the kids run around, and look up at the stars.

## Where to Visit

### NEW GLARUS BREWING

Many RVers are the type to pop open a beer around the campfire after a long day of travel. If you know that feeling, you'll love New Glarus Brewing.

This quaint little brewery nestled on the outskirts of New Glarus offers tours, a beer garden and (of course) samples of their award-winning, 100 percent natural brew, made on site. New Glarus offers a selection of six beers year-round, plus a variety of seasonal selections – no matter when you go, you're guaranteed a new brew.



As a warning, vehicles longer than 14 feet are currently restricted from visiting the brewery on account of parking limitations. Plan accordingly!



### FOOTGOLF

Yes, you read correctly: footgolf.

This distinctly New Glarus invention conceived as a mashup of soccer and golf is played just like golf but with a soccer ball. You kick the ball down the fairway of the course to a designated soccer ball-sized hole located away from the golf greens, counting each kick as a stroke.

Kids, adults and anyone in between can give it a shot (pun intended).



YOU'LL FIND a NUMBER of  
NEARBY TRAILS to HIKE, BIKE  
or RUN ON

NEW GLARUS CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE  
PO Box 713  
418 Railroad Street  
New Glarus, WI 53574  
<http://www.swisstown.com/>



# BEATRICE, NEBRASKA



Go RVing

## NOT EVERY RVER IS ALWAYS IN THE MOOD

for the sights and lights of the city. Many people want to get away from it all and check out small-town charm instead of big-city amenities. That's where Beatrice, Nebraska comes in.

Beatrice, a small town of around 6,000 people not far from the Kansas border and in the southeastern corner of Nebraska, is a great stopping point for RVers looking to check out small-town living, nature and maybe a little history, too.

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GET AWAY from IT ALL -  
THAT'S where BEATRICE,  
NEBRASKA COMES in



*Along the way: Right along the eastern edge of the state is the small town of Nebraska City. As the oldest incorporated city in the state, it's chock full of history and interesting sights.*

*When visiting, it's important to visit its thriving downtown, various festivals throughout the year and the historic Kregel Windmill Museum.*



## Where to Stay

### OAK AVEN ACRES RV PARK

Featuring more than 14 full-service RV spots, Oak Aven Acres is the perfect place for families to park for the night or explore its peaceful, wooded setting not far from downtown Beatrice. Its secluded area boasts 80 acres of rich forest, so there's plenty of room to get back to nature and explore with your kids.

It's also located very close to the Homestead National Monument, which commemorates the passage of the Homestead Act of 1862 and features a variety of exhibits dedicated to educating visitors about prairie living in the mid-1800s.



## Where to Visit

### BIG INDIAN ARCHERS

In today's hunting world, archery may be a bit of a lost art. Most people stick to rifles when going out for big game, but the traditional bow and arrow isn't entirely lost.

Big Indian Archers is a handicap accessible practice archery range that features eight fixed fiberboard targets ranging from 10 to 80 yards, and is a perfect

place to hone your archery skills with your family. More than just an archery range, the park offers gorgeous hiking trails, fishing and other outdoor fun for the whole family.

## NEARBY FISHING

Speaking of fishing, Beatrice has a few nearby lakes that are primed and ready for your fishing fun.

Big Indian Lake and Recreation Area is a great place to drop some bait, and also offers boating, swimming, tent camping, picnicking, hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing.

Rockford Lake, a 150-acre lake near Beatrice, offers prime fishing, boating and picnicking, and Bear Creek Wildlife Management Area is a fisherman's dream as well. Get the bait and tackle together and take your RV to the water!

## SHOPPING AND FOOD

If shopping is more your speed, Beatrice offers an adorable downtown area bursting with antique shops, art galleries, gift shops and more.

While you're downtown, Beatrice also offers a few great places to get a bite to eat. Beatrice Bakery offers fresh-made breads and pastries, and is also the home of "Grandma's Fruitcake," a delectable holiday treat (that is pretty good any time of the year).

From May through October, Beatrice also has a farmers market on Thursday nights, full of local fruit, vegetables and other treats.

GAGE COUNTY TOURISM

218 N 5th St.

Beatrice, NE 68310

(402) 223-2338

<http://www.visitbeatrice.com/>





### **Are You Living the Good Life?**

At Good Life RV, we want to help you find your perfect home away from home. From pop-ups to 40-foot motorhomes, we can help you find your piece of the Good Life, whether that means tailgating, camping or a cross-country roadtrip.

As a full-service dealership, we also offer maintenance, repair and a wide selection of parts for all RVers.

Visit us online at [GLRV.com](http://GLRV.com), or stop by any of our three locations to learn more.

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Webster City, IA 50595  
(515) 832-5715

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602 East Hwy 92  
Bevington, IA 50033  
(515) 462-9800