



The Ultimate



ONAWA IOWA

One Day

Itinerary

Needing a 24-hour getaway that won't break the bank? Only 45 minutes south of Sioux City, and an hour north of Omaha, Onawa is known as the gateway to the Loess Hills. Founded in 1857, the city is also known for having the widest main street in the United States. As the seat of Monona county, there is surprisingly a lot to see and do here, so let's unpack and explore!

Day 1

10:30 am:

Explore the shops on Iowa Ave

- Dress Diva
- Botanica Bee
- Back Closet Consignment
- Act II Consignment

1:30 pm:

Take a light lunch at Downtown Coffee & Cream (906 Iowa Ave, Onawa, IA)

Located in the middle of downtown Onawa, this is the perfect oasis to recharge your drained batteries. Owner Shawna and her team will make you feel immediately welcome, and while you're there enjoy their picnic-on-the-go lunch boxes, then reward yourself with ice cream shipped in from Wisconsin. And if you want to spend a full afternoon here, grab one of their game boards and enjoy a round of friendly competition. (<https://www.facebook.com/downtowncoffeeandcream/>)

2:30 pm:

Continue exploring more shops around town

- Found at 926
- The Barn Loft
- Simply Signs
- Visions of Home
- JJ's Treasures

4:30 pm:

Check in, and freshen up at Americas Best Value Inn (2835 Iowa Ave N, Onawa, IA)

6:30 pm:

Head back out for a cozy dinner

- Dan's Pizza
- Ten34 Brickhouse
- Bamboo Village Chinese Café
- Fiesta Brava

11:00 am:

Continue enjoying the Mighty Mo at Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery (101 - 149 Hatchery Loop, Yankton, SD))

As one of 70 National Federal Hatcheries in the United States, Gavins Point Fish Hatchery works to save endangered and primitive species, such as Pallid Sturgeon and American Paddlefish. Also offering guests a peak at marine life, there is a 10,000 gallon aquarium housing reptiles and amphibians, along with pike, bass and other fish. There are also outdoor raceways where you can feed the fish, just remember to bring quarters for a handful of pellets! Open seasonally, be sure to check their hours of operation. (<https://www.fws.gov/fish-hatchery/gavins-point>).

Day 2

8:30 am:

Check out of your hotel room.

9:30 am:

Breakfast at Frannie's Café (812 Iowa Ave, Onawa, IA)

Open for breakfast and lunch only, Frannie's has been serving the Onawa community for many years now. When you go, you'll notice that half the town shows up to enjoy their omelets and French toast, and even more show up for a quick lunch break in the afternoon. Being a locally owned small business, Frannie's is all about supporting other small businesses, and by doing so, they sell products made by artists and creators. From soy candles to soaps, make sure to check out their souvenir corner, and maybe even get your own cute t-shirt to show your support for this one-of-a-kind diner. (<https://www.facebook.com/franniescafe/>)

11:30 am:

Plan a day at Lewis and Clark State Park (21914 Park Loop, Onawa, IA)

Located less than five miles outside of town, this 176-acre state park consists of hiking trails, camping, swimming and an amazing visitor center that houses a full-size replica of Lewis and Clark's keelboat. Open April through September, you'll have scenic views of the 250-acre Blue Lake, as well as an easily accessible beach. Make sure to bring your fishing gear and kayaks if you plan to stay a little longer. (<https://www.traveliowa.com/places/lewis-and-clark-visitors-center--keelboat-and-lmc-watercraft-displays/152/>)

Thank You

And that wraps up our 1 day in Onawa! I hope this has helped you plan your next trip to this hidden treasure. Let me know your favorite, and tag me on Instagram @thesiouxlandblog if you decide to go this summer.



Dinner and a Movie!

Need a date night idea? Not much can beat a fully restored 1936 historic movie theater. Throughout the years, the Iowa Theater (920 10th St, Onawa, IA) changed ownership a handful of times, then in 2020 it was closed down due to Covid. in 2023 the property was purchased, and within a year renovation was complete, including updating all the equipment, hand painting murals on the walls, and restoring nostalgic memorabilia. Check their website for show times! (<https://iatheater.com/>)

Or if you are planning a trip around a certain event, here are some ideas to help you on your journey:

- City wide Garage Sale (June 7th and 8th)
- Monona County Fair (July 9th to 14th)
- Tax Free weekend (August 2nd and 3rd)
- Swap Meet at Monona County Fairgrounds (August 17th and 18th)
- Veteran Car Show (August 18th)
- Harvest Festival (September 12th to 15th)
- City wide Garage Sale (September 13th to 14th)
- Ventures craft show (September 14th and 15th)