

AMES, IOWA BUCKET LIST

Family-Friendly • Local Favorites • Year-Round Adventures

Sweet Treats & Simple Joys

- Get ice cream at “Starbucks” in Nevada
- Stop by the ISU Creamery for a campus treat
- Try something new at Chocolaterie Stam downtown

Nature, Gardens & Outdoor Walks

- Visit Reiman Gardens (don’t miss Elwood the gnome!)
- Walk the trails at Iowa Arboretum & Gardens
- Take a peaceful stroll around Lake LaVerne
- Wander the ISU campus paths in any season
- Pack a picnic for a sunny Ames afternoon

Creative & Cozy Activities

- Paint pottery at The Workspace (Memorial Union)
- Enjoy a slow indoor outing on a cold or rainy day
- Leave with a handmade keepsake

Exploring Iowa State University

- Visit the Horse Barns (a favorite for toddlers)
- Walk through Central Campus & the Campanile
- See the Grant Wood murals at the ISU Library
- Explore hidden corners like Lagomarcino Courtyards

Downtown Ames Moments

- Take an unhurried downtown stroll
- Shop locally and pop into small businesses
- Bring your pup to Treats on a Leash
- Support a favorite local spot or discover a new one

Plants, Greenhouses & Seasonal Color

- Visit Holub’s Garden Center in winter for a mood boost
- Pick out a plant or seasonal flowers
- Enjoy spring blooms or cozy fall mums

Community & Belonging

- Visit a welcoming community space like St. Andrew’s Church
- Connect with kind people and feel at home

By the Season

- Winter: A cozy indoor activity or garden visit
- Spring: Flowers at Reiman or the Arboretum
- Summer: Ice cream, picnics, and evening walks
- Fall: Campus paths and colorful leaves

Slow Down & Enjoy

- Take a walk with no agenda
- Sit somewhere quiet for 10 minutes
- Take photos – or don’t – just enjoy the moment

Tip: You don’t have to do everything. Pick one each season and savor it.

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