

Great food, shopping and entertainment can be found right here in Marion. Whether you're the outdoorsy type, an art lover, or a little bit of both, there's so much to do and see right here in Marion. Make it a day or stay all weekend, follow these itineraries to explore what

Marion has to offer.

DAYcation

Grab your friends for a day of fun.

Discover Uptown

Park in a convenient, free spot near Uptown and spend the day strolling through our beautiful shops and enjoying one-of-a-kind restaurants.

1 Visit charming coffee shops | Start your day off right at the brand-new **Uptown Coffee Company**, featuring donuts from local favorite, Donutland. Or, head over to **Wit's End** for fresh-brewed coffee and homemade treats.

2 Score some new clothes, fresh flowers, or vintage treasures | Uptown Marion is the ideal place to freshen up your wardrobe. Find the latest in fashion at **Designs by Michele**, **DiModa** or **JOY** boutiques. Pre-loved looks can be found at **The Daisy** – Women's Clothing and Resale Consignment.

Now that you're spending more time at home, make your rooms feel cheerful with specialty flowers from **Roots In Bloom**. Or, take a step back in time by decorating with antiques from **Antiques of Marion**.

3 Satisfy your appetite | The food options in Marion are endless! Grab a fast-fired pizza at **Urban Pie** – a kid favorite. Or, slow down for a home-cooked meal at **West End Diner*** and explore its artisan village. If you decide to head to **Goldfinch Tap + Eatery***, don't miss the Finch Fries, which are covered in cheese and bacon.

4 Treat yourself to a fresh hairdo | Uptown Marion features ten salons and barber shops, each with a unique specialty. **Salon Bellezza** focuses on creating looks to enhance your natural beauty through all-natural products. **TRIMS Barber Shop** offers classic men's grooming services that come with a cold beer.

5 Take in a play and enjoy more delicious food | Be sure to check out the **Giving Tree Theater** schedule so you can catch a local theatre production in an intimate environment, complete with cozy sofas. Before the show, grab some pizza at **Zoey's Pizzeria**, or check out the brand-new **Short's Burger and Shine***. If you're a wine aficionado, head to **Ramsey's Wine Bistro** for some delicious spinach and artichoke dip paired with one of their many (many) varieties.

6 Don't forget after-dinner drinks | Right down the street, you'll find **Brick Alley** or **Uptown Snug**, where you can sit by the fireplace or out on the patio to cap off a great DAYcation. The patio seating is nestled overlooking the **Uptown Artway***, a colorful oasis of nine public art installations.



Explore Marion

Already checked out Uptown Marion? Explore the wide variety of shops and restaurants throughout our beautiful town.

1 Mocha latte, anyone? | Marion's first **Starbucks** opened in 2020. As you head down 7th Avenue, be sure to go through the drive-through and grab some caffeine to get your day started!

2 Relax and revitalize | Escape the hustle and bustle of daily life and experience a wonderful time of rest, renewal and relaxation at **The Sanctuary Spa**. From facials to massage to nail services, enjoy the pampering you deserve. Call ahead to inquire about the spa party concierge service.

3 Eat some delicious tacos...maybe with a margarita | **La Cantina's*** friendly staff serve delicious Mexican food, including fajitas, enchiladas, and more. Grab a quick lunch or sit down and enjoy a beverage.

4 See a film for a great price | Enjoy the classic way to see a movie – in an actual theater! **Collins Road Theatres** has been an affordable place to enjoy a date night or an evening with friends for decades. Don't forget the popcorn!

5 Take a snack break | It's capitalized for a reason...you can't miss **THE Chocolate SHOP** in Marion, conveniently located on 7th Ave. With dozens of varieties of chocolates made in house, you'll be drawn in by the delicious smells as you make your way to the west side of Marion.

A few blocks over, you'll find the home of Iowa's premier popcorn – **Iowa Popcorn Company**. Grab a treat for now and stock up for later, with several flavor combinations you may have to get one of each.

6 Shop for shoes and more | The **Collins Square Shopping Center** features a variety of places to shop. Head to **LOFT** and the affordably priced **MODE** boutique if you're looking to freshen up your wardrobe. If shoe shopping is more your thing, check out the high-quality options at **Brown's Shoe Fit**.

7 Sushi, Italian, or BBQ, Marion has it all | Before or after the movie, head next door to **Mandarin Spice Asian Grill** for some truly delicious sushi, shrimp, noodles and tons more. If you're thinking Italian is more your style, **Napoli's** delicious pasta is just a short jaunt away. Heading back east? Check out **QDogs BBQ** for pork sliders, nachos and more.

*Outdoor seating available

Grab your friends for a weekend of fun.

STAYcation

Looking for a vacation somewhere close by?
Marion is the perfect place to spend a relaxing weekend.



1 Bring out your inner foodie | **Bistro 3 Nineteen** is the perfect place to kick off a relaxing weekend. If you're craving tzatziki sauce on Friday evening, head to **New York Gyro**. With huge portions and mouth-watering sandwiches, this new restaurant is the buzz of the town.

2 Stay in top-rated hotels | There's no shortage of great places to stay in Marion. Get a great night's rest at the brand-new **TownPlace Suites by Marriott**, featuring outdoor areas for grilling and socializing. Or, head to the **Best Western Plus Longbranch Hotel**, featuring trivia nights that attract locals and visitors alike.

3 Visit charming coffee shops | Start your Saturday off right at the brand-new **Uptown Coffee Company***, featuring donuts from local favorite, Donutland. Or, head over to **Wit's End*** for fresh-brewed coffee and homemade treats.

4 Take a moment for your health | Fill your basket with fresh produce at the **Marion Farmers' Market at Taube Park**, open every Saturday at 8 a.m. If you're looking to get in a little movement, head to **free yoga at scenic Lowe Park**, starting at 7:30 a.m. every Saturday in the summer.

5 Experience art | Be sure to visit the **Art Gallery at Lowe Park**, featuring work by local artists. On a nice day, there's nothing better than heading outside to take a stroll on the trails at Lowe, which feature stunning sculptures.

6 Satisfy your appetite | Slow down for home-cooked food at **West End Diner***. If you decide to head to **Goldfinch Tap + Eatery***, don't miss the Finch Fries, which are covered in cheese and bacon.

7 Unique Finds | Look no further than **SCOUT of Marion** for unique gifts, a boutique gift shop that offers a curated collection of quality home goods, personal care, pantry, and pet items.

Get lost in the natural beauty and stunning designs of **Culver's Garden Center and Greenhouse**, featuring a full-service nursery and garden center in addition to clothing, décor and gourmet foods.

8 Delectable dining | With floor-to-ceiling wine, there's no better destination than **Ramsey's*** to cap off a chill weekend. Don't miss the spinach and artichoke dip!

9 Kick back and enjoy a play | Be sure to check out the **Giving Tree Theater** schedule so you can catch a local theatre production. As you leave the theatre, you'll see the subtle glow of the **Uptown Artway***, a revitalized alley that features nine public art installations and open-air pedestrian space. Grab a night cap at the **Uptown Snug*** or **Brick Alley Pub*** and enjoy it in the Artway.

*Outdoor seating available



The Marion PLAYcation is ideal for baseball families or anyone wanting to stay active this summer.

1 Find your adventure | **Squaw Creek Park**, located on the southeast side of Marion, offers a quiet reprieve from bustle of the metro area. This 700-acre park provides opportunities for picnicking, camping, winter activities, mountain biking, horseback riding and more. It is also home to an off-leash dog park where dogs get to run free and socialize with their canine friends.

2 Fuel up for a fun day | Pasta from **Zio Johnno's*** is the perfect fuel for your action-packed weekend. Craving tacos instead? Local favorite **Villa's Patio*** has options kids will love plus margaritas for the adults. If you're thinking pizza, skip the typical and head to **Tomaso's**.

3 Kick back at a concert or movie | Marion loves music. Check the schedules for live entertainment at **Lowe Park** and **City Square Park**. If you'd rather stay cool, **Collins Road Theatres** has affordable movie tickets and the classic movie theater popcorn - served with real butter - that you've been craving.

4 Head to the game | Got a game to attend? Enjoy your time at the scenic **Prospect Meadows fields**. If you have time before or after, make a pit stop at **D-Bat Marion**, a 20,000 square foot training facility featuring indoor batting cages for all levels of baseball and softball, instruction, and a fully stocked pro shop.

5 Bike here, bike there, bike everywhere! | From Marion, you can go anywhere. The **Linn County Trails Association** offers maps of the conveniently located trails in the area, including options for short and long rides. If you head east on the **Grant Wood Trail**, be sure to make a pitstop at **Waldo's Rock Park**. The pond is stocked and open for fishing. **Thomas Park** is another great trailhead, offering adventures both north and south along Indian Creek.

6 Grab a bite to eat | You can't go wrong no matter where you choose to eat in Uptown. Park your bike and grab a burger at **Short's Burger and Shine*** or get a fast-fired pizza at **Urban Pie***.

7 Golf or disc golf - for newbies and pros alike | After lunch, head over to **Legion Park** for some disc golf. The 19-hole course is in a secluded, natural setting with alternating open and wooded holes, and the winding creek adds to the challenge.

Looking for the real thing? Visit **Hunters Ridge Golf Course** for some practice at the driving range or 18 holes of bentgrass golf. Semi-private golf course **Indian Creek Country Club** is another great option for a 9-hole round. Or, enjoy the rolling terrain and fairways at **Gardner Golf Course**.

8 Try something new | Opened in 2019, **Nara Thai Cuisine** has incredible noodle and rice dishes, and the biggest crab rangoons we've ever seen. Looking for classic Chinese food? Family-owned **China King** sends delicious smells throughout Uptown every day.

If you're looking to feed the entire team, consider the brand-new **Pizza Ranch FunZone Arcade Arcade** or the casual vibe and Tex-Mex cuisine at **Carlos O'Kelly's**, a popular chain that was born in Marion, Iowa.

You're definitely going to need some ice cream after your full day, and you can't go wrong with a treat from **The Freeze***, **Parlor City*** or **Dairy Queen***. If frozen custard is more your style, make your way to **Culver's*** for the flavor of the day.