a local's guide.

top 10 to explore in the Des Moines area.

Des Moines, Iowa, is a vibrant Midwest city known for its diverse cultural scene, strong economy, and rich history, blending modern development with small-town charm





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REMAX Sarah Buller-Brung PRECISION REAL ESTATE AGENT

No. 1 farmer's market

Des Moines Farmer's Market

The Downtown Farmers' Market supports farmers, growers and artisan food entrepreneurs from all around the state of lowa. Visitors can explore a vibrant array of offerings, including fresh produce, eggs, meats, and more, alongside unique attractions and activities.





No. 2 coffee shop

Northern Vessel

Our mission is to create an exceptional coffee experience through hospitalit

Northern Vessel Website



No. 3 lunch favorite

South Union Bread Cafe

Stop by our lively lunchtime café and try our famous sandwiches, fresh salads and made-from-scratch soups.

South Union Bread Cafe Website

No. 4 events

World Food & Music Festival

A dynamic three-day event featuring international cuisine, live performances, cultural activities, and global beverages, it offers a rich experience for all ages to celebrate diverse cultures through food, music and more.

World Food & Music Festival Website

Des Moines Arts Festival

Step into the heart of creativity at one of the world's most prestigious festivals, where 195 of the nation's top artists transform downtown Des Moines into a breathtaking urban gallery.

Des Moines Arts Festival





No. 5 Brewery

Exile Brewing

Exile Brewing Co. is a hand-crafted brewery fueled by the passion of a burn-bright lifestyle, and driven by a unique sense of gratitude for the customer, community and future of our land

Exile Brewing Website

No. 6 bike path

Gray's Lake + Water Works Park

Get your steps in along the 1.9-mile trail encircling Gray's Lake. In the evening, drink in the beautiful downtown Des Moines skyline from the colorfully illuminated bridge.



No. 7 dinner & drinks

Eatry A

Eatery A is your Des Moines destination for Mediterranean-inspired cuisine. Perfecting simple dishes that focus on local, quality ingredients.

Eatry A Website



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No. 8 library

Central Library

The Central Library is located in the heart of downtown Des Moines' Western Gateway Park area at 1000 Grand Avenue, near the Pappajohn Sculpture Garden.

Central Library Website



No. 10 ice cream shop

Black Cat Ice Cream

we serve hand-crafted small batch artisanal ice cream. We utilize grass-fed natural dairy and ingredients sourced from local producers to create our one-of-a-kind flavors

Black Cat Ice Cream Website

No. 9 parks + play

Union Park

This historic park is like walking back in time and includes a wading pool, a rocket slide and a carousel

Union Park Website

Grays Lake

With beautiful views of the city skyline, you can enjoy walking, biking, boating and much more at Gray's Lake Park in Des Moines.

Grays Lake Website

