Sidewalk cafes, an abundance of locally owned shops, and music and cultural festivals year-round make downtown Iowa City ideal for a long afternoon or a night out.

Living in Iowa City

Iowa City ranks among the best places to live in America. Iowa City, Johnson County, and the state of Iowa all routinely appear on national “best of” lists for housing affordability, low crime rates, excellent schools, economic opportunities, access to world-class health care, and more.

And you’ll be delighted by all of the things you can do here that you’d expect to find in a much larger city, including entertainment, culture, outdoor recreation, shopping, dining, and spectator sports. But here the neighborhoods are safe, the people are friendly, and traffic hassles are nonexistent.

Iowa City is conveniently located on Interstate 80, so getting to and from here is simple. Eastern Iowa Airport is just 30 minutes away; Quad City International Airport is about an hour away. You can drive to Chicago in about three hours or to Minneapolis, St. Louis, or Kansas City in about five.

CHOOSE FROM A VARIETY OF COMMUNITIES

Iowa City is the hub of a thriving, easily-drivable region that offers a range of choices when it’s time to decide where to make your home.

- In Iowa City, you can walk to work from one of the leafy, historic neighborhoods near downtown and the University of Iowa campus. Or make a quick commute from one of the many outlying neighborhoods.
- Adjacent to Iowa City is Coralville, which offers quiet suburban living, easy access to a broad range of retail shopping and dining options, and a 400-seat performing arts center.
- Fast-growing North Liberty has plenty of modern housing, a spacious community center and library complex, and a new high school.

All three lie within the highly acclaimed Iowa City Community School District and are served by public transportation as well as an ever-expanding network of paved bike trails.

Greater Johnson County offers yet more easily accessible choices, including rural acreages and small towns that add only a handful of minutes to your daily commute.
SO MANY REASONS TO BE HERE

Entertainment Galore
The exquisite, state-of-the-art Hancher Auditorium presents a full season of world-renowned entertainment, including Broadway touring shows. Other venues host a wide variety of music acts and professional and amateur theatre.

Culture Capital
Home of the famous Iowa Writers’ Workshop and an annual week-long book festival, Iowa City is the only UNESCO City of Literature in North America. The famed Prairie Lights book shop fills the calendar with readings by best-selling authors.

School Pride
Iowa leads the nation with a 90.8 percent high school graduation rate. But Iowa City’s schools raise the bar at 93 percent. And Iowa is home to three public universities, 30 private colleges, and a 19-campus community college system.

Shop, Eat, Repeat
Downtown Iowa City offers more than 100 locally owned boutiques and more than 70 restaurants to suit every taste. Coral Ridge Mall boasts 1.2 million feet of retail, restaurants, and theaters. Iowa River Landing features upscale dining and shops.

Great Outdoors
From anywhere in the region, you’re just minutes away from a sprawling recreation area on the Iowa River that welcomes boaters, bikers, anglers, hikers, and wildlife watchers.

Big Games On Campus and Off
The Iowa Hawkeyes of the Big Ten field nationally ranked squads in football, basketball, wrestling, and more. Catch minor league baseball, indoor soccer, arena football, and hockey in nearby Cedar Rapids.

Learn more about living in Iowa City at thinkiwacity.com.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

PUBLIC SCHOOLS—
IOWA CITY: A
Niche.com

PLACES TO LIVE—JOHNSON
COUNTY, IOWA: A+
Niche.com

BEST STATE TO RAISE A FAMILY
— NO. 8
WalletHub.com

MOST AFFORDABLE STATE
— NO. 1
WalletHub.com

AMERICA’S HEALTHIEST CITIES
— NO. 5
24/7 WALL STREET
BEST STATE TO PRACTICE
MEDICINE — NO.1
Becker’s Hospital Review

SMARTEST CITIES IN AMERICA
— NO. 6
MarketWatch.com

TOP 10 BOOKSTORES:
PRAIRIE LIGHTS
National Geographic

BEST PLACES TO WALK AND
BIKE — NO. 10
Money Magazine

Historic Kinnick Stadium is the hottest spot in town on crisp, clear Saturdays in the fall.