

Mount Vernon History Overview Tour

Price Per Person (includes lunch): \$20/per person

- 10:00 a.m. Arrive in Mount Vernon at the Abbe Creek School, Old Mount Vernon Road, West of Mount Vernon, on Old Lincoln Highway
- You will begin your day as a student of Mr. William Willcox, the first teacher at the school in 1844. You will find that Mr. Willcox takes his job very seriously. In his one-room classroom, students are expected to listen and be attentive. He will evaluate your reading and then teach a history lesson that includes both the Abbe Creek School history and the history of Mount Vernon. After your history lesson, you will take an 8th grade final exam and be dismissed for a step-on guided bus tour of Mount Vernon, including stops on the original Lincoln Highway bridge, and a brief stop on the campus of Cornell College.
- 10:45 a.m. Your guide will step onto your tour bus and tell you about the history of the Lincoln Highway through Mount Vernon. We will stop briefly at an original 1910 Lincoln Highway bridge, now used as a pedestrian bridge near Cornell College. And all tour guests will be able to get out of the bus and hike out onto the bridge and experience an actual Union Pacific train pass underneath.
- 11 a.m. Back on the bus for a tour through the campus of Cornell College.
- If interested, the group can get out and experience the 1870s King Chapel, a building that Frank Lloyd Wright once derided as “the most odious example of General Grant Gothic.”
- The bus tour will continue into Uptown Mount Vernon, including a drive across the Old U.S. Military Road. Learn about the buildings and culture of Mount Vernon and Cornell College. The tour group will then be driven to Lisbon to take a guided tour of the Lisbon History Center, an official tour stop on the Lincoln Highway. Here you will learn about small-town life from 1837 until today.
- Noon Lunch buffet at Gwen’s in Lisbon
- 1:30 p.m. Return to Mount Vernon for shopping
- 3 p.m. Depart for home

Mount Vernon
National Historic District Tour
Price Per Person (lunch on your own): \$15/per person

- 10:00 a.m. Arrive in Mount Vernon at Mount Vernon City Hall, Lower Level, and be treated to coffee and pastries from local vendors. Here you will learn of the...
- Historical Eras of Development in Mount Vernon
National Register Historic Districts
Mount Vernon Cemetery – History & Recordkeeping
Mount Vernon Historic Preservation Commission
- Noon Take a walking tour of The Commercial Historic District and tour Uptown Mount Vernon’s latest rehabilitation projects and learn how Mount Vernon Historic Preservation and property owners work together to salvage, conserve and restore the past to make it work in the present.
- 12:45 p.m. Lunch in the Commercial Historic District on your own and see history from the inside as you eat at your choice of restaurants within the District: Big Creek Market, Chameleon’s, Lincoln Café and Wine Bar, Scorz or Skillet Café. Large group tour luncheons can also be arranged.
- 1:45 p.m. Take a walking tour of the Cornell College Historic District. Enjoy a brief Cornell College history lesson and then choose from one of choice of one of two walking tour options:
- Tour Option 1: King Chapel, Old Sem, Old Main, South Hall, McWethy Hall, and Rood House; or
Tour Option 2: King Chapel and Cornell College Library, which would include an introduction to the Cornell College Archives by a College Archivist
- 2:45 p.m. Coffee Break at The Commons where we will view renovation plans for the future
- 3:30 p.m. Hop on the bus for a brief tour of the Ash Park Historic District where you will see several preserved Victorian houses, examples of Mount Vernon Historic Preservation Award Winners, followed by a brief tour of the Mount Vernon Cemetery, before you...
- 5 p.m. Depart for Home

Mount Vernon/Lisbon Artist's Studio Tour

Price Per Person (lunch on your own, box supper included): \$25/per person

- 10 a.m. Arrive in Mount Vernon at Mount Vernon City Hall, and be treated to coffee and pastries from local vendors, and an overview of the day's activities.
- 10:30 a.m. Take a walking tour of galleries and shops in downtown Mount Vernon that feature work by local artists.
- Noon Enjoy lunch on your own at one of the local restaurants in Mount Vernon or Lisbon. Group lunches can be arranged upon request.
- 1-4 p.m. Choose from several artists' studios to tour. Varied arts media will be available for viewing, with some artists demonstrating their working methods. The artists request that no more than 12 people be in any one studio at a time. It is recommended that tourists view the website: www.mountvernoncreates.com for visual examples of work by participating artists, for assistance in selecting studios to tour.

Artist's Studio Tour Options:

Sculpture, metal, woodworking, clay, etc.
Photography
Collage
Paintings
Pottery
Fiber
Puppets

- 5 p.m. Gather at Gazebo in Memorial Park for music in the park. Box dinners catered by a local eatery.
- 7 p.m. Depart for home

Mount Vernon
Chalk the Walk – First Saturday and Sunday in May
Price Per Person (lunch included): \$25/per person

- 10:00 a.m. Arrive in Mount Vernon at Chalk the Walk headquarters
- Your day will begin with a stroll up and down Mount Vernon's Main Street. You will meet with organizers and artists of the Chalk the Walk event, who will explain the work, what it comprises and how to proceed. Fill out an application prior to arrival and be given an 8'x10' space to create your own work of art as a group, or simply choose to take part in a \$10 square of the 40' by 80' large community piece.
- 10:45 a.m. Begin your work on the piece, or stroll through the Cornell College campus, the Commercial District or the Ash Park District, one of the three National Historic Districts in Mount Vernon.
- 11:30 a.m. Take a guided tour of the Lisbon History Center, an official tour stop on the Lincoln Highway. Here you will learn about small-town life from pioneer times till today with a heavy emphasis on the Lincoln Highway.
- Noon Lunch buffet as a group at Gwen's in Lisbon; or lunch on your own at any one of 17 restaurants in Mount Vernon or Lisbon
- 1:30 p.m. Return to Mount Vernon for shopping or festival time.
- 3 p.m. Depart for home

Mount Vernon
Chocolate Stroll Tour – First Saturday in June
Price Per Person (lunch on your own): \$20/per person

- 10 a.m. Arrive in Mount Vernon at Chocolate Stroll headquarters in the First Street Community Building
- Your day will begin with a tour of an historic 1925 High School building. The building, no longer used as a school, has been renovated for use as a business incubator, performance, art and community center. End your tour at Mount Vernon Confections, a sponsoring organization of the Chocolate Festival.
- 11 a.m. Pull up a seat for a live concert presented by The Eastern Iowa Brass Band, a traditional 1900s-style performance group, utilizing the music of classic brass-band music.
- Noon Lunch on your own at any one of 17 restaurants in Mount Vernon or Lisbon, or simply wander Main Street sampling chocolate from any one of two dozen chocolate vendors. Large group luncheons can be organized by request.
- 1:30 p.m. Shopping or festival time.
- 3 p.m. Depart for home

Mount Vernon
4th of July Antiques Extravaganza – always July 4
Price Per Person (lunch on your own): \$15/per person

- 10 a.m. Arrive in Mount Vernon at Festival headquarters on Main Street.
- Start your day with coffee and pastries at City Hall, in the heart of Mount Vernon's Uptown District for an overview of the day's activities.
- 11 a.m. Begin a walking tour on festival grounds of any one of 50 antique vendors up and down the street. Take the time to visit any one of eight local antique shops and dozens of specialty shops in the area.
- Noon Lunch on your own at any one of 17 restaurants in Mount Vernon or Lisbon, or simply wander Main Street purchasing or browsing at antiques along the street. An organized group sit-down buffet lunch can be arranged.
- 1:30 p.m. Shopping or festival time.
- 2 p.m. Take a guided tour of the First Street Community Center, a former 1925-era high school that now serves as a business incubator and community center, home to three antique stores; or grab an ice cream from Pinhook Deli or Big Creek Market and simply sit on a bench in the fresh Iowa air and people watch as you ponder your antique purchase before...
- 3 p.m. Depart for home

Mount Vernon
Lincoln Highway Arts Festival – Select Sat in Sept
Price Per Person (lunch and art coupon included): \$45/per person

- 10:00 a.m. Arrive in Mount Vernon at the Lincoln Highway Arts Festival Headquarters in the heart of Main Street Mount Vernon.
- Your day will begin will begin with coffee and pastries in City Hall as you meet with organizers and artists of the event who will explain the festival, what it comprises and how your \$20 art coupon can be spent.
- 10:45 a.m. Shop festival grounds or choose to shop at any one of dozens of antique and specialty shops in Mount Vernon.
- 11:30 a.m. Take a guided tour of the Lisbon History Center, an official tour stop on the Lincoln Highway. Here you will learn about small-town life from pioneer times till today with a heavy emphasis on the Lincoln Highway.
- Noon Lunch buffet at Gwen's in Lisbon; or lunch on your own at any one of 17 restaurants in Mount Vernon or Lisbon.
- 1 p.m. Tour Lisbon History Center after lunch and hear about the history of our historic small towns.
- 1:30 p.m. Return to Mount Vernon for shopping or festival time.
- 3 p.m. Depart for home

