THE BEST THINGS TO KNOW FOR FIRST-TIME FAIRGOERS AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR

1. CULTURE & HISTORY
   For those interested in arts and history, visit the Ralph H. Deets Museum Complex, Farm Bureau Pioneer Hall or the Patty & Jim Cownie Cultural Center.

2. CONTESTS
   Every year, thousands of Fairgoers and exhibitors compete to get first place. Contests range from the Ugliest Cake in the Elwell Family Food Center to the Bubble Gum contest on the Anne and Bill Riley Stage.

3. FAIR SIGHTS
   There are many different places to relax on the Iowa State Fairgrounds! Look over the vast expanse of land from Expo Hill or enjoy water features in Pella Plaza. The Discovery Garden is also a beautiful setting to see outdoor flower displays or the DNR Building to see Iowa’s river animals!

4. ENTERTAINMENT
   Are you a music lover or love to watch talented Iowans? There are three main stages: the Anne and Bill Riley Stage, Susan Knapp Amphitheater or MidAmerican Energy Stage, with free entertainment all day long!

5. MINGLE AT THE FAIR
   Part of the Fair tradition is getting together with others. From the Iowa Craft Beer Tent to JR’s SouthPork Ranch to the Fair View Tap and many more, Fairgoers look forward to finding their favorite Fair food and drinks while catching up with friends!

6. LIVESTOCK
   From cattle, sheep and swine to pigeons, poultry and rabbits to horses and ponies, there are livestock competitions featuring animals of all shapes and sizes! See the biggest rabbit in the Poultry/Rabbit Building or the biggest boar in the Swine Barn.

7. FAIR TRADITIONS
   The Iowa State Fair’s Butter Cow has a long-lasting legacy and you won’t want to miss it in the John Deere Agriculture Building!

8. SHOPPING
   If your wallet is feeling heavy, lighten it at the Iowa State Fair! Find creative crafts in the Walnut Center, wander the William C. Knapp Varied Industries Building aisles, or discover new businesses and industries on the Machinery Grounds!

9. GAMES & RIDES
   Scream your way down the Giant Slide, see the Fair from above while riding the Sky Glider or take a slow ride through Ye Old Mill, savoring your favorite rides at the Fair. Also, check out our nine new rides in our three Thrill Parks!

10. FOOD
    Food options abound at the Iowa State Fair! Over 200 vendors with 16 new additions this year and more than 50 foods-on-a-stick to enjoy daily deliciousness. There will also be 64 new foods to try this year at the Fair!

11. NEW EXPERIENCES
    There are experiences for everyone at the Iowa State Fair! Children can learn and play in the Kids’ Zone or Fun Forest. Adults and children alike can enjoy the Paul R. Knapp Animal Learning Center where newborn chicks, pigs, cattle, goats, sheep and ducks are born daily! Adults can also learn about Iowa’s wine industry at the Wine Experience at Grandfather’s Barn or Wine Down in The Garden.

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