

PELLA ATTRACTIONS



Shopping – From adult and children’s clothing to kitchen gadgets and gifting, Pella offers a robust array of unique boutiques and shops to fill your every want or need. The Pella Historic Downtown Retail Group routinely hosts events across the entire shopping district that draw large crowds from both near and far. Pella and its residents are proud of its local small-business retail presence that has stood the test of time and consistently attracts tourism throughout the year.



Restaurants & Lounges – Whether it’s Mexican, Greek, Oriental, Italian, or American, you will find what you are craving in Pella! Fast food, casual, and fine dining options are all available with a wide variety of options. There are also many additional quality eateries in the surrounding towns, such as Oskaloosa or Knoxville. Or just hop on the highway and head to Des Moines where the drive is a quick 40 minutes and the restaurant possibilities are endless!



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Events – One of the most charming qualities that Pella possesses is the ability amongst its residents to come together. There are many different community-sponsored events that are held each year in Pella that experience large volumes of attendance. The Christmas Tour of Homes in the winter, Red Rock Balloonfest in the summer, and the annual Tulip Time Festival in the spring are just a few of examples of large events that are held each year. Pella also offers events on a more regular and smaller scale. “Thursdays in Pella” is a popular family-friendly event held in Central Park each Thursday evening in June and July. And “Christmas in Pella” is another family-friendly event held each Saturday in November and December where families can take a horse-drawn carriage ride, meet Santa, and sip hot cocoa downtown. New and exciting events are always being formulated to keep Pella a fun and inviting destination for years to come!



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Pella Tulip Time

Three days filled with day-time and night-time parades, historical museums, tours, performances, craft shows, and so much more, Tulip Time is an annual Pella tradition with a rich 75+ year history. The town is adorned with hundreds of thousands of beautiful blooming tulips each spring. In the weeks leading up to this beloved first weekend in May, don't be surprised to walk in on a heated debate amongst Pella residents about whether or not the tulips will last until Tulip Time this year.

During the 3-day festival, you will see Pella residents dressed in beautifully detailed Dutch costumes and wooden clogs and snacking on poffertjes, vet bollen, stroopwafels, and funnel cakes all weekend long. Pella school children march hand-in-hand each day-time parade and sing a special song about their Dutch heritage. Floats line the streets and high school and middle school marching bands boast their selected tunes. Each year, a senior female from one of the Pella schools is crowned the Pella Tulip Queen. Along with her four court members, she is chosen to represent our town's values and leads our festival with grace.

Tulip Time is a weekend where Pella residents come together and show off our beautiful town for the hundreds of thousands of guests milling in our streets. It is also a weekend where many local churches and organizations have the opportunity to fundraise by selling food from one of the many foodstands lining the streets. Faith CRC has been a consistent participant, and our members are eager to assist with food preparation and sales each year. Our dried beef sandwiches on raisin buns are a huge hit year to year!

