1. **Backbone State Park**
   Explore the Backbone Cave with a flashlight, go rock climbing, go swimming, boating and fishing! Hike around the Blackstone then spend the night camping.

2. **Ledges State Park**
   Hike the Lost Lake Nature Trail to Sentinel and Solstice Rocks but be sure to take along some snacks! Go bird watching and camp overnight.

3. **Stone State Park**
   Stop by the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center to learn about local ecology and wildlife. Ride horses or bike around Stone Park Loop then spend the night camping.

4. **Maquoketa Caves State Park**
   Stop by the Visitor Center to learn about history and archaeology in the area! Bring a flashlight when you explore Dancehall Cave or hike along the paved lighted walk inside the cave. Try finding the Natural Bridge and the Balanced Rock.

5. **Effigy Mounds National Monument**
   Become a Junior Ranger! Complete the Junior Ranger Archaeology Booklet and earn a badge! Hike the Fire Point Trail and make all 10 stops then camp overnight.

6. **Living History Farms**
   Visit the town of Walnut Hill to learn about pioneer life and stop by the living history museum for a glimpse into the past!

7. **Devonian Fossil Gorge**
   Search for fossils inside the park and learn interactively about our planet's natural history! Check out the Visitor Center for a short movie about the gorge.

8. **Lewis and Clark State Park**
   Check out the replica of the boat Lewis and Clark used during their Corps of Discovery Expedition! Go fishing, swimming or even camp overnight!

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**Buddy Bison’s Fact Bites!**

- The state name originates from the Dakota Indian word “Ayuhwa” meaning “sleepy ones” and was once the name of a tribe living in the area.
- The Red Delicious apple was originally developed in Peru, Iowa.
- Iowa is the only state whose east and west borders are 100% formed by water: the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.
- The ratio of pigs to people in Iowa is 7 to 1.

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*Photos courtesy of National Park Service*