

DSM Weekend Guide

Looking for the best spots to show your people a great time in the city?

"I KNOW
A GUY!"



FAMILY

FRIDAY NIGHT • EAST VILLAGE

Fong's Pizza

DINNER

Tiki-themed pizza with one-of-a-kind flavors the whole family will talk about.

📍 317 E Court Ave, Des Moines

🕒 Fri 11 AM – 12 AM • Sat 10 AM – 12 AM

Molly's Frozen

DESSERT

Handcrafted premium ice cream right next door – the perfect end to Friday night.

📍 322 E Court Ave, Des Moines

🕒 Fri 12 PM – 10 PM • Sat 12 PM – 10 PM

SATURDAY MORNING • DOWNTOWN

Northern Vessel

COFFEE

One of DSM's most celebrated coffee shops. Exceptional coffee, exceptional people.

📍 1201 Keosauqua Way, Des Moines

🕒 Sat 7 AM – 2 PM

Des Moines Farmers Market

MUST-DO

Walk the market, sample local food, enjoy live music – a Saturday morning tradition.

📍 Court Ave & 3rd St, Des Moines

🕒 Sat 7 AM – 12 PM (May – Oct)

SATURDAY AFTERNOON • CLIVE / EAST VILLAGE

Slick City Action Park

ACTIVITY

Giant slides, air courts, and nonstop fun for all ages. Indoor so weather doesn't matter.

📍 9999 University Ave, Clive

🕒 Sat–Sun 10 AM – 8 PM

Storyhouse Bookpub

BROWSE

Cozy indie bookstore in the East Village with hand-picked reads and a welcoming vibe.

📍 505 E Grand Ave, Des Moines

🕒 Sat 10 AM – 6 PM

SATURDAY DINNER • INGERSOLL / DOWNTOWN

Lachelle's Fine Foods

DINNER

Signature smash burgers, creative sandwiches, and daily specials. One of DSM's absolute best.

📍 2716 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines

🕒 Wed–Sat 11 AM – 9 PM • Sun 11 AM – 3 PM

Black Cat Ice Cream

DESSERT

Award-winning artisan ice cream with grass-fed dairy and wild, rotating flavors.

📍 1301 Locust St, Des Moines

🕒 Fri–Sun 1 PM – 7 PM

SUNDAY MORNING • DOWNTOWN

Gray's Lake

NATURE

167-acre park featuring a 1.9-mi. lighted walking path around a lake with small boat rentals.

📍 2101 Fleur Dr, Des Moines, IA 50315

🕒 Sun 5 AM – 10 PM

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FRIENDS

FRIDAY DINNER • WAUKEE

Blue Agave

DINNER

Street tacos and margaritas in Waukee. Bold flavors, great vibe, perfect Friday start.

📍 9500 SE University Ave, Waukee
🕒 Mon–Thu 11 AM – 9:30 PM • Fri–Sat 11 AM – 10:30 PM

Vinyl Cup Records

NIGHT OUT

DSM's most unique record shop — complimentary drink, great music, great people.

📍 2702 Beaver Ave, Des Moines
🕒 Check @vinylcuprecords for current hours

The Dam Pub

BAR

80s/90s-themed neighborhood bar on the same street. Rooftop, great food, great energy.

📍 2710 Beaver Ave, Des Moines
🕒 Fri 11 AM – 2 AM • Sat 10 AM – 2 AM • Sun 10 AM – 10 PM

FRIDAY LATE NIGHT • DOWNTOWN DES MOINES

Nothing Major

COCKTAILS

High-concept cocktails and small batch ice cream in the Walnut Loop. The perfect nightcap.

📍 608 Locust St, Des Moines
🕒 Wed–Thu 4 PM – 12 AM • Fri–Sat 4 PM – 1 AM • Sun 4 PM – Close

SATURDAY MORNING • DOWNTOWN

Happy Home Coffee

COFFEE

Start Saturday right —Community-first coffee roaster.

📍 700 Locust St (Skywalk Level), Des Moines
🕒 Sat 8 AM – 2 PM

Des Moines Farmers Market

MORNING ACTIVITY

Walk the market, grab food, soak up the city. A true DSM Saturday experience.

📍 Court Ave & 3rd St, Des Moines
🕒 Sat 7 AM – 12 PM (May – Oct)

SATURDAY AFTERNOON • NORTH DES MOINES

Woodland Hills Golf Course

GOLF

Public 18-hole course on the north side — great conditions, great value, all skill levels welcome.

📍 620 NE 66th Ave, Des Moines
🕒 Open daily — call ahead: (515) 289-0650

SATURDAY DINNER • INGERSOLL / WEST DES MOINES

The Palms DSM

DINNER OPTION #1

West African and Caribbean fusion on Ingersoll. Bold flavors, craft cocktails, great patio.

📍 1905 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines
🕒 Tue–Sat 11 AM – 9 PM • Sun 11 AM – 7 PM

Dave's Hot Chicken

DINNER OPTION #2

Nashville hot chicken with 7 spice levels. Great late-night option after a big Saturday.

📍 6630 Mills Civic Pkwy, West Des Moines
🕒 Mon–Thu 10:30 AM – 10 PM • Fri–Sat 10:30 AM – 11 PM

SATURDAY LATE NIGHT • DOWNTOWN DES MOINES

Des Moines Athletic Club

BAR

It's a sports bar with a twist — part neighborhood clubhouse, part gameday destination.

📍 604 Locust St Ste. 105, Des Moines, IA 50309
🕒 Sat 2 PM – 1 AM