



## An American Tour: 2



### Adventureland

What's special about this great amusement park is that...it's in Iowa! *[One normally doesn't associate fun and excitement with Iowa...sorry, Mike].*

Located on the northeast corner of the Des Moines metro area you'll find one of the nicest family resorts in the Midwest. Adventureland provides fun and entertainment to hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. Adventureland Park, Adventureland Inn, and Adventureland Campground all go to make up the resort complex where there's plenty to do for all ages for a day, a weekend or a week. This spring, Adventureland began its 31st season. Over the years the park has grown dramatically from the original Main Street area that opened in 1974 with just a few rides. At that time Adventureland hotel and campgrounds had already opened, and the opening of the park made Adventureland a complete entertainment complex. Little did any one know back then, that Adventureland would soon become Iowa's largest family resort. Year by year, the park has continued to grow, and now encompasses well over 100 rides, shows, and attractions.

Since the very beginning, Adventureland has received considerable notoriety, and has also had its share of firsts along the way. In 1978 a Tornado blew into town, the Tornado roller coaster that is. Designed by the legendary roller coaster architect Bill Cobb, the Tornado soon attained the #1 position on the American Coaster Enthusiasts Top 10 List, and remained on the list for several years following its introduction. In 1983 Adventureland was among the first parks in the nation to build a river rapids raft ride called the Raging River. In 1993 a twelve-acre, five million dollar expansion to the park included the addition of the Outlaw Gulch theme area and the Outlaw roller coaster. Over the last 10 years Adventureland has added 10 new rides, and dozens of amenities that make the park even more enjoyable for visitors. 2002 marked Adventureland's most ambitious expansion yet. An 8 million dollar project nearly doubled the size of the hotel, added a second courtyard, new pools with interactive water features and new pool-side rooms and suites. It also added a new first of its kin water ride in the park, a spinning white water adventure, called Saw Mill Splash. In 2004, a ride called the "Sidewinder" was added to Adventureland. The "Sidewinder" is a giant pendulum that pivots back and forth 240 degrees, swinging riders over 6 stories into the sky on a rotating platform that revolves 360 degrees.

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