



DAY TRIP TO MOUNT PISGAH

From Creston · Union County, Iowa



RAILROAD AND
ROAD



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COUNTY PARK

A Union County park, nine acres by the National Park Service's page of April 2025, with a one-acre state preserve around the 1888 monument and cemetery. The rest of the townsite is private.

Mount Pisgah is a quiet half day from Creston. The small county park holds the 1888 obelisk, the pioneer cemetery and the trail's wayside exhibits, with a picnic shelter beside them. Bring lunch; there's nothing to buy at the park.

A SAMPLE DAY

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| ☐ Morning | Drive east from Creston on US 34, then Talmadge Road and Mount Pisgah Road, about half an hour. |
| ☐ Late morning | Walk up to the obelisk and the cemetery, a one-acre state preserve since 1971. |
| ☐ Late morning | Read the wayside exhibits and markers around the park. |
| ☐ Midday | Eat your packed lunch at the shelter house. |
| ☐ Afternoon | Head back to Creston. |

Coming from Des Moines? Allow about 1 hour 25 minutes each way.

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The obelisk.** Raised in 1888, the 12-foot monument carries 63 names. Step back to fit it against the sky.
- **The cemetery hillside.** The graves have no markers, so the open slope is the subject. Keep to the paths.
- **Drones.** The county's and the state's pages we read don't mention them. Ask Union County Conservation before you fly.



USGS topographic map, 1951 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	17 mi, about 31 min each way from downtown Creston. From Des Moines: 58 mi, about 1 h 23 min.
OPEN	The county's park page said "This area is open year around" (archived copy, October 2024). We found no posted hours or fees.
WHAT'S THERE	The Park Service describes a nine-acre park with wayside exhibits, markers and a reconstructed log cabin (April 2025). The Ensign Peak Foundation says the cabin had been removed by 2021.
TIME ON SITE	No source suggests one.
RESTROOMS	A latrine, by the county's park page (October 2024 copy).
FOOD AND WATER	No food. The same page lists an approved water supply, a shelter house and picnic tables.
PRIVATE LAND	Most of the 1846 village site is private pasture beside the park. Stay in the park and the cemetery unless the owner invites you.
THE GRAVES	Unmarked. The 300 to 800 wooden markers have long disappeared (Iowa DNR). Keep to the paths.
WEBSITE	mycountyparks.com/County/Union/Park/Mt-Pisgah.aspx

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 41.05050, -94.10080 · 41°03'02"N
94°06'03"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/iowa/mount-pisgah/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.