

“With Maharishi Vedic architecture,” she says, “there’s an accumulation of coherence and silence that works together, removing resistance to your desires. It’s as close to heaven as you can be.”

## VEDIC VEGETABLES

After a busy morning touring homes, try a 16-dish organic vegetarian buffet at The Raj Maharishi Ayur-Veda Spa Center and hotel. Set at the end of a grand driveway lined by Bradford pear trees, the French Provincial-style facility is garnering attention as a top spa.

“We’ve gained international recognition for our authentic and holistic rejuvenation treatments from the world’s most ancient tradition of natural medicine,” says Jocelyne Comtois, marketing director. “Because we maintain three staff for every client, guests feel deeply nourished and cared for.”



The Raj tour includes a peek inside a private treatment suite, where day guests can indulge in facials, anti-stress massages and other relaxing treatments. The 100-acre estate also features rose gardens, a lake with swans and nature trails.

For a lighter lunch, sample the offerings at the food fair located outside The Raj alongside the arts fair and farmers’ market. All food sold inside the city is organic, because of a city ordinance.

To tour the 160-acre Maharishi Vedic City Organic Farm, drive six miles north to 140th Street. Inside the vast 1.2-acre certified organic greenhouse, plots of rainbow chard, red-leaf lettuce, fennel and other vegetables carpet the floor like a vast patchwork quilt. In June, the greenhouse celebrated its first year of production, and was able to distribute its products to markets in Des Moines, Iowa City and even Chicago.

The greenhouse eventually will cover 70 acres and is an important part of the city’s green agenda, which is also evident in the lack of streetlights and utility poles. In addition, the city’s master plan calls for only electric cars inside the city.

“Maharishi Vedic City has voted to eventually own its own utilities to provide off-the-grid power using wind and solar panels,” says Boyum, who has garnered nearly \$500,000 in grant monies from state and federal agencies. As a start, this summer two 10-kilowatt Bergey wind turbines and photovoltaic solar panels will be established to power the greenhouse.

## A VIEW OF THE STARS

One of the unique features of the city is the open-air Vedic Observatory, a group of 10 white concrete-and-marble astronomical instruments, each 6 feet tall. While they are precisely aligned with the sun, stars and moon, and could be used to calculate their movements, they also could enliven inner happiness and balance your physiology, says Tim Fitz-Randolph, the developer who oversaw the observatory’s design and building.



The city has applied for a grant to develop the observatory as a tourist attraction. Plans include a \$1.2 million marble visitor center, landscaping and a tower for viewing the entire observatory. With all of these attractions and more coming, Boyum invites “everyone to come and experience what we have to offer.”