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# 10 great places to explore Barack Obama's legacy

Larry Bleiberg, Special for USA TODAY 7:43 a.m. ET Feb. 24, 2017



Although barely out of office, there's a growing wave of nostalgia for the nation's first African-American president. "Historically (Barack Obama) means a lot to a lot of people," says **Christina M. Greer**, a Fordham University associate professor and author of *Black Ethnics: Race, Immigration, and the Pursuit of the American Dream* (Oxford University Press, \$29.95). "People are missing him." In honor of Black History Month, she shares with **Larry Bleiberg** for USA TODAY sites to connect with Barack Obama's legacy.

## Des Moines

Obama's presidential campaign took off after winning the Iowa caucuses in 2008. "It is what put him on the map. People started thinking, 'Maybe there's something to this guy. He's winning a super, super, white state'," Greer says. Obama has seen plenty of Des Moines from restaurants like Jethro's BBQ, to the state fair, to the airport Hampton Inn, where he liked to stay because he thought it brought him good luck. [catchdesmoines.com](http://catchdesmoines.com)