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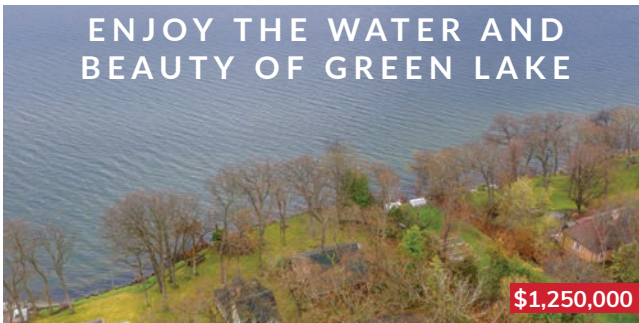
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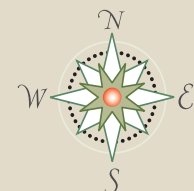
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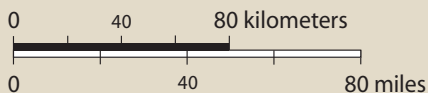
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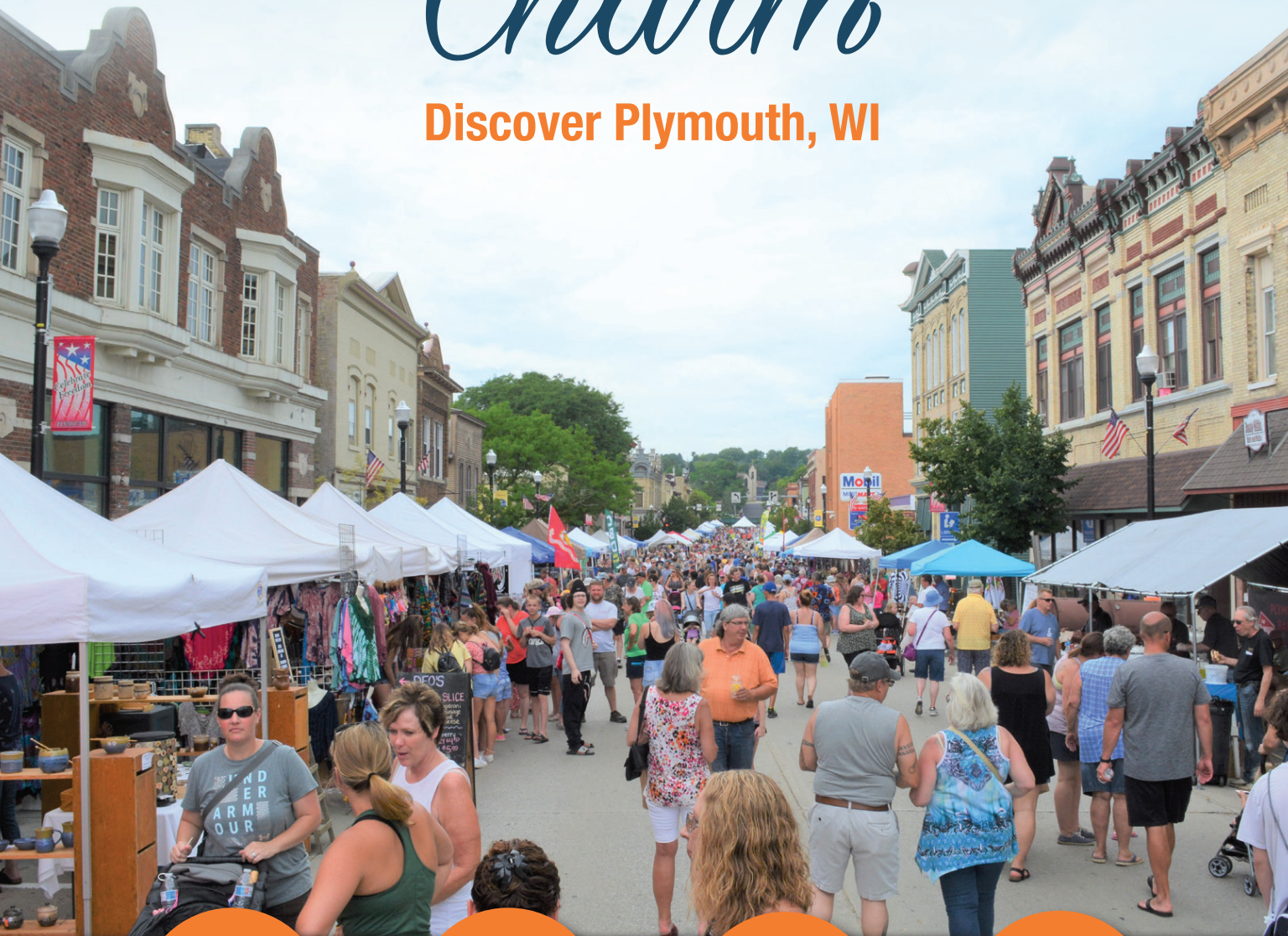
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experience
WISCONSIN
Spring/Summer 2021 Edition

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Hidden Gems

One of the best mini getaways I've ever experienced was essentially based off of suggestions by a complete stranger. On the night my friend and I arrived in Milwaukee for a long weekend, we immediately ditched our luggage and walked into the first bar we came across.

Very uncharacteristically of me — but very typical of my friend — we struck up a conversation with two people sitting across from us. When we told them we were visiting from out of town, they rattled off a list of things we had to do: try the amazing lobster rolls at St Paul's Fish Company in the Milwaukee Public Market; view downtown architecture by kayaking down the Milwaukee River (they said that was the best way to experience it); and visit the Basilica of Saint Josaphat on Sixth Street, which they noted is a stunning representation of 20th-century history. If it hadn't been for their suggestions, we wouldn't have elbowed our way to the crowded lunch counter at the fish market, where the lobster rolls were, indeed, incredible. We wouldn't have had the foresight to rent kayaks and go for a sunset paddle down the river. And we never would have come across the basilica.

I wish all my trips were like that — guided by passionate recommendations from locals who know the area best, and our hope is that this issue of *Experience Wisconsin* feels like that. Especially now, when the lingering effects of COVID-19 make it a little more difficult to determine what's open and what feels safe to visit.

Everything in this issue was thoughtfully curated to offer you the best adventures possible — whether your priorities include tasting your way through cities, hiking your way around the state forests or entertaining little ones with activities that are enriching for the whole family.

After a very difficult 2020, we hope that you can come to Wisconsin for a refreshing respite and return home feeling restored.

As the new editor of this magazine, I'm so happy to be here, providing this fun and informative resource to travelers. If during your trip here you find a hidden gem, tell us about it! We're always looking to spread the word when it comes to Wisconsin jewels. Just send me a note at smoyer@ntmediagroup.com.

Shelby Moyer

Shelby Rowe Moyer, Assistant Editorial Director

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Want more Experience Wisconsin?

If you're itching for more inspiration, follow us on social media for scenic (and tasty) Badger State photography.

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FIVE THINGS I LOVE IN THIS ISSUE



I am very excited to see Sheboygan's new Art Preserve (opening in June), which will host 17 artist-built environments within its 56,000-square-foot building. P. 12



I've never been a cinnamon roll fanatic, but Princeton-based Renard's European Bakeshop's version (croissant dough twisted and dipped in sugary cinnamon) has my attention. P. 21



The lavender lemonade at Avant Cycle Cafe is a personal favorite of mine. I've planned entire trips to Lake Geneva around it. And, it's served year-round. P. 30



Lao Laan-Xang is legendary in Madison for its Laotian cuisine. And the humble beginnings of the family that runs it is very inspiring. P. 32



Poet Carmen A. Murguía shares her family's deep roots in Milwaukee and how Hispanic immigrants have helped shape the city's vibrancy. P. 34

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Must-Visit BIPOC-Owned Shops and Restaurants

Support Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)-owned businesses across the state while taking in the ambiance of Wisconsin locales.

By Shelby Deering



Southeast

414LORAL

For a floral bouquet that's truly stunning, visit 414loral. Owner Mikel McGee crafts Instagram-ready arrangements in an oh-so-stylish space.

2714 N Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Milwaukee

While You're There: You won't be far from Milwaukee's famed Bradford Beach, with lovely Lake Michigan views and cabana rentals.

BC MODERN

If you're in the market for midcentury décor, you're in luck with BC Modern. Located in Walker's Point and owned by Eric Lewis, here is where you'll find the rattan table, owl sculpture or fiberglass chair you've been looking for.

908 S. 5th St., Milwaukee

While You're There: Walker's Point is known as one of Milwaukee's best antique districts. Meander the area and pick up plenty of treasures to take home.



West Central

MAIDEN ROCK WINERY & CIDERY

Owned by husband-and-wife duo Herdie Baisden and Carol Wiersma, this winery and cidery is geared toward fans of apple-flavored beverages. Visit the tasting room to experience their hard ciders and sweet wines for yourself.

W12266 King Ln., Stockholm

While You're There: This libation destination is located less than 10 minutes from Maiden Rock Bluff, a perfect place to view the Mississippi River.



CLAIREWATERS BAR & RESTAURANT

For a delectable fusion of supper-club standards and Asian flavors, pay a visit to the Hmong-owned ClaireWaters Bar & Restaurant. You'll love the Ahi tuna wontons and the Asian Bloody Mary.

2106 N. Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire

While You're There: To continue your multicultural eating tour of Eau Claire, head to nearby Shanghai Bistro or Azul Tequila Bar & Grill.



South Central

LA KITCHENETTE

It's not easy to jet off on a plane to Paris these days, so instead, get your fix at Virginie Ok's La Kitchenette. Brunch isn't to be missed, along with its the Lavender Crème Brûlée and Beef Bourguignon.

805 Williamson St., Madison

While You're There: Make a day of it on Willy Street! Shop storefronts like MadCat, Hazel General Store, Hatch Art House and Change.

ITTY BITTY BOOKSTORE

As Stoughton's first Black-owned bookstore, Dominique Lenaye purveys beautiful new and used books in an equally gorgeous space (by appointment only currently), outfitted in blooming floral wall murals.

123 E. Main St., Stoughton

While You're There: Eugster's Farm Market is located nearby, just the thing for a fun-filled family outing with animals to visit and sunflower fields to roam.

Northern

COPPER CROW DISTILLERY

Northern Wisconsin is home to the country's first Native American-owned distillery. Enjoy the outdoor patio and order the Wheat Vodka or Navy Strength Dark Rum.

37395 State Hwy. 13, Bayfield

While You're There: Before heading to the distillery, spend an afternoon kayaking the waters of Lake Superior, located right down the road.

STOP AND GO PIZZA

Specializing in takeout and delivery, the Black-owned, family-run Stop and Go Pizza has many fans of their delicious offerings, like the taco pizza and Italian beef sandwich. Plus, they make the dough, sauce and a few other ingredients in-house.

1908 Tower Ave., Superior

While You're There: Smack-dab in the middle of northern Wisconsin's gorgeous natural scenery, don't miss a hike in the nearby 4,400-acre Superior Municipal Forest.



Northeast

CHEF CHAMPION

Award-winning chef Ace Champion, seen on the *Today Show* and the Food Network, teaches cooking classes in the Green Bay area. To soak up his expertise, check his website for upcoming events.

Various locations near Green Bay, chefchampion.com

While You're There: In keeping with the food theme, stop by Scray Cheese in De Pere.

THE JERK JOINT

If you have a taste for Caribbean food, look no further than Appleton's The Jerk Joint. Mango lime chicken Bowl? Mac and cheese jerk burger? Rum cake? Sign us up.

1619 W. College Ave., Appleton

While You're There: College Avenue is also a wonderful shopping destination, with boutiques like The Vintage Garden.

Sweet Sleeps

These accommodations have caught our eye.



THE DÖRR — SISTER BAY

As Door County's first newly built hotel in two decades, The Dörr is rooted in Scandinavian coziness and aesthetics. Slated for a May 2021 opening, the hygge-laden hotel overlooks Death's Door (the strait that links Lake Michigan and Green Bay) and has 47 stunningly styled rooms. If you can pull yourself away from the fireplace, cocktails at the lobby bar await.



WILD RICE RETREAT — BAYFIELD

We could all use a little extra self-care these days, right? That's where Wild Rice Retreat comes in. With a May 2021 grand opening, it's a Lake Superior respite that's already been previewed in Travel + Leisure, Food & Wine and Bazaar. In stylish surroundings, take part in an all-inclusive retreat that focuses on yoga and meditation, or perhaps you'd fancy a creative release through a writing or photography class.



THE FIG AND THE PHEASANT — PLYMOUTH

Perhaps you're craving something with history. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, The Fig and the Pheasant is all about bygone times. Since 1892, it's been one of Wisconsin's longest continually operating hotels, and it has the old-fashioned architectural details to prove it. But don't worry — there's still WiFi and the latest, greatest culinary creations at the hotel's bar and restaurant.

Whitewater's Rich Native American History

Located amongst the hills of the Kettle Moraine State Forest is the aptly named city of Whitewater. Native Americans once called it "Minneiska" (meaning "city beautiful"), but it was the Potawatomi Native Americans that named it Wau-be-gan-naw-po-cat, which translates to its modern-day moniker, referring to the white sands at the bottom of the Whitewater Creek. Here you'll also find Whitewater's Indian Mounds Park, a preserved burial ground dating back almost 2,000 years. Native tribes used to hold ceremonies here and prayed to the Great Spirit. A trail system with site information was created to honor this sacred place, and visitors can quietly walk through it to observe the historically significant mounds.

discoverwhitewater.org 



There's Plenty to See and Experience

"Star Wars" memorabilia, a bobblehead bonanza and more.

By Kristine Hansen



SHEBOYGAN'S IMMERSIVE ARTS CENTER IS BIGGER THAN EVER

John Michael Kohler Arts Center's interest in large-scale, art environment installations — crafted by self-taught artists using found objects like driftwood, animal bones, wires, glass and otherwise discarded household objects — hasn't gone unnoticed by the art world.

But only a handful could exhibit at once inside the downtown Sheboygan museum. Come June, however, 17 of the museum's collections of artist-built environments will be on view at the newly-built 56,000-square-foot, three-story Art Preserve. The new building is just a few miles away from the main location and resides adjacent to a restful nature preserve.



Among the artists whose work will be on view are the late Eugene Von Bruenchenhein — who resided in the Milwaukee area and whose work wasn't discovered until after his death in 1983. His little Milwaukee home was brimming with self-made sculptures, crowns and vibrant photography of his wife, Marie. New Orleans-born Dr. Charles Smith's works are another must-see, known for his concrete sculptures commemorating Black lives from slavery to today. artpreserve.org

THEATER AL FRESCO WITH THE AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE

Early June through early October 2021, *Spring Green*

Wherefore art thou if you're not at the 44-year-old outdoor theater company's 1,089-seat Hill Theatre on the edge of your seat during a Shakespeare show or a famed playwright's raucous comedy? It's second only to St. Louis' The Muny as the Midwest's largest outdoor classical theater. Arrive early, with wine and a picnic, to feast on the grounds before walking up the hill to the theatre. americanplayers.org



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY JOHN MICHAEL KOHLER ARTS CENTER, PHOTO BY LIZ LAUREN



OSHKOSH PUBLIC MUSEUM

Through June 20, 2021, Oshkosh

Forty-four years after the first "Star Wars" film graced the silver screen, Wisconsin's largest public display of vintage and original "Star Wars" toys has landed. The "Nostalgia Awakens" exhibit features action figures, playsets and vehicles manufactured by Kenner between 1978 and 1985. Make sure to purchase your tickets in advance.

oshkoshmuseum.org



NATIONAL BOBBLEHEAD HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Open daily, Milwaukee

Did you know the world's largest collection of bobbleheads is on view in Milwaukee's Walker's Point neighborhood? Spanning public figures in the sports world and characters depicted on television shows, the collection clocks in at around 6,500 figures.

bobbleheadhall.com



ART IN THE PARK

Aug. 14-15, 2021, Lake Geneva

Downtown Lake Geneva's Flat Iron Park transforms into an art gallery featuring works by 80 artists across various media, including jewelry, watercolor, fiber art, glass, painting, photography, printmaking, mixed media and pottery. Tiny tykes can play in the "Just for Kids" arts-focused activities area.

genevalakeartsfoundation.org 

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Beth Lipman,
*Still Life
with Detritus*
(detail)

R|A|M



Frank Lloyd Wright's Wisconsin

Walk in the legendary architect's long-ago footsteps at these Wisconsin destinations.

By Shelby Deering

It's fair to say that Frank Lloyd Wright is one of the most famous architects who ever lived, and in Wisconsin we can count ourselves lucky to see his designs all over the state. Born in 1867 and living to the ripe old age of 91, he designed over 1,000 structures in his lifetime, located from Arizona to Pennsylvania and even Japan.

In Wisconsin alone, he designed and built 60 structures, 43 of which are still standing today. Born in Richland Center, he spent portions of his childhood in Iowa, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, but his family eventually moved back to Wisconsin. He always felt rooted here, even when he was living in Chicago or traveling the globe.

In a piece Wright wrote in 1932 for Wisconsin magazine, he sang the praises of his home state, saying, "Wisconsin soil has put sap into my veins. Why, I should love her as I loved my mother, my old grandmother, and as I love my work."

You can follow in the footsteps of Wright by visiting his old haunts around the state, spots that were near and dear to his heart.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY TRAVEL WISCONSIN; COURTESY UW-MADISON ARCHIVES; COURTESY ALDEBARAN FARM



THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Although Wright's time at UW-Madison was brief — he started in 1886 and left the next year (without completing a degree) to pursue his career as an up-and-coming architect — the school still counts him as a noteworthy student. In that time, he joined UW's first fraternity established in 1857 — Phi Delta Theta. During your campus visit, stop by the storied **Bascom** and **North halls** where Wright studied civil engineering.

In 1955, he came back to receive an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts.

For more FLW: Take a drive by the Wright-designed **Eugene Gilmore House** (120 Ely Pl.) that overlooks the UW-Madison campus and Lake Mendota. It's nicknamed "the Airplane House" because of its distinctive, plane-like shape.



SPRING GREEN & ALDEBARAN FARM

Some of Wright's best childhood memories were spent living and working at his uncle's farm outside of Spring Green. Built in 1861, it's where Wright first developed his deep appreciation for nature. Nowadays, the longstanding Aldebaran Farm is an Airbnb, where you'll take in the same view that Wright did back in the day. The well-appointed interiors reflect Wright's trademark style and is even 100% solar-powered.

For more FLW: During your stay, linger over the stunning view of **Jones Valley** that Wright loved, and spot Wright designs at Taliesin, his main homestead, like the **Midway Barns** and the **Romeo and Juliet Windmill**. Take the full four-hour estate tour to see Taliesin in all its glory, including designs connected to his family, such as the **Tan-y-Deri** residence that he designed for his sister and **Hillside**, the school he designed for his aunts.

MADISON & LOCATION OF CHILDHOOD HOME


Wright's fingerprints can be seen all over Madison, and that makes sense, since one of his childhood homes was in the capital city. The family's home, located at 802 E. Gorham St., was demolished to make way for Mayor Adolph H. Kayser's stately brick estate in 1902. Today, you can still view the building (which is now home to Yahara House, a mental health center) and the property where Wright spent his childhood days.

For more FLW: You'd be remiss to not view Wright's posthumously built **Monona Terrace** while in town. Walk up to the rooftop and take in lakeside views and admire Wright's clean-lined architecture. (Currently, the interior is only open for private events, but check back for when they offer guided tours again.) Other Madison designs include the **Robert Lamp House** (22 N. Butler St.) and the **First Unitarian Society Meeting House** (900 University Bay Dr.).



RICHLAND CENTER & POSSIBLE BIRTHPLACE

Head toward Richland Center, in western Wisconsin, to see **Richland Center** to see where Wright first came into the world. Historians aren't exactly sure of the house where he was born, though. There have been seven homes that are thought to be possible birthplaces, and a couple are still standing today. They include **The Weigley House** (on the corner of Church Street and Second Street) and **The Wertz House** (moved to the 700 block of South Park Street), both located downtown.

For more FLW: See the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed **A.D. German Warehouse**, located at 300 S. Church St. Designed in 1915, you can't miss his trademark geometric details gracing the bricks lining the roof. 

Five Bucket List Hikes Within 60 Miles of Madison

This is the best time to get your fresh air fix.

By Shelby Rowe Moyer
Photography by Kevin Revolinski

Kevin Revolinski is your go-to guy for Wisconsin hikes.

A Wisconsin native, Revolinski has written more than a dozen books on topics including guides to craft beer, tent camping and paddling in Wisconsin. A current Madison resident, he first moved to the capital city in 1992 — but left for a few years to teach abroad and in Texas — and has long admired the wildness of the Badger State.

“I love the variety of ecosystems we have here,” he says. “Thousands of miles of rivers and creeks; two Great Lakes and thousands of smaller ones; rare bogs and fens; and special State Natural Areas; and, of course, the dramatic landscape left behind by the glaciers of the Ice Age. And all of it is so accessible while sometimes seemingly so remote.”

The third edition of his “60 Hikes Within 60 Miles: Madison” guidebook recently published, with the inclusion of five new hikes. He wrote the first edition in 2007, and says each version includes hikes that are a “little bit better or less traveled — less familiar.”

A segment of the Ice Age Trail was lost to the public when the landowner took back an easement in the middle of it, but Revolinski said the new edition includes an even nicer trail loop near Merrimac, and it’s one of his favorites.

Sixty hikes are a lot of hikes, so if you’re looking for a pared-down list, here it is — Revolinski’s top five.



#1

“I love the 18-mile **Ice Age Trail segment from Merrimac to Devil’s Lake**, up over both bluffs, and then back over a moraine on its way to Parfrey’s Glen. It’s a demanding but rewarding trek, with the option to shorten it or take two days with some camping at the state park in the middle.”

Location: About 50 miles north and slightly west of Madison, across the Wisconsin River.

Difficulty: Moderate to difficult.

Distance: Up to 18.2 miles; one-way, but three miles on road creates a loop of 21.1 miles.

Traffic: Light, but potentially moderate to heavy with Devil’s Lake State Park bluff areas.

Wheelchair Access: Only a shoreline portion at Devil’s Lake State Park.

Pets: Leashed dogs allowed.



#2

"The trails of **Cherokee Marsh** are close to my home, and I am often out there. In minutes I can get to the trail and be out there among cranes and deer."

***Note:** There are two segments of this trail system: Cherokee Marsh North and Cherokee Marsh South. Both are relatively similar in terms of trail distance and foot traffic, although the south portion is not wheelchair accessible.*

Location: Right at the city limits on the northeast side, at the end of Sherman Avenue.

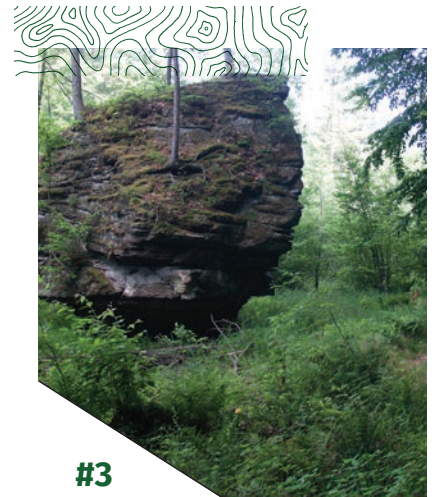
Distance: 3.2-mile loop.

Difficulty: Easy to moderate.

Traffic: Light

Wheelchair Access: Restrooms and some trails.

Pets: No dogs.



#3

"**Rocky Arbor State Park** has a certain Jurassic Park quality with the rock formations and abundant ferns. No dinosaurs, though. Use your imagination."

Location: Fifty-nine miles north, at the northwest edge of Wisconsin Dells.

Difficulty: Moderate to difficult.

Distance: 1.1-mile loop.

Traffic: Light.

Wheelchair Access: None.

Pets: Leashed dogs.



#4

"**Governor Dodge State Park** has a large trail network, so I can hike as long as I want. Plus, the park's Lost Canyon and waterfall are the highlights of a day there."

Location: Just under 60 miles west of Madison in Dodgeville, off of Highway 23.

Difficulty: Moderate.

Distance: 8.8-mile loop.

Traffic: Light.

Wheelchair Access: .25-mile asphalt trail to Stephens Fall overlook.

Pets: Leashed dogs with off-leash pet swim areas.



#5

"**Donald County Park** is another great hike, with a trout stream; abundant wildflowers; some rock outcrops; and, in fall, apple trees."


Location: About 16 miles west of Madison, outside of Mount Horeb.

Difficulty: Moderate with a few steep areas.

Distance: 4.5-mile figure eight.

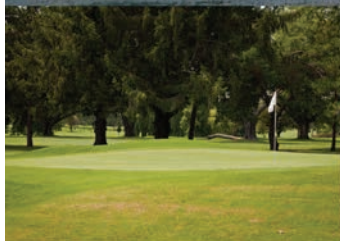
Traffic: Light.

Wheelchair Access: None.

Pets: Dogs require a daily or annual fee and must be on a leash. 



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JULY 30TH - 31ST

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4 Best Small Town Getaways

Some of Wisconsin's best places to visit are quiet, quaint and easily driveable.

Where will you go next?

We couldn't wait to share with you these four picturesque burgs that boast delicious food, excellent shopping and one-of-a-kind events. Who doesn't love an amazing hidden gem, free of tourists? Before you visit, though, be sure to do a little online perusing to see if there are any COVID-related hindrances.

Heart of the Driftless VIROQUA

Coulee culture.

BY MEGAN ROESSLER

Wisconsin's Driftless Area is truly unique. Here, steep, rugged hills are punctuated by cold, clear trout streams that run through valleys left behind when glacial drifts flattened the rest of the state 31,500 years ago. Hidden among these hills is Viroqua: a tiny town with a population of just 4,500. Despite its size, Viroqua has charisma, culture and cuisine all its own and has the makings of a perfect weekend getaway.

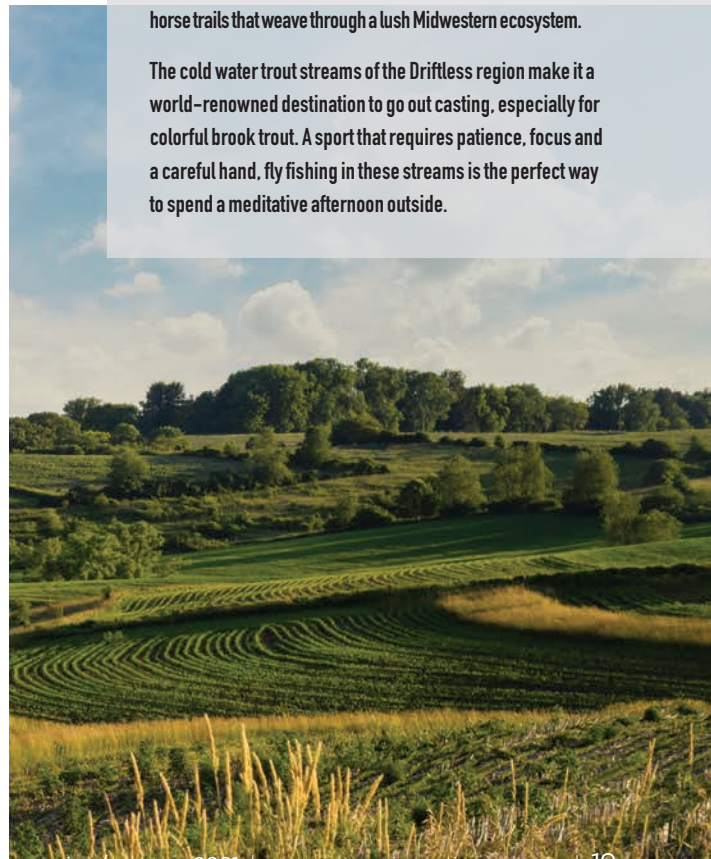
Start your day with a fuel up at the flagship location of Kickapoo Coffee. A garage-style door opens the café to picnic table seating outside. Next, a stroll down Main Street, which has small-town charm in spades, offers something for everyone. Anglers can stop by the Driftless Angler, which serves as an outlet for fly-fishing clothing, gear and more. Knitters can delight in hand-dyed wools and knitting supplies at Ewetopia Fiber Shop. Bookworms can sate their intellectual appetite at Driftless Books and Music, a bookstore with a truly vast collection that specializes in rare and antique finds. A trip to the indoor Viroqua Public Market to browse arts, crafts and foodstuffs will round out the afternoon, and a stop at Wisco Pop! to sip a soda made from local, organic ingredients makes for the perfect afternoon treat.

For dinner, hit up the home base of Luke Zahm — who you may recognize from his freshman season hosting “Wisconsin Foodie” — in an understated storefront on Viroqua's Main Street. There, The Driftless Café humbly serves lunch, dinner, pizza and brunch made from the finest local organic meats and vegetables. Rest up at the quaint Coulee Cabins, a short jaunt up Highway 14, to enjoy an authentic log cabin experience or stay at the historic Viroqua Heritage Inn to be close to the quiet, comforting hum of downtown.

NURTURING NATURE

For those who are looking to amble around the Driftless region's landscapes, there are plenty of outdoor sights and activities. Three Chimneys and Monument Rock are spectacular examples of the region's unique geology — both are remnants of a long-gone undersea mountain range. Nearby Duck Egg County Forest is perfect for a quick scenic hike, and offers both pedestrian and horse trails that weave through a lush Midwestern ecosystem.

The cold water trout streams of the Driftless region make it a world-renowned destination to go out casting, especially for colorful brook trout. A sport that requires patience, focus and a careful hand, fly fishing in these streams is the perfect way to spend a meditative afternoon outside.



Creative Underground in MINERAL POINT

Arts abound in this historic town.

BY NICOLE GRUTER

Nestled within southern Wisconsin's bucolic rolling hills lies a small town big on attractions. What began as a mining town in the 1820s, Mineral Point has transformed into an enchanting destination for lovers of culture, early American history and old-world charm.

The town's creative flair can be experienced through its thriving art scene wherein artists live, create and sell exquisite works in every medium. From rustic folk to fine art, the variety and craftsmanship are inspiring. Gallery nights (normally held the first weekends in April, June, August and December) invite visitors to shop over 20 galleries until 9 p.m. And each October, curious visitors get a behind-the-scenes look at how artists create their work when the vivacious artistic community opens its galleries and studios for the Fall Art Tour.

Mineral Point's strong historic preservation movement is highlighted within the area's lodging. Beautifully refurbished boutique hotels and rustic homes-turned-bed-and-breakfasts provide uniquely eclectic choices for where to rest your head.

The first city in Wisconsin listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Mineral Point's exceptional architecture can be fully admired during the Historic Preservation Celebration held every first weekend in May. An incredible array of historic sites are packed into just a few square miles. Pendarvis State Historic Site, a collection of restored buildings from early Wisconsin's mining community, the Mineral Point Railroad Depot (Wisconsin's oldest) and the gorgeous Mineral Point Opera House are but a few examples of how this distinctive city preserves its past with purpose.

Along the downtown streets and beyond, you'll find distinct culinary delights, including Red Rooster's traditional pasties (stemming from the area's Cornish immigrants); Popolo's wood-fired pizzas; and of course, Wisconsin's cornerstone: internationally award-winning Hook's cheese, made right in Mineral Point. Many restaurants also feature locally-sourced meats and greens, along with the occasional local musician.



CHECK IT OUT

MINERAL POINT BLUES & ROOTS FESTIVAL

This late August event has expanded to two days and two stages of national and regional musical acts. The festival benefits the Mineral Point Historical Society and the Mineral Point Music Boosters. Bring a chair and enjoy fantastic entertainment performed on the beautiful grounds of Orchard Lawn, an authentically restored Italianate mansion. No carry-ins are allowed, but there's no need with the on-site beer, wine, hard cider and food trucks.

SHAKE RAG ALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Ever wanted to try blacksmithing, print-making or creative writing? Immerse yourself firsthand in Mineral Point's artistic culture.

The center offers a huge array of workshops and custom retreats in the visual, performing and literary arts for both adults and children. Historic on-site lodging and site rentals include a log cabin, the refurbished Coach House and an 1850's cut-stone cottage. Lush gardens with a natural spring-fed stream inspire the imagination.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY MAGIC LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY; TRAVEL WISCONSIN

Food & Fun in PRINCETON

The good life in Green Lake County.

BY MARY BERGIN

A tiny sign says “cinnamon roll,” but this is no pudgy pedestrian pastry, slathered with vanilla icing. What we have is croissant dough, twisted and immersed in sugary cinnamon.

This lighter version of decadence shows up in Princeton, population 1,200, in Green Lake County. The hamlet is home to Renard’s European Bakeshop, which also makes cardamom braids, lattice-shaped fougasse and a black currant tart. All this elevates Renard’s from bakery to patisserie in rural Wisconsin.

Main Street may be ground zero for shopping elsewhere, but Princeton’s can’t-miss retail area is three blocks of Water Street, where Renard’s neighbors include cute boutiques with one-word names: Daisey, Twigs, Twister, Shiloh.

It’s a pleasant day trip, but outdoor lovers will make it more. Follow Highway 23 (and the Fox River) four miles west, for a Northwoods escape at Mecan River Outfitters and Lodge. Bike, canoe or kayak on your own — or book a guided tour. Relax in front of the pine-log lodge’s 35-foot-tall fireplace and nurse a cocktail. Dine on hearty fare from steaks to seafood. Snooze in a rustic cabin or homey lodge bedroom.

East of Princeton, you can golf in Green Lake, at Tuscumbia (Wisconsin’s oldest course) and the deep bunkers of Lawsonia. Two perfect places to unwind afterward: Norton’s (a lakeside supper club since 1948) and Thrasher Opera House for music.

Count Greenway House, an 1880 mansion, is among Green Lake’s grand bed-and-breakfast inns. Roomy bedrooms are named after bygone-era resorts, but the lake — the deepest inside of Wisconsin — remains as gorgeous as ever.



CHECK IT OUT

Up to 180 vendors fill City Park on Saturdays for the Princeton Flea Market, late April to mid-October. That makes it among the largest flea markets in Wisconsin. For sale are in-season produce and bedding plants, lawn and home décor, handicrafts and artwork and new and vintage merchandise. Expect an eclectic array of jewels to junk and noshing (cheese curds to doughnuts to eggrolls), 6 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. Note: No pooches allowed.

Whooping Crane viewing on the Black Bridge Nature Trail



AMISH ACREAGE

In and near southern Green Lake County are Old Order Amish communities whose residents live simply, using horse-drawn transportation and kerosene instead of cars and electricity. Look for roadside “for sale” signs outside of farms, especially near the burgs of Dalton and Kingston. Plants, bakery, cheeses, candy and woodworking are specialties at these businesses, which are closed on Sundays. Download a map of exactly where to go at princetonwi.com/shp and prepare for a peaceful, picturesque country drive.

What's Poppin' in PEPIN

Lakeside beauty.

BY KEVIN REVOLINSKI

NOT far south from where the Mississippi River leaves Minnesota and becomes Wisconsin's western border, a narrowing of the valley constricts the waters to form Lake Pepin, a beautiful 22-mile-long lake between the river bluffs that's never more than two miles wide. Here on its shores you'll find the perfectly walkable little town of Pepin.

Also known for being the birthplace of children's book author Laura Ingalls Wilder, Pepin hosts a museum and gift shop honoring her in its downtown. And the Little House Wayside Cabin, a replica of her childhood home which was the setting for "Little House in the Big Woods," sits on three acres, seven miles northwest of town.

For breakfast, face the day with caffeine and a pastry at The 404 Coffee Shop or get the full from-scratch breakfast at Homemade Café. A jaunt to Villa Bellezza, a quaint vineyard seemingly transplanted from Italy, offers samples of their more than two dozen wines and tours from vineyard to tasting room. Their restaurant Il Forno serves pasta, panini and wood-fired pizzas. Sunday brunches bring an Italian buffet and mimosas to go with your cannoli.

Other dining delights include the guilty pleasures at the homemade fudge and ice cream shop attached to the Garden Pub. (Have a sip at their Tiki Bar, too.) Walk to the corner of the same block for local artisan crafts at The Tin Boutique.

The finest dining in town is at the aptly-named Harbor View Café, with its upscale seasonal menu and lengthy wine list in a casual setting. The modest deck at The Pickle Factory is a nice perch for a sundowner and some tavern fare as you look across the lake to the bluffs in Minnesota.

Speaking of the lake, Captain Bob, one of the hosts at the town's Harbor Hill Inn, commands sailing excursions on his 32-foot Catalina 320 — including sunset and starlight cruises.

After your busy day, rest your head at the aforementioned Harbor Hill Inn, an 1870 Queen Anne-style Victorian home a block away from Pepin's marina. **ew**



THE LONG AND WINE-DING ROAD

This stretch of the Mississippi also has its own wine trail, and in addition to Pepin's own Villa Belleza, there are two other stops nearby. Ten minutes north in Stockholm is Maiden Rock Winery & Cidery, an 80-acre farm and orchard with a tasting room. To the south, up in the bluffs above Alma, is Danzinger Winery, an 18-acre vineyard using all its own grapes for an assortment of reds and whites, ranging from dry to sweet dessert wines.

A BEAUTIFUL BYWAY

Pepin is but one of 33 towns along Wisconsin's 250-mile segment of the Great River Road National Scenic Byway. From Prescott to Potosi with La Crosse right in the middle, State Highway 35 (and part of 133) slips between bluffs and river with a variety of regional parks, small-town charms, and scenic overlooks. Visitor centers at either end offer ideas, and free maps are available online at wigrr.com.

Lake Pepin

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PHOTO: "SPINE ROAD" IN DOWNTOWN BELOIT

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LEARNING BY DOING:

9 Educational Excursions to Excite and Delight Your Kids

By Jessica Steinhoff



School isn't the only place for kids to feed their minds and cultivate a lifelong love of learning. Educational opportunities abound when you travel, especially if you can tie part of the trip to your child's hobbies and interests. Here's a collection of Wisconsin attractions tailor-made for a wide range of youngsters, from avid readers and budding scientists to fans of animals and gourmet snacks.

FOR THE FAIRYTALE FANATIC

Queens in ice castles and boys who climb beanstalks, wizards on broomsticks and creatures that talk, gingerbread houses and mermaids that sing: If these are a few of your kid's favorite things, make a beeline to Sheboygan's **Bookworm Gardens**. Inspired by children's books, each nature-filled nook in this botanical garden brims with opportunities to learn. The fairytale and fantasy genres are well represented with tributes to "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" and the "Magic School Bus" series. But be sure to enjoy the poetry and nonfiction as well. Whether you search among the koi fish in McElligot's Pool or pen haikus in the Japanese tea house, your imagination will thank you.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: COURTESY TRAVEL WISCONSIN, COURTESY BRISTOLE RENAISSANCE FAIRE, COURTESY VISIT MILWAUKEE, COURTESY TRAVEL WISCONSIN



Bristol Renaissance Faire



Milwaukee County Zoo



Discovery World

For more fairytale-fueled fun, head to **Bristol Renaissance Faire** in Kenosha, which offers a Kids Quest until 4 p.m. each day, with sign-up between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Designed for youngsters ages 4 to 10, this half-hour romp involves helping Puss in Boots choose between the life of adventure his pirate pal Sinbad advocates or the life of responsibility espoused by his princess friends, Rapunzel and Penelope. There are plenty of educational opportunities beyond the quest, too, from learning how a jousting match works to discovering the best way to eat a giant turkey leg.

FOR THE ANIMAL ADVOCATE

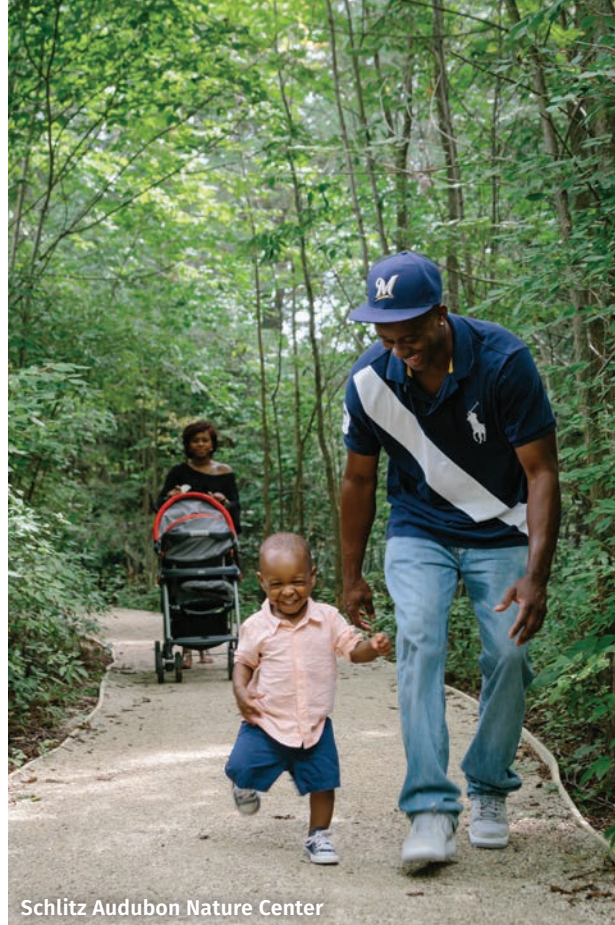
Milwaukee is an ideal destination for little ones who yearn to help animals. First and foremost, it's the home of the **Milwaukee County Zoo**. In addition to housing more than 350 animal species, including giraffes, monkeys, penguins and big cats, this zoo is nationally renowned for its conservation and research programs. With a steam train, a sky glider and an epic playground for ages 2 to 12, it's also the perfect spot for a family safari. Young animal advocates should check out the **Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Kids Conservation Club**, which shares facts about endangered species and how to aid their survival. Club members also get to sponsor one of the zoo's endangered animals and attend exciting educational workshops on site. When you visit, be sure to greet the new two-toed sloth, Nentas, and see if she flirts with Fezzik, a charming male who might become her mate.

For a closer look at local animals and their homes, scamper over to the nearby **Schlitz Audubon Nature Center**, a 185-acre conservation site filled with forests, wetlands, bluffs and Lake Michigan shoreline. Strollers are allowed on many of the hiking trails, which are dotted with nesting boxes for Eastern Bluebirds, as well as on the Mystery Lake boardwalk, where frog sightings are common. Bring your binoculars and you might also spot a hawk, a warbler or even a swan. Before you go, browse the kid-friendly exhibits in the nature center building, especially the one featuring Amelia, the flying squirrel, and a snapping turtle named Emerson.

If you're craving critter cuddles at any point during your trip, the **Sip & Purr Cat Cafe** on Milwaukee's east side can meet your needs. There's coffee, wine and beer for the adults, lemonade for the kids and adoptable felines for everyone to meet. If the timing is right, you might come home with a new pet.

FOR THE YOUNG INVENTOR

If your mini-me loves to invent, design, build or simply tinker, a STEM-focused excursion could be as enjoyable as it is educational. In Green Bay, The Einstein Project's maker workshops are just the place to get the gears turning. Designed to foster curiosity, creativity and confidence, each of these two-hour events at the Brown County **STEM Innovation Center** challenges participants to solve a problem with both their minds and their hands. Upcoming challenges include building a new and improved boat (June 2, 3 or 5) and making a lightbox and



Schlitz Audubon Nature Center



Discovery World



Sip & Purr Cat Cafe

other trinkets that light up (July 7, 8, 10). Kids of all ages are welcome to attend, but those in fourth grade or below must bring along an adult helper. Registration is required.

Future engineers, physicists and innovators of all stripes can also explore their passions at Milwaukee's **Discovery World**, which features interactive exhibits about hybrid vehicles, simple machines, virtual reality and more. Visitors can meet robots and make foam toys at Automation Everywhere, then operate a pneumatic dinosaur

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: COURTESY TRAVEL WISCONSIN, COURTESY VISIT MILWAUKEE, COURTESY FARMWISE, PHOTO BY RYAN PESHMAN


and send messages in morse code at Innovation Station. Many of the exhibits are geared toward school-age kids, but several, like a thrilling one where you can place your hand inside a tornado, are suitable for all ages.

FOR THE PINT-SIZE EPICUREAN

A child with an adventurous palate or celebrity-chef aspirations will likely find **Usinger's** in Milwaukee a delectable treat. Founded in 1880 by an industrious German immigrant, the shop now carries more than 70 varieties of European-style sausage crafted just a few blocks away. Whether your young foodie wants to know how bockwurst differs from weisswurst or how the bologna gets made, a local expert will answer the question with skill and maybe, just maybe, a sample of the goods.



FarmWise

FarmWise, a 35-acre educational farm in Elkhorn, takes an even deeper dive into food's backstory. Here, kids can feed pigs, collect eggs and milk a cow by hand to learn about the care and collaboration that go into organic agriculture. Families can start their learning journey by pitching in with animal care on summer mornings. Pulling weeds, planting seeds and performing other farm chores are also part of the bargain. The work is hard, but founder Bente Goldstein infuses it with fun, including cooking projects and music. Her young apprentices often sing songs from around the world as they work, learning how music is both a storytelling tool and a source of emotional strength. Another option is reserving Goldstein's Airbnb rental, which includes opportunities to meet the animals and hit the barn for some fulfilling early-morning labor. 



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Lavender Lemonade at Avant Cycle Café, Lake Geneva

Part bike shop and part café, this hotspot is a local favorite. You must have a cup of its Lavender Lemonade — do yourself a favor and get a large. It's refreshing with the perfect balance of sweet lavender.



The Douglas at Wickman House, Ellison Bay

Stop by the historic Wickman House restaurant for an ultra-refreshing, "ahhh, that's good" moment. This beauty is concocted with house-infused citrus vodka, honey bourbon, lemon juice, honey water, passion fruit puree and a splash of simple syrup. She tastes as fancy as she looks.



The Crown Mary at Sobelman's, Milwaukee

A "loaded" Bloody Mary with all the garnishes plus a cheeseburger slider on a skewer. Your snit (beer chaser) is a Coronita flipped upside down into the glass. Cheers!



Wisconsin Belgian Red at New Glarus Brewery, New Glarus

Most beer drinkers know Spotted Cow, but this tangy Belgian-style beer lagered in oak tanks pours red with Door County cherries and is a must-try at their hilltop brewery's beer garden.

UNMISSABLE SIPS

From beer and wine to coffee and citrus, the Badger State's got a drink for you. Add these to your bucket list and thank us later.

By Kevin Revolinski



Prairie Fumé at Wollersheim Winery, Prairie du Sac

One of Wisconsin's oldest wineries continues to win awards for Prairie Fumé — a citrusy, semi-dry white wine — and there's no better place to sip some than in sight of the vineyards.



Salted Caramel Latte at Colectivo Coffee, Milwaukee and Madison

The homegrown Wisconsin coffee shop serves up a shot of espresso with Guittard caramel sauce and steamed milk, topping that with smoked sea salt. Get it hot or cold, and grab a few bags of their grounds to-go.



Flaming Coffee at Bayside Tavern, Fish Creek

Burning Gosling's Black Seal 151 Rum, with Grand Marnier, Kahlua and Baileys Irish Cream — plus dashes of sugar caramelized by the flame and shakes of cinnamon and nutmeg. Lastly, of course, a crown of whipped cream. It's a spectacle, and it'll certainly have you coming back for more.

Made in Wisconsin

Exploring a destination isn't solely about snapping photos. What about picking up souvenirs that are good enough to eat — literally?

By Kristine Hansen



Made at a fourth-generation Wisconsin Dells family farm, Roots Chocolates weave in ingredients like lavender grown nearby while honoring Wisconsin's most famous drink — the Old Fashioned. rootschocolates.com



The next best thing to a slice of cherry pie made from Door County grown cherries is sprinkling Country Ovens' Cherry De-Lite Sprinkles on literally everything. countryovens.com



Emmanuel's Mix is a Milwaukee mom's switch-up from blah trail mixes to one that weaves in rice cereal, pretzels and jumbo pecans. emmanuelsmix.com



When you can't slap a slice of cheese on a cracker, the organic Wisconsin Cheddar Oyster crackers from Potter's Crackers will certainly satisfy. potterscrackers.com

Check it Out!



Nordic-Style Eats in Milwaukee

Inside the new 196-room Renaissance Milwaukee West Hotel is the Eldr + Rime, a Nordic-inspired restaurant with a very hygge-style menu, including Swedish meatball sliders, grilled shrimp toast or venison tartare to kick off the meal — plus comfort-driven entrees, such as pork schnitzel with fried egg and "beer vinegar pearls." Pair great food with dangling greenery and wicker light fixtures for a memorable night out. eldrandrime.com



There's a New Winery in Town

From the owners of Lewis Station Winery comes the newly-opened Stable Rock Winery & Distillery in downtown Jefferson, tucked inside a stable (hence the name!). Sip a flight from your perch at a beer garden table imported from Munich, Germany, while overlooking the Rock River. stablerockwinery.com 



FROM LAOS WITH LOVE

Madison's Lao Laan-Xang has been a local favorite for more than 30 years.

By Kevin Revolinski

Bordering on Vietnam, China, and Thailand, Laos often flies under the radar when it comes to their cuisine. Not so in Madison.

Lao Laan-Xang first opened on Madison's west side in 1990, proudly serving Lao food in a city always willing to try something new. In 1997, the eatery moved to Williamson Street into a two-story building with a brick façade that blends right into the eclectic, mixed-residential Willy Street neighborhood. Since then, it's become a veritable institution, prompting the owners to open a second location in 2005, a mile east, on Atwood Avenue.


Both are run by members of the Inthachith family. Founders Christine Inthachith and her mother, Bounyong, fled Laos in 1980, along with Christine's three siblings. The family spent three months in a refugee camp in Thailand, and another three in the Philippines, until Catholic Relief Services found them a sponsor family in Madison. Ten years old at the time, Christine, like the rest of her family, didn't speak a word of English. She went to school on Madison's east side, and a decade later, while still earning her university degrees, she looked to the restaurant industry for an opportunity for her mother to use her great skills in the kitchen — thus, Lao Laan-Xang was born.

Here you'll find several sumptuous curries crafted with herbs, spices and warming chilies. Lao Laan-Xang created their own quirky heat thermometer — timid, careful, adventurous or native Lao — so guests can specify how spicy they want their meal. And it's served up with rice. Rice is a cornerstone of Lao cuisine and is often called "sticky rice" for the way it clumps together.



It's something any first-timer should be sure to try.

One menu item is not only a signature of the restaurant, but of the city itself: their curry squash has made several "best of Madison" lists. At neighborhood festivals, crowds wait in long lines at the restaurant's food cart for a serving of this masterpiece, which features locally-grown acorn and butternut squash, zucchini and Thai eggplant in a creamy, coconut milk-based curry sauce, with a choice of tofu or chicken.

Another must-try is Thum Som, a salad made from shredded green papaya pounded in a mortar with garlic, chilies, shrimp paste, tamarind, lime, cherry tomatoes, Thai eggplant and fish sauce. It's a great counterpoint to the fried chicken that comes with it. 

PHOTOS BY TP PHOTOGRAPHY





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THE EVOLUTION OF A LATIN CITY

A stunning array of Latin culture can be experienced within Milwaukee's restaurant and arts scene.

By Carmen A. Murguía

I am the granddaughter of Mexican immigrants who arrived during World War I. My father, Dr. Filberto Ramon Murguía, came to the U.S. from Michoacán, Mexico, in 1954 and fought in the Korean War before he was even a citizen. My mother, who stayed home to raise me and my four siblings in the Sherman Park neighborhood, taught us what it means to be an activist, and we watched both our parents fight for equal rights for all Latinos.



I'm starting here, with my family history, because to talk about the evolution of Milwaukee's Latin community, and its influence on the city is to talk about my family. Our pride for our culture runs thick as blood, as I know it does for the roughly 160,000 Hispanic people that now live in Milwaukee.

In the early 1900s, the Mexican Revolution sparked a wave of Spanish-speaking people to relocate here for economic opportunities and political asylum. The Great Depression forced thousands of Latin settlers to return home, but World War II again created a huge demand for food and agriculture workers.

Immigrants from British Honduras, Mexico, Jamaica and the Bahamas — whose recruited labor helped save the U.S. from food shortages — found themselves grappling with major inequities.

The unmet promise of a new, fulfilling life in Wisconsin ignited years of fighting for equality that lasted well into the 1970s. The inequities Hispanic people have faced, however, haven't made the local community any less vibrant. In fact, there are two areas of the city that are particularly rich with Latin culture.




Mexican Fiesta

Walker's Point, on Milwaukee's south side, and Holton Street, on the city's east side, have areas that add to the city's cultural diversity.

The east side is home to several long-standing and significant businesses, namely Pueblo Foods; Café Corazon; Club 99; and St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, which has Spanish mass every Sunday. Many Puerto Ricans who migrated here in the 1950s continue to call this area home.

Walker's Point is widely recognized as a hotspot for celebrated restaurants like Botanas; Conejitos; Cielito Lindo; and Café El Sol, which is famous for its Mexican Friday fish fry.

During the summer, Milwaukee hosts three of the largest festivals of their kind in the nation: Mexican Fiesta, Puerto Rican Family Festival and the Cuban Day Street Festival. Traditional food, stimulating music and an elaborate swirl of dancers delight locals and visitors year after year. They're also beautiful ways to learn more about each culture and the people who have worked so hard and are proud to have made a life here in Wisconsin.

So, whether you are a history buff or someone who wants to travel to Latin America and the Caribbean without leaving the Midwest, Milwaukee is your destination. I am very proud of being a second generation of Mexican descent living in Milwaukee. It's taught me to value my ever-evolving culture, heritage, traditions (new and old), foods, music and family. 



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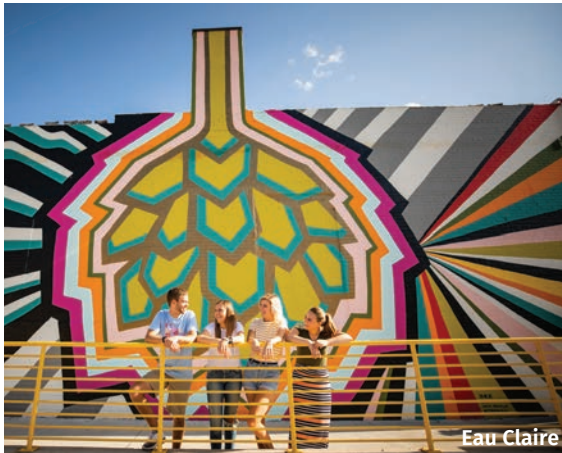


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