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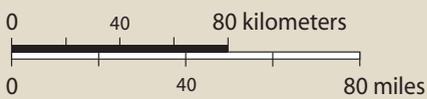


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FEATURES

20

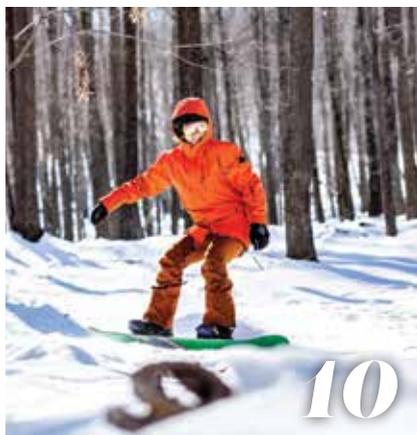
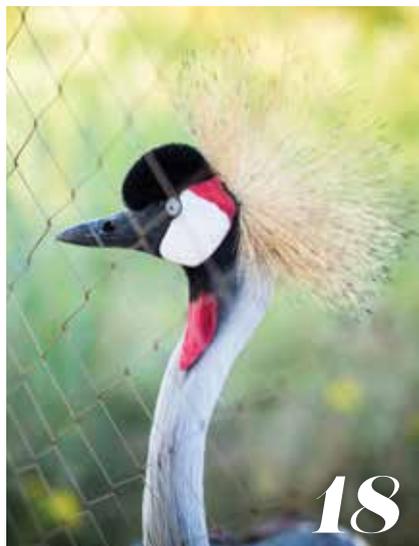
Welcome to the Apostle Islands

A memorable vacation awaits at this stunning group of 22 islands.

25

Your Retreat is a Road Trip Away

These ultimate destinations offer spas, nature activities and tons of family fun.



NOTEWORTHY

10 The Insider

Where to stay, shop and play; plus, wintry fun.

12 Arts & Entertainment

A flurry of festivals, meaningful museum exhibits, interesting art and more.

16 On Our Radar

Five celebrated artists share their passions and cultures.

FIELD GUIDE

18 Fall is for the Birds

Autumn is prime time in Wisconsin for birdwatching.

THE DISH

30 Word of Mouth

What's your cheese personality?

31 Sip & Savor

A new supper club, plus brats and a grape stomp.

PERSPECTIVE

32 Walking the Geneva Lake Shore Path

This storied trail has Native American history, millionaire mansions and views galore.

IN EVERY ISSUE

4 You Are Here

8 From the Editor

31 Souvenir

ON THE COVER: The sea caves at the Apostle Islands in Bayfield, courtesy Travel Wisconsin.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY ANGLERS HAVEN VIA FACEBOOK, GRANITE PEAK, DAIRY FARMERS OF WISCONSIN, TRAVEL WISCONSIN

experience
WISCONSIN

Fall/Winter 2021 Edition

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FROM THE EDITOR



Painterly Views

When I saw the Apostle Islands for the first time, I had a “I can’t believe this is in Wisconsin” moment. If you’ve ever had one of those, it’s this wonderful realization (in this case) that something so beautiful and lush is *within* our state borders. Even better, you can

experience it with people you adore.

That’s what the Apostle Islands has to offer. Any season is a great time to go, but fall and winter are particularly special — when the leaves on the trees look like citrine gemstones or the plunging temperatures have turned the rock formations into glittering ice caves. The islands, and the city of Bayfield on the mainland, have tons of experiences (you will definitely find me dogsledding with Wolfsong Adventures in Mushing one of these days). Get a feel for the islands yourself on P. 20.

But beyond ultimate destinations — we also feature some fantastic resorts on P. 25 — there’s much to do in Wisconsin this time of year. We’ve got a plethora of festivals, a myriad of nature centers where you can birdwatch and a 20-plus-mile footpath that wraps around Geneva Lake.

In other words, its adventure time, and we’re excited for you to take full advantage.

Have any tips? As always, reach out to me with any suggestions or hidden treasures at: smoyer@ntmediagroup.com.

Shelby Rowe Moyer
Assistant Editorial Director

@shelbyrowemoyer

DON'T MISS:



Itinerary Ideas
P. 10



Fun Festivals
P. 12



The Power of Art
P. 16



Your Cheese Personality
P. 30



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HEADSHOT BY HILLARY SCHAVE | TOP TO BOTTOM: DUBBEL DUTCH HOTEL, CHERYL CARLSON PHOTOGRAPHY, ROSY PETRI, DAIRY FARMERS OF WISCONSIN

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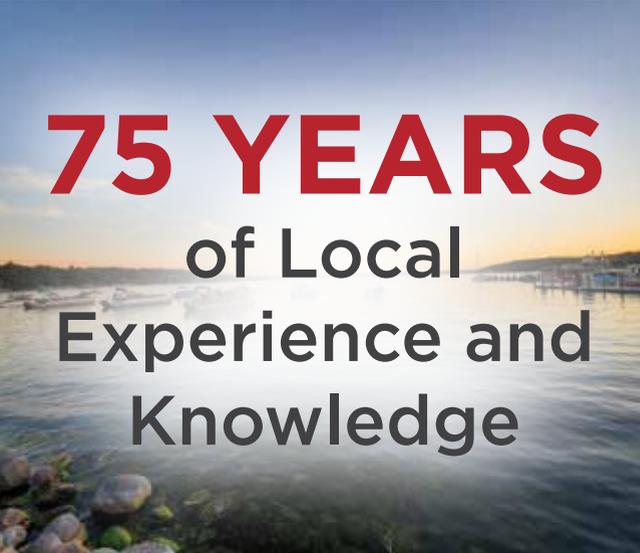
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Need Some Inspiration for Your Itinerary?

Use these locations as a launching point for your next jaunt to the Badger State.

By Shayna Mace and Shelby Rowe Moyer



Stay

DUBBEL DUTCH HOTEL, MILWAUKEE

Built in 1898 as a townhouse-like “double house” for two bachelor brothers, this former private residence has been renovated and restored as a 17-room hotel. The renovation was completed just last year, and though it’s been updated with modern amenities, many of its 19th-century detail remains. Drop off your bags in your room and then head to either the Tavern, Parlor or Dining Room with a house-made cocktail or coffee. Better yet, the Dubbel Dutch is close to both downtown and the Lake Michigan waterfront, making it an easy starting point for the day’s activities. thedubbeldutch.com

Shop

LARSON’S GENERAL, LA CROSSE

With an environmentally-friendly bent, home products abound at this store in downtown La Crosse. At Larson’s General store, find an array of eco-forward products from biodegradable hair ties, to bamboo kitchen tools, to shampoo bars for people and pets alike. larsonsgeneral.com



ARCADIA BOOKS, SPRING GREEN

Named after the 1993 Tom Stoppard comedy/drama “Arcadia” — due to the owner’s American Players Theatre connection — this bookstore is tucked on a quaint corner in downtown Spring Green, an idyllic setting for an equally pleasant book-browsing experience. Find current bestsellers, a robust kid’s book section and friendly staff on hand for book recommendations. Rivaling the book selection is the on-premise Paper Crane Coffeehouse with an array of tasty coffee drinks, beer and wine, and grab-and-go salads and sandwiches. readinutopia.com



Play

GRANITE PEAK, WAUSAU

A year-round destination, Granite Peak truly shines in the winter when the ground is blanketed with snow and the chair lifts are ferrying skiers to the top of the 700-foot peak. Shred your way through the 68 runs with snow guaranteed for roughly six months of the year. Lodging is available just a few minutes away in Wausau, where visitors can expand their outdoor adventures with hiking, fat tire biking and snowmobile trails; shop the plentiful boutiques; and wine and dine at breweries, wineries and restaurants. skigranitepeak.com

SAND VALLEY GOLF RESORT, NEKOOSA

The landscape of this golf destination is enough to evoke poetry. One of the newest additions to Wisconsin’s golf resorts is built amongst majestic sand dunes in Nekoosa and offers three courses: Sand Valley, Mammoth Dunes and The Sandbox. Beyond its picturesque courses, Sand Valley also has luxurious lodging and multiple dining options — so you can stay for the day or make the resort your entire vacation destination.

Golf enthusiasts should also keep their eyes out for the opening of The Lido Golf Club, slated for completion in 2023. The Lido was originally built in Long Island, New York, in 1914 and was touted by golf historians as one of the greatest golf courses ever created. Its life, however, was short-lived, because the U.S. Navy took over the site and demolished it during WWII. It’s currently being recreated here in the Midwest, and Sand Valley resort guests will have limited access to the 850-acre par-72 course. sandvalley.com, thelido.com

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: DUBBEL DUTCH HOTEL, COURTESY GRANITE PEAK DAHLI DURLEY



Icy Delights

Add ice skating to the growing list of perks at Wisconsin resorts and hotels.

By Kristine Hansen

Capitalizing on the chilliest of the four seasons — with an eye on making things cozy in a Norman Rockwell sort of way — you can rent skates and glide along to your heart's delight at **The American Club's** third-annual Winter Wonderland experience, starting in November. A hot chocolate bar joins not only ice skating but also ice bowling, cross-country skiing and curling. At its sister property — **Lodge Kohler**, located in Green Bay across from Lambeau Field and in the Titledown District — is a rink, too. The Lodge also has a snow hill for tubing, providing an additional rush of adrenaline.



Lake Geneva boasts a bevy of wintry attractions or activities at several of its hotels, including a skating rink at **The Mountain Top at Grand Geneva Resort**,

typically opening in mid-December. You can also get your skate on at the **Adventure Center at Geneva National Resort & Club**, and then check out its Igloo Experience, opening around Nov. 1.

And in downtown Madison, **The Edgewater's** Friday fish fry is the perfect place to refuel after skating a few laps on its rink (typically open December through late February/early March). cw



FROM TOP: KOHLER CO., COURTESY GRAND GENEVA, COURTESY EDGEWATER



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



An Entertainment Revival

Festivals galore, thought-provoking art and events to fill your fall and winter.

By Kristine Hansen



Fun Fests



SUMMERFEST

Sept. 2-4, 9-11 and 16-18, Milwaukee

The signature lakefront live music festival is split into three weekends this year instead of its normal 10-day run during the summer. Acts on its 11 stages include Chance the Rapper, the Dave Matthews Band, Megan Thee Stallion, Twenty One Pilots, Gabby Barrett and Sheryl Crow. Plus, there's a kick-off concert event on Sept. 1. Food and drink options rival State Fair cuisine, so come hungry! summerfest.com

HARVEST FESTIVAL AND STREET ART AUCTION

Sept. 18, Sturgeon Bay

Along downtown Sturgeon Bay's Third Avenue are a classic car show, live music and food booths in perfect pitch with fall's pumpkin and apple harvest in nearby Door County. If you fall in love with any of the public art sculptures featuring a cherries theme (an ode to the county's famed cherry crops) be sure to bid on it at the Cherries Jubilee auction. sturgeonbay.net



TOP AND BOTTOM LEFT: COURTESY SUMMERFEST | BOTTOM RIGHT: DESTINATION STURGEON BAY



WARRENS CRANBERRY FESTIVAL
Sept. 24-26, Warrens

Did you know Wisconsin is the country's top cranberry-producing state? Autumn is when these berries are harvested and celebrated in northern Wisconsin. Walk into a cranberry marsh (wearing waders), watch a parade, peruse the countless booths and enjoy cranberry-infused foods (cranberry cream puffs, anyone?). cranfest.com



OKTOBERFEST USA
Sept. 30-Oct. 2, La Crosse

Since 1961, this German-inspired fest has been in downtown La Crosse, making it the longest-running such festival in the Midwest. The traditional dress of dirndls (tight bodice dress with a gathered skirt) and lederhosens (leather shorts with suspenders) aren't required, but definitely encouraged! In need of more than a weekend of fun? Visit the website for more Oktoberfest-related events throughout September and October. oktoberfestusa.com

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WINTER ART FAIR OFF THE SQUARE

Nov. 13-14, Madison

An offshoot of the summer's Art Fair off the Square, this one shifts indoors to the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center and features 135 exhibiting artists representing mediums like photography, painting, woodworking, sculpture and jewelry — courtesy of artists like Lynette Redner (work pictured above). artcraftwis.org



OLD WORLD CHRISTMAS MARKET

Dec. 3-12, Elkhart Lake

Hosted at the sprawling Osthoff Resort on the shores of this town's namesake lake, this authentic Christmas Market is modeled after those in Germany. Shop for handcrafted gifts like Czech blown-glass ornaments, paired with German fare such as schnitzel and glühwein. osthoff.com



LAKE GENEVA WINTERFEST

Feb. 2-5, Lake Geneva

Instead of dinner cruises on a warm summer night, the town's big draw come winter are icicles and snow — and a hot-cocoa crawl — as part of Lake Geneva Winterfest. Another bonus: viewing the U.S. National Snow Sculpting Championship, which means you're seeing only the best of the best in ice sculpting. visitlakegeneva.com/winterfest



LAKE SUPERIOR ICE FESTIVAL

Jan. 28-29, Superior

Stroll through this town hugging Lake Superior, the coldest and deepest of the Great Lakes (1,332 feet in depth), and admire an array of stunningly crafted ice sculptures. Festival planners have some exciting ice-related activities planned for the 2022 event, including a snow slide. Visit the website for emerging details. lakesuperioricefestival.com

Editor's Picks

"WASHED AWARE: ART TO SAVE THE SEA"

Through Sept. 26, daily, Green Bay

Blending stunning art with a conservation-minded message, this exhibition at the Green Bay Botanical Garden showcases eight water-dwelling animal sculptures (such as a parrot fish and river otter) crafted from the ocean's trash. gbbg.org



NORTHWOODS ART TOUR

Oct. 8-10

Vilas, Iron, Lincoln and Oneida counties

Step into 38 Northwoods artist studios and galleries for a glimpse into Wisconsin's creative minds, thanks to artist demos of their painting, sculpting, jewelry-making and other mediums, matched with stunning foliage that lights up rural backroads this time of year. northwoodsarttour.com

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ART BY LYNETTE REDNER, OSTHOFF RESORT; CARLA MINSKY; JOHN OATES PHOTOGRAPHY; JOE POLECHECK PHOTOGRAPHY

“AMERICANS IN SPAIN: PAINTING AND TRAVEL, 1820-1920”

Through Oct. 3 (Thursday-Sunday), Milwaukee

The Milwaukee Art Museum unites American Impressionist painters — like Mary Cassatt and John Singer Sargent — with Spanish Old Masters’ works on loan from Madrid’s Museo del Prado in this exhibition, showcasing how Spain served as a muse. mam.org



“TITANIC: THE WISCONSIN CONNECTION”

Through Oct. 13, Oshkosh

When the Titanic set sail in 1912, more than 50 people onboard were either from Wisconsin or were journeying to the state as immigrants. In-depth research about these passengers is unveiled at this exhibit at the Oshkosh Public Museum. More than 100 artifacts — including a \$10 bill from a passenger that was returning to Merrill, Wisconsin — will be on display, many of which have never been publicly viewed. oshkoshmuseum.org

TURTLE ISLAND QUARTET WITH CYRUS CHESTNUT

Oct. 5, Eau Claire

Black jazz pianist Cyrus Chestnut and the Grammy Award-winning Turtle Island Quartet’s one-night performance at the Pablo Center at the Confluence proves the depth of their sound, from classic artists like Bach to Appalachian Mountain blues. pablocenter.org

“HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE” IN CONCERT WITH THE MADISON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Feb. 4-5, Madison

This family-friendly night at Overture Center screens the 2005 “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire” film (based on J.K. Rowling’s 2000 novel), while a live orchestra performs Patrick Doyle’s accompanying score.

madisonsymphony.org



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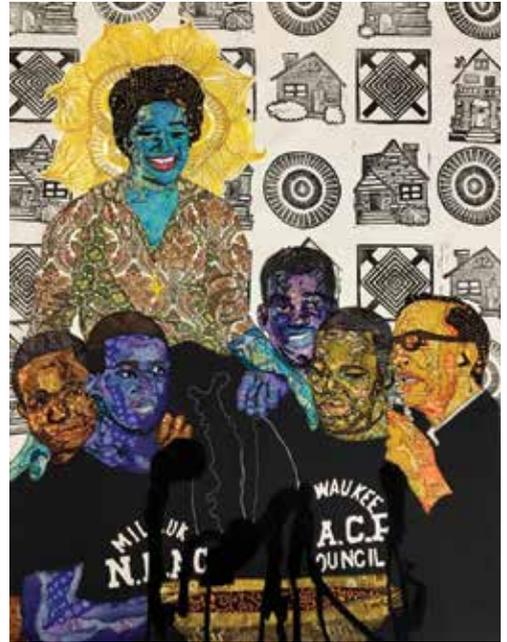
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LEFT TO RIGHT: COURTESY MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM VIA ARTIST CHILDE HASSA
OSHKOSH MUSEUM, MADISON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Power of Art

Our state has a wealth of talented artists that work in an inspiring array of mediums, from murals to quilts, beadwork and more. Some are inspired by their curiosity, while others use art to connect to their culture.

By Hywania Thompson



ROSY PETRI ON EVERYDAY INSPIRATION

Rosy Petri is a self-taught, multi-disciplinary artist who believes creativity is part of the human spirit and that anyone can harness it with whatever is around them.

Petri creates primarily in fabric. She says she loves the accessibility of fiber and how it's present in everyday lives. Petri draws her inspiration from people and from stained glass windows in churches and cathedrals — as well as African diasporan culture in food, textiles, music and architecture. "I love history, culture, adventure and stories, but I'm also a bit of an introvert," says Petri. "I like listening deeply to what folks have mastered, then sharing those lessons with the world around me through my work."

Currently, she's serving as the inaugural artist in residence at the bell hooks center at Berea College in Kentucky. Some of her works can be seen at the Sherman Phoenix market in Milwaukee.

 [@thisparadisehome](https://www.instagram.com/thisparadisehome), [thisparadisehome.com](https://www.thisparadisehome.com)

KAREN ANN HOFFMAN ON CULTURAL CONTENT

For 25 years, artist Karen Ann Hoffman has been creating Haudenosaunee (hoe-dee-no-SHOW-nee) Raised Beadwork — a practice that's recognized by the tight linework of beads sewn onto the surface of velvet.

The art form dates back thousands of years but was popularized in the 19th century when it was crafted and sold to tourists around Niagara Falls. Today, Hoffman uses it to stay connected to her Oneida heritage. The Oneida Indian Nation is one of six tribal nations that belong to the Haudenosaunee, an alliance more commonly known as the Iroquois Confederacy. (The Iroquois name came from the French).

Hoffman, who lives in Stevens Point, is known for her legacy

pieces: large, substantial works — such as bandolier bags, Council mats and urns — with deep cultural connections. These works are a visual representation of native storytelling, like the origin of the Haudenosaunee.

Many of Hoffman's legacy pieces are displayed in a variety of institutions across the country — such as the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, Chicago Field Museum and the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian located in Washington D.C. and New York.

Out of responsibility to her heritage, Hoffman also began taking on apprentices and teaching some workshops to share her craft and continue the legacy.

 [@karenann.hoffman](https://www.instagram.com/karenann.hoffman), [karenannhoffman.com](https://www.karenannhoffman.com)



ROSY PETRI: HEADSHOT BY MOODY PHOTOGRAPHY | KAREN ANN HOFFMAN: JAMES KELLY AND JAMES GILL PHOTOGRAPHY



JENIE GAO ON ENSURING EQUITY

Rooted in storytelling and social good, Jenie Gao's work often presents itself in the form of printmaking, murals and public art. Her artistic process includes elements of social good, like conducting interviews and collecting feedback to help ensure her art contributes to the overall wellbeing of the community.

She's built her Madison studio as an "anti-gentrification art business, because I'm tired of even well-meaning causes using art in a way that exploits artists and displaces BIPOC, LGBTQ+, senior and working-class communities."

With that in mind, Gao designs projects that empower those who work on them, and says she ensures they're paid fairly. Over the last three years, Gao has mentored more than 20 paid interns and apprentices. "Despite the obstacles and inequities, artists still manage to

be leaders and changemakers that regularly envision different futures we could head toward," says Gao.

Gao recently relocated to Vancouver, BC, Canada to begin a graduate program. Her Madison studio will remain open, and she'll have a smaller studio in Vancouver too.

 [@jeniegao, jenie.org](https://www.instagram.com/jeniegao_jenie.org)



LIUBOV "TRIANGULADOR" SZWAKO ON PURSUING CURIOSITY

Curiosity is what drives Liubov Szwako — who is known artistically as "Triangulador" — and he says he enjoys the process of experimenting with different paints, textures and shapes. Szwako, who was born in Mexico City and moved to Madison about 12 years ago, began painting out of curiosity and found his passion in the process. The first thing he ever made was a triangle, so he decided to take on the moniker, Triangulador — "triangle maker" in Spanish.

Szwako creates murals, paintings and textile art — "anything I can paint, I paint," he says. "My art is abstract; my art is pretty freeing, and the moment that I try to do something — to become something else — it's not me," says Szwako, adding that, "I stay true to that feeling of 'I'm going to do whatever feels good.'"

His street art can be seen throughout Madison, such as in the right image (2526 Monroe Street).

He encourages others to pursue their interests. "Just give it a shot. Not to be the best, but to experience what it feels like."

 [@triangulador, triangulador.com](https://www.instagram.com/triangulador)



JENIE GAO: PHOTOGRAPHY BY LATASIA DHAMI | LIUBOV SZWAKO: HEADSHOT BY KAREN OLIVIA | NOU VUE: PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOUA VUE

NOU VUE ON HMONG CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

Appleton-based Nou Vue taps into her Hmong heritage when she creates and works in various mediums, but mainly via paintings and drawings.

"Creating works pertaining to Hmong culture allows me to reveal bits and pieces of my identity to the audience," says Vue. "I want viewers to appreciate the beauty of my culture and respect its uniqueness."

Vue says people thrive when learning from, accepting and appreciating others. Earlier this year, she was tapped by the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center in celebration of Hmong Heritage Month. On the center's wall of windows, she painted a series of flowers and geometric-like shapes that represented patterns and stitches often used in Hmong embroidered clothing — which borrows inspiration from, and takes on the form of, nature.

 [@nvwj](https://www.instagram.com/nvwj) 

Fall is for the Birds

Wisconsin is a haven for birdwatchers throughout the fall migration.

By Kevin Revolinski



A crowned crane at the International Crane Foundation

With two Great Lakes and the Mississippi River, as well as abundant varied and healthy habitats throughout the state, birding in Wisconsin can be a spectacular pastime. September is best for viewing, but many species still travel in October. Here are five of the best spots to catch glimpses of the event.

HORICON MARSH

National and state wildlife refuges combine to form the over 32,000 acres of this marsh and make up the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the U.S. Each fall more than one million birds pass through here, including 200,000 Canada geese and many species of waterfowl and songbirds. Trails, observation platforms and boardwalks cater to visitors. *W4279 Headquarters Rd., Mayville*

While You're There: In addition to each refuge's exhibit-filled visitor's centers, check out the Marsh Haven Nature Center, or bike the Wild Goose State Trail, which passes along the marsh.



CREX MEADOWS

An ongoing restoration project to bring back its brush prairie-wetlands environment, this 30,000-acre state wildlife area is a Globally Important Bird Area. Crex has a large population of sandhill cranes and up to 8,000 are present during migration, along with thousands of snow geese, coots, ducks and bald eagles. A 24-mile driving tour explores the property. *102 Crex Ave., Grantsburg*

While You're There: Hikers will appreciate the 40 miles of trails in Governor Knowles State Forest, which also offers camping. Paddlers may opt for a day trip down the stream.

TOP TRAVEL WISCONSINI | MIDDLE WISCONSINI
DNR | BOTTOM KEVIN REVOLINSKI

TREMPEALEAU NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

This 6,226-acre property is directly on the Mississippi River migration route and offers routes for walking, biking and vehicles through marshland and bottomland forest, as well as along open water. Expect a variety of water birds including swans, herons, geese, gulls, terns, grebes and even eagles. *W28488 Refuge Rd., Trempealeau*

While You're There: Nearby Perrot State Park serves campers and is itself good for wildlife observation. The Historic Trempealeau Hotel is the place for a meal and its legendary walnut burger.



SANDHILL WILDLIFE AREA

As the name suggests, sandhill cranes are common here, and more than 1,500 pass through in fall. However, the 9,150-acre preserve was named for sandy ridges left behind by the now-extinct Glacial Lake Wisconsin that melted and drained at the end of the Ice Age. Cranes arrive in September but may linger as late as November. The 3,000-acre Gallagher Marsh also attracts a variety of waterfowl and forested areas see songbirds. *1715 County Highway X, Babcock*

While You're There: Check out the arts and crafts (and the namesake harvest) at the annual Warrens Cranberry Fest (Sept. 24-26), or find more birding opportunities at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge.



SCHLITZ AUDUBON NATURE CENTER

Don't knock urban birding. With six miles of trails through 185 acres of prairie, wetlands, woods and Lake Michigan shoreline, this birding hotspot on the north side of Milwaukee is magnificent. Myriad species of warblers — including the blackpoll warbler on its 7,000-mile journey — head south in August and September, while broad-winged hawks may be seen in groups of hundreds in October. *1111 E. Brown Deer Rd., Milwaukee*

While You're There: Less than 20 minutes north, also along the big lake, is Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve, with gorgeous lake views and varied habitats for feathered travelers.



INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION

Cranes are some of the most majestic and magnificent birds in the world, with their long, elegant necks and intriguing dances. Of the 15 species, only two are native to North America and 11 are threatened with extinction. But just outside Baraboo, you can see every one of them at the International Crane Foundation (ICF). Founded in 1973 by a couple of passionate ornithology students, and with the support of a local family who rented their horse farm to them annually for a dollar, the ICF grew to include experts in 50 countries and created a nearly 300-acre wildlife center with habitats for nearly 100 birds. Among them is the extremely rare whooping crane.

The facility underwent a \$10 million renovation in 2018, and because of the pandemic, the ICF just recently started welcoming visitors back. The new Cranes of the World exhibition has expanded habitats with natural ponds, paved pathways and fence-free viewing areas. The ICF also boasts indoor exhibits, a theater and guided tours. The center is open May through October, and admission is free, if you become an ICF member of the foundation. savingcranes.org 



Welcome to the

APOSTLE ISLANDS

By Melanie Radzicki McManus

Twenty-two islands clustered atop the Bayfield peninsula comprise the Apostle Islands archipelago, one of Wisconsin's most popular destinations. It's easy to see the appeal. The islands dot the southern shore of Lake Superior, the largest of the Great Lakes, and arguably the most impressive. Even more noteworthy: 21 of the 22 islands — along with a 12-mile stretch of pristine shoreline — form the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, one of just four National Lakeshores in the U.S.

Both the shoreline and islands are famed for their colorful, sandstone cliffs, plus the sea caves carved into their bases. Add to that the area's unspoiled sandscapes, wealth of wildlife, historic lighthouses and outdoor recreational opportunities galore, and it's no wonder some 200,000 people flock here every year.

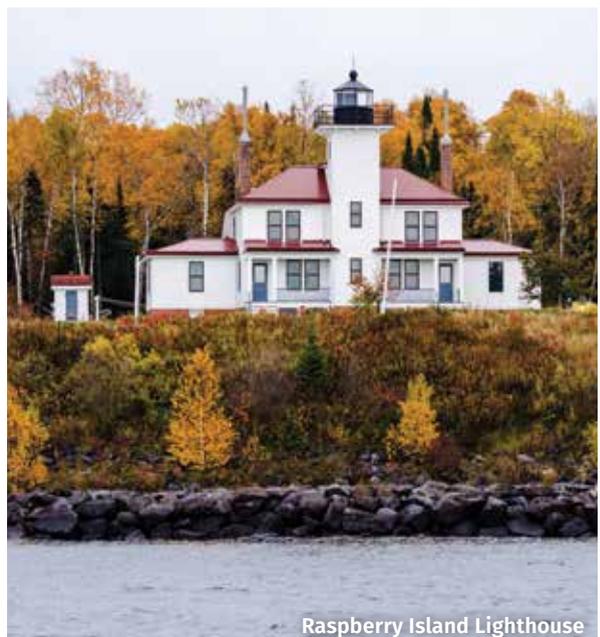
While most visitors make the trek during the warmer months, the off season brings fewer crowds, a slower pace and some unique experiences that can only be had when the temperatures plunge.

Fall Fun

The peninsula bursts into a blaze of fiery colors come autumn, and the crowds thin, making it easier to explore popular spots like the rugged **Apostle Islands sea caves**. Sign up for a guided tour via kayak with a local outfitter such as Trek & Trail, and soon you'll be gliding through cavernous openings and narrow tunnels alike. Trips run

from half-day to multi-day, and may incorporate stops at historic lighthouses, past shipwrecks and more.

If paddling's not your thing, book a tour with **Apostle Islands Cruises**. The company offers a variety of trips. Their newest boat, the Archipelago, lets you view the gorgeous sea caves throughout the park, allowing for stellar photo opportunities.



Raspberry Island Lighthouse



Big Bay State Park

Museum, which explores the area's native Ojibwe history and European settlement. Bonus: The island is open year-round! Outdoors enthusiasts should check out **Big Bay State Park**, featuring more than seven miles of hiking trails, while duffers should head for the **Madeline Island Golf Club**, which boasts one of the few Midwestern courses designed by legendary golf course architect Robert Trent Jones, Sr.

Before you leave, have a drink at **Tom's Burned Down Café**. The bar/café, which features live music and an art gallery, partially burned in the 1990s. Today, its remains have been reimagined into a multi-tiered, mostly al fresco joint whose walls and spaces are filled with philosophical and humorous quotes and sayings.

Winding down the fall tourist season is the **Bayfield Apple Festival**, taking place Oct. 1-3 this year. The blowout fall fest celebrates the area's agricultural heritage, including the peninsula's microclimate that makes it perfect for growing fruits and berries throughout the year.

Winter Wonders

One of the Apostle Islands' biggest claims to fame are the glittering ice caves (the same ones you kayak through in the fall) that transform every winter, namely those in the **mainland sea caves near Meyers Beach**. Hiking out onto the frozen water

In nonpandemic years, the cruise line also shuttles visitors to some of the **Apostle Islands' historic lighthouses**, where you can dock and take a ranger-led tour. Although the lighthouses remain closed for the 2021 season, you can still get your lighthouse fix by visiting during the **Apostle Islands Lighthouse Celebration** (Sept. 7-18, 2021), which spotlights the National Lakeshore's wealth of lighthouses, considered the nation's largest and most complete collection. During the fête, a nonstop cruise will take you past five of the eight lighthouses.

Landlubbers may prefer the **Gil Larsen Nature Trail/Iron Bridge Nature Trail** in Bayfield. Less than a mile long, the flat path follows a stream flowing under an old iron bridge, ending at a scenic overlook.

Also not to be missed: A trip to **Madeline Island**, the largest of the Apostles. Ferry over to the island — the sole island in the archipelago that's not part of the National Lakeshore — and explore its boutiques; art galleries; and the Madeline Island

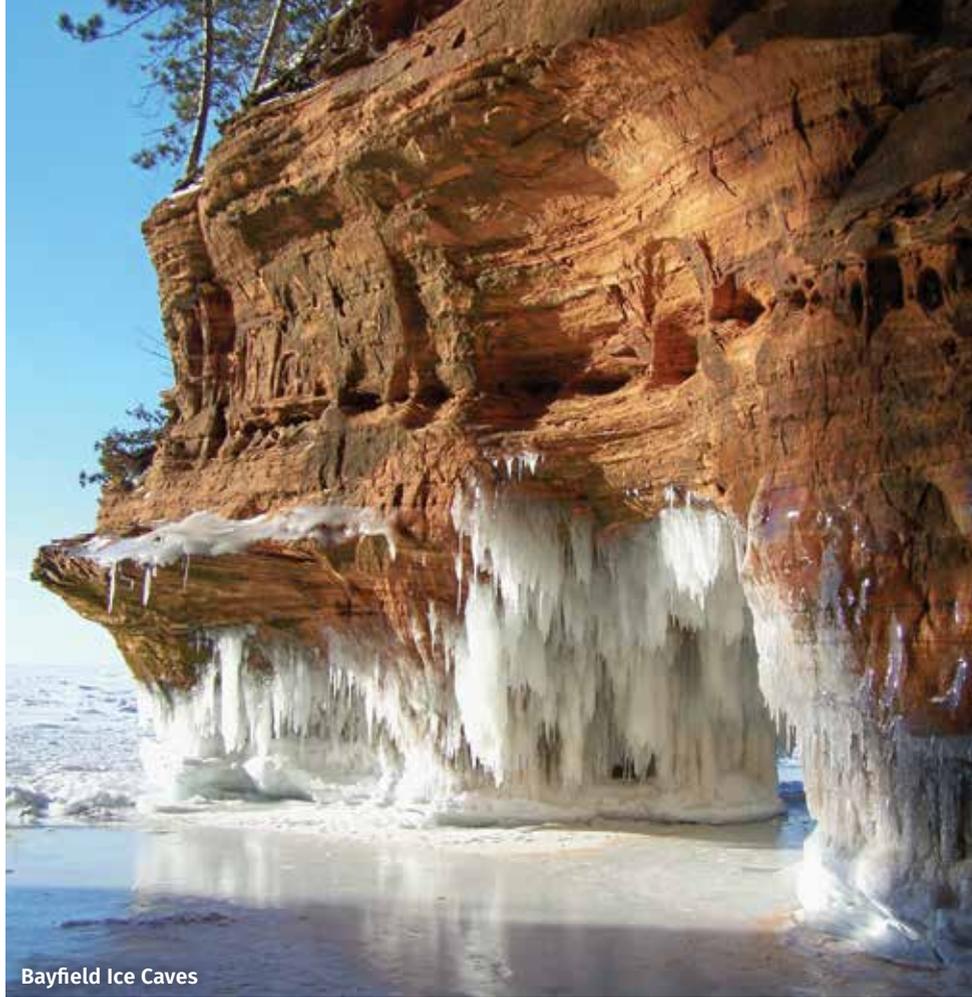


Madeline Island Ferry

and into the sparkling caves is a bucket-list experience for many. The ice caves aren't always accessible, though, as Lake Superior's strong winds and wave action often result in thin ice or open water on the pathway to the caves. If that's the case when you visit, all is not lost.

Instead of heading to Meyers Beach, book a guided trip to the **Houghton Point ice caves** with Bayfield Kayak. Starting around late January, the ice caves at Houghton Point in Chequamegon Bay are almost always safely accessible, as the bay is more protected from the elements. Another option: Exploring the ice caves that form along the shore in **Red Cliff**, home of the tribal Red Cliff Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa. Local company Rustic Makwa Den offers tours twice daily.

Don't overlook peering at the caves from on high, says David Eades, the former executive director of the Bayfield Chamber & Visitor Bureau, as you can snowshoe or hike atop the Meyers Beach ice caves via the 4.5-mile **Lakeshore Trail**. "We send everyone there in winter," says Eades.



Bayfield Ice Caves

THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE TRAVEL WISCONSIN

Of course, there's a lot more to the Apostle Islands in winter than the ice caves. Nearby **Mount Ashwabay** features roughly 25 miles of cross-country ski trails, an alpine skiing and snowboarding hill with a 1,500-foot run, snowshoeing and skijoring trails, tubing and fat-tire biking. You can also snowshoe or hike in any number of scenic local spots such as **Frog Bay**, the nation's first tribal national park. This impressive parcel of land includes rare boreal forest, coastal wetlands and an undeveloped sand beach, from which you can spot five Apostle Islands at once — a rarity.

No winter trip to the Apostles is complete without a stop at **Wolfsong Adventures in Mushing**, one of Wisconsin's few dog-sledding businesses. The experience starts by meeting the dogs and loving them up, says owner Jen Dale, then learning to harness them and drive a sled — because it's the customers who do the mushing.

"Everyone has a blast once they learn to drive a sled," she says. And when your ride is over, dog kisses are a must — and a great way to conclude your visit. **ew**



Wolfsong Adventures in Mushing

COURTESY WOLFSONG ADVENTURES IN MUSHING



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Your Retreat
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Road Trip Away

Dial up the family fun or slow things down for a relaxing adults-only vacation at these acclaimed resorts.

By Shelby Deering

Everyone's definition of relaxing varies. For some travelers, relaxation is represented in the truest sense of the word, choosing spa treatments and quiet nature hikes over hustle and bustle. For others, it means non-stop family fun. No matter what you prefer, Wisconsin has you covered with these seven resorts.

COURTESY STOUT'S ISLAND

STOUT'S ISLAND LODGE: A RUSTIC HIDEAWAY

As the "Bluegill Capital of Wisconsin," it should come as no surprise that you'll find outdoorsy, rustic lodging in Birchwood. Nestled up north near the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest between Hayward and Manitowish Waters, Stout's Island Lodge resides on a 12-acre island in Red Cedar Lake that's only accessible by ferry.

Since 1903, this resort has felt as if it's worlds away from daily life. For the entire rustic experience, stay in a gorgeous room punctuated with Northwoods-inspired accents. Sit next to the wood-burning fireplace and have dinner in the Main Lodge. Take a canoe for a paddle, available in the boathouse. Do some fishing. Join in the nightly bonfire. Sign up for the Elco Boat Lake Cruise to really soak up your surroundings. Then go off-island to learn about the region through the Birchwood Area Historical Museum and Log Museum, filled with local logging memorabilia. stoutislandlodge.com



HEIDEL HOUSE HOTEL: A ROMANTIC ESCAPE

Tucked away in Green Lake — a town 90 minutes from Green Bay that boasts the title of “the oldest resort town west of Niagara Falls” — the Heidelberg House was originally built in 1890 as a private estate. It closed in 2019, but in early 2021, its doors were reopened. With 115 rooms, this lakeside locale has been reinvigorated with updated, modern furnishings along with the freshened-up Evensong Spa, reopening this fall. Get your fill at the resort’s two on-site restaurants and soak up the local surroundings with your sweetheart, sampling wine at the nearby Vines & Rushes Winery, catching a show at the historic Thrasher Opera House or playing a game of golf together at Tuscumbia Country Club. Then there are those stunning lake views that also create a romantic atmosphere. heidelhous.com

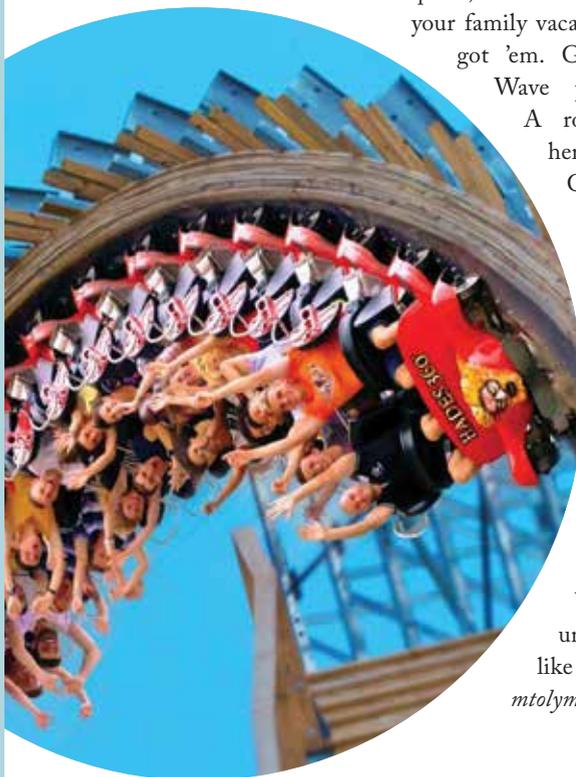


MT. OLYMPUS RESORT: A MEGA-FUN DESTINATION



Wisconsin Dells won’t have a shortage of exciting activities anytime soon, but if you’re looking for a place where you can discover a whole “mountain” of fun all in one place, look no further than Mt. Olympus for your family vacation. Roller coasters? They’ve got ‘em. Go-Karts? Yup! Waterslides?

Wave pools? Indoor mini golf? A rock-climbing wall? It’s all here. With a whopping 1,600 Grecian-themed rooms, it’s an all-inclusive resort that has all the diversions the Dells is best-known for. Keep the adrenaline going with off-site entertainment, like Bigfoot Zipline Tours and Knuckleheads Trampoline park. Grab a milkshake and a burger at B-Lux Grill & Bar, and if the big kids want some fun of their own, visit Asgard’s Underworld Arcade Bar for unlimited old-school games like Frogger and Donkey Kong. mtolympuspark.com





SUNDARA INN & SPA: A TRANQUIL REFUGE

Perhaps you're interested in the quieter side of the Wisconsin Dells. In this case, book a stay with your partner or friends at Sundara Inn & Spa, considered to be one of the best spas in the country. With its aromatic pine forest, heated outdoor pools and gourmet cuisine, it offers a chance to appreciate nature while getting some much-needed R&R. From spa-inspired suites to entire villas, you can book a day or two of restful treatments, like facials, massages or salt treatment room therapy. Plus take advantage of the amenities, such as complementary wellness and fitness classes or a round at the adjoining Wild Rock golf course. Discover other quiet settings throughout the Dells as well. Rent a kayak to explore the Wisconsin River. Breathe in soothing scents at New Life Lavender & Cherry Farm. Top it off with a hike in Mirror Lake State Park. sundaraspa.com

THREE BEARS RESORT: A KID-FRIENDLY PARADISE

Dotted with its famous cranberry bogs, Warrens — located less than an hour from La Crosse — is home to what's arguably the most famous cranberry festival in the world. It's also where you'll find accommodations that your kids are guaranteed to adore: Three Bears Resort. Punctuated with timbers and other Wisconsin-centric décor, the resort has it all: an indoor waterpark filled with activity pools and a lazy river, an outdoor waterpark brimming with slides, along with five restaurants that range from stick-to-your-ribs meals to pizza to snacks, mini golf, a gift shop, an arcade and even a laser maze. Along with September's Cranberry Festival, you and your family can head out for marsh tours or to savor other local fruits and veggies at Moseley Roadside Market and its accompanying u-pick farm. threebearsresort.com



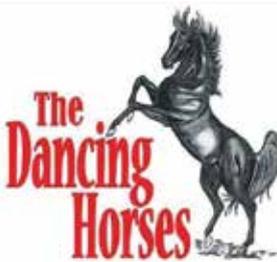


ANGLER'S HAVEN RESORT: A RECREATION LOVER'S RETREAT

If fishing is at the very top of your list of favorite hobbies, you've likely been, or at least seen, Hayward's well-known statue of the World's Largest Muskie. Hayward is also home to the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame. Down the road, you'll find another destination made for fishing enthusiasts. Angler's Haven Resort, located on Lac Courte Oreilles, is certainly a haven for fishing and more. Outfitted with charming, remodeled cabins, this resort is Northwoods Wisconsin at its finest, with a snug lodge that serves up pub grub and ice-cream drinks and a shoreline teeming with walleye, panfish, and, of

course, muskie. The area also features several classic supper clubs — such as The Ranch Supper Club — and woodsy-themed activities, like Lumberjack Village Mini Golf and Fred Scheer's Lumberjack Shows (open through September) and Village. anglershavenresort.com





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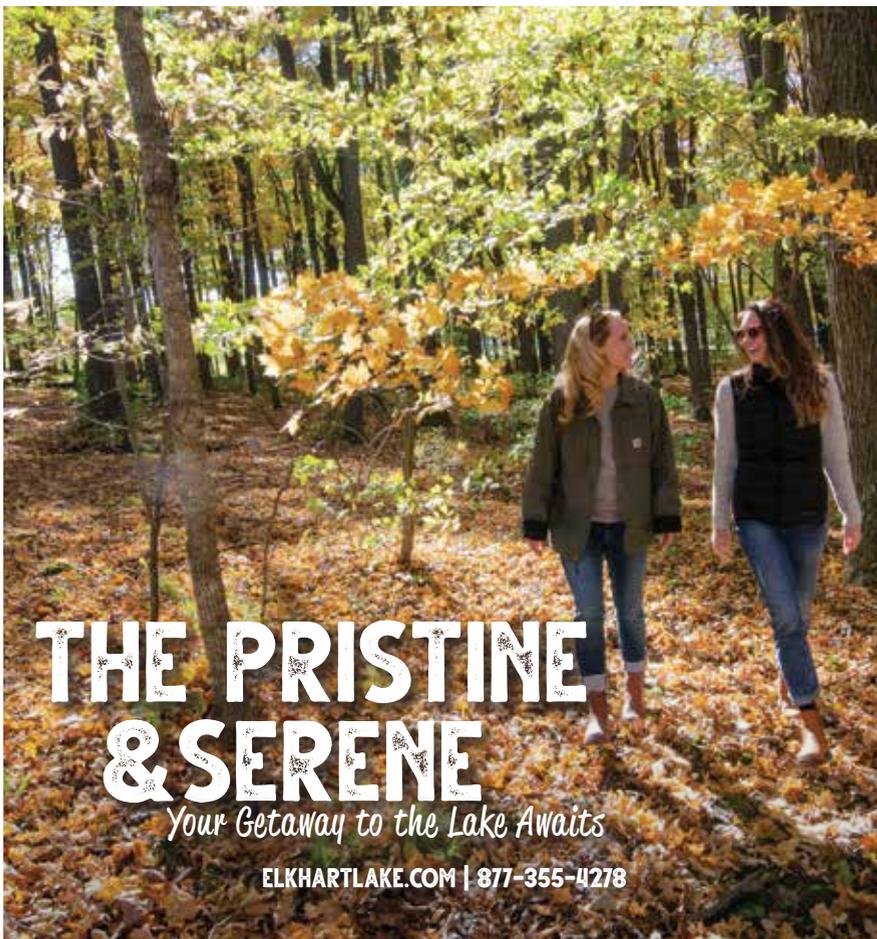


THE AMERICAN CLUB: A SOUL-RESTORING OASIS

Whether you're after some self-care or looking for a perfect spot for a getaway with friends, you can't go wrong with The American Club in Kohler. Once living quarters for Kohler Company employees, this brick-clad architectural beauty was built in 1918 and now holds the coveted titles of five stars by

Forbes Travel Guide and five diamonds by AAA. There's certainly no lack of luxury here, with its stunning Kohler Waters Spa (Himalayan salt scrub and a fresh spa lunch, anyone?), access to the resort's impressive Sports Core Health & Racquet Club, the comfiest in-room bathrobes in the world and

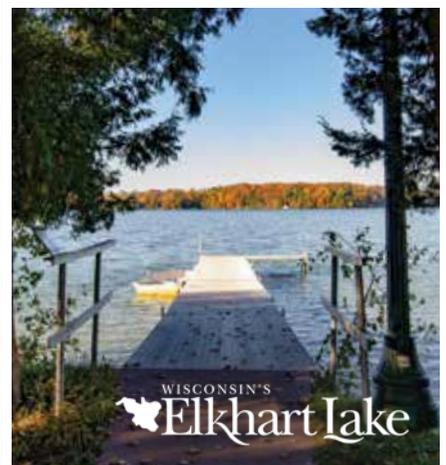
storied on-site dining, from the grand Wisconsin Room to The Greenhouse, a destination for tempting desserts. To continue the self-care vibes, don't miss the nearby Bold Cycle indoor cycling studio, Yoga on the Lake and The Shops at Woodlake for some retail therapy. destinationkohler.com/lodging ew



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What's Your Cheese Personality?

Since Wisconsin crafts 500 different varieties of cheese, picking a selection can be mind-boggling. Instead of letting your palate guide you, consider your personality.

By Kristine Hansen



Trend-Setter — Quark

CLOCK SHADOW CREAMERY, MILWAUKEE

One of only two urban creameries in the country, this outpost in Milwaukee's Walker's Point neighborhood makes a rare quark (plain and flavored cheese) that's fresh and spreadable. Clock Shadow typically offers tours, but they may still be suspended due to COVID-19. clockshadowcreamery.com

Cool + Classic — Cheese Curds

ROELLI CHEESE HAUS, SHULLSBURG

Fourth-generation owner and Master Cheesemaker Chris Roelli's time-tested recipes churn out cheddar curds so fresh they squeak. roellicheese.com



Traditionalist — Master's Reserve Cheddar

CARR VALLEY CHEESE, LA VALLE

Crafted by fourth-generation Master Cheesemaker Sid Cook, who has won at least 800 awards for his cheeses, this slightly aged cheese was added to Carr's offerings in 2019. carrvalleycheese.com

Minimalist — Mild Brick

WIDMER'S CHEESE CELLARS OF WISCONSIN, THERESA

Now in its fourth generation, Joe and Joey Widmer make a non-fussy, but oh-so-good, brick that's crafted in the original factory Joe's family founded in 1922. widmerscheese.com



Sports Buff — Triple Play

HOOK'S CHEESE COMPANY, MINERAL POINT

This blend of sheep, cow and goat milks (baby Swiss, Gouda and Havarti) is an homage to a rare three outs during a single play — which has only happened 727 times in Major League Baseball history. Owner and Master Cheesemaker Tony Hook's genius cheese idea nabbed third place in 2015 at two cheese championships. hookscheese.com



Life of the Party — El Sancho Diablo

CESAR'S CHEESE, SHEBOYGAN FALLS

Born in Oaxaca, Mexico, cheesemaker Cesar Luis folds in two of the hottest peppers (scorpion and ghost peppers) for some major heat in this cheddar. wisconsincheese.com/wi-cheese-companies

Globe-Trotter — Marieke Gouda

HOLLAND'S FAMILY CHEESE, THORP

When Netherlands-born Marieke Penterman moved to Wisconsin in the early 2000s, she missed her Gouda so much that she began making her own. She earned national and international awards right out of the gate — garnering her first just six months after launching her business. mariekegouda.com

Daredevil — Limburger

CHALET CHEESE COOPERATIVE, MONROE

Founded by five farmers in 1885, this co-op is the only remaining U.S. producer of Limburger, although a half-century ago, about 100 Wisconsin creameries made this extremely pungent soft, ripened cheese. Hold your nose if you dare! chaletcheesecoop.com



Add These to Your Culinary Bucket List



THE CAPITAL CITY'S NEW SUPPER CLUB

Step back in time at the 1903 Historic Madison Depot's former Baggage Claim House near downtown Madison to Joe Papach and Shaina Robbins Papach's new supper club reboot, The Harvey House. Here you can expect menu items like duck with Door County cherries and cognac jus with roasted fennel. Joe has worked at legendary The French Laundry in California, and Madison native Shaina's resume includes Alice Waters' Edible Schoolyard Project in Berkeley. theharveyhouse.com

A POP-UP BEER AND BRAT STAND AT KEGEL'S INN

The West Allis fish-fry destination Kegel's Inn unveiled a pop-up beer garden and brat stand this summer at the Eero Saarinen-designed War Memorial Center on Milwaukee's lakefront. Six signature "loaded brats" and pretzels, plus German and Milwaukee beers, are served from a restored 1957 Grumman-Olson Step van and trailer. Don't miss out — they're only served Wednesday through Sunday, ending in early October. kegelsinn.com



HARVEST FESTIVAL AND GRAPE STOMP AT BLIND HORSE RESTAURANT & WINERY

Bare feet stomping on wine grapes in a barrel is a wine country tradition. See for yourself at the 7-acre Blind Horse Restaurant & Winery in Kohler during its fourth annual Harvest Festival and Grape Stomp on Sept. 18 — paired with live music and wine tasting. theblindhorse.com — KH 

FROM TOP: COURTESY NICOLE FRANZEN, KEGEL'S INN, THE BLIND HORSE RESTAURANT & WINERY



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Walking the Geneva Lake Shore Path

Steeped in history, this footpath offers a truly unique view of Wisconsin's yesteryears into today.

By Shelby Deering

The Geneva Lake Shore Path is just over 20 miles long and takes eight to 10 hours to complete, but most prefer to soak it up piece by piece. There's always something to look at — stunning Geneva Lake views, bygone estates — and since nothing on wheels is permitted on the path, it's nice to share it with others who are also taking in the surroundings on foot.

What's unique about this public path is that it rings Geneva Lake, and each homeowner along the path is responsible for their portion of it, which means the surfaces vary greatly. One minute, it can be gravel; and the next, stone pavers; and the next, grass. The grade ranges from smooth and easy to hilly and difficult. The most accessible section of the path is a paved portion in downtown Lake Geneva in front of the library that offers outstanding views.

With a mix of flat and hilly areas and surroundings that range from quiet and wooded to residential and full of activity, you never know what you'll find around the corner when walking the Geneva Lake Shore Path.

A WINDING HISTORY

Many believe that the Shore Path's history goes back only as far as the 19th century, when Chicagoans affected by the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 found a safe haven in Lake Geneva as their residences were rebuilt. But its origins go back much farther than that. From 2500 B.C. to the early 19th century, the path was used by Potawatomi Indians as they hunted, fished and traveled between villages. In the late 19th century, when lakeside hotels began to spring up, the path became a popular tourist destination, which it still is today.

ICONIC HOMES

The Shore Path is special because early settlers declared that the “20 feet leading to the shoreline be preserved as public domain.” This means that in addition to viewing all these historic homes, you'll get the chance to view beautifully kept, modern-day residences.

The grand estates that still stand along the Shore Path read like a “who's who” of late 19th- and early 20th-century society. Although the Great Chicago Fire was certainly devastating, it also fostered the building of striking summer homes that carry plenty of history. There's **Black Point Estate & Gardens**, a Queen Anne beauty that's stood on Geneva Lake's south shore since 1888 and offers public tours. To keep the Queen Anne theme going, you can view **The Echoes**, located a little ways from Black Point. It's still showing off



TOP: HOLLY LEITNER | BOTTOM: VISIT LAKE GENEVA



its opulent 1896 architecture like the peacocks that once roamed its front yard. The **Wrigley** family (yes the chewing gum and Wrigley Field are one and the same) has owned lakefront property for more than a century. You can pass by some historic structures that are still in the family, including **Northwoodside**, **Wychwood**, and a boathouse dating to 1911. Then there's **Stone Manor**, an imposingly eye-catching 1899 mansion that overlooks Geneva Lake. Though a developer subdivided the home into luxury condo units in the 1970s, one family has been working in recent years to deconvert the property back to a single-family residence. [ew](#)



Access Points to Geneva Lake

It's important to use public access points on the path, since entering and leaving the path using private property is prohibited. The path has five public access points.

- 1. THE LAKE GENEVA PUBLIC LIBRARY** (918 W. Main St., Lake Geneva) is a notable stop along the Shore Path, and is known for its modern architectural style. It was designed by a student of Frank Lloyd Wright and was constructed in 1954. It's also the most accessible portion of the path with its flat, paved surface.
- 2. EDGEWATER PARK** (E. Geneva St., Williams Bay) is located in Williams Bay and resides within walking distance of local restaurants, shops and Williams Bay Beach.
- 3. FONTANA BEACH** (S. Lake Shore Dr., Fontana-On-Geneva Lake) can provide hours of fun before hitting the accompanying Shore Path for an afternoon walk.
- 4. THE TOWN OF LINN** has a boat launch on Linn Pier Road, where you can access the path.
- 5. BIG FOOT BEACH STATE PARK** (1550 S. Lake Shore Dr., Lake Geneva) has a swimming beach, picnic areas, and camping and acts as an access point for the Shore Path.

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Apostle Islands sled dog racing



Larson's Famous Clydesdales

Four-Legged Friends

Wisconsin has plenty of wild fauna, but animal lovers can get an additional dose here and there — like grass-trimming goats at Whistling Straits Golf Course in Sheboygan or horses at Larson's Famous Clydesdales in Ripon.

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