

Wisconsin

MULTICULTURAL DESTINATIONS



TRAVEL INSPIRED.



WELCOME TO A STATE OF BLISS.



Relax.

Reconnect with family and friends. Reacquaint yourself with that little voice inside of you – the one you silenced eons ago. And as you discover the many multicultural sides of Wisconsin, who knows, you might just find a new side of yourself.

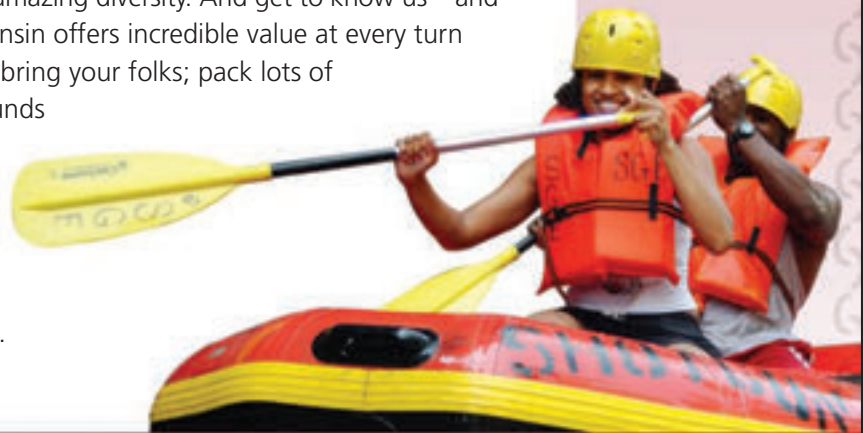


There are so many possibilities ... the rhythmic African roots of Ko-Thi Dance Company ... the sublime reflecting pools and grounds of the Thai Pavilion at the Olbrich Botanical Gardens ... the artistic and cultural jewels that sparkle at Latino Arts, the list goes on.

Have we piqued your curiosity? Then let us free your imagination. Come, experience an unexpected Wisconsin. Explore our amazing diversity. And get to know us – and our fun, easygoing nature. Plus, Wisconsin offers incredible value at every turn for your travel dollar. So load the kids; bring your folks; pack lots of

“I don’t have to because I’m on vacation.” The sights, sounds and sensibilities closest to your heart can be found right here, in the heart of the Midwest.

The pages that follow feature just a few of the possibilities that await you – something to inspire every age, and every generation. *So c’mon in, and find your state of bliss.*



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It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you and offer a sincere invitation to come and enjoy this amazing state of ours.

The spirit of our people is simply unmatched. From our down-to-earth approach to life and dazzling ingenuity, to our sense of pride and flair for the unusual, Wisconsinites are known as fun, passionate people.

Maybe it’s the natural beauty that surrounds us. Maybe it’s our ability to laugh at ourselves. Maybe it’s our history of embracing originality and individuality. Personally, I think it’s all those things that separate Wisconsin from all other destinations. These are the ingredients that inspire us everyday – visitors and residents alike. After all, here in Wisconsin, we believe you should “**live like you mean it.**” I wish you good travels.

Governor Jim Doyle

ARTS & CULTURE

RICH WITH POSSIBILITY AND DIVERSITY.

Sure, Wisconsin has a reputation for the quirky. But we also have surprising diversity. In addition to the many possibilities celebrating Native American history and culture, Wisconsin's urban centers feature many multicultural destinations and attractions. Among them:

The contribution of African-American porters aboard railcars played an important role in both the labor and civil rights movements, and is well chronicled in an impressive, interactive exhibit at the **National Railroad Museum** in Green Bay entitled: **Pullman Porters: From Service to Civil Rights**. The exhibit features a restored 1920s Pullman sleeper car. Inside the car, visitors interact with a computer-generated porter and an innovative touch screen kiosk that presents oral histories, complete with music from the time period.

The museum also displays more than 80 other relic cars, steamers and diesels, many of which you can climb aboard for hands-on fun the whole family can enjoy. **Learn more at nationalrrmuseum.org or call 920.437.7623.**

Latino Arts in Milwaukee is a creative hotbed for the visual and performing arts, showcasing local talent and drawing artists and performers of international acclaim from diverse places such as Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Puerto Rico and Spain – all to Milwaukee's south side. Latino Arts features a Hispanic Heritage Center, art gallery and auditorium, which have hosted such legendary musical artists as José Feliciano, Celia Cruz and Tito Puente. **Get details and upcoming events at latinoartsinc.org or call 414.384.3100.**

Each spring a colossal cinematic event converges on downtown Madison. Four days. Ten theaters. It's enough to turn popcorn into a major food group. It's the **Wisconsin Film Festival**. It's the state's premier event, and a magnet for film aficionados who crave a break from the daily grind. The festival is a cultural bonanza of American independent and foreign cinema from documentary and shorts, to experimental and restored classics. **Visit wifilmfest.org or call 877.963.3456.**



SPRING GREEN IS IN THE AIR

To be or not to be in Spring Green? There isn't any question. With the **American Players Theatre** and Frank Lloyd Wright's studio retreat, **Taliesin**, mere miles from one another, Spring Green introduces you to the works of two famous creators: Wisconsin's own Frank Lloyd Wright, of course, and William Shakespeare.

Set far off the road among nature's stage, the American Players Theatre, puts on open-air plays devoted to the classics. Theatergoers can picnic, cook on a grill or order box lunches. **Learn more at playinthewoods.org or call 608.588.7401.**

Tour Frank Lloyd Wright's magnificent architectural creation, Taliesin, and let your own creative juices flow. Maybe one day, future generations will be visiting your own masterpiece. **Learn more at taliesinpreservation.org or call 608.588.7900.**

WISCONSIN ORIGINAL PEOPLE, PLACES AND POSSIBILITIES.



Thai Pavilion at Olbrich Botanical Gardens / Madison

Truly a work of art and old-world craftsmanship, the Thai Pavilion – a gift from the Thai government and Thai Chapter of the Wisconsin Alumni Association – dons the glorious grounds of the Olbrich Botanical

Gardens. Surrounded by reflecting pools and traditional Asian gardens, visitors traverse an ornamental bridge to access the ornate structure and admire its intricate detail, and gold-leaf accents.

olbrich.org/gardens/thai.cfm, 608.246.4550

EAA AirVenture Museum / Oshkosh

According to an EAA spokesperson, “The airplane does not care what color you are. It’s only looking for a quality pilot.” And top-shelf African American pilots are among those honored at the EAA AirVenture Museum. There are stories of courage and valor from early Tuskegee Airman, Chappy James, the first African American four-star-general. Also honored is Neal Loving, an original EAA member and African American amputee pilot. Inspiration is cleared for take-off. Are you?

airventuremuseum.org, 920.426.4818

Civil War Museum / Kenosha

The Civil War and slavery are indelibly fused together in a watershed moment in American history. The new Civil War Museum in Kenosha tells this story and that of Midwesterners – the soldiers, women, children, clergymen, tradesmen and slaves affected by the conflict that tore our nation and families apart. The museum combines state-of-the-art technology and re-creations of personal accounts from the period to create a thought-provoking and educational museum experience.

kenosha.org/civilwar, 262.653.4140

Logan Museum of Anthropology / Beloit

Housed on the campus of Beloit College are some of the world’s oldest jewelry, pre-Columbian ceramics and thousands of Native American artifacts. The museum features some 15,000 ethnographic and 200,000 archaeological objects from hundreds of cultural groups, including Native North and South American, Asian, Pacific, and African.

www.beloit.edu/logan, 608.363.2677

Oneida Nation Museum / Green Bay

Featuring updated exhibits, the Oneida Nation Museum is a repository of personal artifacts donated by the “People of the Standing Stone,” who first came to Wisconsin in the 1880s. One of the museum highlights is a replica wood-and-bark longhouse that offers a glimpse into the Oneida’s ancient way of life.

museum.oneidanation.org, 920.869.2768

Harley-Davidson Museum / Milwaukee

More and more people of color are discovering riding – and Harley-Davidson’s own brand of individuality. Just as this iconic American story began with the production of the very first Harley-Davidson motorcycle, so, too, does your museum experience. The first exhibit: the motorcycle sporting serial number one. What follows is a chronological narrative featuring a collection of vintage motorcycles and memorabilia that is enough to make a tough biker weep tears of joy.

harley-davidson.com, 877.436.8738

Ko-Thi Dance Company / Milwaukee

Founded in 1969 by celebrated Wisconsin original, Ferne Yangyeitie Caulker, the Ko-Thi Dance Company and its members are described as cultural ambassadors for the art forms of African descent. The music and dance comes from the heart and reflects African American and Caribbean cultures. Ko-Thi performs locally, regionally and nationally with a children’s ensemble as well.

ko-thi.org, 414.273.0676



What would you do if you could do anything?

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FESTIVALS

MILWAUKEE'S ETHNIC FESTIVALS. IT'S LIKE ONE, BIG UNITED NATIONS PARTY.



Virtually every weekend during the summer, a different ethnic festival takes center stage at **Maier Festival Park** located along Milwaukee's lakefront. Arab. Asian. German. Irish. Italian. Polish. The list goes on. At each festival, music, food, art and culture come together, celebrating the uniqueness of the human race, honoring the culturally diverse community that is Milwaukee. Here are just two:

Each year **Mexican Fiesta** unveils the tunes and tastes of Mexico and Latin America over a three-day period, and is one of the city's original festivals. According to an event spokesperson, "It's the state's largest window into our culture," and as such, it is an attraction with music, authentic cuisine and activities for the whole family to enjoy. **Find out more at mexicanfiesta.org or call 414.383.7066.**

Another example of Milwaukee's rich cultural influences is **Indian Summer Festival**, which is America's largest Native American festival. This two-day event in September gives guests an inviting glimpse into Native American culture, complete with arts and crafts, tribal dances, music, and a contest pow wow. **Learn more at indiansummer.org or call 414.604.1000.**

But the granddaddy festival of them all is **Summerfest**. For 11 electrifying days and nights, performing on 11 stages and in the nooks and crannies throughout Maier Festival Park – wherever power cords can reach – the city of Milwaukee takes to the global stage and welcomes more than 700 bands to the world's largest outdoor music extravaganza.

Crowds of all ages and musical tastes and people from every walk of life are among the million-strong who pass through the gates each summer. Legendary artists such as Stevie Wonder and Mary J. Blige have graced Summerfest stages, along with Grammy winners Alicia Keyes, Cuban-born trumpet sensation Arturo Sandoval and many more. Look for this year's line-up, along with the other events and activities you won't want to miss at **summerfest.com or call 414.273.2680.**

OKTOBERFEST USA

Roughly 5,000 miles and 150 years are the only major differences separating Munich, Germany from La Crosse, Wisconsin during early October. At this time of year, both cities are filled with merriment and a carnival-like atmosphere that is internationally known as **Oktoberfest**. But you don't need a passport to get to La Crosse – or a lot of cash. So check it out. Oktoberfest USA is a great opportunity to enjoy brew, bratwurst, pageantry, parades and world famous umpa music! Polka is a German-Wisconsin tradition, so why not? And consider the time of year. October in La Crosse . . . the fall colors will be spellbinding even if your polka dancing isn't! **Find out more by visiting oktoberfestusa.com, or call 608-784-3378.**

WISCONSIN ORIGINAL PEOPLE, PLACES AND POSSIBILITIES.

Garfield Street Days / Milwaukee

Every summer, Garfield Avenue Blues, Gospel & Arts Festival (also known as Garfield Street Days) brings the African American community out to showcase and celebrate its musical talents.

Spanning four blocks between 3rd and 7th streets in Milwaukee, festival goers pack in tight for the grilled bratwursts, fried catfish, street performers and children shows.

414.223.4444

Osthoff Jazz on the Vine Festival / Elkhart Lake

Enjoy gifted and dynamic performances by world-renowned jazz artists and partake of the exotic array of wines from local and international vineyards – all in a relaxing resort setting. This annual May event draws such notable musical artists as Wilton Felder, Cary Davis, Ronnie Laws, Spyro Gyra, Peter White, Mindi Abair, and Eric Darius.

jazzonthevine.net, 800.876.3399

Silver City Asian Festival / Milwaukee

The Silver City festival takes place in September and is one of six Main Street Milwaukee Districts, a program launched by Mayor Tom Barrett in partnership with local initiatives and support groups to revitalize neighborhood main streets. The Silver City Asian Festival not only makes a positive contribution to the community, it also celebrates the Asian culture. Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Vietnamese and Thai music and culinary arts all come together.

silvercitymainstreet.org, 414.645.1700

Lao-Hmong National Summer Festival / Oshkosh

It began in the late 1980s when members of the Wisconsin Hmong community established a soccer tournament. Today, the festival typically takes place over the Labor Day weekend in order to accommodate out-of-state teams and activities such as volleyball, topspin and dance contests, as well as a flea market and a variety of entertainment options. It has now become the third largest event within the US Hmong community. **920.292.0067**

Menominee Nation Contest Pow Wow

Enjoy traditional or contemporary fare as you settle in among some 5,000 people each year to witness the highly competitive Menominee Nation Contest Pow wow. The competition pits groups against each other to see who sings, dresses and dances the best. Performance categories include Jingle Dress dance, Traditional dance and Fancy dancers. The event has thrilled festival goers for more than 40 years. **menominee-nsn.gov, 715.799.5114**



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FAMILY FUN

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME. AND THE AMUSEMENT PARK, WATER PARK, MUSEUM, LAKEFRONT...



Baseball in America has long been a favorite pastime and family tradition that crosses cultures and generations. This is especially true about baseball in Wisconsin. That's because the Milwaukee Brewers are the only major league team that pays tribute each season to the contributions of African American and Latino ballplayers.

The **Negro Leagues Tribute** game is one for the ages – and for fanatics young and old. Each year, the hometown Brewers take to the field wearing reproduction uniforms of the 1923 Milwaukee Bears, the city's only season with a member club in the Negro Leagues. Visiting teams then sport replica uniforms representing Negro League teams from their city's past, such as the Kansas City Monarchs and Indianapolis Clowns. But the real magic of the annual event appears when former

Negro League players are honored during the game and inducted into Yesterday's Negro League Hall of Fame. Past inductees have included the legendary Buck O'Neil, catcher Arthur Hamilton and first-baseman James 'Red' Moore.



The Brewers also pay homage to Latino ballplayers at **Cervceros Day**, which, for our non-Spanish speaking friends means, 'Brewers Day'. Cervceros Day coincides with the Wisconsin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's "Fiesta Tailgate," while events inside the ballpark take on a Latino flair of their own, honoring past Latino greats on the field before the game, complete with bilingual PA announcements and scoreboard features, mariachi bands in the stands, and more. **To learn more, visit brewers.com or call 414.902.4400.**

From Miller Park to state or municipal parks, there are many great playing fields throughout Wisconsin. These affordable options offer you an escape from the ho-hum without sacrificing family fun. Pools, picnics, and pick-up games are the star attractions at these parks. Invite friends and neighbors, hold a family reunion, there's room for everyone! **Visit travelwisconsin.com for a park near you.**

Another natural draw is Milwaukee's Lake Michigan lakefront. It's a favorite for beach goers, boaters, jet skiers, anglers – and visitors to **Discovery World** at Pier Wisconsin. Explore vessels that once combed the Great Lakes, get up close and personal, even touch, underwater creatures and interact with the museum's numerous educational exhibits. **Find out more at discoveryworld.org or call 414.765.9966.**

OLD SCHOOL FUN AT OLD FASHIONED PRICES

Bay Beach Amusement Park and the **Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary** are just minutes apart from each other on Green Bay's far north side. And because they are such a great travel value, it's like getting two funs for the price of one! Bay Beach Amusement Park offers thrills and laughs for the whole family. The entire park is a throwback to vintage carnival days – twenty-five cents gets you a ticket and a ride – on everything from Ferris wheels to bumper cars. **Visit baybeach.org.**

Then, adventure lies in wait for the whole family on a beautiful 700-acre urban wildlife refuge at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, the largest wildlife rehabilitation site in Wisconsin. Children however tall can spy hawks, woodpeckers, rabbits, chipmunks, and many other creatures from a wildlife observation deck. The sanctuary is free and open year-round. **Visit baybeachwildlife.com or call 920.391.3671.**

WISCONSIN ORIGINAL PEOPLE, PLACES AND POSSIBILITIES.

Apple Holler / Racine

Racine's Apple Holler may seem like an apple orchard, but it's really a cornucopia of year-round family fun and seasonal festivities. Fall pumpkins and hayrides; Christmas trees and sleigh rides; dinner theater and family picnics; baked goods and Door County wine. Apples to apples, nothing's quite like it. appleholler.com, 262.884.7100

Madison Children's Museum / Madison

The Madison Children's Museum cultivates creativity and develops critical thinking skills in children beginning as early as age six. It is an interdisciplinary approach to learning that builds from one experience to the next. Exhibits are designed on site by museum staff through the input of local children, adults and community organizations.

madisonchildrensmuseum.org, 608.256.6445

Cave of the Mounds / Blue Mound

Considered one of the most beautiful caves of the upper Midwest, Cave of the Mounds has been designated a National Natural Landmark by the US Department of the Interior and the National Park Service. The cave is more than one million years old. Guided tours, available year-round, take visitors past colorful stalactites and stalagmites and other geological formations. Above ground, there are rock gardens and picnic areas to enjoy. caveofthemounds.com, 608.437.3038

Urban Ecology Center / Milwaukee

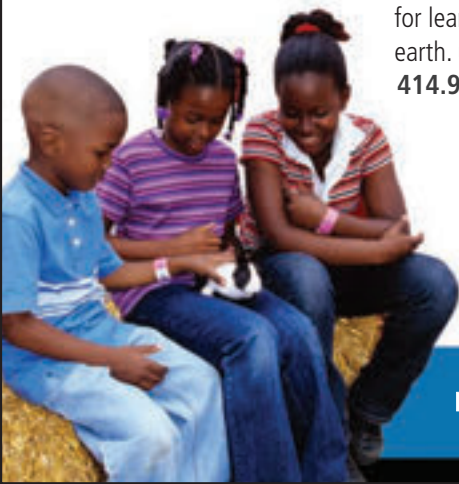
The Urban Ecology Center is an environmental education and "green" community center for urban youth. "Outdoor laboratories" in two urban parks make exploring environmental issues fun and engaging. The center also offers nature-based outings such as hiking, canoeing and rock climbing along with lectures and workshops – all of which are designed to instill a passion for learning how to live lightly on the earth. urbanecologycenter.org, 414.964.8505

Jelly Belly Factory Tour / Kenosha

Family fun meets tasty jellybeans at Jelly Belly Junction, where you can hop aboard the Jelly Belly Express for a behind-the-scenes, 30-minute warehouse tour. Large video screens and a dancing chorus line of six-foot-tall jellybeans are among the stops along the way showcasing the magical process of making the world's most colorful candy creations. jellybelly.com, 866.868.7522

Blue Harbor Indoor Waterpark / Sheboygan

Wisconsin is a waterpark wonderland and the Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan makes sure the state lives up to its reputation. Blue Harbor boasts: 7 thrilling waterslides; 12 levels of fountains, spray guns, valves and hoses; 1,000 gallons of cascading water; and 43,000 square feet of nonstop, indoor waterpark thrills and excitement for the whole family. blueharborresort.com, 866.701.2583



DINING & NIGHTLIFE

TASTE THE GOOD LIFE: WISCONSIN-STYLE.

Not every Wisconsinite's dream is to appear on national TV wearing a cheese-wedge cap. Some prefer other pursuits. Take Omar Shaikh, for instance. Omar set out to challenge the dining status quo in Milwaukee by opening several imaginative restaurants that take patrons on a culinary journey. Among them:

Umami Moto which blends a little Japanese, with a little Chinese and a little Thai to create a total treat for the senses. There's **Charro**, where upscale Latin meets casual Mexican. Or, how about **Carnevora**, a hearty, urban-styled steakhouse. And all three unique establishments are just a cloth napkin's throw from one another in downtown Milwaukee.

Madison, too, offers a myriad of taste sensations within a few blocks. Restaurants such as **Wasabi**, **Kabul**, **Buraka's Ethiopian**, **Casa de Lara** and the **Mediterranean Café** offer

a culinary melting pot within a short walking distance of each other and numerous others on Madison's popular State Street.

So if you are looking for adventure in flavor, Wisconsin is your personal spice rack. You'll find even more restaurants to sample statewide at travelwisconsin.com. Bon appetite!

While we're challenging your notion of "up north" cuisine, did you know that Wisconsin is **home to 34 wineries**? You'll find traditional grape varieties, from cabernets to chardonnays, along with fruit, cider and mead (honey) wines. Wineries are scattered across the state and many offer tours and, of course, tastings. Uncork the possibilities at wiswine.com or visit travelwisconsin.com.

Or how about a night on the town? From free outdoor concerts to a hopping club scene, there are many ways to end your perfect Wisconsin day.



DOOR COUNTY: THY "KINGDOM SO DELICIOUS"

Pack your walking shoes and your appetite. If you are someone who craves new experiences, Door County's annual **Kingdom So Delicious** culinary tour is for you. This three-week celebration of farm and food offers the perfect escape each year right after Labor Day.

There are tours of organic vegetable, meat and egg producers; displays of specialty products; demonstrations on everything from food preservation to cider pressing; presentations on topics such as the genetic benefits of veggies and sustainable agriculture; harvest festivals; and much more fill the calendar of events. If you are a foodie, you have arrived! **Learn more at doorcounty.com or call 800.527.3529.**

WISCONSIN ORIGINAL PEOPLE, PLACES AND POSSIBILITIES.

Jazz at 5 / Madison

Each August through Labor Day, Jazz at 5 takes center stage on Madison's main artery, State Street. It steeps an already alive and vibrant street into one with a hipper, cooler buzz about it. Brews begin pouring at 4:30 and the draws don't stop until 8 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs or ground covering to enjoy the local notables such as Ben and Leo Sidran, Madison Jazz Quartet and Chuchiito Valdes. jazzat5.org, 608.310.4462

Dane Dances / Madison

Friday evenings on the rooftop of the Monona Terrace or at the UW Memorial Union Terrace are the places to be each August for the Dane Dances annual line-up. Funk, Latin, R&B, Jazz, Hip Hop, and Reggae – if you're looking to find your groove, you'll find it here. danedances.org, 608.698.4477

Open Mic Night / Madison

The Office of Multicultural Arts Initiatives (OMAI) on the UW-Madison campus sponsors Open Mic Night, in conjunction with the First Wave program. Once a month local poets, and their nationally renowned counterparts, such as Dennis Kim a.k.a. Denizen Kane and Jimmy Santiago Baca, share the stage and their multicultural musings. omai.wisc.edu/firstwave, 608.890.1006

Soho 7 / Milwaukee

Best known for their specialty martini list, Soho 7 is the genuine, high-brow choice for upscale night clubs in Milwaukee. Featuring a modern, minimalist interior, Soho 7, as the name implies, is something you'd expect to find in New York City's see-and-be-seen Soho district. But this version is located in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward. If you plan on meeting friends there, be sure to dress the part – as business casual or semi-formal attire is required. soho7milwaukee.com, 414.431.0811

Club Timbuktu / Milwaukee

This no-frills, down-to-earth establishment is a favorite with locals of African and Caribbean descent who, in turn, give Club Timbuktu a cosmopolitan, but low-key ambiance. Restaurant by day, dance club by night, it is an oasis in Milwaukee's Riverwest neighborhood – considered one of the most diverse in the city. clubtimbuktu.us, 414.265.7000

Garfield's 502 / Milwaukee

Garfield's 502 is in the great Bronzeville tradition of live entertainment, a meal and a vibrant social scene. Whether it's live jazz or blues, soul on the jukebox or singing karaoke to the Temptations, Garfield's 502 is the place to be – especially for the mouth-watering seafood gumbo and the rest of the New Orleans style menu. garfield502.com, 414.374.4502





live like you mean it.™

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FRONT COVER PHOTOS:
DISCOVERY WORLD AT PIER WISCONSIN IN MILWAUKEE. DINING IN DOWNTOWN MILWAUKEE. WILDERNESS WATERPARK IN WISCONSIN DELLS.