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Welcome to the Mississippi River & Wisconsin’s Only National Scenic Byway...the Great River Road!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Wisconsin’s Great River Road, voted the “Prettiest drive in America” by readers of The Huffington Post. This stunning 250-mile drive on Wisconsin State Highway 35 parallels the Mississippi River and winds through 33 delightful river towns that are just waiting to be explored.

From Prescott to Potosi, the Great River Road is home to breathtaking bluff views, countless recreational activities and old-fashioned hospitality that will make you feel right at home. Take your time to savor the journey with side trips that include biking, hiking, fishing and paddling. Discover historic towns dotted with boutiques, artist’s galleries and wineries, and find cozy lodging at one of the many charming bed and breakfasts.

As you page through this visitor guide, you will find plenty of useful information to help you plan your trip. More resources and great travel information are also available at TravelWisconsin.com, on your desktop, tablet or mobile device. You can also “Like” us at Facebook.com/TravelWisconsin or follow along on Twitter at Twitter.com/TravelWI and Instagram at TravelWisconsin.

We invite you to find travel and adventure on Wisconsin’s Great River Road, and on behalf of Wisconsin’s Tourism industry, we look forward to welcoming you.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Klett
Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Tourism
WORTH THE TRIP

WOW Moment! Midwest Living Travel, 2015 Best of the Midwest
Prettiest Drive: Ultimate Road Trip in the US The Huffington Post
Byway to Beauty Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
Great River Road to Delicious Discovery Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
Feasting on Wisconsin's Great River Road Chicago Tribune
Tops for Convertible Car Owners Rochester Post Bulletin
Wisconsin Life Offers Scenery & Unique Towns Toronto Sun
Loaded With Wonder London Times
Rollin' on the River Chicago Tribune
Wisconsin's Beautiful Byway San Diego Times

ENJOY THE RIDE

Whether you are cruising the Road in your favorite car or motorcycle... or just taking time to travel the Road and checking out the scenery, small historic river towns and views... we want you to enjoy the ride! The Wisconsin Great River Road and the Mississippi River offer something for everyone as you explore their treasures.

Spend more than a day. It's more about the experience and disconnecting from hectic schedules not about driving from Point A to Point B. Relax!

Reserve lodging in advance. Lodging is abundant at Onalaska, La Crosse & Prairie du Chien. If your travel plans include a stay along the route in a charming local inn, cabin or B&B, advance reservations are recommended. Mid-week stays frequently are offered at discounted rates.

Take a side trip, drive the back roads, stop at a historical marker or point of interest. The entire region is rich with opportunity.

Check out the Interpretive Centers. Interpretive Centers, Museums & Displays offer the traveler information and learning experiences.

Enjoy the Mississippi River! It's not often you can experience a “bucket list” item... this is the time!

www.wigreatriverroad.org | 5
ANNUAL FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Watch the website event calendar at www.WIGRR.com for a full list of upcoming FUN events.

JANUARY – MARCH
Bald Eagle Appreciation Day, Prairie du Chien
Bald Eagle Day, Ferryville
Bald Eagle Days, Cassville
Eagles on Ice, Alma
Kickapoo Valley Reserve, Winterfest, La Farge
Snowmobile Trails Day, Chasburg

APRIL
Between The Bluffs Beer, Wine & Cheese Festival, La Crosse
Roots & Bluegrass Festival, River Falls
Spring Flood Run, Fountain City to Prescott

MAY
100 Mile Garage Sale, Prescott to Fountain City
70 Mile Rummage Along The River, Crawford & Vernon Counties
Reggae Fest, Trempealeau
Spring Bird Migration Hike & Events, Ferryville
Mid West Music Fest, La Crosse
Sytende Mai Festival, Westby
Winding Roads Art Tour, Start in Viroqua
Tromp and Chomp Trail Run, Kickapoo Valley Reserve

JUNE DAIRY MONTH
Dairy Breakfast Held in Each County
Prairie Villa Rendezvous, Prairie du Chien
Spring Fresh Art Tour, Pepin & Pierce Counties
Tour de Pepin, Lake Pepin
Buffalo Bill Wild West Show, Cassville
Artspire, La Crosse
Winneshiek Landing Day, De Soto

JUNE
Riverfest, La Crosse
Catfish Days, Trempealeau
War of 1812 Reenactment Events, Prairie du Chien
Stockholm Art Fair, Stockholm
Prairie Dog Blues Fest, Prairie du Chien
River Bluff Daze, Ferryville
River Falls Days, River Falls
Driftless Music Festival, Viroqua
Lorem Ipsum Vintage Motorcycle Rally, Viroqua
Larryfest Music Fest, La Farge

AUGUST
Country on the River Music Fest, Prairie du Chien
Fountain City Days, Fountain City
Swiss Heritage Days, Alma
Ashley For The Arts, Arcadia
Irishfest, La Crosse

JUNE IS DAIRY MONTH
Enjoy a good breakfast and tour a working dairy farm. Great family event!
Find locations and times at dairydaysofsummer.com
Some of Wisconsin’s oldest communities are located along the Wisconsin Great River Road. Because of their proximity to the Mississippi River, several Wisconsin river towns were among the first places settled by Europeans in the New World.

**FORT CRAWFORD MUSEUM**  
**Prairie du Chien**  
**Great River Road Interpretive Center**

Fort Crawford Museum is located on the Fort Crawford Military Tract, the Fort Crawford Hospital is the only remaining structure of Fort Crawford. This is where Black Hawk surrendered to Colonel Zachary Taylor to end the Black Hawk War. Many people who were prominent in national history actually walked the grounds of Fort Crawford and participated in significant events that helped shape the growth of our nation. Because of its importance, Fort Crawford has been designated as a National Historic Landmark. In the Hospital is an 1832 Ward Room, plus exhibits about Fort Crawford, Dr. William Beaumont, the Surrender of Black Hawk, and the use of the building as a Civil War hospital. The Museum of Prairie du Chien contains exhibits on railroads, clamming, the War of 1812, and Native Peoples.

**33 HISTORIC RIVER TOWNS & VILLAGES**

Prairie du Chien is full of remnants of the French culture which dominated the 17th century Mississippi River. Places like Potosi and Tennyson reflect the lead mining industry that shaped Wisconsin in the 19th century. Prescott, Alma and La Crosse have their roots in the logging boom of the mid-late 1800s. Numerous towns like Genoa and Stockholm reflect the nationalities of their European founders.

**HISTORICAL MARKERS**

At regular intervals along the Wisconsin Great River Road, you’ll find historical markers commemorating military battles, important events and significant features in the landscape.

**LITTLE HOUSE IN THE BIG WOODS | Pepin**  
**Author: Laura Ingalls Wilder**

The book that started it all! Little House in the Big Woods is the first book in Laura Ingalls Wilder’s treasured Little House series, which is based on her life growing up as an American pioneer.

Told from four-year-old Laura’s point-of-view, this story begins in 1871 in a little log cabin on the edge of the Big Woods of Pepin, Wisconsin.

**STONEFIELD | Cassville Great River Road Interpretive Center**

Stonefield Historic Site is located on the 2000-acre estate of Wisconsin’s first governor, Nelson Dewey. Stonefield has several different areas for visitors to explore, including an early Wisconsin farmhouse, a re-created agricultural village built to resemble those common around 1900, and the home site of Nelson Dewey. Stonefield is also home to the Wisconsin State Agricultural Museum, featuring the Cyrus McCormick agricultural collection, including the oldest tractor in North America.

**VILLA LOUIS | Prairie du Chien**  
**Great River Road Interpretive Center**

Villa Louis is located on St Feriole Island. The villa and estate are a historical museum and has been restored to its appearance during the late 19th century when it was the estate of the H. Louis Dousman family. Villa Louis is a state historic site and a designated National Historic Landmark.
Kieler, Dickeyville, Tennyson, Potosi, Cassville, Glen Haven, Bagley, Wyalusing

EIGHT HISTORIC RIVER TOWNS & VILLAGES

KIELER is the southern gateway to the Wisconsin Great River Road National Scenic Byway. Not far from Kieler is the Sinsinawa Mound, home to over 700 Dominican nuns, with bookshop and 1847 stone building built by Father Mazzuchelli.

DICKEYVILLE offers a folk art delight, the Dickeyville Grotto, located on the grounds of Holy Ghost Parish. It stands as one of the most important works of outsider art in existence. Three dimensional mosaics from the use of various materials reflect light in many directions. Themes are both spiritual as well as patriotic.

TENNYSON began as a mining community. This lead mining region of SW Wisconsin had over 10,000 mines in its heyday, dug by hand. Much of the lead used by the Union Army during the Civil War came from this area.

POTOSI has the longest main street without an intersection in the world (3 miles). The restored Potosi Brewery is home to the National Brewery Museum and a Great River Road Interpretive Center. For a unique view of the Mississippi River, visit the Observation Deck at the end of Point Road where over 274 species of birds have been spotted.

CASSVILLE is well-known for its many historic buildings and the Cassville Ferry from Wisconsin to Millville, Iowa. Nelson Dewey State Park is a great place to see bald eagles from the bluffs. Stonefield, a state historic site, is home to the State Agricultural Museum, one of the best places in the Midwest to learn about the history of agriculture in the U.S.

GLEN HAVEN is a quiet village surrounded by natural beauty with excellent access to the Mississippi River.

BAGLEY, with its location on the Mississippi River, is a popular riverside destination for summer when the village's population quadruples. Easy access to Wyalusing State Park makes Bagley a sought after camping location.

WYALUSING is home to 2600-acre Wyalusing State Park, perched high above the confluence of the Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers. As you stand and look out from the bluffs, you’re looking over a maze of islands, channels and sloughs that look much as they did when explorers Marquette and Joliet first arrived in 1673. The park includes a number of burial mounds, historical markers, campsites and an interpretive center.
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Cassville Car Ferry
This historic ferry runs between the Wisconsin Great River Road (Cassville) to the Iowa Great River Road (Millville) and has operated since the 19th century.

www.cassville.org • 24 Hour Info Line 608-725-5180

Photo by Jim Lange
Biking opportunities along Wisconsin’s Great River Road, our counties and the Driftless area take bikers across streams & rivers, past woodlands & wetlands, prairies & pastures, through old railroad tunnels and up bluffs & down valleys. Mississippi River Trail in Wisconsin follows the entire length of the Wisconsin Great River Road. Riding maps are available at www.mississippirivertrail.org.

ROADS AS ROUTES. Did you know you could bicycle the Wisconsin Great River Road? Road biking has its pros and cons but on our National Scenic Byway there are paved shoulders, the road is only two lanes wide without heavy traffic in most locations and you get to travel through 33 historic river towns and villages and some of the most beautiful scenery in the country between the Mississippi River and our bluffs. Backroad bicycling utilizes paved county & township roads, an advantage of Wisconsin backroad cycling. Many counties have produced biking maps and defined road tours. Most state parks offer biking trails.

RAILS TO TRAILS. Looking for bike touring trails? Try out Great River State Trail, La Crosse River State Trail, Elroy-Sparta State Trail, Hillsboro State Trail & Chippewa River State Trail. These former railroad beds are surfaced with fine limestone or similar materials. Wisconsin State Trails offer a cyclist over 110 miles of trail riding. They are not designed for high speed travel. Appropriate for families.

FAT TIRE TRAILS. Buffalo River State Trail & Wyalusing State Park offer off-road biking opportunities. Others include Whitetail Ridge, Pierce Co; HPT La Crosse & Blue Bird Campground Trails, La Crosse Co; Sidie Hollow Trails & Brush Creek Campground Trails, Vernon Co. Environmentally responsible and sustainable use of public lands for mountain biking opportunities. Often in the woods with a variety of surfacing, appropriate for families with more adventurous riders and hybrid or mountain bikes.

FOR STATE TRAILS a Wisconsin State Trail Pass is required for bicyclists 16 years and older. Daily fee $5. Annual fee $25. Sold by various businesses along the trail routes and at Visitor Centers.
FOUR HISTORIC RIVER TOWNS & VILLAGES

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN is located just above the confluence of the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers, and is the oldest European settlement on the Upper Mississippi River. Many epic frontier stories were played out in Prairie du Chien and their history dates back to the 17th century with many sites preserved and open to visitors. Fort Crawford Museum stands on the site of the old fort. Villa Louis, the historic Dousman home, attracts thousands of visitors each year and is open May through October. St. Feriole Island, where Villa Louis is located, has a number of historic sites. The Villa Louis grounds are the site of the Battle of Prairie du Chien, the only battle fought in Wisconsin during the War of 1812. Re-enactments are held every year in July.

LYNXVILLE is just north of Lock & Dam #9, one of the wildest and most beautiful stretches of the Mississippi River. During the fall and spring, the large pool you see along this stretch is a stopping place for millions of waterfowl, especially canvasback ducks, swans, white pelicans and beavers.

FERRYVILLE, at the base of bluffs rising almost 600 feet above the Mississippi, is known for hunting, fishing and water sports—A Place For All Seasons. Home of former governor Patrick J. Lucey. An observation deck offers a beautiful view across Lake Winneshiek, a widened area of the Mississippi River formed by Lock & Dam #9 in Lynxville. A Wisconsin Bird City Community. visitferryville.com or 920-210-4560

DE SOTO is a small village on the banks of the Mississippi River, originally part of the Northwest Territory that was the home of the Winnebago Indians. From 1820 to 1854, it was known as Winneshiek Landing. The name was later changed to De Soto after Hernando De Soto, who discovered the Mississippi River. It became a center for grain and lumber to be shipped on the river. A Wisconsin Bird City Community.

POINTS OF INTEREST
Mississippi River (Lake Winneshiek) Observation Deck, Ferryville
Lock and Dam #9, Lynxville
Villa Louis, Prairie du Chien
Fort Crawford Museum, Prairie du Chien
Hubbard’s Fishing Float, Lynxville
Mississippi River Sculpture Park, Prairie du Chien
Mississippi River Bridge to Marquette, IA
Mississippi River Bridge to Lansing, IA

TAKE A SIDE TRIP TO
Gays Mills, Soldiers Grove, Wauzeka, Seneca & Mt. Sterling

July: War of 1812, Battle of Prairie du Chien Reenactment

Visitor Information

DRIFTLESS WISCONSIN, Crawford Co. Tourism Council
Phone: 608-326-6658
Website: www.driftlesswisconsin.com

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
211 South Main Street
Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin 53821
Phone: 800-732-1673
Email: info@prairieduchien.org
Website: www.prairieduchien.org

HISTORICAL SITES
Prairie du Chien
Villa Louis, National & State Historical Site & Marker; Fort Crawford Museum, National & State Historical Site & Marker; War of 1812 State Historical Marker, Villa Louis; St. Feriole Island; Dousman House Hotel, National Historical Landmark; 1800s Jail; Fort Crawford Military Cemetery; Old French Cemetery (1817)
Riverview Park and Historical Marker, Ferryville
Foley Mound Group National Archaeological Site, Lynxville (restricted)
Governor Lucey Highway Historical Marker, Ferryville
Tainter Cave Petroglyphs, Clayton (restricted)
Wall-Smethurst Mound Group, Lynxville (restricted)

PARKS, REFUGES & NATURAL AREAS
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
Blackhawk Park, De Soto
La Riviere Park, Prairie du Chien
St. Feriole Island, Prairie du Chien
Lawler Park, Walk of History, Prairie du Chien
Hogback Prairies State Natural Area
Kickapoo Wild Woods State Natural Area
Limery Ridge Savanna State Natural Area
Rush Creek State Natural Area
Sugar Creek Bluffs State Natural Area
Sugar Creek Park, Ferryville
Wauzeka Bottoms State Natural Area

RIVERS
Mississippi River
Kickapoo River
Wisconsin River
ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER ON
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www.fortcrawfordmuseum.com

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Fort Crawford, Prairie du Chien Wisconsin Historic Site

Crawford County, WI
www.DriftlessWisconsin.com

This ad provided by Crawford County Tourism Council
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www.visitferryville.com

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TROUT STREAMS
This region is perfect for trout fishing with 461 streams/classifications. Wisconsin DNR classified trout streams in all 8 river counties: Pierce (76), Pepin (12), Buffalo (26), Trempealeau (81), La Crosse (49), Vernon (92), Crawford (59), and Grant (66).

Trout streams/classifications provided at: www.dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/trout/stream-maps.html

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www.visitferryville.com
Vernon County

Victory, Genoa, Stoddard

Three Historic River Towns & Villages

Victory has always been an important point for the buying and shipment of grain with its convenient location on the Mississippi River. It had three warehouses, one of which is built of stone. In years gone by 100,000 bushels of wheat passed through each year. It was built by the farmers and called the “Farmers Stock Warehouse.” Victory was established in 1854 and was named to commemorate the Battle of Bad Axe just south of town.

Genoa lies on the banks of the Mississippi River at the base of tall bluffs. This beautiful, quiet village offers tranquil vistas and unique points of interest to visitors who like to get off the beaten path and into river village escapes. Founded in 1854 by Italian immigrants, named after Genoa, Italy. From the village of Genoa you can watch towboats and barges “lock through” Lock and Dam #8. Fish from the Clements Fishing Barge. Genoa National Fish Hatchery offers tours throughout the year.

Stoddard is a charming village of 800 that became a river town in 1937 when the pool created by the construction of Lock and Dam #8 flooded 18,000 acres of bottomland and brought the river to its doorstep. Stoddard Park features a river beach, a marina and a campground.

Genoa National Fish Hatchery

Genoa National Fish Hatchery rears 23 species of fish including trout, northern pike, and walleye. Guided and self-guided tours are offered. The area has 17 open-air ponds and 6 raceways. Because of its location at the confluence of the Bad Axe and Mississippi Rivers, the La Crosse Chapter of the Audubon Society ranks the hatchery as a top location for bird watching. On a walk among the rearing ponds, backwaters and sloughs you might see Great Egrets, Solitary Sandpipers, Green Herons, resident Bald Eagles, and Pileated and Red-headed Woodpeckers.

Take a Side Trip to
Hillsboro, Viroqua, Westby

Visitor Information

Vernon County Tourism is served by Driftless Wisconsin
Phone: 608-326-6658
Website: www.driftlesswisconsin.com

Historical Sites

Norskedalen Nature & Heritage Center, Coon Valley
Goose Island National Archaeological Site, Stoddard
Dams on the Mississippi State Historical Marker, Genoa
Battle of Bad Axe State Historical Marker, De Soto
Three Chimneys, Viroqua
Hanson Petroglyphs, Viola (restricted)
Larson Cave Petroglyphs, Westby (restricted)
Tollackson Mound Group, Harmony (restricted)

Parks, Refuges & Natural Areas

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
Blackhawk County Park, De Soto
Mt. Pisgah Hemlock-Hardwoods State Natural Area
Battle Bluff Prairie State Natural Area
Coon Creek Cliffs State Natural Area
Kickapoo Valley Reserve State Natural Area
Bergen Bluffs State Natural Area
Romance Prairie State Natural Area
Tunnelville Cliffs State Natural Area
Hillsboro State Trail, Hillsboro
Coon Prairie Trail, Viroqua & Westby
Wildcat Mountain State Park, Ontario

Rivers

Mississippi River
Bad Axe River + North & South Forks
Kickapoo River + West Fork
Little Baraboo River

Points of Interest

Lock and Dam #8, Genoa
Clements Fishing Barge, Genoa
Genoa National Fish Hatchery, Genoa
Vernon
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Vernon Inn and Suites, Viroqua

Vernon County Tourism, Promotion and Economic Development Committee, 608-638-8332
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LA CROSSE COUNTY
La Crosse, Onalaska, Midway, Holmen

FOUR HISTORIC RIVER TOWNS & VILLAGES

LA CROSSE is the largest city you’ll pass through on your Wisconsin Great River Road journey, with a population of over 50,000. Many historic buildings and large downtown district date back to the 1800s, when La Crosse was one of Wisconsin’s most important centers for trade and commerce. A great place to learn about the history of La Crosse is Riverside Museum Great River Road Interpretive Center. You’ll find displays featuring wildlife that live along the river, logging history and steamboats.

The area’s most prominent land feature is Grandad Bluff, located on the east side of the valley that cradles the community of La Crosse. A drive to the top provides stunning views of the city in the valley below. A Wisconsin Bird City Community.

ONALASKA is located on Pool 7 of the Mississippi River which encompasses 7,688 acre Lake Onalaska. Known as Sunfish Capital of the World it is a great destination for biking, hiking, fishing, sailing, hunting & bird watching. Onalaska is the southern access point for the Great River State Trial. Visit the US Fish & Wildlife Visitor Center, they offer nature hiking paths and numerous birding opportunities.

MIDWAY is an access point to the Great River State Trail. Halfway Creek Trail from Holmen connects at this point. Great River State Trail runs along Brice Prairie, the Midway Railroad Prairie State Natural Area encompasses the eastern entrance to the prairie. Two landings offer access to Lake Onalaska and the Mississippi River and there is a canoe landing accessing the Black River.

HOLMEN is located at the base of the bluffs on a sand prairie. Van Loon Wildlife Area and McGilvray Bridges are located about 3.5 miles NW of Holmen. Check out the group of five rare bowstring arch truss bridges & one low truss bridge on the Old McGilvray Bottoms Road. Halfway Creek Trail in Holmen connects to the Great River State Trail in Midway. Kornfest is celebrated in Holmen in August each year.

POINTS OF INTEREST
Great River Road Interpretive Center: Riverside Museum, La Crosse
Great River State Trail (bike & pedestrian)
Lake Onalaska Spillway
McGilvray Bridges (pedestrian), Holmen
Children’s Museum, La Crosse
US Fish & Wildlife Visitor Center, Onalaska
Mississippi River Bridge to Hwy 61, MN
Mississippi River Bridge to La Crescent, MN
Shrine of Our Lady Of Guadalupe

TAKE A SIDE TRIP TO
Norskedalen, West Salem

Visitor Information

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Website: www.explorelacrosse.com

HISTORICAL SITES
McGilvray Bridges State Historical Marker, Holmen
Norskedalen Nature & Heritage Center, Coon Valley
City of La Crosse National State Historic Districts
The Coulee Region, Bishop’s Overlook, State Historical Marker, La Crosse
Gideon C. Hixon House, La Crosse
City Brewery, La Crosse
Mindoro Cut, Mindoro to West Salem

PARKS, REFUGES & NATURAL AREAS
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
Grandad Bluff City Park & Overview, La Crosse
Great River State Trail (bike & pedestrian)
Marsh View Trail, Onalaska
La Crosse State Trail (bike & pedestrian), Onalaska to Sparta
Van Loon Wildlife Area
Midway Railroad Prairie State Natural Area
Great River Trail Prairies State Natural Area
Greens Coulee Park Trail, Onalaska
Holland Sand Prairie State Natural Area

RIVERS
Mississippi River
Black River
La Crosse River

18 | www.wigreatriverroad.org
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Winnesheik Landing Day
Great River Shakespeare Festival
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Viroqua Bluegrass Gospel Music Festival
Prairie Dog Blues Festival
Three Rivers Roleo
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AAUW Art Fair on the Green
Irishfest La Crosse
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Larry Fest
Threshing Bee
Great River Folk Festival
Tour De Peari
La Crosse Area Bicycle Festival
Lizfest
La Crosse Storytelling Festival
Between the Bluffs Plein Air
La Crosse Pride

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2013 Grape Grower of the Year* Ted Bauer of Bauer-Kearns Winery
*Wisconsin Grape Growers Association

View the map on the next page for winery locations.

Northern Wine Tasting Adventure
North of La Crosse, Wisconsin, the
WIGRR Northern Wine Tasting Adventure
stretches from River Falls, Wisconsin down to
Trempealeau, Wisconsin. The route includes
the following vineyards:

1. Belle Vinez
   W10829 875th Ave., River Falls
2. Maiden Rock Winery & Cidery
   W12266 King Lane, Stockholm
3. Villa Bellezza
   1420 3rd Street, Pepin
4. Danzinger Vineyards & Winery
   S2015 Grapeview Lane, Alma
5. Seven Hawks Vineyards
   17 North Street, Fountain City
6. Elmaro Vineyard
   N14756 Delaney Road, Trempealeau
7. Sandstone Ridge Vineyard & Winery
   N121061 Kass Lane, Osseo

Southern Wine Tasting Adventure
South of La Crosse, Wisconsin, the WIGRR
Southern Wine Tasting Adventure stretches
from Westby, Wisconsin to Kieler, Wisconsin.
The route includes the following:

8. Branches Winery
   Old Line Road, Westby
9. Vernon Vineyards
   S3426 Peterson Lane, Viroqua
10. Sugar Creek Winery
    13418 Chellevold Road, Ferryville
11. Spurgeon Vineyards & Winery
    16008 Pine Tree Road, Highland
12. Whispering Winds Winery
    13541 Blue School Road, Fennimore
13. Bauer-Kearns Winery
    19245 W Mound Road, Platteville
14. Whispering Bluffs Winery
    196 S Main Street, Potosi
15. Sinnipee Valley Vineyard & Winery
    4547 Timber Lane, Cuba City/Kieler

www.wigreatriverroad.org | 21
Great River Road: **DAY 1**

Start your adventure in Prescott at the Great River Road Visitor Center. Then follow the Mississippi River south to Stockholm, known for its boutique shops, beautiful gardens and wonderful cafés. Browse the galleries and pay a visit to Maiden Rock Winery and Cidery. Continue the journey south to Pepin, home of “Little House” author, Laura Ingalls Wilder. Visit the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum or take a sail on Lake Pepin for fantastic views of the area. Spend the night at one of the region’s many bed and breakfasts.

**Prescott to Stockholm: 38 miles (61 km)**

Great River Road: **DAY 2**

Start the day in Alma and rent a houseboat for overnight accommodations. Experience the beauty and serenity of the Mississippi River Valley aboard a floating lodge at Alma Marina. Visit Lock & Dam #5, a structure that features an unusually long earth embankment that runs more than 18,000 feet. Fish or swim at the many sandy beaches between Alma and La Crosse. Spend the night on your houseboat and watch the sun set over the river.

**Stockholm to Alma: 20 miles (30 km)**

Great River Road: **DAY 3**

Drive to La Crosse. Cruise the Mississippi River aboard the La Crosse Queen, a paddlewheel boat. After your cruise, explore the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge or rent bikes in Onalaska and pedal along the Great River State Bike Trail. Visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a shrine dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Spend the night in La Crosse.

**Alma to La Crosse: 55 miles (90 km)**

Great River Road: **DAY 4**

Enjoy the scenic views as you pass through numerous historic communities when you drive from La Crosse to Prairie du Chien, one of Wisconsin’s prettiest river towns. Experience Victorian life when you tour Villa Louis, a restored 1870s mansion that once belonged to one of Wisconsin’s most prosperous families. Afterwards, hike the trails at Wyalusing State Park. Stay the night in Prairie du Chien.

**La Crosse to Prairie du Chien: 60 miles (95 km)**

Great River Road: **DAY 5**

Drive south to make your way back through the state. Tour the Stonefield Historic Site, the home of Wisconsin’s first governor, in Cassville. Eat dinner and take a tour of the National Brewery Museum in Potosi. A popular attraction is the Dickeyville Grotto, a unique series of religious grotto sand shrines. Also visit Sinsinawa Mound, which houses a retreat center, bookshop, Father Mazzuchelli exhibit, art gallery and sustainable farm. Head to Platteville and hike the world’s largest “M” – a monogram for the former Wisconsin Mining School. Stay overnight in Platteville or continue on your way.

**Prairie du Chien to Platteville: 50 miles (80 km)**
Boating & Paddling

Boat launches are available in nearly every riverside community along the Wisconsin Great River Road. The entire river along Wisconsin’s western border is a veritable boating playground. Broad pools, winding channels and extensive backwaters offer hundreds of thousands of acres of open water to explore. Whether you’re paddling, sailing or power boating, the Mississippi River is an incredible boating experience.

Here are some of the top boating opportunities along the Wisconsin Great River Road:

Lake Pepin
More than 25,000 acres of open water awaits you on Lake Pepin. This natural lake was formed by a natural sandbar created where the Chippewa River spills into the Mississippi. The result is one of the best places on earth for sailing and boating. Waterskiing was invented on this big body of water. Numerous marinas and boat launches can be found along its shores.

Lake Onalaska
At 7,700 acres, Lake Onalaska offers boaters lots of room to explore. The lake is famous not only as a boating and paddling destination—it’s also known as the “Sunfish Capital of the World.” Backwater areas and quiet sloughs are perfect for canoeing and kayaking, especially the Lake Onalaska Canoe Trail, a marked trail down the Black River to Lake Onalaska.

Lake Winneshiek (Pool #9)
This wild and undeveloped stretch near Lynxville and Ferryville offers thousands of acres of open water just waiting to be explored with a canoe or kayak. At the northern and southern ends of the pool, the river splits into numerous channels. Boat launches are located along the eastern shore, allowing easy access to this pristine section of the Mississippi River. Numerous stumps and islands make this a challenging stretch for motorboats.
1. **FREEDOM PARK | Prescott**  
*Great River Road Interpretive Center*  
Part of Prescott’s fantastic Great River Road Visitor & Learning Center, this scenic overlook allows you to gaze up and down the river valley from atop a 400-foot bluff. The confluence of the St Croix River and the Mississippi River is clearly seen.

2. **BUENA VISTA OVERLOOK | Alma**  
*Buena Vista Park*  
Located on the bluff 550 feet above Alma, this is widely regarded as one of the best views along the Wisconsin Great River Road. Largest natural balcony overlooking the Mississippi River, this spot affords a view of Lock & Dam #4, the picturesque town of Alma and miles of the Upper Mississippi River Valley.

3. **PERROT STATE PARK | Trempealeau**  
*Wisconsin State Park*  
Named after the 17th century French explorer Nicholas Perrot, overlook from Brady’s Bluff affords views of Trempealeau Mountain, a bluff surrounded by the Mississippi River.

4. **LAKE ONALASKA | Onalaska**  
Great River Road Overlook & Gazebo with views of the 7700-acre Lake Onalaska. The Great River State Trail, part of 101 miles of interconnecting state trails, runs parallel with Lake Onalaska.

5. **MERRICK STATE PARK | Fountain City**  
*Wisconsin State Park*  
Nature trails, a canoe trail and scenic vistas from a water-level view make this riverside park an excellent place to experience the natural beauty of the Mississippi River’s peaceful backwaters.

6. **LAKE PEPIN**  
*Bay City, Maiden Rock, Stockholm & Pepin City & Village Parks*  
Lake Pepin, on the Mississippi River, is the widest naturally occurring spot on the river. With a surface area of 40 square miles and an average depth of 21 feet it is the largest lake on the entire Mississippi River. Birthplace of Water skiing. Sailing and beautiful sunsets with several quaint river towns, parks, boat docks and camping.
7. DRIVING WISCONSIN’S GREAT RIVER ROAD
Mississippi River Bend Above Lynxville
Lock & Dam #9
Don’t forget the view from your car! Iconic views can be seen all along Wisconsin’s Great River Road. Voted the “Prettiest Drive: Ultimate Summer Road Trip In The United States.” Photo Contributed By Steve Nagel

8. GRANDAD BLUFF | La Crosse
City Park
Panoramic views of Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, as well as the city of La Crosse, spread out below as you gaze out over one of the widest sections of the Upper Mississippi River Valley almost 500 feet above the surrounding land. Many hiking trails. Beautiful viewing deck. Photo contributed by Collin Richter

9. WALK OF HISTORY | Prairie du Chien
Lawler Park
Riverfront park on St. Feriole Island features the Walk of History and fantastic views of the Mississippi River. Good bald eagle viewing.

10. RIVER VIEW OVERLOOK | Ferryville
River View Park
This scenic overlook features a spotting scope and offers views of the Mississippi River at one of its widest points, Lake Winneshiek. Formed by Lock & Dam #9 at Lynxville, 10 miles to the south. Area is well known for birding and fishing.

11. WYALUSING STATE PARK | Bagley
Wisconsin State Park
Where the Wisconsin River meets the Mississippi River. One of Wisconsin’s oldest parks. View at this point atop the bluff is the same view recorded by the explorers Marquette and Joliet when they arrived here in 1673.

12. NELSON DEWEY STATE PARK | Cassville
Wisconsin State Park
Enjoy a stunning view from the former estate of Wisconsin’s first governor, Nelson Dewey. Overlook campsites and lots of hiking trails.
TREMPEALEAU COUNTY

Centerville, Trempealeau

TWO HISTORIC RIVER TOWNS & VILLAGES

CENTERVILLE is located at an intersection of the Wisconsin Great River Road where Highways 53, 93 and 35 meet. Head toward the Mississippi River and you will find Trempealeau, head toward the rolling hills and valleys you will find Arcadia and south you will find orchards and pick-you-own stands. It’s really the “center.”

TREMPEALEAU Main Street runs right to the Mississippi River and Lock & Dam #6. Access point to the Great River State Trail and Perrot State Park (Trempealeau Mountain). Perfect views of the Mississippi River. Great for fishing, boating, kayaking and birding. Public golf course available. Catfish Days held the weekend following the 4th of July. A Wisconsin Bird City Community.

PERROT STATE PARK

North of Trempealeau, on the Wisconsin Great River Road, is Perrot State Park. The 1,400 acre Perrot State Park encompasses a complex of wetlands and towering bluffs. The park’s most scenic feature is Trempealeau Mountain, for which the community was named. This majestic bluff is located entirely on an island surrounded by the Mississippi River. Exceptional hiking and biking trails throughout the park allow you to capture a number of fantastic views of this strikingly beautiful section of the river valley. Easy-to-paddle canoe trail is excellent for paddlers of all ability levels. Perrot State Park also has several ancient burial mounds that can be seen along the trails.

TREMPEALEAU NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Also north of Trempealeau is the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, one of the best birdwatching destinations on the entire Mississippi River. It is a significant element of the Mississippi Flyway at the confluence of the Trempealeau and Mississippi Rivers. Named by RAMSAR as a Wetland of International Importance in 2010 along with the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge. Observation deck overlooks wetlands offering great opportunities to view waterfowl. Refuge is also a sand prairie, where big bluestem, indiangrass, and switchgrass can reach heights of 8–9 feet. Great River State Trail travels through this park from Trempealeau to Marshland.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Great River State Trail (bike & pedestrian)
Ecker’s Apple Farm, Trempealeau
Lock & Dam #6, Trempealeau
Tremplo Fishing Float, Trempealeau

TAKE A SIDE TRIP TO
Arcadia, Blair, Galesville, Independence, Osseo & Whitehall

Visitor Information

TREMPEALEAU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
24455 3rd Street, PO Box 242
Trempealeau, Wisconsin 54661
Phone: 608-534-6780
Email: chamber@trempealeau.net
Website: www.trempealeau.net

HISTORICAL SITES
Mississippi River Parkway:
First Project State Historical Marker
Trempealeau Main Street,
National & State Historic District
Trempealeau Platform Mounds
National Historic District
Perrot State Park
Trempealeau Lakes Mound
National Historic District
Decorah Peak State Historical Marker
Perrot’s Post State Historical Marker
Brady’s Bluff State Historical Marker
Galesville Bridge State Historical Marker

PARKS, REFUGES & NATURAL AREAS
Trempealeau National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
Great River State Trail (bike & pedestrian)
Perrot State Park, Trempealeau
Trempealeau Mountain State Natural Area
Great River Trail State Natural Area
Brady’s Bluff Prairie State Natural Area
Tamarack Creek Bog State Natural Area
Borst Valley Meadow State Natural Area
Chimney Rock Oak Savanna State Natural Area
Hawkinson Creek Wet Prairie State Natural Area
Vosse Coulee State Natural Area

RIVERS
Mississippi River
Black River
Buffalo River
North Fork Buffalo River
Trempealeau River

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Jan-Mar, Thurs-Sun.

Elmaro Vineyard

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BUFFALO COUNTY
Fountain City, Buffalo City, Cochrane, Alma, Nelson

FIVE HISTORIC RIVER TOWNS & VILLAGES

FOUNTAIN CITY, the oldest settlement in Buffalo County, is home to the US Army Corps of Engineers, offering them the largest natural harbor on the Mississippi. Eagle Bluff is the tallest bluff on the Mississippi River and Elmer’s Auto & Toy Museum offers views from this vantage point. Merrick State Park is just north of Fountain City. The northern gateway to the Great River State Trail is just south of Fountain City at Marshland.

BUFFALO CITY is located on a slough of the Mississippi River with beautiful views across the river, Spring Lake and Whitman Bottoms. Great for fishing, boating, kayaking and birding. The local grocery imports Kringle from Racine!

COCHRANE is located at the base of high bluffs on the sand prairie. Home to the Prairie Moon Sculpture Garden which features the works of Herman Rusch and others. Rusch created nearly 40 large works using concrete, stone & rock. This folk art site was preserved by the Kohler Foundation as a public art site. Public golf course available.

ALMA is a designated National Historic District preserving over 220 acres in this small historic rivertown. Home to Buena Vista, largest natural balcony overlooking the Mississippi River from over 500 feet, the Great Alma Fishing Float, Riecks Lake Park and Lock & Dam #4. Wings Over Alma Nature & Art Center offers a 50-foot viewing deck on the Mississippi River below Lock & Dam #4. As an art community there are many local artists & shops. This is a prime birding spot and bald eagle viewing is popular. Castlerock Museum offers a look at arms and armory from the Middle Ages. Hiking trails include Buena Vista Trail & Mossy Hollows Trails. Alma Music & Art Festival held Sunday of Labor Day weekend.

NELSON sits at the base of two twin bluffs. Wildlife abounds within the Tiffany and Nelson-Trevino Bottoms State Natural Areas. The dike road (State Hwy 25) leading to Minnesota offers great fishing and paddling in the backwaters of the Mississippi River. Although no longer an operational cheese factory, Nelson Creamery is a popular stop for ice cream and cheese curds throughout the year.

TAKE A SIDE TRIP TO
Mondovi, Waumandee

Visitor Information

WINGS OVER ALMA VISITOR CENTER
110 North Main Street
Alma, Wisconsin 54610
Phone: 608-685-3303
Email: info@almawisconsin.com
Website: www.almawisconsin.com

HISTORICAL SITES
City of Alma National & State Historic District, Alma
Beef Slough State Historical Marker, Alma
Fountain City State Historical Marker, Fountain City

PARKS, REFUGES & NATURAL AREAS
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge
Buffalo River State Trail (bike & pedestrian), Mondovi
Merrick State Park, Fountain City
Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area
Tiffany State Natural Area, Nelson
Nelson-Trevino Bottoms State Natural Area, Nelson
Whitman Bottoms Floodplain Forest State Natural Area, Buffalo City
Trempealeau Meadow State Natural Area

RIVERS
Mississippi River
Buffalo River
Chippewa River
Trempealeau River

POINTS OF INTEREST
Lock & Dam #4 with Railroad Bridge, Alma
Lock & Dam #5A, Fountain City
Great Alma Fishing Float, Alma
Nelson Cheese Factory, Nelson
Wings Over Alma Nature & Art Center, Alma
Buena Vista Overlook, Alma
Castlerock Arms & Armory Museum, Alma
Elmer’s Auto & Toy Museum, Fountain City
State Normal School & Museum, Alma
Prairie Moon Sculpture Garden & Museum, Cochrane
Mississippi River Bridge to Wabasha, MN
Mississippi River Bridge to Winona, MN
Great River State Trail
Kinstone, Megalithic Garden
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VISITOR CENTERS
Onalaska, Wisconsin is home to a Visitor Center with exhibits and walking paths through the prairie. Special programs are offered throughout the year.

WILDLIFE VIEWING
There are observation decks, pull-offs, and canoe and bike trails to help you observe the natural wonders of the Refuge. Although boating provides the most intimate look at this river system, many visitors enjoy viewing the Refuge’s wild and scenic beauty from bluff-top overlooks in state and local parks bordering the Refuge. The Refuge and its wildlife mark time by the ancient rhythms of spring, summer, fall and winter.

FISHING
The Refuge is an anglers’ paradise, and is known for walleye, largemouth bass, crappie, catfish and bluegill. There are year-round fishing opportunities including many ice fishing locations. Fishing is allowed in accordance with state and federal regulations.

CANOE TRAILS
Marked canoe trails wind through the marshes and backwater areas of the Refuge. Canoe areas provide quiet, peaceful areas to paddle a canoe or kayak. Explore your National Wildlife Refuge by water.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
The Refuge’s environmental education program focuses on increasing understanding of the Refuge. The programs strive to inspire a life-long connection to nature, encourage active stewardship and foster future conservationists. Contact Refuge staff for more information on environmental education opportunities.

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY
Wildlife on the refuge are waiting to be captured by photographers. Patience and time allow photographers to capture the wildlife of the skies and forests. Good luck on your photographic journey.

EXPLORING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER
The Great River Road borders the entire river Refuge. You can find your adventure on the Refuge by exploring the Great River Road.

For more information: www.fws.gov/refuge/Upper_Mississippi_River or call 608-779-2392
PEPIN COUNTY

Pepin, Stockholm

TWO HISTORIC RIVER TOWNS & VILLAGES

PEPIN, near the birthplace of Laura Ingalls Wilder, has become all things Laura. Visit the museum, a replica of the Little Cabin In The Woods and a festival the second week of September, Laura Ingalls Wilder Days. Set on the shores of Lake Pepin on the Mississippi River, visitors will enjoy beautiful sunsets, sailing, dining and a walkway out into Lake Pepin.

STOCKHOLM, a village of less than 100, is today a vibrant artist community. Their annual one-day Stockholm Art Fair in July draws over 10,000 visitors to the shores of Lake Pepin on the Mississippi River. With Swedish roots, Stockholm was a community center that has evolved into a favorite stop for travelers. Their Blue Bike Project offers visitors a free bike while exploring the village.

LAKE PEPIN

LAKE PEPIN is a naturally occurring lake, and the widest naturally occurring part of the Mississippi River. The formation of the lake was caused by the backup of water behind the sedimentary deposits of the Chippewa River’s delta. It has a surface area of about 40 square miles and an average depth of 21 feet, which makes it the largest lake on the entire Mississippi River.

The wide area of the lake stretches from Bay City, Wisconsin, in the north, down past Pepin, in the south, with Pepin being just upstream from where the Chippewa River enters the Mississippi. The villages of Maiden Rock and Stockholm are also on Lake Pepin.

The lake was first named in a map of New France made by Guillaume Delisle at the request of Louis XIV of France in 1703. The lake was named for Jean Pepin who settled on its shores in the late 1600s after exploring the Great Lakes. Nicolas Perrot erected Fort Saint Antoine in 1686, the first of a number of French fur trade posts. In 1890 Lake Pepin was the site of one of the worst maritime disasters on the Mississippi, known as the Sea Wing disaster when the Sea Wing ferry capsized in a bad storm, killing 98 people.

In 1922, a Minnesota resident invented the sport of water skiing on Lake Pepin. Today the size of Lake Pepin provides an ideal venue for sailing and many other water sports.

Visitor Information

PEPIN VILLAGE HALL
508 2nd Street
Pepin, Wisconsin 54759
Phone: 715-442-3031
Website: www.pepinwisconsin.com

HISTORICAL SITES
Maiden Rock State Historical Marker, Stockholm
Fort St Antoine Site State Historical Marker
Lake Pepin State Historical Marker
Laura Ingalls Wilder Wayside, Cabin & State Historical Marker, Lund
Pepin County Courthouse & Jail (last wooden courthouse), National & State Historical Marker, Durand

PARKS, REFUGES & NATURAL AREAS
Chippewa River State Trail (bike & pedestrian), Durand
Walkways Out Into Lake Pepin, Harbor at Pepin
Five-Mile Bluff Prairie State Natural Area
Maiden Rock Bluff State Natural Area
Nine Mile Island State Natural Area
Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area

RIVERS
Mississippi River
Buffalo River
Chippewa River
Eau Galle River
Red Cedar River
Rush River

POINTS OF INTEREST
Pepin Depot Museum, Pepin
Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum, Pepin
Lake Pepin

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Durand, Lund
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Campground: 1010 Locust Street • Pepin, WI
715-442-2012 • lakepepincampground.com

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STOCKHOLM STROLL
2ND Friday of the month
MAY - OCT

WOMEN’S WEEKEND
First weekend of November

SWEDISH CHRISTMAS
Every Saturday from Thanksgiving to the 3rd Saturday in December

stockholmwisconsin.com
CAR FERRY
Cassville Car Ferry from Cassville, WI to Millville, IA in Grant County

MISSISSIPPI RIVER LOCKS & DAMS
Lock & Dam #9, near Lynxville, WI in Crawford County
Lock & Dam #8, Genoa, WI in Vernon County
Lock & Dam #7, near La Crosse, WI in La Crosse County
Lock & Dam #6, Trempealeau, WI in Trempealeau County
Lock & Dam #5A, near Fountain City, WI in Buffalo County
Lock & Dam #4, Alma, WI in Buffalo County

MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGES
Mississippi River Bridge from Grant County, WI to Dubuque, IA
Mississippi River Bridge from Prairie du Chien, WI to Marquette, IA
Mississippi River Bridge from Crawford Co, WI to Lansing, IA
Mississippi River Bridge from La Crosse, WI to La Crescent, MN
Mississippi River Bridge from La Crosse, WI (Interstate 90) to Minnesota
Mississippi River Bridge from Buffalo County, WI to Winona, MN
Mississippi River Bridge from Nelson, WI to Wabasha, MN
Mississippi River Bridge from Hager City, WI to Red Wing, MN
Mississippi River Bridge from Prescott, WI to Hastings, MN

VISITOR CENTERS
Platteville Travel Wisconsin Welcome Center
Platteville, WI in Grant County
Prairie du Chien Regional Tourism Center
Prairie du Chien, WI in Crawford County
Explore La Crosse
La Crosse, WI in La Crosse County
La Crosse Area Travel Wisconsin Welcome Center
La Crosse, WI in La Crosse County

Wings Over Alma Visitor Center
Alma, WI in Buffalo County
Great River Road Visitor & Learning Center
Prescott, WI in Pierce County

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
Buffalo, Trempealeau, La Crosse, Vernon, Crawford & Grant Counties
Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge
Buffalo & Trempealeau Counties

GREAT RIVER ROAD INTERPRETIVE CENTERS
Potosi Brewing Company
Potosi, WI in Grant County
Stonefield, State Agricultural & Historical Site
Cassville, WI in Grant County
Fort Crawford Museum
Prairie du Chien, WI in Crawford County
Villa Louis, State Historical Site
Prairie du Chien, WI in Crawford County
Riverside Museum
La Crosse, WI in La Crosse County
Great River Road Visitor & Learning Center
Prescott, WI in Pierce County

STATE PARKS
Wyalusing State Park
Wyalusing, WI in Grant County
Nelson Dewey State Park
Cassville, WI in Grant County
Wildcat Mountain State Park
Ontario, WI in Vernon County
Perrot State Park
Trempealeau, WI in Trempealeau County
Merrick State Park
Fountain City, WI in Buffalo County
Kinnickinnic State Park
River Falls, WI in Pierce County

WISCONSIN STATE TRAILS (bike & pedestrian)
Hillisboro State Trail, Vernon County
La Crosse River State Trail, La Crosse County
Great River State Trail, Buffalo, Trempealeau & La Crosse Counties
Buffalo River State Trail, Buffalo County
Chippewa River State Trail, Pepin County
GET AWAY & GOLF

LOCATED NEXT TO THE WISCONSIN GREAT RIVER ROAD

Platteville Golf & Country Club, Platteville
Lancaster Community Golf Course, Lancaster
Hickory Grove Country Club, Fennimore
Cole Acres Golf Course, Cuba City
Birchwood Golf Course, Kieler
Prairie du Chien Country Club, Prairie du Chien
Barnyard 9, Prairie du Chien
Viroqua Hills Golf Club, Viroqua
Snowflake Ski & Golf, Westby
Serendipity Golf Club, Viroqua
Walsh Golf Center, La Crosse
Fox Hollow Golf Club, La Crosse
Forest Hills Golf Club, La Crosse
La Crosse Country Club, Onalaska
Cedar Creek Country Club, Onalaska
Coulee Golf Bowl, Onalaska
Drugan’s Castle Mound, Holmen
Whitehall Golf Course, Whitehall
Viking Golf Course, Strum
Trempealeau Mountain Golf Course, Trempealeau
Osseo Golf Course, Osseo
Ettrick Golf Course, Ettrick
Arcadia Country Club, Arcadia
Walnut Grove Golf Course, Cochrane
The Valley Golf Course, Mondovi
Rolling Greens Golf Course, Durand
Spring Valley Golf Course, Spring Valley
Ellsworth Country Club, Ellsworth
River Falls Golf Club, River Falls
Kilkarney Hills Golf Course, River Falls
Clifton Hollow Golf Club, River Falls
Clifton Highlands Golf Club, Prescott

More information at www.WIGRR.com

Wisconsin

Real-time, online checklist the Wisconsin birding community uses to report and access information about birds. Submit your observations or view results on the eBird database. A birder simply enters when, where, and how they went birding, then fills out a checklist of all the birds seen and heard during the outing. More info at www.ebird.org.

Bird City Wisconsin

Encourages communities in Wisconsin to implement sound bird conservation practices by enhancing the environment for birds and educating the public about the interactions between birds and people and the contributions birds make to a healthy community. Look for this sign... several Wisconsin Great River Road communities are recognized as Bird Cities: Trempealeau, La Crosse, De Soto, Ferryville and Prairie du Chien.

Winter Bald Eagle Events

Alma: Eagles on Ice, January
Cassville: Bald Eagle Days, January
Prairie du Chien: Bald Eagle Days, February
Ferryville: Bald Eagle Day, March

Great River Birding & Nature Trail

This mapped auto trail reaches into every area of Wisconsin, including the Wisconsin Great River Road. Full-color viewing guides with maps and descriptions of every site leads the nature traveler to warblers, shorebirds, eagles, loons, cranes and all manner of mammals found in some of the state’s premier wildlife venues. Collection of 5 regional guides. For the Wisconsin Great River Road use the Mississippi/Chippewa River Region Guide. All 5 guides are available through the Wisconsin DNR.
RIVER BOAT STOPS

As you travel the Wisconsin Great River road you might just see one of the six paddle wheel boats that still meander up and down the Mississippi River. Bringing to mind the adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, these steam-powered vessels carry adventurers of a different sort today. People from all over the world come to cruise the Mississippi and enjoy the raw beauty of our region.

The American Queen is the largest river boat ever built and quite the sight, while the America is the newest river-boat on these waters, launched in 2016. A local Wisconsin favorite is the calliope playing Julia Belle Swaine, which is being restored to it’s former glory. While it currently sits in the Black River, it’s first launch is expected this summer. Watch for its signature blue shutters.

2017 Shore Stop Schedule

Boat dock at the Mississippi Levee in Riverside Park, La Crosse. Schedule subject to change according to the unpredictable river conditions. Please call ahead to make sure the boat is on schedule: 800-658-9424

**AMERICAN QUEEN**
americanqueensteamboatcompany.com
Saturday, July 29  8 am – 5 pm
Friday, August 4  8 am – 8 pm
Friday, August 11  8 am – 5 pm

**NEW! AMERICAN DUCHESS**
americanqueensteamboatcompany.com
Saturday, July 22  Noon – 5 pm

**QUEEN OF THE MISSISSIPPI**
americancruiselines.com
Thursday, August 3
Monday, August 7
Thursday, August 31
Monday, September 4
Thursday, October 12

**AMERICA**
americancruiselines.com
Thursday, August 31
Thursday, September 7
Sunday, October 8
Thursday, October 12
Sunday, October 22

**LOUISIANE**
frenchamericaline.com
Wednesday, July 5
Wednesday, September 20
Wednesday, October 4

Sorry, no tours of the boats are available.

Information courtesy of the La Crosse County Convention & Visitors Bureau. explorelacrosse.com
PIERCE COUNTY

Maiden Rock, Bay City, Diamond Bluff, Hager City, Prescott

FIVE HISTORIC RIVER TOWNS & VILLAGES

MAIDEN ROCK offers a panoramic view across Lake Pepin at the confluence of the Rush and Mississippi Rivers. Tales of an Indian maiden jumping from the bluff rather than marry are still told today.

BAY CITY sits at the head of Lake Pepin and takes its name from its large bay. Hard-woods on the bluffs and fishing on Lake Pepin provided the community with a source of income that could easily be shipped on the Mississippi River from its bay. Visit the River Bluffs History Center and the Conlin Log Home built in 1856.

HAGER CITY, mostly an island on the Mississippi, with a large community on the water. Its origins began as a railroad town, founded by Burlington and Northern Railroad. Best known for Bow & Arrow formation, created by ancient natives it is a set of boulders aimed at Lake Pepin and has been a landmark for 1000s of years.

DIAMOND BLUFF, named for prominent limestone bluffs rising above the land easily visible by steamers on the Mississippi. Site of the Sea Wing steamboat disaster in 1890. Oneota Indians set up camps in this location on the river for 1000s of years. Over 500 earthen mounds, including the Panther Effigy Mound, have been identified.

PRESCOTT is the northern gateway to Wisconsin’s Great River Road National Scenic Byway. The community dates back to 1839 by a fur trader and later a center for river enterprise and steamboats. Home to the Wisconsin Great River Road Visitor & Learning Center at Freedom Park. From these bluffs the confluence of the St Croix and Mississippi Rivers is an impressive site. Prescott Daze celebration is a favorite every September. Public golf course available.

Visitor Information

GREAT RIVER ROAD VISITOR & LEARNING CENTER
200 Monroe Street
Prescott, Wisconsin 54021
Phone: 715-262-0104
Email: info@freedomparkwi.org
Website: www.freedomparkwi.org

HISTORICAL SITES
Sea Wing Park State Historical Marker, Diamond Bluff
Bow & Arrow Formation State Historical Marker, Bay City
Conlin Log Home, Bay City
River Bluffs History Center, Bay City
Pierce County Courthouse National Historical Marker, Ellsworth
Plum City State Historical Marker, Plum City
Mero Mound Group, Diamond Bluff (restricted)

PARKS, REFUGES & NATURAL AREAS
Mississippi River National River & Recreation Area, National Park Service
Kinnickinnic State Park
Trenton Bluff Prairie State Natural Area
Kinnickinnic River Gorge & Delta State Natural Area
Rush River Delta State Natural Area
Morgan Coulee Prairie State Natural Area
Plum Creek Woods State Natural Area

RIVERS
Mississippi River
Eau Galle River
Kinnickinnic River
Rush River
St Croix River
Trimbelle River

POINTS OF INTEREST
Great River Road Interpretive Center: Freedom Park, Prescott
Mississippi River Bridge to Hastings, MN
Mississippi River Bridge to Red Wing, MN
Crystal Cave (longest known cave in Wisconsin), Spring Valley
Ellsworth Cheese Factory, Ellsworth
Lake Pepin

TAKE A SIDE TRIP TO
River Falls, Ellsworth, Spring Valley

Check out these events in September.
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GREAT RIVER ROAD VISITOR & LEARNING CENTER
at Freedom Park, 200 Monroe Street, Prescott, WI
715-262-0104 • freedomparkwi.org

2017 Summer Hours:
Memorial Day - Labor Day
Mon-Sat 9am-5pm
Sun Noon-5pm

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Picnic Grounds • Rock Shop

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Highway 29 • Spring Valley, WI
TOP 5 WINTER ACTIVITIES ALONG THE ROAD

1. Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing
Cross country skiing and snowshoeing are definitely two favorite winter activities in Wisconsin and there are plenty of places to do that along the Wisconsin Great River Road. Merrick State Park in Fountain City is one of those places. Whether your choice is cross country skiing or it’s snowshoeing, Merrick offers great trails and ample opportunity to view wildlife.

2. Skiing/Snowboarding
Start your day off right with a few bracing hours of skiing! Hit the slopes at Mount La Crosse, the area’s most popular Alpine skiing destination. With runs designed for every experience level, from beginner to pro, there’s no better way for family and friends to spend a day enjoying the snow.

3. Ice Fishing
There are many great ice fishing locations along the Great River Road and you’ll likely see the brave souls bundled up on the ice while traveling the road. Some of the most popular spots include Lake Pepin in Pepin, Wisconsin where you can find walleye, white bass, and sauger, northern pike, crappie, rock bass, and largemouth bass. You can also find some great spots in De Soto Bay located between Victory and De Soto, Wisconsin as well as the Ferryville Boat Launch located just off of Market Street in Ferryville, Wisconsin.

4. Fatbike Trail Riding
Four rail-bed trails spanning nearly 101 miles from Reedsburg, WI, to Marshland, WI, offer some of the best hiking and biking in the region. The trails take you through marshes and valleys, along the rivers, and offer access to several communities, parks, and recreation areas, including Perrot State Park.
- 400 Wisconsin State Trail (22 miles, Reedsburg-Elroy)
- Elroy-Sparta State Trail (32 miles, Elroy-Sparta)
- La Crosse River State Trail (21.5 miles, Sparta-Onalaska)
- Great River State Trail (24.5 miles, Onalaska-Trempealeau)

The Wisconsin State Park System requires users of the trails to hold state trail passes. Passes are required for anyone age 16 or older biking on the trails. Children under the age of 16 can bike the trails for free. Walking and hiking on the state bike trails is free.

5. Snowmobiling
Did you know there are snowmobile trail systems that connect the Wisconsin Great River Road all the way to Lake Superior? The counties along the Great River Road offer hundreds of miles of fun on the trails! Want to know what trails are open? Travel Wisconsin has a fantastic snow report. travelwisconsin.com/snowreport

www.wigreatriverroad.org
Experience River Falls
the city on the Kinni

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www.DiscoverHudsonWI.com