



Destination - Door County, WI

Road Trippin

by Todd P. Walker

The world is finally beginning to re-open! If you are like me, I have spent the last year awaiting the moment when I can travel once again. Well the time has finally arrived!

Recently I jumped in my car and headed Southwest of the Twin Cities for a 4 1/2 hour road trip to explore what many call the Cape Cod of the Mid-West - Door County, WI. I stayed at the Edgewater Resort nestled in the quaint town of Ephraim, WI on the shore of Lake Michigan. The room was charming, spacious and well appointed. For that added cherry on top, the room included an amazing front porch with comfortable rocking chairs to cradle me in the evening while enjoying a cocktail at sunset, as well as in the morning with a steaming cup of coffee taking in the lovely sunrise. I was sure to take in both during my stay and I would highly recommend doing the same - they are both quite spectacular. Here is a list of my top "must do" activities while visiting this splendid respite in Eastern Wisconsin.



Outdoor recreation — Door County is home to five state parks and nineteen county parks offering year-round adventure for outdoor enthusiasts, families and those just looking to relax outdoors on land or out on the water.

Distilleries, wineries and breweries –

Door County’s wine making, distilling and brewing scene has been expanding rapidly, putting the Peninsula on the map for being a pioneer of drink. From locally distilled spirits to hand made gluten-free ciders, these makers infuse passion into their process and product.

Great stops

Door Peninsula Winery/Door County Distillery, One Barrel Brewing, Door 44 Winery, Hatch Distillery, Door County Brewing Company

Vibrant galleries, artists and makers scene —

The landscape, culture, and creative energy of Door County have attracted artistic minds for nearly a century. From painters and sculptors to performers and musicians to chefs and writers, the Door peninsula has been home to countless innovative types. Together, they’ve created a vibrant and robust maker’s scene that continues to expand with every year. Thanks to pristine scenery, seasonal changes, a relatively isolated location and locals who encompass a passion for art in every form, Door County has a long history of inspiring and supporting artisans and their work.

More stops

Edgewood Orchard Galleries, Plum Bottom Gallery, Popelka Trenchard Glass, Write On, DC Studios, Turtle Ridge Gallery.

Rich heritage —

Door County became a large Scandinavian in the mid-1800s as Swedes were reminded of their homeland by the bountiful fishing and picturesque countryside. Meanwhile, logging opportunities and religious freedom drew Norwegians. From red barns with white window frames to wooded forests lining the rocky shoreline, the peninsula is dotted with Scandinavian architecture and customs - jars of lagoonberries, red Dala Horses, Stavkirkes, gnomes and rosemåling details. The Ephraim Historical Society offers a historical walking tour of the village, where its Norwegian and Moravian roots have been preserved by making them a part of its modern life.

Visit Björklunden — located on a preserved property Boyton Chapel, a small wooden structure built in a late 12th-century Norwegian stave church (Stavkirke) style. It's architectural inspiration stems from the Garmo stave church at Maihaugen in Lillehammer, Norway.

Orchards and farms — Door County boasts miles of gorgeous coastline, charming villages and acres of apple and cherry trees and lavender fields. These agricultural pursuits have resulted in farm-to-table dining born not out of trendiness, but tradition. Agriculture has played a vital role in Door County's culture and economy since the 1800s. Door County is still home to multi-generational family-owned and operated orchards producing cherries and apples and farms focused on dairy, berries and other products. From lavender grown locally to fresh cherries, growers work hand-in-hand with makers to create outstanding cuisine, pastries, tea and even essential oils! There are plenty of hands-on experiences for visitors, such as pick your own pail of cherries or apple picking in the fall at Lautenbach's Orchard Market and Winery, or a lavender bouquets at Fragrant Isle Lavender Farm and Shop, located just a ferry ride away on Washington Island.

More stops
 Seaquist Orchards & Farm Market



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