

Brew Up a Summer Escape

Baseball, festivals, museums and more make a getaway in Milwaukee a sure hit.

By Frances J. Folsom

Milwaukee, Wis., home to the Brewers and Miller Park, has something for everyone in its history, architecture and culture. The gem of the city is the Riverwalk that meanders three miles along the Milwaukee River through the heart of downtown. Milwaukee is known as the “City of Festivals,” and summer is a great time to enjoy them at the Henry Maier Festival Park overlooking Lake Michigan.



Above: Watch baseball Central Division battles at sleek Miller Park, home of the Milwaukee Brewers. Milwaukee CVB photos

Below: Boats cruise the Milwaukee River, offering a different sightseeing perspective.



Baseball and Miller Park

Before watching the Brewers battle it out with the Chicago Cubs or St. Louis Cardinals, take a guided tour of Miller Park. Completed in 2001 at a cost of \$310 million dollars, the park is a knockout.

Everything here is state-of-the-art and huge, from the fan-shaped convertible roof (the only one of its kind in the country) to the color replay board measuring 48 feet by 37 feet to the scoreboard at 76 feet by 32 feet.

Historic House Museums

The Captain Frederick Pabst Mansion is a stunning example of Flemish Renaissance Revival built in 1892 for the beer baron. Tours of the house highlight the furnishings and original works of art that belonged to the Pabst family.

Villa Terrace and the Charles Allis Museums are filled with collections of decorative arts dating back to the 15th century. The houses were built in 1922 and 1911, respectively, and are stunning in their architecture, Italian Renaissance and Tudor. They were the homes of two of Milwaukee’s most prominent families, the Smiths of A.O. Smith Corporation and Charles and Sarah Allis of Allis Chalmers.

Right: The Captain Frederick Pabst Mansion Milwaukee CVB photo



Walk The Neighborhoods

Historic Milwaukee gives guided walking tours of the Old World Third Street and the Historic Third Ward. In the early 19th century, Old World Third Street was where German immigrants built their businesses, schools and homes. In addition, between 1845 and 1855, the Pabst, Schlitz, Blatz and Miller breweries employed thousands of German workers here.

Architecture buffs will enjoy the tour of the Historic Third Ward's buildings, ranging from 19th-century Victorian Gothic to 20th-century Art Deco warehouses and factories, several of which were designed by famed architect Louis Sullivan and are now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Outdoor festivals, activities

Summerfest (June 29–July 3 and July 5–10) attracts 1 million people who come to enjoy 700 bands ranging from local to world-renowned entertainers on 11 stages. There's also Polish Fest (June 17–19), Festa Italiana (July 21–24), German Fest (July 28–31), Irish Fest (Aug. 18–21) and Mexican Fiesta (Aug. 26–28), each offering cultural arts, crafts and foods.

Walk the Riverwalk and you will find the bronze statue of the Fonz, the Arthur Fonzarelli character from the "Happy Days" television series. Visitors line up to have their picture taken alongside the Fonz depicted with his signature thumbs up sign, leather jacket and jeans.

Further down the Riverwalk in the Historic Third Ward section are upscale art galleries, shops, theaters and restaurants.

Rent a kayak at Laacke & Joy Outfitters and paddle the Milwaukee River, a great way to see downtown from a different perspective. Sit back and relax on a 90-minute sightseeing boat cruise with Milwaukee River Cruise Line and Boat Tours.

Museums

The Milwaukee Art Museum, a spectacular Santiago Calatrava design, houses an excellent collection of American and European artifacts. The Grohmann Museum specializes in 16th and 17th century European industrial art, while the Milwaukee Public Museum is known for its collections of archeological exhibits.

Dine and Sleep

A Milwaukee institution since 1904, Karl Ratzsch's is famous for German delicacies, such as Wiener schnitzel and red cabbage, roast goose and sauerbraten. When you are looking for picnic supplies to take to the game, stop by the Milwaukee Public Market where you can choose from Japanese, Middle Eastern, Chinese, Polish, Italian, German and American vendors offering mouthwatering foods to go.

The Aloft Hotel on Old World Third Street is within walking distance of just about everything, including buses to Miller Park. The Iron Horse Hotel, a AAA Four Diamond property, is one of Milwaukee's sleekest boutique hotels. One hundred years ago, it was a mattress factory. Located a stone's throw from the Harley-Davidson Museum, the décor is geared to

motorcyclists with earth-toned slate floors and solid oak furniture. Even if you are not a biker, you will drool over the beautiful Harleys lined up in the parking lot.

Plan a winning series of your own this summer in Milwaukee, combining a baseball game with other entertainments. It'll be a sure hit.

Frances J. Folsom is a contributor from Cambridge, Mass., and a life-long Boston Red Sox fan.

BEFORE YOU GO

For more information, contact the Milwaukee Convention and Visitors Bureau, www.visitmilwaukee.org or (800) 554-1448.

Miller Park tours are offered on selected days during baseball season. For times and a complete schedule, visit <http://mlb.mlb.com/mil/ballpark/tours/index.jsp>. Ticket prices are \$6 for children 12 and younger and senior, \$10 for adults.

The Brewers meet the Cardinals June 10–12, Aug. 1–3 and 30–31. The Cubs are in Milwaukee July 26–28 and Aug. 26–28. For game tickets, visit <http://milwaukee.brewers.mlb.com/mil/ballpark/index.jsp>.

Tours of the Captain Frederick Pabst Mansion are given on the hour daily year-round (except Mondays in January and February). Admission is \$5 children 6 to 17, \$8 students/seniors, \$9 adults. Call (414) 931-0808 or visit www.pabstmansion.com.

Historic Milwaukee's regularly scheduled walking tours are \$10 for adults, \$2 for children 17 years and younger, and are free for children younger than 6 years. For details, call (414) 277-7795 or visit www.historicmilwaukee.org.

To plan your stay at the Best Western Inn Towne Hotel, 710 N. Old World Third St., or the Iron Horse Hotel, 500 W. Florida St., contact your AAA Travel professional.

To visit Milwaukee first stop by your nearest [AAA service office](#) for maps, reservations, TripTiks® and TourBook® guides.