

West Bend Four-Day, Three-night Getaway!

West Bend offers historic architecture, fine art, natural beauty and fascinating museums. The Museum of Wisconsin Art offers an impressive collection of art by Wisconsin artists. The Old Courthouse Museum is among the most respected local history museums in the Midwest. Local trails make West Bend a great place for hiking, bicycling and birdwatching.

West Bend is a popular destination for geocaching—a popular treasure hunting game played with handheld GPS units. West Bend is known as the Geocaching Capital of the Midwest™, home to numerous hidden caches and a wonderful mix of scenery for treasure hunters to enjoy.

Best of all, West Bend is a great travel value, offering a mix of activities, attractions and amenities that's hard to beat.

The following is a sample itinerary for a four-day, three-night West Bend getaway:

Day 1 - Arrive in West Bend

3pm – Check into your hotel. West Bend offers a number of lodging options:

AmericInn of West Bend • (262) 334-0307 • 2424 West Washington Street, West Bend

Country Inn & Suites by Carlson • (262) 334-9400 • 2000 Gateway Court, West Bend

Hampton Inn & Suites • (262) 438-1500 • 1975 South 18th Avenue, West Bend

Isadora's Bed & Breakfast, LLC • (262) 306-8468 • 724 Beech Street, West Bend

Additional lodging available in surrounding areas.

4pm – Stroll the West Bend River Walk. West Bend gets its name from its location on a westward bend of the Milwaukee River. Walk this multi-use trail along the river and enjoy wonderful waterscapes.

5pm – Dinner Downtown – Choose from several restaurants in charming Downtown West Bend.



WEST BEND

AREA CHAMBER

Day 2 – History and Art

8am – Grab breakfast and coffee downtown.

9am – Visit the Old Courthouse Museum – Established in 1845, West Bend was a convenient midway stop between Milwaukee and Fond du Lac. The arrival of the railroad in 1873 spurred a period of rapid growth and expansion. The City of West Bend was incorporated in 1885 and quickly became an important center of commerce and industry. Visitors will find several opportunities to learn more about the rich history of the area at the Old Courthouse Museum. It is housed in a beautiful Romanesque building that dates to 1859. It is widely recognized as one of the finest local history museums in the Midwest.



11am – Stop by the Old Jailhouse Museum. Head next door to this turn-of-the-century jailhouse, featuring authentic furnishings and interesting exhibits.



Noon – Lunch in downtown West Bend.

1pm - Tour the Museum of Wisconsin Art. Take a leisurely tour of the Museum of Wisconsin Art, home of an extensive collection of late 19th century and early 20th century paintings and drawings. The museum holds 14-16 exhibitions annually and features the largest collection of Wisconsin art dating from 1800 to 1950. The museum also holds the largest collection of works by Milwaukee-born, Munich trained painter Carl Von Marr.

3pm – Tour the West Bend Sculpture Walk.

The West Bend Sculpture Walk consists of more than 25 outdoor exhibits of modern sculptures from artists located around the world. The

sculptures interact with the natural background to create a truly unique experience.



5pm – Dinner

Select from a wide variety of restaurants in the area.

WEST BEND

AREA CHAMBER

Day 3 – Hit the Trails

8am – Breakfast and a trip to the local grocery store to pick up food for today's picnic lunch.

9am – Morning on the trails. Everyone has a different version of the ideal trail experience. Luckily, West Bend offers a number of outstanding trail options. Select the trail option that's right for you.

Walking or leisurely bicycling on the Eisenbahn State Trail

The Eisenbahn State Trail, offers 25 miles of scenic hiking and bicycling, including a paved section running through the heart of West Bend.



Exploring the Lac Lawrann Nature Trails – The Lac Lawrann Conservancy in West Bend offers abundant birdwatching and wildlife viewing opportunities. The 136-acre conservancy has five miles of hiking trails and offers a number of environmental education programs.

Hiking the National Ice Age Trail – West Bend is also home to a number of recreational trails. Approximately five miles of the 1,000-mile National Ice Age Trail cross through West Bend's Ridge Run County Park and the city's Glacial Blue Hills Recreation Area.

Biking the Kettle Moraine State Forest – The Kettle Moraine is a geological showcase of formations left by the last glacier to pass through Wisconsin. Exciting biking trails traverse hills, ridges and valleys carved thousands of years ago by ice and glacial meltwaters.

Noon – Head back to West Bend

12:30 – Picnic in Regner Park. West Bend is a community of parks. The city's park system has over 1,200 acres of parks and green space. Regner Park is one of West Bend's most beautiful parks, featuring outdoor sculptures, the Labyrinth Sculpture Garden, a unique swimming pond and beach.



1pm – An afternoon of Geocaching! West Bend is the Geocaching Capital of the Midwest™, offering more than 1,200 caches within a 10-mile radius. This abundance of caches combined with the unique mix of urban and rural caches makes West Bend the perfect place to experience this exciting treasure hunting game. GPS units are available at City Hall for no charge. For more information on geocaching in West Bend, visit <http://visitwestbend.com/geocaching/>

5pm – Dinner

7pm – Catch a performance at UW-Washington County.

You'll find a wealth of performances, presentations and activities at the campus located at 400 University Drive. For a complete calendar of events, visit <http://washington.uwc.edu/events>.

Day 4 – Shopping & Departure



8am – Breakfast.

9am – Exploring Downtown West Bend and Shopping.

Historic Downtown West Bend greets visitors with picturesque brick sidewalks and charming storefronts. Shoppers will find home furnishings and décor, handmade items, jewelry, clothing, specialty foods, flowers and sporting goods.

Noon – Time to head home. Have a safe trip – and see you again in West Bend!

Need another reason to visit West Bend?

Check out these annual events:

March Home, Garden & Leisure Show

May Riverfest

June-August Music on Main

June-October Farmers' Market

August West Bend \$1000 Cache Ba\$h

October Fall Fest

October Downtown Dash

December Christmas Parade

December Enchantment in the Park

For more West Bend annual events, visit

www.wbachamber.org

