

Things to Know and Tourism Tips

Welcome to Madison, named “Best Place to Live” by *Money* magazine. Built on an isthmus between two lakes, Madison is the state capital of Wisconsin and home to the University of Wisconsin campus. Pedestrian-friendly State Street connects the State Capitol Square and campus with many eclectic shops and modestly priced eating establishments.

GETTING YOUR BEARINGS

The Concourse Hotel, 1 West Dayton Street (257-6000), steps from the State Capitol, State Street, shopping and restaurants, 6 blocks from the University of Wisconsin campus and the Monona Terrace Convention Center. *Parking*: \$7 per night (non guests). Nearby parking: *State Street Capitol Ramp*, 214 N. Carroll St., days: \$.85/hr.; nights & weekends: \$3-4 max. (metered spaces: \$1/hr.). *Overture Parking Ramp*, 318 W. Mifflin St., days: \$.70/hr; nights & weekends \$3-4 max.

Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, One John Nolen Drive (261-4000), off Lake Monona in downtown Madison, 2 blocks south of the State Capitol. 600-car parking lot accessible via East Wilson St. (Weekends: \$3 all day. Weekdays: \$1.10 per hour before 5 pm; \$3 flat rate after 5 pm). Self-tours 8-5. 1-hour Guided daily at 1 pm (\$3 per adult, \$2 per student). The Rooftop Garden, Sun-Th 8 am-10 pm, F and Sat 8 am-midnight. **Gift shop** (10-5), peruse Frank Lloyd Wright's photos in lobbies. **GrandView Café** (M-Sat 8-2) limited seating. *Nearby parking*: Government East Ramp, 215 S. Pinckney St., days: \$1.10/hr.; nights & weekends: \$3-4 max. Hilton Hotel next door has the closest bar.

WALKING DISTANCE ATTRACTIONS

The **Dane County Farmer's Market** on the Capitol Square, a Saturday tradition, 6 am-2pm, rain or shine. Homemade, homegrown Wisconsin products from up to 300 vendors, plus coffee and pastries. Food carts often operate across the street from the Farmer's Market.

Wisconsin's beautiful beaux-arts **State Capitol** building is open M-F 8-6, Sat-Sun 8-4 for self-tours. Free guided tours are offered daily, starting at the information desk on the ground floor of the rotunda, M-Sat at 9, 10, 11, 1, 2, 3; and Sunday at 1, 2, 3.

The **Wisconsin Historical Museum and Giftshop**, 30 N. Carroll St. (on the Capitol Square), T-Sat 9-4, special exhibit “World Series Wisconsin.” Free. The **Wisconsin Veterans Museum**, 30 W. Mifflin Street (on the Capitol Square), M-Sat, 9-4:30, special exhibit “In the Belly of the Dragon: Life and Death in I Corp.” Free. The **Madison Children's Museum**, 100 State Street, M-F 9-4, Sat 9-5, Sun 12-5. The **Chazen Museum**, 800 University Avenue on the UW campus, T-Fri 9-5, Sat-Sun 11-5, exhibits include “Small Arms, Children of Conflict: Photographs by Michael Kienitz.” Free.

The **Overture Center**, a spectacular performing arts complex at the corner of the 200 block of State St. (at Fairchild St.). Impressive rotunda lobby, M-F 11-5:30, Sat 11-2; the rest is open varying hours (call 258-4177). Designed by world-renowned architect Cesar Pelli. New wing now open. Within the Center is the restaurant **Fresco**, 663-7374, T-Th 5-9, F-Sat, 5-10, and **Madison Museum of Contemporary Art**, 257-0158, including MMOCA's memorable **Museum Store**, T-W 11-5, Th-F 11-8, Sat 10-8, Sun 12-5.

A Room of One's Own Feminist Bookstore, 307 W Johnson Street (off State Street) has been a proud part of Madison's feminist community for 32 years. M-F 9-8, Sat 9-6, Sun 11-5.

Serious walkers or runners try the **Lakeshore Path**, past the Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St., 265-3000, at campus end of State Street (don't miss Babcock Dairy's famous ice cream, available

in the Union lobby). **Lakeshore Path** takes you along Lake Mendota to beautiful Picnic Point Peninsula. Also nice for walking or running is **Lake Monona bike path**, accessible from Monona Terrace.

DRIVING

The **University Arboretum** pleasure drive borders Lake Wingra on the southwest side. Park in the middle and explore various paths through the woods and fields.

The prettiest vista of Lake Mendota, the biggest of Madison's five lakes, is on **Observatory Drive** on the UW campus off Park and Langdon Streets (by Memorial Union).