



## 3rd ANNUAL GREATER WISCONSIN INITIATIVE BUS TOUR

October 5-6, 2018

### Fast Facts About our Tour Stops

#### **LANCASTER (Grant County)**

Population: 3,868

Lancaster is in the heart of the Driftless Region and its rolling hills make for some of the best cycling in the country.

Lancaster calls itself "The City of the Dome" after the glass and copper dome of its courthouse which was built in 1902 and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

There is a charming historic shopping district that is the "Heart of Lancaster" and features an array of boutiques, a variety of dining opportunities and a beautifully restored historic movie theatre.

Annual activities include an annual County Fair, Night on the Square, Music in the Park, Deal and Steals Days, parades and so much more.

Lancaster has two well-developed industrial parks. Milprint packaging, Skyline modular homes, Foremost Farms dairy plant, Shakeproof Industries, Loudspeaker Components, and Woolwich Dairy goat cheese plant are major industrial employers. The county and city government offices, the school, hospital and care centers are also major employers.

#### **POTOSI (Grant County)**

Population: 688

Potosi is known as the Catfish Capitol of Wisconsin and is a destination for birders, bikers and hikers.

The village holds an annual catfish festival in August that includes a fish fry, live music, fireworks and a parade.

Potosi is home not only to the famous Brewery which was founded in 1852 and the National Brewery Museum but also Whispering Bluffs Winery.

The Grant River flows into the Mississippi at Potosi Point, the Grant River Recreation Area. The campground and recreation property is operated by the Corps of Engineers and offers ideal bird watching opportunities.

## **PRAIRIE DU CHIEN (Crawford County)**

Population: 5,911

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.

The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, which extends into the Prairie du Chien area, provides opportunities for fishing, hunting, camping, and wildlife watching.

The Mississippi River is known for its plentiful pan fish, large and smallmouth bass, walleye, northern, sauger and all species of catfish. The area offers the highest premium fishing spots in the Midwest

Prairie du Chien Area Public Schools are recognized statewide, and increasingly nationwide, as being leaders in educational innovation, technology, and student academic achievements

## **BLACK RIVER FALLS (Jackson County)**

Population: 6,622

The Ho-Chunk Nation has its administrative center in Black River Falls.

The current economy leans heavily on agriculture and tourism. Several locations support the tourism industry. Lake Arbutus, a 839-acre impoundment of the river, lies several miles northeast, as does the multi-use Levis/Trow trail system.

Black River Falls is home to a casino and hotel operated by the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Much of the surrounding land is part of the Black River State Forest.[13]

In April 2018, PriceLand Hemp, the first all-hemp store in Wisconsin, opened. After the legalization of industrial hemp in Wisconsin, it was projected the business would bring 60 jobs to the local area within the first few months.

## **Pepin (Pepin County)**

Population: 837

Birthplace of Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Located on Lake Pepin which is a naturally occurring lake, and the widest naturally occurring part of the Mississippi River, located approximately 60 miles downstream from Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Historically, the village was a steamboat boomtown familiar to Mark Twain and wealthy Chicago socialites who summered on Lake Pepin.

### **Additional area information**

**Buffalo County** is located within the unglaciated, Driftless Area of Western Wisconsin. Three rivers border the county; the Chippewa on the west, the Mississippi on the south and east and the Trempealeau on the lower eastern border. All of Buffalo County drains into the Mississippi River.

Buffalo County consists of 17 civil townships; Alma is the county seat. There are 8,390 acres of water and 73 miles of trout streams in the county. All or part of 15 streams are classified as trout streams and are stocked with brook or brown trout. Some of the larger, warm-water streams, which flow into the Mississippi, contain northern pike, walleye, bass, sunfish, and other sport fish species as well as rough fish. The Mississippi River and its backwaters provide an extensive and varied fishery resource including a commercial fishery.

Today agriculture is still the number one source of income in the county, though more diversified than in the past.

**Crawford County** has three rivers run through it: The Kickapoo River, nicknamed "the crookedest river in Wisconsin" was carved out by glacial run-off. It is considered one of the best Class 1 paddling rivers in the Midwest.

The Wisconsin River borders the county's southern edge. Although it is the state's busiest river, its run within the county is tranquil, with high bluff escarpments and sandy islands.

The Mississippi River, serves as the county's western border. The steep limestone cliffs are interspersed with bluffs and prairies.

The county's highest point is near St. James Church in Rising Sun.

**Grant County** is bordered by the mighty Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers. Great River Road winds along the sides of the Mississippi River, follows Routes 35 and 133 through Grant County.

It is in the tri-state area of Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin, and is crossed by travelers commuting to Madison from a number of eastern Iowan cities, and by residents of northern Illinois traveling to the Twin Cities or La Crosse, Wisconsin.

With modern industrial parks, financial incentives and a ready workforce, Grant County is the place to build a business. Grant County has first-rate communication, energy, technology, and transportation infrastructures, and quality schools, including UW-Platteville and SWTC at Fennimore.

**Jackson County** is named after Andrew Jackson, seventh President of the United States. Black River Falls, the county seat, is centrally located and acts as a gateway to many major travel destinations throughout Wisconsin and neighboring states.

The Black River State Forest, miles of ATV trails, campgrounds, local lakes and parks offer the stage for a multitude of hobbies, interests and recreations. Lake Wazee, formerly a mine quarry, is considered the deepest, inland lake in Wisconsin. The clear visibility and various other attributes offer a unique diving experience.

**Pepin County** is one of most colorful, most scenic and most historic vacation destinations in Wisconsin. Look no further for a trout-fishing haven. Pepin County has many river and lakes including: Chippewa River, Red Cedar River, Buffalo River, Rush River, Eau Galle River, Lake Eau Galle, Lake George, Nugget Lake, Arkansas Creek, Silver Birch Lake and Lake Pepin/Mississippi River.

Tiffany Wildlife Area is one of the state's largest, continuous bottomland hardwood forests. White-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, turkey, squirrel and waterfowl are common game species at Tiffany. Furbearers such as beaver, otter, muskrat, and raccoon are also common.

**Trempealeau County** derives its name from a French phrase for "mountain in the water." Trempealeau Mountain is just that—a bluff totally surrounded by the waters of the Mississippi, Pine and Trempealeau Rivers. This island bluff was a well-known land mark for early explorers and travelers on the Mississippi.

Whether your idea of fun is bicycling, hiking, or canoeing; afterwards head into the heart of one of the welcoming communities to experience historic architecture, independent shops, and locally owned dining establishments.