

# Ozaukee County has so much to offer empty-nesters!

Submitted by the  
Ozaukee County Tourism  
Council

OZAUKEE COUNTY — It's September again, and that means kids are back to school! Whether you're well into your empty-nester years or the kids have just left the house, Ozaukee County is a great place to relax, unwind and find yourselves again. With summer coming to an end and fall on the horizon, there is no better time to hit the road kid-free and fancy-free! With endless attractions, entertainment and dining choices, Ozaukee County will satisfy your wanderlust weekend after weekend!

When is the last time you had time to stroll through a museum without chasing after kids or trying to stave off youthful complaints of pent-up energy and hunger? The Ozaukee County Historical Society brings history to life with fun-filled weekend events at the Ozaukee County Pioneer Village, Stony Hill School, and the Hazel Wirth Archive Center. Continue to the Trinity Freistadt Historical Site to tour a collection of 12 buildings located at the site of the first Lutheran Church in the state. The Port Exploreum offers interactive local history and a maritime museum, and while

you're in Port Washington, check out the 1860 Light Station featuring a keeper's quarters and climbable tower overlooking Lake Michigan. Other great places to visit include the Port Washington Historical Society Resource Center and the Cedarburg History Museum.

Interested in enjoying the finer things? Ozaukee County offers countless art galleries with incredible exhibits and artists. Located in the heart of Cedarburg is a stunning 1898 red brick Victorian building which is home to the Cedarburg Art Museum. With local and historic collections and exhibits, the Cedarburg Art Museum is not one to miss. A short walk away is the Cedarburg Cultural Center, a great place for viewing, classes and live entertainment. The Cedarburg PAC offers live concerts as part of their Visiting Artists Series, including the upcoming "Ricky Nelson Remembered," (Sept. 25) and "The Texas Tenors," (Oct. 8). Just east of the downtown Cedarburg area, you'll find the incredible Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts. Visit their restored 1850s barn for their rotating exhibitions and tours.

If you are looking to indulge in some much-needed retail therapy, the shop-



Submitted photo

Port Washington's Light Station has a climbable tower overlooking Lake Michigan.

ping experiences available are unmatched! You can spend hours exploring all the shops in Cedarburg, including Pagoda Fine Jewelry, which houses two original jewelry designers in one unique shop, and the amazing Gem Shop, which is as alluring as it is enlightening. Antique shops abound throughout the county, including Antiques at Gordon's in Grafton, the largest, oldest and finest antique shop in the area. And ladies, you'll love Zing Boutique in Port Washington!

If the weather is question-

able, some of our communities offer a great alternative to a commercial shopping mall! The Shops of Cedar Creek Settlement in Cedarburg offers dozens of shops including antiques, vintage items, jewelry, clothing, gourmet olive oils, unique gift and specialty items and even dining and the Cedar Creek Winery all under one roof!

The Shoppes of Port Washington offers a similar great experience. Focusing on community outreach, the Shoppes have approximately 40 unique small business-

es all in one building!

The dining experiences in Ozaukee County are second to none, with options to please everyone! It seems Ozaukee County offers every type of food in every environment imaginable! Dine on a patio overlooking the water? Done! Craving fare from another country? We've got you covered! Looking for a good burger and a home brew? Look no further! Dessert for a meal? No judgment here! Every Ozaukee County community boasts unique food and beverage offerings that are sure to satisfy your cravings!

One of the best ways to see our county is to pick a community and spend the day there. Or better yet, spend the weekend! Sometimes a night or two away from the home can feel like a much-needed vacation, and there are countless quality places to stay after a busy day of exploring. For a great list of hotels, inns and bed & breakfasts, visit our "where to stay" page at [ozaukeetourism.com](http://ozaukeetourism.com)!

Ozaukee County is known for its special events, and we have some favorites coming up, including:

- Traveling Food Truck Tour: Sept. 9 (Thiensville)
- Beer on the Bridge (Grafton): Sept. 11

- Taste of Mequon (Mequon): Sept. 11

- Treasures of Oz Eco Tour (Ozaukee County): Sept. 13-17

- Oktoberfest-themed beer garden (Luxembourg American Cultural Society - Belgium) Sept. 26th

- Buechler Farms Fall Fest (Belgium): Oct. 2

- Oktoberfest (Foxtown Annex, Mequon): Oct. 7

- Covered Bridge Art Studio Tour (50 studios around Ozaukee County): Oct. 8-10

- Fall into Grafton (Grafton): Oct. 9

- Fall Street Festival (Port Washington): Oct. 9

- Off the Rails Comedy Night (Ozaukee Nonprofit Center, Grafton): Oct. 9

You've done your job and now you're an empty nester! Embrace your new free time and come enjoy a weekend in Ozaukee County. Whether you're looking for hustle and bustle or unwinding and relaxation we have the accommodations for all of your needs.

For more information on these and other Ozaukee County Tourism partners, pick up a copy of our 2021-2022 Tourism Guide, follow us on Facebook and visit our website at [www.ozaukeetourism.com](http://www.ozaukeetourism.com), and thanks for being a tourist in your own county!