

Spring Breaking in Ozaukee County

Spring Break is just around the corner, so we thought that you might enjoy some Staycation advice from some of our local Tourism experts, members of the Ozaukee County Tourism Council's Board of Directors. We asked the question, "What would you like to do over Spring Break in Ozaukee County?" Here's what they said!

Kathleen Cady Schilling, OED Executive Director:

A great day trip in Ozaukee County could start at the Beacon Restaurant at the Harborview Hotel for lunch and then a walk over to the Port Exploreum. It is a neat place to check out sights and exhibits about Lake Michigan. Parents and kids will love popping into shops in Cedarburg's downtown historic district, and then finishing up with an early dinner and drinks at either the Café Hollander or Libby Montana in Mequon.

Mike Cosgrove, Saukville Chamber Executive Director:

By the time March rolls around, I am itching to get outside – Riveredge Nature Center in Saukville offers year-round opportunities to do just that. Explore the trails and then head inside the visitor center and warm up – there is an awesome children's library that will pique your child's interest in nature. Don't miss the Maple Sugarin' Festival on Saturday, March 21st! On your way home, stop at Riveredge Restaurant for amazing pizza!

Maggie Dobson, Cedarburg Chamber Executive Director:

I love playing tourist in my own Cedarburg home, especially as winter releases its grasp and spring begins. Downtown Cedarburg features both easy walkability and plenty to do – from a bite at one of our fabulous restaurants like New Fortune Asian Cuisine or the Stilt House or an afternoon spent chatting with friends at a local pub or the Fermentorium Brewery and Tasting Room. If it's a sunny spring day, I'd wander Washington Avenue, stopping in at unique stores like The Gem Shop, Cedarburg Art Museum's Gift Shop, or The Shops of Cedar Creek Settlement.

Cori Rice, White Rice Advertising and OCTC Marketing Chair:

My kids are amazed at the size and power of Lake Michigan, especially in the spring when there's still a chill in the air and the lake is dark and rough! There's nothing cooler than standing

on the breakwater in Port Washington when the wind is blowing and the waves are crashing! We love to walk along the marina in Port and then duck into a local restaurant like Newport Shores for a warm appetizer or, for my husband and me, an old fashioned – it makes us feel like we're on vacation!

Tara Williams, OCTC President and Belgium Chamber Executive Director:

Belgium is a great place to relax and enjoy spring weather: Harrington Beach Park is packed with beautiful trails to explore and soak up the fresh air. Sit on the dock at Puckett's Pond or meander all around the 26-acre Quarry Lake. As part of the naturally-kept portion of the Ozaukee Interurban Trail, Belgium is a great place for skiing and snow shoeing! For indoor fun, check out the Luxembourg American Cultural Center, where you can learn all about Luxembourg immigration and even research your own genealogical background. Kyote's Bar and Grill has great food, karaoke nights, awesome drink specials, and even indoor volleyball courts!

Marji Tomter, Treasures of Oz:

Fun for me in Oz would be enjoying all that is great about being outdoors! Watch the sunrise over the lake at South Beach in Port Washington and then walk north through the bird preserve and on to Coal Dock Park. Take a hike, or snow shoe along the Milwaukee River in Grafton through Bratt Woods. Head north to Forest Beach Migratory Preserve. It is a premier spot for bird watching. Take a walk through Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve. Be sure to take the stairway down to the lake. If the water is low enough, take a hike down the beach. It is a short drive to anywhere in the County and there is so much to choose from!

Melissa Wraalstad, Executive Director, Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts:

My ideal staycation wouldn't rely on good weather. I love museums, so if it's cold outside or rainy, I'd visit the gorgeous textiles at the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts in Cedarburg. What better place to warm up and be inspired with the shifting weather? I'd also plan a stop at the Cedarburg Cultural Center and visit the Cedarburg Art Museum. Then, it would be time for a tasty lunch at the cheel in Thiensville.

Tina Schwantes, Mequon-Thiensville Chamber Executive Director:

Mequon and Thiensville are filled with activities to



A mother and daughter bike in downtown Cedarburg.

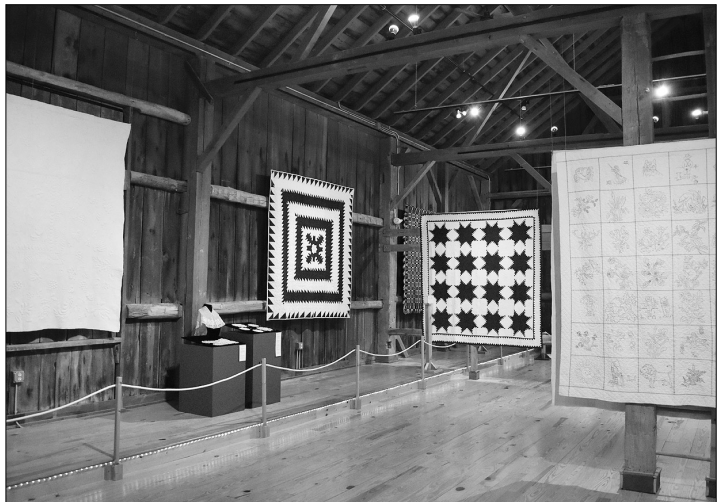
Photo courtesy of Wisconsin Department of Tourism

enjoy during Spring Break. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy hiking at the Mequon Nature Preserve or Me-Kuon County Parks. Strolling through Virmond County Park provides stunning panoramic views overlooking Lake Michigan as well as other picturesque scenery. If you're looking for an indoor activity, your family will enjoy visiting glaze in Thiensville where you can paint your own pottery, fuse glass or try other art media. Leave time for a stop at The Purple Frog, an ice cream parlor located right within glaze!

Annalise Jasinski, Grafton Area Chamber of Commerce Tourism Promotion Coordinator:

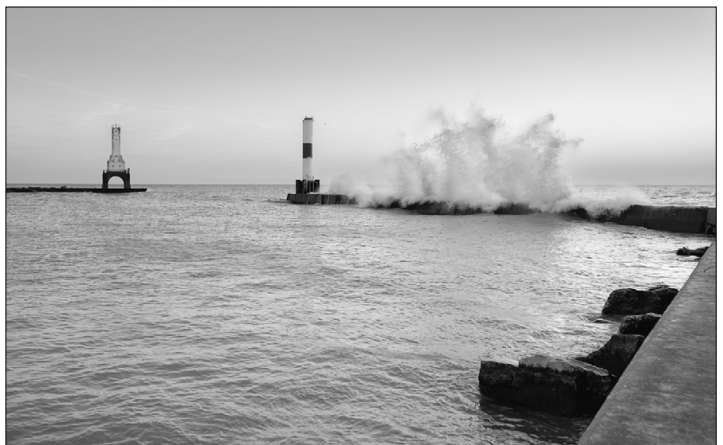
For a real vacation "get-away," spend a night at the Hampton Inn & Suites or TownePlace Suites in Grafton – the whole family will enjoy the pools and amazing amenities! After a good night's rest, take one (or all) of Grafton's Walking Tours which are available on Facebook, and learn about the Paramount Blues recording history in Paramount Plaza. Soak up the fresh spring air while walking through downtown. Dine at Atlas BBQ or grab a pizza from John's Pizzeria and head over to Sahale for a Grafton made craft beer!

Take it from these experts, instead of staying inside and watching movies, explore your great county! With active downtowns, endless ways to enjoy nature, a variety of places to shop and hidden gems, don't escape from Ozaukee County during school breaks, stay and play the



A display inside the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts.

Submitted photo



"Lighthouse Sunrise" by local photographer Zach Hall