

# THINGS TO DO IN MADISON

So why Madison? Sure, it's a beautiful city, full of culture, fascinating people, gorgeous lake views, and great food. Not to mention it's consistently rated among the top cities to live, work, bike, be fit, and be green! But don't take our word for it, check it out for yourself!

## The Madisonian Favorites

\* - Free Admission

### \*THE UNION TERRACE

UW-Madison's Memorial Union Terrace is a staple of the school's campus. Madison students and residents alike find the shoreside terrace a relaxing place to grab a pitcher of a local craft brew or a scoop of ice cream. And you won't want to leave Madison without checking out the Terrace's signature chairs.

<https://union.wisc.edu/visit/terrace-at-the-memorial-union/>



### OVERTURE CENTER

The Overture Center for the Arts is Madison's premier theater for just about any show you could wish to see...plays, musicals, ballet, orchestra, you name it. Can't make a show? The Overture Center has four free galleries open to the general public.

<http://www.overture.org/>



### OLBRICH BOTANICAL GARDENS

Would you like something a little more serene? Check out our botanical gardens and the tropical Bolz Conservatory, open year-round. Educational events are held here, and it's a beautiful place just to unwind after a meeting. The outdoor gardens are free.

<http://www.olbrich.org/>



### MADISON MALLARD'S GAME

For the sports nut out there, cheer on Madison's local baseball team, the Madison Mallards, at one of their games in the "Duck Pond." If you bring the little ones with you, they're sure to have a blast. And there are tasty craft brews for the drinking.

<http://northwoodsleague.com/madison-mallards/>



### \*CAPITOL SQUARE

Looking for a glimpse of Madison culture and all it has to offer? Look no further than the Capitol Square. Head inside this historic building and take a free tour, or just enjoy the walk around the block. There are restaurants, coffee shops, stores, museums, and more. If you're here in the summer, check out the Farmers' Market on Saturdays, or bring a bottle of wine and a picnic blanket to Concerts on the Square, which are free and run from the last week of June through the entire month of July.

[Trip Advisor: Things to Do near Capitol Square](#)



### \*STATE STREET

Leading off the western corner of the Capitol Square and leading down to the campus library is State Street, a bustling avenue of shops, restaurants, pubs, and entertainment. You'll be sure to find something you like on this pedestrian-only strip.

[The Edgewater: 5 Great Things About State Street: Downtown Madison's 'Forever Street'](#)



### \*HENRY VILAS ZOO

Just outside the Arboretum is Madison's Henry Vilas Zoo. Enjoy a little bit of the wild side at this free zoo with everything from polar bears to red pandas and, of course, badgers.

<http://www.vilaszoo.org/>



### \*ARBORETUM

Looking for something a little more nature-oriented? Take a stroll through the UW Arboretum. Enjoy the peace and beauty of nature just outside the bustling downtown.

<https://arboretum.wisc.edu/>



## Good Eats and Local Treats

### MICHAEL'S FROZEN CUSTARD

Looking for a sweet treat? Michael's Frozen Custard is a local favorite and one of the best spots for custard. Stop by any of their locations, and we promise you won't be disappointed.  
<http://www.ilovemichaels.com/>



### PLACES TO EAT

If you're looking for a great place to eat downtown, here are a few great options:

[Graze](#)  
[The Old Fashioned](#)  
[The Great Dane](#)  
[Mickies Dairy Bar](#)  
[The Coopers Tavern](#)  
[RED](#)  
[Bassett Street Brunch Club](#)

[Tangent](#)  
[Sardine](#)  
[Eno Vino](#)  
[Lucille](#)  
[Tippy Cow](#)  
[Marigold Kitchen](#)



### LOCAL BREWERIES & BREWERY TOURS

Wisconsin is known for its craft beers, and there are a number of breweries right in town (check their websites if you're interested in a tour). If you want to take a scenic drive a little farther out, visit New Glarus, a small Swiss town that is home to Wisconsin's most popular craft beer, Spotted Cow.

[New Glarus Brewing](#)  
[Wisconsin Brewing](#)  
[Vintage Brewing Co.](#)  
[Karben4](#)  
[One Barrel Brewing](#)  
[Ale Asylum](#)  
[Capital Brewery](#)

[Working Draft Beer](#)  
[Delta Beer Lab](#)  
[O'so Brewing](#)  
[Union Corners Brewery](#)  
[Next Door Brewing](#)  
[Funk Factory](#)  
[Giant Jones Brewing](#)



### FOOD TOUR

Madison is a culinary smorgasbord, and Madison Food Explorers has the ticket to all the best places. Join a true Madisonian on a walking tour of some of the top-notch restaurants in the downtown area and get a little taste of everything.

<http://www.madisonfoodexplorers.com/>



## Staying Active

### MADISON COLLEGE FITNESS CENTER

You can still stay in shape while in town. The facility, located near the airport 15 minutes from Capitol Square, features three basketball courts, a six-lane pool, and treadmills, bikes, weights and group fitness classes. Daily and monthly passes are available.

<https://madisoncollege.edu/fitness>



### WINGRA BOATS

Why stop at the shoreline? Madison has four beautiful lakes around the city, and Wingra Boats provides everything you need for a good workout on the water (or a relaxing paddle). Check out their kayak or standup paddle board rentals. They also offer classes.

<http://www.wingraboats.com/>



### YOGA

For \$20 you can drop in at one of Dragonfly's Hot Yoga studio yoga, barre, or fitness classes or one of the studio's yoga sessions.

<https://www.dragonflyhotyoga.com/>

