

# DRIFTLESS WISCONSIN

LIVE MUSIC • ARTS & CULTURE • OUTDOOR RECREATION • FOOD SCENE •  
HISTORICAL ATTRACTIONS • ORGANIC FARMING • EVENTS • SHOPPING

## Unglaciated Topography

Untouched by the last glacier, the Driftless Area is characterized by its beautifully sculpted topography. Forested bluffs reach down to river valleys cut into limestone bedrock by cold-water trout streams. Karst geology can be seen in caves, springs and sinkholes. Forests, prairie remnants, wetlands, and grasslands provide habitat for wildflowers and wildlife. Land is farmed by Norwegian descendants and back-to-the-land organic farmers.

## Outdoors in Every Season

Spring brings the wildflowers that push their way through the leaves on the forest, floor, and with them, other delicacies—morel mushrooms, fiddlehead ferns, and ramps. Hundreds of bird species begin their migration up the Mississippi Flyway and through contiguous forests. Trout fishing begins and turkey hunters prowl the woods. Canoe and campers signal the start of summer. Mountain bikers share the trails with horseback riders and backpackers. The backwaters near the Mississippi are full of anglers and fishing boats. Fall brings visitors to the orchards for every variety of apple, and the baked goods and jams that accompany the harvest. Wineries are harvesting their grapes, and the farmers markets are at their peak. The fall colors draw people to the roads. Later, the hunters come in search of turkey and white-tailed deer. When winter arrives, the snow beckons the hardy outdoorsmen. Cross-country skiers and snowshoers take to the trails and the fields and hikers explore ice caves.

## Arts in Abundance

Hundreds of artists find the Driftless Area an inspiration in its beauty and a peaceful place in which to work. Visual artists create in paint or pastel, in clay or glass, in wood or metal, or with a camera. There are poets, authors, actors, and storytellers. Visit an artists' cooperative to find a cornucopia of local art offerings. Don't miss the Driftless Area Art Festival or The Winding Roads Art Tour, which showcases regional visual and performing artists.

If it's music you're after, enjoy the Driftless Music Festival held under the oaks in Eckhart Park in Viroqua, Live in Viroqua, Vernon County Music in the Parks, Driftless Music Gardens, Larryfest, near LaFarge—a must-see for folk, bluegrass, and old-time music, or the Prairie Dog Blues Festival on St. Feriole Island.

## History on Display

Mound Builders and Native Americans, explorers and fur traders, immigrant settlers and pioneers all left their mark on the region and infused their folkways and traditions. Preservation and restoration efforts make this history available to us, as do reenactments of historical events or celebrations of earlier times. Visit the Villa Louis, a beautifully restored Victorian estate in Prairie du Chien. This National Historic Landmark hosts the Carriage Classic, one of the largest carriage driving competitions in the nation. Norskeden Nature and Heritage Center and Skumsrud Heritage Farm in Coon Valley is a nature and heritage center dedicated to preserving, interpreting and sharing the natural environment and cultural heritage of the area. Trace the Black Hawk "Trail of Tears" or take a short trip across the Mississippi to Effigy Mounds National Monument to view incredible prehistoric burial mounds that are prolific throughout southwestern Wisconsin.

## Something for Everyone

The great diversity of the area means something to suit the taste of every visitor. You can simply enjoy the peace and beauty of the countryside with a good book, a cup of coffee from a local roaster, or a glass of wine from a local vineyard. You can put on your waders and hope to outwit a brook trout on a cool foggy morning. You can get on your bike and wind your way through magnificent scenery. You can shop for art, vintage clothes and antiques, handmade furniture, artisanal cheeses, or locally-grown foods.

## Driftless ('drift-lis) ADJECTIVE, geography

1. Lacking or free of glacial drift: the driftless area in the American Midwest is unglaciated  
2. The Driftless Area geography is characterized by its steep, rugged landscape, and by the largest concentration of cold-water streams in the world.

## Endless Bluffs, Mighty Mississippi and the Kickapoo River Valley



VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.driftlesswisconsin.com](http://www.driftlesswisconsin.com)  
FOR OUTDOOR ADVENTURES  
AND SCENIC ITINERARIES

Photographers: Brandie Myhre and Jason Ray

FREE MAP INSIDE!



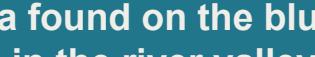
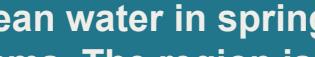
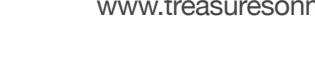
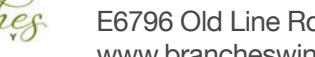
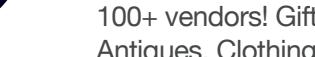
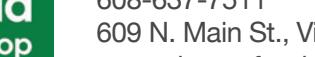
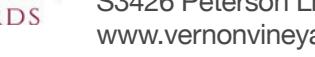
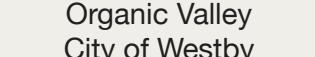
[www.driftlesswisconsin.com](http://www.driftlesswisconsin.com)



## PARTNERS

Crawford County Tourism Council  
Crawford County Finance Committee  
Vernon County Tourism, Promotion & Economic Development

Citizens First Bank  
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## Drifty's Canoe Rental

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Driftless Area Art Festival  
September 20-21, 2025

Soldiers Grove Dairy Days  
June 13-14, 2025



### EXPLORE

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#### SHOP, EAT, PLAY!

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The Local Oven Bakery  
The Pickett Fence

Historic Downtown  
Prairie du Chien

DRIFTLESS DOWNTOWN  
Prairie du Chien



From	Wilton	Viroqua	Prairie du Chien
Chicago, IL	251	261	244
Milwaukee, WI	160	198	181
Green Bay, WI	169	204	241
Minneapolis, MN	188	188	214
Des Moines, IA	300	288	227
Quad Cities, IA	183	159	141



EXPLORE, RELAX, AND STAY A WHILE IN DRIFTLESS WISCONSIN.



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PdC Tourism: 800-732-1673  
WI Travel PdC: 608-326-2241

EVENTS  
June 12-15: Prairie Villa Rendezvous & Flea Market • July 24-26: Prairie Dog Bluesfest  
July 31-Aug 2: County Line Countryfest • Sept 5-7: Villa Louis Carriage Classic  
Sept 20-21: Driftless Area Art Festival • Sept 26-28: Gays Mills Apple Fest  
Oct 4-5: Fall Arts & Crafts Festival & Fall Market Under the Bridge Marquette & McGregor, Iowa  
Oct 17-18: Prairie du Chien Oktoberfest



**Viroqua food coop**

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• Picnic Shelters • ATV/UTV friendly • Handicap Accessible Fishing Pier  
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Go to [www.lafarge-wisconsin.com](http://www.lafarge-wisconsin.com) to checkout businesses & calendar of events. Check out LaFarge Area Partner's Association on Facebook

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