

# Adventuring into Hidden Valleys Driving Tour

## SO YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO WISCONSIN'S HIDDEN VALLEYS...

Rolling down the wide highway in your RV, bicycles strapped to the back, motorboat towed behind, coolers ready to chill the catch of the day.

Leaning into those curves on a shiny Harley, wind in your hair and sun on your back, best friends keeping pace just behind you on the open road.

Cruising in the family sedan, Rover and kids in the back seat, portable DVD players, license plate scavenger hunt, and lots of snacks. "Are we there yet?"

Pick your favorite way to travel and then head to the Hidden Valleys. This guide showcases the best of southwestern Wisconsin. Use the pull-out map at the center to plot out your own itinerary. Or if you're looking for some insider travel tips, we invite you to follow one of our driving tours. Of course, you can set off from any location, but here are some "points of beginning" to get you started...

### FROM DUBUQUE, IOWA - GOING NORTH

Take Highways 35 and 151 North. The drive north is an easy glide on the two-lane highway through an area featuring farms tucked into the valleys and the horizon punctuated by the steeples of country churches. You're following Wisconsin's Great River Road on Highway 35/61 north toward **Dickeyville**.

Your first must-see stop is the **Dickeyville Grotto**. At **Tennyson**, take Highway 133 west to Wisconsin's Catfish Capital, **Potosi**. Potosi's main street seems to go forever with no intersections, and the community is literally wedged between two bluffs leading to the **Mississippi River**. You'll get just close enough to the river to get a taste of what is to come.

Continue west, and see if you can identify the crops in the fields (hint: corn, soybeans, and alfalfa are common). And what do a railroad, an airport runway, and a river have in common? All are within about 150 yards of each other and set against the backdrop of a magnificent limestone cliff at the southern entrance to **Cassville's Riverside Park**. Stick around, you may see barges navigating here through one of the river's most narrow points. From Cassville,



you can follow our **GREAT RIVER ROAD DRIVING TOUR**. Or, take Highway 81 to Lancaster and follow a driving tour through the **HEART OF HIDDEN VALLEYS**.

### FROM DUBUQUE, IOWA - GOING EAST

Take Highway 11 east toward **Sinsinawa**. Of course, you expect to see cattle grazing on the hillsides, but what about dinosaurs? Shortly after crossing Highway Z, check out the prehistoric creatures on the right side of the road.

Continue on to the home base of 750 Dominican Sisters for more than 135 years. **Sinsinawa Mound** is your must-see stop. Well actually, it is also a must-taste, with such specialties in the bakery as cinnamon bread, caramel rolls, and Irish soda bread.

At **Hazel Green**, follow Highway 11/80 north, and then continue on Highway 11 east to **Benton**. From Benton, join up with the **CHEESE COUNTRY DRIVING TOUR**, a tasty adventure through the countryside in Lafayette, Green, and Iowa counties.

### FROM MARQUETTE, IOWA / PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, WISCONSIN

Our Iowa Great Place is nestled between the Mississippi River and the towering bluffs of northeast Iowa. The streets are lined with 19th century buildings, antique and specialty shops, and restaurants. Enjoy hiking, boating, fishing, shopping, a winery, brewery, casino, and more. Our natural beauty is full of magic and wonder at Effigy Mounds National Monument, Pikes Peak

State Park, and Yellow River State Forest. Lodging options include campgrounds and cabins, hotels and motels, and quaint B&Bs. Join us for special events such as arts and crafts festivals, flea markets, classic car cruises, Old West reenactments, and beer and wine fests. For more information, contact McGregor/Marquette Chamber of Commerce, 146 Main, PO Box 105, McGregor, IA 52157, or call 563.873.2186 or 800.896.0910. Visit the website at [mcgreg-marq.org](http://mcgreg-marq.org) or email [mcgregormarquettechamber@gmail.com](mailto:mcgregormarquettechamber@gmail.com).

Right after crossing the **Mississippi River**, stop in at the **Prairie du Chien Regional Tourism Center** (staffed May through October but open year round). Follow Highway 18 to **Bridgeport**, and then take Highway 60 east for a journey along the banks of the **Wisconsin River**—railroad tracks to your right and limestone outcroppings and giant mounded bluffs to your left.

Turn left on Highway 131 to **Steuben**, and follow the **Kickapoo River** to the north. Your must-see stop is on Highway 171 east at the scenic view overlooking **Gays Mills**—known as Apple Country—with fluffy white blossoms in spring, lush greenery in summer, and shiny red apples in fall. Your must-taste opportunity is at any one of the apple orchards, with apples, apple cider, and even apple donuts! Return to Highway 131 North. Motorcyclists will welcome the winding curves, and all

travelers will enjoy the gentle warm glow of the setting sun on the bluffs to the east. Travel north to experience the **Bikes and Berries Driving Tour**.

**FROM LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN** Your official must-see stop in La Crosse is **Grandad Bluff**. From 90 east, take the Highway 16 exit west, and travel south on Losey Boulevard. Turn left on Main Street and wind your way up the bluff. From the parking area it is a quick walk to the top. Carry in a picnic lunch and enjoy the view from the shelter.

On your way back down, turn right on Highway F (right in front of the Alpine Inn), and then go left on Highway 33 for about two miles to the scenic overlook of the **Coulee Region**—worth a stop day or night.

Further east, you may have to pause for an impromptu “cow crossing” when the herd ambles home for evening milking. In addition to lots of farms and fields, you’ll start to spot signs for Amish businesses offering furniture, bakery, candy, rugs, and baskets. You might even witness a barn raising along the way.

In **Cashton** (truly a rural community with a farm implement dealer right downtown), you can either proceed to the **BIKES AND BERRIES DRIVING TOUR** or the **LAKES, TRAILS, AND STREAMS DRIVING TOUR** offering spectacular scenery in Monroe, Juneau, and Vernon Counties.

**FROM MADISON, WISCONSIN - GOING SOUTH** Follow Highway 14 south toward Fitchburg, go west on Highway 92 to Brooklyn. Turn left on Highway 104, which is a straight drive south to Brodhead, and the beginning of the **CHEESE COUNTRY DRIVING TOUR**.

**FROM MADISON, WISCONSIN - GOING WEST** Follow Highway 18/151 west to Mount Horeb, the Troll Capital of Wisconsin. Continue west toward Dodgeville. Or proceed a bit further on Highway 18 to our **HEART OF HIDDEN VALLEYS DRIVING TOUR** looping through Richland, Crawford, and Grant counties.

And our new tour helps you discover the best of **WINERIES AND VINEYARD TOUR**. Be sure to taste-test the luscious wines and beers of the Hidden Valleys area.

Hidden Valleys—nine counties, hundreds of fun things to see and do, and thousands of memories waiting to be made.

