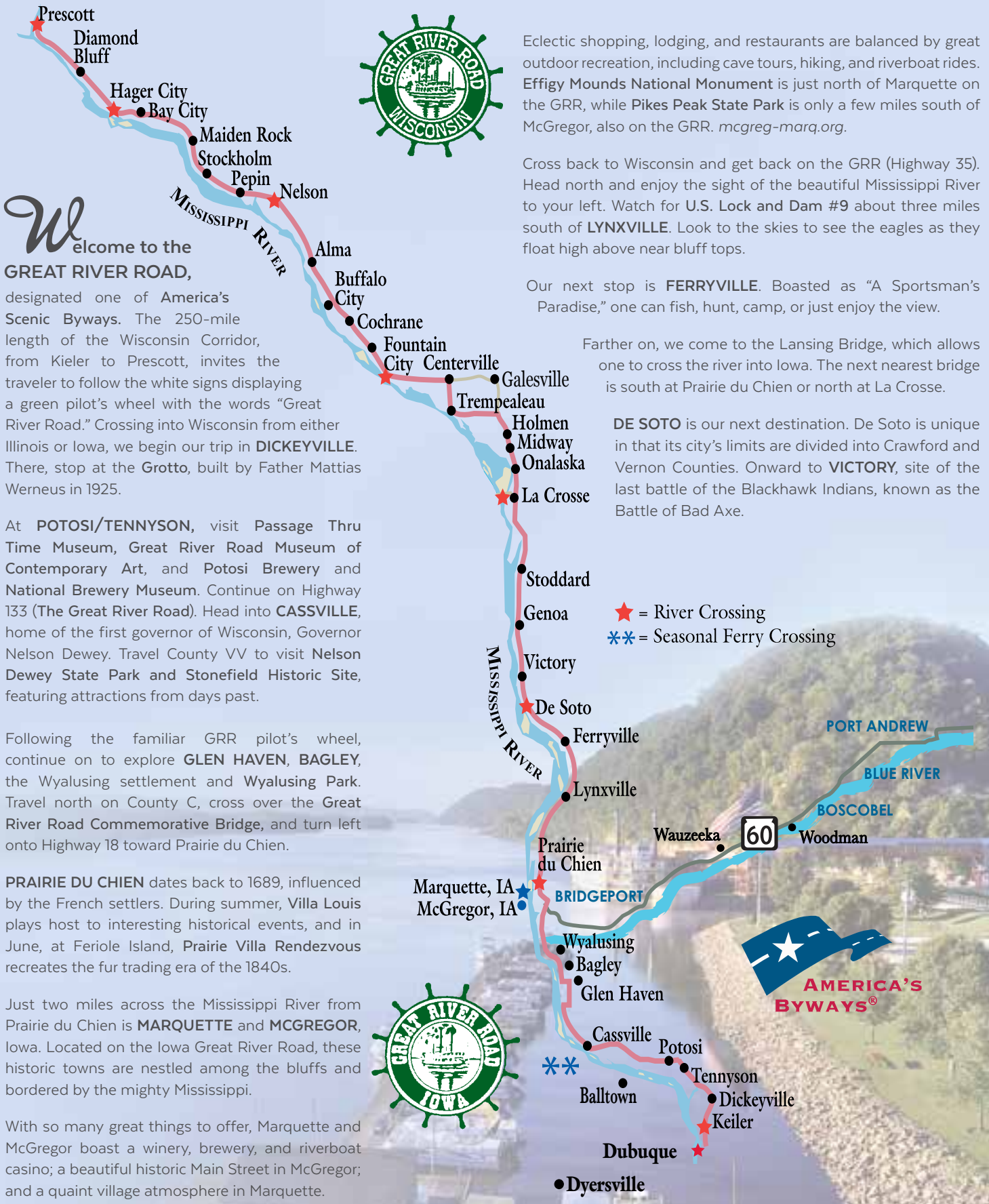


The Great River Road Driving Tour



Welcome to the **GREAT RIVER ROAD**, designated one of America's Scenic Byways. The 250-mile length of the Wisconsin Corridor, from Kieler to Prescott, invites the traveler to follow the white signs displaying a green pilot's wheel with the words "Great River Road." Crossing into Wisconsin from either Illinois or Iowa, we begin our trip in **DICKEYVILLE**. There, stop at the **Grotto**, built by Father Mattias Werneus in 1925.

At **POTOSI/TENNYSON**, visit Passage Thru Time Museum, Great River Road Museum of Contemporary Art, and Potosi Brewery and National Brewery Museum. Continue on Highway 133 (The Great River Road). Head into **CASSVILLE**, home of the first governor of Wisconsin, Governor Nelson Dewey. Travel County VV to visit Nelson Dewey State Park and Stonefield Historic Site, featuring attractions from days past.

Following the familiar GRR pilot's wheel, continue on to explore **GLEN HAVEN, BAGLEY**, the Wyalusing settlement and Wyalusing Park. Travel north on County C, cross over the Great River Road Commemorative Bridge, and turn left onto Highway 18 toward Prairie du Chien.

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN dates back to 1689, influenced by the French settlers. During summer, Villa Louis plays host to interesting historical events, and in June, at Feriole Island, Prairie Villa Rendezvous recreates the fur trading era of the 1840s.

Just two miles across the Mississippi River from Prairie du Chien is **MARQUETTE** and **MCGREGOR**, Iowa. Located on the Iowa Great River Road, these historic towns are nestled among the bluffs and bordered by the mighty Mississippi.

With so many great things to offer, Marquette and McGregor boast a winery, brewery, and riverboat casino; a beautiful historic Main Street in McGregor; and a quaint village atmosphere in Marquette.



Eclectic shopping, lodging, and restaurants are balanced by great outdoor recreation, including cave tours, hiking, and riverboat rides. Effigy Mounds National Monument is just north of Marquette on the GRR, while Pikes Peak State Park is only a few miles south of McGregor, also on the GRR. mcgreg-marq.org.

Cross back to Wisconsin and get back on the GRR (Highway 35). Head north and enjoy the sight of the beautiful Mississippi River to your left. Watch for U.S. Lock and Dam #9 about three miles south of **LYNXVILLE**. Look to the skies to see the eagles as they float high above near bluff tops.

Our next stop is **FERRYVILLE**. Boasted as "A Sportsman's Paradise," one can fish, hunt, camp, or just enjoy the view.

Farther on, we come to the Lansing Bridge, which allows one to cross the river into Iowa. The next nearest bridge is south at Prairie du Chien or north at La Crosse.

DE SOTO is our next destination. De Soto is unique in that its city's limits are divided into Crawford and Vernon Counties. Onward to **VICTORY**, site of the last battle of the Blackhawk Indians, known as the Battle of Bad Axe.

- ★ = River Crossing
- ★* = Seasonal Ferry Crossing



At **GENOA**, view the U.S. Lock and Dam #8, and three miles north, get a view of the river at **Spring Coulee Scenic Overlook**.

Back on the road, you travel through **STODDARD** on to **LA CROSSE**. Highway 35 takes you downtown to State Street. Turn left there to get a close look at the river in **Riverside Park**. On the north side of the city is **ONALASKA**. While there, be sure to visit “Sunny,” the largest sunfish in the world, overlooking Lake Onalaska. Another must-see is the **Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge**. The Great River State Bicycle Trail begins here and connects with three other state trails for over 101 miles of biking adventure.

Using the green pilot’s wheel as your guide, continue your travels through **PRESCOTT**, **MIDWAY**, and **HOLMEN**. Each is a unique community with something different to interest you.

Thank you for traveling with me on your exciting journey on **WISCONSIN’S GREAT RIVER ROAD**. Although you have not reached the end of the road, as your Hidden Valleys escort, I must say goodbye.

But don’t stop here. Continue your travels through Indianhead Country, enjoying the sights of green forests, clear water lakes, and finally Lake Superior. Have fun!

THE LOWER WISCONSIN RIVER ROAD
From the Mighty Mississippi to the Empire Prairie, Wisconsin’s 100-mile Scenic Byway 60 follows the graceful curves of the **LOWER WISCONSIN RIVER**.

It sparkles by sunny day or starry night, with the wild beauty of nature left to its own devices for thousands and thousands of years. In constant flux, the “river of a thousand isles” continuously sculpts its sandbars, shifts its channels, varies its flows, and repaints its colors, according to the whims of the weather gods.

Start your trip at **PRAIRIE DU CHIEN**, which sits at the juncture of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers. As the oldest community on the Upper Mississippi, Prairie du Chien evokes ghosts of voyageurs, settlers, and Native Americans.

At the intersection of the Great River Road (Highways 18 and 35), a National Scenic Byway, and Highway 60 lies **BRIDGEPORT**. It had one of the earliest toll bridges on the Wisconsin River. Built in 1857, it operated until the 1920s as a railroad shipping point for livestock.

BOSCOBEL, Italian for “beautiful woods,” is the birthplace of the Gideon Bible, namely at the historic stone Boscobel Hotel. Its main street features period architecture with a frontier edge. On Saturdays or by appointment, visit the Boscobel Depot Museum featuring displays of Rural America, and attend the farmer’s market.

BLUE RIVER, in the “heart of the lower riverway,” was first a railroad stop that became a cattle town and shipping center for livestock. Today it hosts an Autumn Fest for all ages in late August, two boat landings on County Rd T in town, and a mile east of the village at Jones Lake off Highway 133.

PORT ANDREW, described as a “bustling river town” by mid-1800 travelers, was one of the earliest settlements in Richland County. Captain Thomas Andrew built the house still on a hill looking down into one of the deepest parts of the river. Here remains a pleasant wayside and a public access site to the river.

MUSCODA is the Morel Mushroom Capital of Wisconsin, just south of the river in Grant County. It hosts an annual mid-May festival in homage to the fungus, and a campground on the Lower River in Victoria Riverside Park, which offers access to miles of trails and thousands of acres of public land.

ORION is an unincorporated hamlet that lies north and west of the Muscodia bridge. Originally named Richmond, it served as the first seat of Richland County, operating a ferry across the river until the first bridge was built in 1870.

GOTHAM lies north of the river where Highway 14 joins Highway 60, reconnecting the traveler with the waterside road leading onto one of its most lovely stretches of bends, rises, and river views.

LONE ROCK is named for a tall finger of sandstone on the river’s north bank that was used as a landmark for river travelers. It offers scenic parks and recreational opportunities that include fishing, hunting, canoeing, and biking along the Pine River Bike Trail.

SPRING GREEN is equal parts artists’ community and down-to-earth farm town. The natural beauty of the river valley surrounds its neighborhoods’ open space and open people. Spring Green is home to Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin, American Players Theater, and House on the Rock. The landscape and the people who have settled here have nurtured the creative spirit of man and nature.

SAUK CITY, Wisconsin’s oldest village, is the home to the last eastern Indian battle. Chief Black Hawk’s unique strategies and courage are commemorated. July brings Polka on the Riverway.

PRAIRIE DU SAC was named by French fur traders after the Sac Indians before it was settled by Yankees and, later, Swiss. It is home to wintering American bald eagles, and the Wisconsin Cow Chip Throw.

LODI means “peaceful valley.” Here the Ice Age Trail beckons the curious hiker and the very-ancient-history buff. The area also boasts trout streams, beautiful parks, indoor and outdoor pools, and a 9-hole golf course.





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