

OZAUKEE COUNTY TOURISM

# 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 or on a staycation in Ozaukee County?” Here’s what they said!

**Pam King, executive director, Grafton Chamber of Commerce and president, Ozaukee County Tourism Council**

“As a grandmother of a soon to be 3-year-old and 10-month-old who will be visiting for spring break, our daytime adventures will depend upon the weather. If it is still cold, we will try some sledding at Lime Kiln Park and some ice skating at Veteran’s Memorial Park or Lion’s Park, all part of the Village of Grafton’s Parks system.

If we have some great spring weather, we will visit All My Friends Playground at Centennial Park. Our adult kids love visiting local breweries, so no matter the weather, we will definitely visit Sahale Ale Works and order pizza from John’s Pizzeria. We may even stay at the Hampton Inn and Suites for a night or two so the kids can swim, and we’ll all feel like we are on vacation!”

**Sean Dineen, Bar manager and brewer, Inventor’s Brewpub**

“As someone in the service industry I prefer venturing to places I am not as likely to be recognized, simply to better relax. However, this runs in direct contrast with my goal of researching new products and ideas (aka, trying a lot of new beers and spirits) — I tend to end up in a lot of our local breweries and distilleries.

We’re lucky to have a great selection within a short drive. I am a big fan of Sahale in Grafton, and both Rebellion Brewing and the



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Buechler Farm in Belgium doesn’t just offer a petting zoo, food, music and the occasional circus, but it also hosts rodeos.

Fermentorium in Cedarburg. And it’s great to be able to get award-winning local wines and spirits at places like Handen Distillery and Cedar Creek Winery.

When deciding to take a break from video games and actually dine out, you’ll most likely find me at a place with a signature bar as well, like Fork & Tap in Port Washington, or the Union House or Stilt House in Cedarburg. I generally limit my time off to about three or four days so as not to miss too much work (or have my family put out an all-points bulletin).”

**Maggie Dobson, Cedarburg Chamber of Commerce executive director**

“Ozaukee County staycations are so unique and it’s easy to find something fun to do in your local community. There is no better time than spring to explore something new in your backyard.

My choice? You don’t need to actually leave town to feel like you’re away on a special vacation. Have you spent a night or weekend in one of our area’s beautiful, unique bed & breakfasts, inns, or Airbnbs? Pamper yourself with a stay at the historic Washington House Inn, or enjoy a room, live music and the 520 Social Stop guest pub at Stagecoach Inn. The Shinyer Airbnb offers your own personal downtown Cedarburg apartment, or get a room at the Lily Pad, a quaint guest house with lovely amenities and a beautiful backyard bursting with blooms come spring.

All are in downtown Cedarburg and within walking distance of stores with carefully-selected, unique merchandise, wonderful restaurants, art galleries, museums, and more. Cedarburg is the perfect hometown getaway!”

**Cori Rice, owner, White Rice Advertising**

“As parents of two teenage boys, we’re short on time but big on fun. When we get an afternoon free we love to see something we don’t get to see every day ... a unique festival like Port Washington’s Fish Day, a rodeo — yes, a rodeo, they have them at Buechler Farms! Or a Chinooks baseball game.

I’m also a sucker for a Ladies Night Out — several of our towns offer them, and the food, shopping and adult beverage sampling is amazing! A big part of going out is eating out ... so when we’re home for spring break or enjoying a staycation, we love trying out new restaurants!

Some of our favorites include Beanies Mexican Restaurant & Cantina in Port Washington, Ferrante’s in Mequon and the Lake Church Inn in Belgium and this spring we’re excited to try a few places we haven’t been, like Café Corazon in the Mequon Public Market and Daily Taco in Thiensville.”

**Tara Williams, Belgium**

**Chamber executive director**

“No matter the weather, we love getting out of the house for some fresh air at Harrington Beach State Park. My kids love hiking around Quarry Lake, exploring the woods, climbing around downed trees and exploring the historical remnants of the mining town, Stonehaven. Even if the beach is not as warm as some spring break destinations, our kids are more than happy to horse around along Harrington’s mile of Lake Michigan beach front.

My daughter and I always love treating ourselves to an afternoon at glaze in Thiensville. There’s nothing more relaxing than painting to our heart’s content. I usually sip on chai tea and she loves their gourmet toast and ice cream. For adult relaxation, my husband and I will likely hit up some trivia at Inventors Brewpub (every other Wednesday) or Kyote’s Bar & Grill (Saturdays).”

**Marji Tomter, Treasures of Oz**

“Most of my staycation will be spent wandering through all of the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust’s fourteen preserves in Oz. Eleven are exclusively OWLT preserves. Highland Woods, Mequon Nature Preserve and Lion’s Den Gorge are under OWLT easement but their ownership falls to the city of Mequon or Ozaukee County. I might need a second week to have the time to walk all of these. With good fortune and right action in Madison, Cedar Gorge will be added soon.

I will take a day to explore some of the hidden might-be Treasures of Oz, places that I just rarely or never go to, least of all actually stop at ... places like Waubeka, Holy Cross and Hamilton. I actually live in the ghost town of Port Ulao, but that should be high on others’ lists. I will stop in at the Historical Society up in Port to get some background before I start driving, so I know what to look for.”

**Tina Schwantes, Mequon-Thiensville Chamber executive director**

“Ozaukee County offers so many options for fun and relaxing activities to enjoy on “staycation” days. One of the ways to enjoy a day is visiting art galleries and museums in the area. Viewing the Cedarburg Artists Guild’s “Main Street Gallery” at the Cedarburg Cultural Center and then moving on to see an exhibit at the nearby Cedarburg Art Museum or Wisconsin Museum of Quilts and Fiber would be a wonderful way to start the day.

Afterward, the exploration can continue by venturing north or south to experience some of the other interesting museums. In Port Washington this could include going to the Port Explorium, an interactive history and maritime museum offering views overlooking Lake Michigan or the Judge Eghart House, an 1872 Victorian home, museum and art center celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

In Belgium visit the Luxembourg American Cultural Center’s Roots and Leaves Museum, housed in a rebuilt stone barn originally built in 1872. In Mequon, there is an opportunity to tour the Jonathan Clark House Museum, a unique architectural stone house built in 1848 or the Isham Day House, built in 1839 which now houses the Mequon Postal River Museum.”

**Kathy Tank, executive director, Port Washington Tourism Council**

“For us, a fun thing to do on vacation, or staycation, is explore. Often times that means finding a new place to get out and do a bit of hiking, and maybe birdwatching too. There are so many parks, preserves, and trails here in Ozaukee County! (Sherper’s in Port Washington can supply any gear you need.) Then follow that by a stop for a bite and a beverage, at a place we haven’t been to yet, such as The Steerage Dining Saloon in Port. Sounds like our kind of a fun day!”

**Melissa Wraalstad, executive director, Wisconsin Museum of Quilt & Fiber Arts**

“I love that Ozaukee County has a mix of things to do. I’d spend a little time shopping at the Olive Sprig (love their olive oils!) and the Pagoda Fine Jewelry with a stop for lunch at Out & Out. And since I love history, I’d check out some of the programs at the Jonathan Clark House. They have regular, family-friendly events. And of course, I’d spend some time on the Interurban Trail. I love it for my dog walks!”

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 Ozaukee way!



Submitted photo

Enjoying some family time at glaze in Thiensville is the Schuckit family, from left, Benjamin, mom Jaclyn, Eli and Evelyn.