**Attractions in Milwaukee Area and SE WI** **Cover letter**

Kathy and I have put together the attached documents to try to help everyone get as much as you can out of your visit to Milwaukee for our 2023Red Warriors reunion. Hopefully, all of you will be able to use your free time during the reunion to visit some of these attractions.

We’ve listed most of the high-profile attractions in southeast Wisconsin, tried to categorize them, provided summary information about each of them, and basic descriptions for each as well. Most of the description information was copied from the internet. Some personal comments were added where we thought appropriate.

We have personally visited most of the attractions ourselves to see if they are, in our opinion, worthy of your time. We feel most are, but that is a matter of personal likes and dislikes.

Most of the attractions are reasonably easy to find. All will require some mode of transportation to get to them from the Embassy Suites. If you are flying in and are not renting a car, maybe you can hook up with friends from the reunion who do have a car and ride with them to the attractions you all want to see.

Our favorites from the list are:

Harley Museum – Very interesting for Harley riders as well as non-riders. Really!

Pabst Mansion – A grand turn of the 19th century home. The architecture, quality of construction, and contents are very interesting.

Basilica of St. Josaphat – Magnificent large church, filled with stained glass windows, a high dome, and religious paintings. A complete work of art.

Old World Wisconsin – Very interesting to see actual 19th century log homes that were taken apart and then rebuilt here in a ‘working’ farm setting. Many of the ‘roll-playing’ employees are very informative. Shuttle service makes it easy to get from homestead to homestead.

House on the Rock – Easily one of the most unique places you will ever visit. You will be shaking your head constantly saying to yourself “Who thought this up?” or “How did they collect all this stuff?” or “Wow!” or “Why???”. Reserve lots of time for the visit. Not something you want to rush through. So much to see!

Lambeau Field – What more can we say than that?

In Milwaukee, most of the attractions on the list are close enough so that two or more can be seen in day. For instance, you could visit the Harley Museum in late morning, eat lunch at the ‘Barrel Yard’ at Miller Park, and then do a Brewery tour that afternoon. Or, like we recently did, you could visit the Pabst Mansion, have lunch on Old World 3rd Street, visit the North Point Lighthouse, visit the Basilica of St. Josaphat, and still spend some time walking around the Historic Third Ward. We did this between 10:00 AM and about 3:30 PM.

If you are coming from the west and are driving to and from Milwaukee, we have one other suggestion. The southwest portion of Wisconsin is known as the ‘Driftless Area’. It is the part of Wisconsin that has not been glaciated for the last 100,000 years which makes its geology much different from the rest of the state. The last glaciers left the rest of the state about 10,000 years ago. The Driftless Area runs from just west of Madison to the Mississippi River and into Minnesota. If you haven’t seen it and if you have or can take the time to drive through that portion of Wisconsin on your way home, DO IT. It is very beautiful. We have taken many weekend trips to that part of the state and love it out there. Both of our recommended routes through the Driftless Area (see below) end up in Prairie Du Chien, WI where the Wisconsin River empties into the great Mississippi River. From there you can proceed home as you wish. However, the ‘Great River Road’ running north and south from Prairie Du Chien along the Mississippi is very beautiful in its own right and should be considered as part of your route home, if possible.

Driftless Area routes we recommend:

Route 1 (about 3 hours – nonstop - from Embassy Suites to Prairie Du Chien):

I-94 to Hy 19 (just north of Madison near Lake Windser)

Hy 19 to Hy 14 (near Mazomanie)

Hy 14 to Hy 60 (Near Gotham)

Hy 60 to Hy 18 (Near Bridgeport)

Hy 18 to Prairie Du Chien

Route 2 (maybe 5 - 10 minutes faster than Route 1 but not quite as pretty):

I-94 to Hy 18 just south of Madison

Hy 18 to Prairie Du Chien

Note - Both ‘The House on the Rock’ and ‘Taliesin Preservation’ are short detours along both routes in case you are interested.

If you want to linger a day in Prairie Du Chien, be sure to visit Effigy Mounds National Monument across the river in Iowa, Villa Louis and the other historical sites along the Mississippi in Prairie Du Chien, and don’t miss the awesome overlook of the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers from the high bluffs in beautiful Wyalusing State Park just south of town. A short visit to the Casino Queen River Boat casino just across the Mississippi in Iowa might be fun too.

We hope you get a lot out of this documentation and that you enjoy your stay in Milwaukee and Wisconsin.

Dennis & Kathy Witt