

A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR YOUR GENERATION

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LIVING WELL *50 Plus*

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artist

Loves what she does

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TRAVEL

Open the Door to a Weekend Getaway in Wisconsin

Quaint sightseeing destination has beautiful scenery, parks and preserves



photos courtesy of Door County Visitor Bureau



by Jan Ross,
Staff Writer

Lovely and quaint Door County in Wisconsin is situ-

ated right on a peninsula of land that juts into Lake Michigan. On one side is the huge lake and on the other is a bay, so you have a water view from many locations on the peninsula.

There are plenty of places to stay in Door County, including hotels, resorts, bed and breakfasts and even vacation rental homes. The Open Hearth Lodge, a nice hotel in Sister Bay, has a cozy fireplace in the lobby, comfortable rooms, an indoor heated pool and Jacuzzi and a free continental breakfast every morning.

Plan to spend some time at the Ridges Sanctuary, the oldest private nature preserve in the state. In the winter, it's a pristine, snow-covered paradise perfect for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, and it's equally beautiful in other seasons. Whitefish Dunes State Park is also

a great place to spend time in any season. Covered with snow in the winter, in the summer it becomes a swimmer's delight with a large beach right on Lake Michigan.

Summer is a great time to visit Door County because that's when the many tart cherry trees ripen and provide the ingredients for pies, jams, chocolate-covered cherries and pretty much anything else you can think of to make with cherries. Be sure to buy some jars of pie filling to take home because you have never tasted such a delicious cherry pie as these fillings make.

We particularly enjoyed fresh waffles with the distinctive tart cherries on top at the Door County Coffee and Tea Company, which prepares and sells its own delicious coffee beans. Once you see the roasting process in the large factory behind the restaurant, you will be going online to try all the flavors.

Door County is a shopper's paradise. Each of the many small villages have their own shopping areas with distinctive little shops

offering a variety of interesting items. Browse through the shops, then make a stop at one of the restaurants for lunch. The Shipwrecked Brew Pub in Egg Harbor is Door County's only microbrewery. Here you can indulge in a variety of flavors along with "chowdah" and some fried cheese curds, a Wisconsin specialty.

For dinner, check out one of the local "fish boils." Long a tradition in this area, locally caught whitefish is cut up, placed in a kettle with chunks of potatoes and plenty of water, then placed on a bonfire. All the observers wait for the "boilover," when the kettle is allowed to boil over into the fire to rid the water of the extra grease. It's quite an event. The White Gull Inn in Fish Creek offers a regular fish boil with a big buffet spread including slaw, bread and dessert.

If you are headed to Door County in the summer, be sure to check out the Woodwalk Concert series beginning in June. Located in an old barn just south of Egg Harbor, a variety of musical acts are featured here. Tickets are only \$15. Concert goers are encouraged to come early, bring a picnic and just enjoy the event. Why not bring along some cherries to snack on?

