

A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR YOUR GENERATION

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# LIVING WELL *50 Plus*

ENTERTAINMENT • HEALTH • BARGAINS • LIFESTYLE

## A Caregiver's Guide to the HOLIDAYS

A LITTLE PLANNING GOES A LONG WAY

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# TRAVEL

## A Weekend Getaway to Elkhart Lake

RACE CARS, GOURMET MEALS AND CRYSTAL-CLEAR WATER DRAW VISITORS TO WISCONSIN DESTINATION



by Jan Ross,  
Staff Writer

The water in Elkhart Lake, Wisc., is absolutely pristine and crystal clear. You may think you have seen a crystal-clear lake, but until you stand on the clean sandy bottom of this one and look through the water as if you're looking through a pane of glass, you can't fully appreciate a crystal-clear lake. Not only is the lake perfect for swimming and boating activities, the town of Elkhart Lake is so charming, you might think you have arrived in Mayberry.

Stay at one of the three lovely resorts in town – Victorian Village, the Osthoff Resort or Siebkens Resort – and you might believe you are in the middle of the movie *Dirty Dancing*; the resorts are reminiscent of the resort featured in the movie. They all have fascinating histories. The town was settled more than 100 years ago, and residents will be happy to take you on a tour and tell you all about it, including stories about the town's amazing involvement with Prohibition. From any of the resorts, it's a lazy stroll of a block or two into town to browse the many small shops or dine in one of the wonderful gourmet restaurants. Stop in Vintage Elkhart Lake for a wine-tasting class with the very friendly and knowledgeable sommelier, Jaclyn Stuart, and then have dinner at the Lake Street Café or the Paddock Club. I guarantee you will be astonished at the gourmet meal you will be served – it is comparable to any five-star restaurant we have visited in a big metropolitan city.

Spend a morning kayaking on the lake with Ecology Outfitters and



enjoy the view of the gorgeous lake houses, many of which have been hugging the lake shore for a very long time. After participating in whatever water sports you choose (and there are many choices), stop in Off the Rail for a fantastic sandwich or one of its signature coffees. Then spend the afternoon at the incredible Aspira Spa at the Osthoff Resort. Another alternative is the cooking school, L'Ecole de la Maison at the Osthoff Resort, which is for novice and gourmet cooks alike.

Road America really put Elkhart Lake on the map for many people. The small town originally grew up around a racetrack course plotted along the outside of the lake itself. As the races grew more popular and became a little more dangerous for the citizens, another track was built right outside town. It became Road America. The site of dozens of car races each year, the track also offers go-kart racing and UTV (utility trail vehicles or side-by-side vehicles) trails, both of which we experienced and both of which are a lot of fun. Road America also strongly encourages family involvement in all its events and is very welcoming to all campers – if you can find a patch of grass, you can camp there.

Relax on the lake, zoom along a racecourse and have a fabulous meal – you can do it all at Elkhart Lake.

Jan Ross is a freelance travel writer who publishes in a variety of venues, both print and online. You can contact her at [janross53@gmail.com](mailto:janross53@gmail.com) or check her travel blog at [www.wanderlustwonder.com](http://www.wanderlustwonder.com).

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