

## MILWAUKEE

## BEFORE YOU GO

Summer is the best time to visit Milwaukee. Bring shorts, sunglasses, and sunscreen—the weather can really sizzle, with temperatures ranging from the mid-70's to mid-90's. Summerfest this year runs from June 28 to July 8; call for other information and performance schedules (414-273-2680).

## GETTING THERE

**By car:** Milwaukee is about 90 miles north of Chicago, on Interstate 94. (I-94 also connects Milwaukee with Minneapolis, Minnesota, about a six-hour drive.) After a few days in the city, you'll wonder where the traffic is. It's an easy city to drive in because the streets are laid out on a grid.

**By air:** All major airlines fly into General Mitchell Field, 20 minutes south of downtown by I-94 (also labeled I-43 as it passes through town).

## LOCAL LOWDOWN

For a big city, Milwaukee is pretty safe, but as a general rule, the west and south sides aren't good places to be in the wee hours. Local language calls for *soda*, not *pop*. Water fountains are *bubblers*. Weather reports are called "grilling" reports, after Milwaukee's favorite summer pastime.

Natives say Milwaukee in two syllables, as in "Mwockee." And Wisconsin natives are known as cheeseheads or cheddarheads.

Listen to Bob Uecker call the Brew Crew games on the radio for a classic Milwaukee experience. And root for the home team.



## CHEAP SLEEP

From the third week in May through early August, the **University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee** (3400 N. Maryland Ave., 414-229-4065) rents rooms in high-rise Sandburg Hall for \$19 a night. The university is close to Bradford Beach, 10 minutes from downtown, and has a full gym in the basement. Another good bet is

**Wunder Hall** (3215 W. State St., 414-344-1636). Rooms are only \$10 per night; last June, Jimmy Carter spent six days in room 206 (he was in town with housing rehabbers Habitat for Humanity International).

## AFTER HOURS

Pick up a copy of *Milwaukee* magazine for local arts and entertainment listings. Hear some blues at **Hooligan's Super Bar** (2017 E. North Ave., 414-273-5230); the cover is \$2 to \$3 on Mondays, when the bar brings in out-of-town bands. Look for good jazz with no cover at **the Estate** (2423 N. Murray Ave., 414-964-9923).

For comedy, check out **Kall's** (2856 N. Oakland Ave., 414-332-6323),

where the cover is \$5.50 to \$7.50 and reservations are necessary. Here you'll experience ComedySportz, a kind of improv comedy in which two teams of comedians compete for points in audience-judged games.

## DAY TRIPPING

The Green Bay Packers usually play an exhibition game at County Stadium in

August, but if you're a diehard fan, make the two-hour pilgrimage to the Green Bay Packer Hall of Fame (414-499-4281), in **Green Bay**. Admission is \$4.50. Just take U.S. 43 north to Route 172 and get off at the Oneida Street exit. The Hall is a few miles down on the right; Lambeau Field is directly opposite.

Nature buffs should check out the **Kettle Moraine State Forest**, less than an hour's drive from town. (For the record, kettles and moraines are land formations left behind by glaciers.) For information, write the Department of Natural Resources at P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

For arguably the best beach in the area, head to Harriman Beach State Park, 35 miles north of the city on U.S. 43.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Greater Milwaukee Convention and Visitors' Bureau, 756 N. Milwaukee St., Milwaukee, WI 53202, 414-273-7222, has maps available.

Contact the Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce, 756 N. Milwaukee St., Milwaukee, WI 53202, 414-273-3000; or call the Greater Milwaukee Funline (414-799-1177) for festival and special-events information. —S. H.

rade festival rolls into town. A Milwaukee tradition rooted in the days when the circus wheeled around the country on wooden wagons, the event begins with regular circus performances under a tent. It culminates in—you guessed it—a parade, with horses, marching bands, and, yes, wagons full of lions, tigers, and bears.

Toward the end of July, the celebrations turn ethnic. Weekend festivals start rolling out in rapid succession on the Summerfest grounds: Festa Italiana, German Fest, African World Festival, Polish Fest, Irish Fest, and (if you're still standing) Mexican Fiesta. Admission for each ethnic festival, all of which feature traditional food, music, and crafts, is \$6.

The swan song of the summer season plays Labor Day weekend with the Maritime Festival/Taste of Wisconsin, a more intimate festival held at McKinley Marina. This fest has bands and food tents, too, but there are extras—like a regatta—thrown in. "I like a little more elbow room and this festival has that smaller, carnival atmosphere," says Robin Watkins,

a senior at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. "And besides, admission is free!"

**B**ut there's more to Milwaukee than summer festivals. And perhaps the best way to introduce these attributes is the (heretofore unpublished) **CHEESE** Index, an acronym for *cost, happiness, cats, entertainment, sports, and extras*—everything that matters to travelers.

**Cost:** Prices are reasonable on most everything, from cover charges at clubs (\$1 to \$4) to dinner (\$5 to \$12) to a Brewers' game (\$4 to \$13). Festivals are cheap, too, with admission ranging from nothing to \$6. Bradford Beach, located just north of McKinley Marina, is free, as are the weekly Rainbow Summer outdoor performances held downtown.

**Hipness:** Art Kumbalek's column, in the city sheet *The Shepherd Express*, voices the town's spunk. Kumbalek is sort of a cult hero in Milwaukee, spouting stream-of-consciousness copy on everything from heat waves to the Freedom of Information Act—but