

OZAUKEE COUNTY TOURISM

Making the most of these last summer days

We never like to admit it, but summer has a way of slipping through our fingers. The good news? There's still plenty of sunshine and adventure to soak up right here in Ozaukee County! From scenic trails to waterfront views and lively local events, there's no shortage of ways to make every last warm day count. Here are a few ideas to help you squeeze the most out of the season before the leaves start to turn.

Hiking, biking and park activities

Looking for fresh air and stunning views? Ozaukee County is full of hidden gems waiting to be explored. The family-friendly Ozaukee Interurban Trail is currently undergoing some upgrades — including repaving and the addition of ADA ramps — but is still open in most places for bikers, walkers, birders and more. Virmond Park and Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve both offer dramatic bluffs and lake views with staircases leading down to the beach.

Wildflower lovers will find breathtaking blooms at many county parks and preserves, which offer serene trails and a chance to connect with nature. Harrington Beach State Park in Belgium and Mequon Nature Preserve are ideal for hiking, birding and dog walking. Riveredge Nature Center in Saukville is a beautifully restored natural sanctuary with more than 10 miles of trails through prairies, woods and wetlands.

Several county parks offer disc golf and golfing long into the fall season. And don't miss Coal Dock and Rotary parks in Port Washington, where you can stroll along the lakefront and take the Shipwreck Graveyard self-guided walking tour — a fascinating look at the area's maritime history.

Sip, snack and relax

If you're the tongue-in-cheek outdoorsy type (we see you, our outdoor drinkers!), Ozaukee County has plenty of open-air options for your kind of adventure. Join your friends at the Cedarburg Art Museum Beer Garden on Thursdays, offering live music and libations into October. If drinking or dining on a patio is your idea of being outdoorsy, head to Cedarburg for the cozy outdoor vibes at places like The Union House, Art of Joy, Stilt House, Brandywine, the Fermentorium, Rebellion Brewing, the Timber Club at



Photo courtesy of Kathy Mueleman

The 122-acre Tendick Nature Park in Saukville has fields, water, woods, disc golf and more.

the Stagecoach Inn and Sierzant; pull up a chair at The Stillery in Grafton; or take in lakefront breezes on the patios at Inventors Brewpub, Cavalier Wine Bar, Fork & Tap, Beanies Mexican Cantina, The Venue or The Harborview in Port Washington. For casual outdoor dining, check out Wayne's Drive-in or Out & Out in Cedarburg.

Activities & events

Head south for the Taste of Mequon on Saturday, Sept. 6. This community gathering highlights the best of local restaurants, artists and entertainers — bringing residents and business owners together for a day of great food, art and connection.

If you love history and horsepower, make time for the Planes, Trains and Automobiles Show at Ozaukee County Pioneer Village on Saturday, Sept. 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Explore a unique mix of aviation and transportation displays, including RC plane flying demonstrations by the Astrowings, the Kettle Moraine Ballast Scorers, and the Metro Model Railroad Club. There's also a

Show & Shine car show with plenty of shade, an RC track hosted by Compass Outdoors and Raceway and live music by The Invaders. Enjoy food, beer, a silent auction, raffle and 50/50 raffle — all to benefit the restoration of the historic 1912 Saukville Firehouse.

And, of course, no Ozaukee fall would be complete without Cedarburg's Wine & Harvest Festival on Sept. 20 and 21. Stroll along historic Washington Avenue, lined with hundreds of artists and vendors, indulge in the incredible food court and browse Harvest Alley for fall-themed treasures. There's live music on multiple stages, a farmers market, and plenty of family fun. For the adventurous (and hilarious), don't miss the Grape Stomp at Cedar Creek Winery or the Giant Pumpkin Charity Regatta, where volunteers carve out massive pumpkins and paddle them across Cedar Creek for bragging rights and charity cash prizes.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Sept. 27, when the inaugural Belgium Beer Run makes its debut. This untimed 1.25-mile dash is all

about fun, not speed — and for those 21 and up, beer tasting stations along the route keep things lighthearted (and well-hydrated). That same day, eco-enthusiasts can join Treasures of Oz, an annual Eco-Tour that highlights the county's beautiful natural areas, parks and preserves. With expert-led presentations, family-friendly activities and hands-on learning, it's a wonderful way to celebrate the landscapes that make Ozaukee County so special.

So grab your calendar, gather your friends and plan to savor every moment — from the last golden days of summer to the first crisp notes of fall. In Ozaukee County, the fun never really ends — it just changes seasons.

For more information on these and other Ozaukee businesses and organizations, visit ozaukee-tourism.com or follow Ozaukee Tourism on Facebook and Instagram.

(The Ozaukee County Tourism Council is a group of businesses and organizations that support and promote tourism in Ozaukee County.)

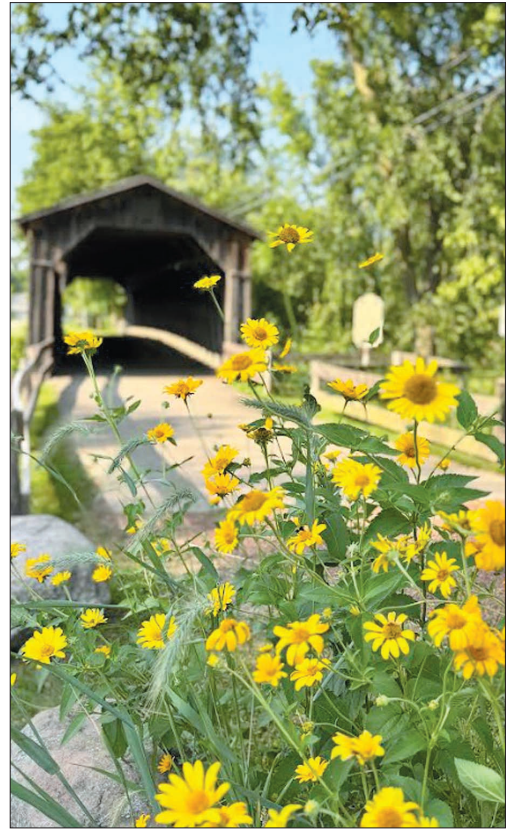


Photo courtesy of Cori Kaminsky

One of the last remaining covered bridges, **above**, is located in the town of Cedarburg. **Below**, a stairway in the Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve takes visitors to the Lake Michigan shore.

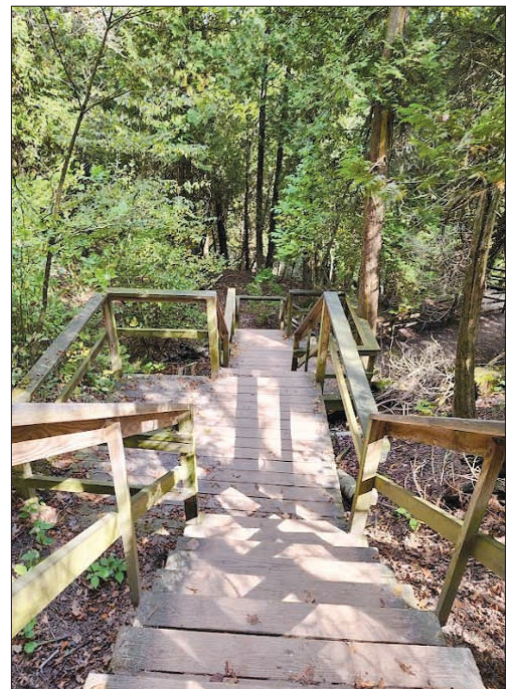


Photo courtesy of Sheboygan Nailed It Or Not