

Welcome to Milwaukee! This midwestern city sits at the shore of Lake Michigan, a short drive north from Chicago. With half a million residents living in city limits, read on to learn why so many Wisconites call Brew City home.





Living, Dining, Events & Culture



Milwaukee offers residents a dense, waterfront population center with plenty of coffee shops, restaurants and breweries. The cost of living is on par with the national average, which means it's more affordable to live in Milwaukee than Chicago, New York or other major metros. The city experiences a humid continental climate with four distinct seasons.

Known for its German roots and brewing heritage, Milwaukee offers everything from beer gardens and bratwurst to farm-to-table dining. Local favorites include the Milwaukee Public Market and Lakefront Brewery, while restaurants such as Sanford and Ardent deliver fine dining. Frozen custard stands and cheese curds keep Wisconsin flavor front and center.





Each summer, the city comes alive with events like Summerfest, the world's largest music festival, featuring top artists across multiple stages along the lakefront. The city also honors its diverse heritage with cultural gatherings such as German Fest, Polish Fest and Festa Italiana. From live music to seasonal events, Milwaukee's culture is rich, dynamic and welcoming.



Outdoor Activities, Sports & Entertainment



Outdoor enthusiasts find plenty to explore in Milwaukee. The city's lakefront is one of its defining features, offering miles of trails, beaches and parks along Lake Michigan. Bradford Beach is popular for volleyball, while Veterans Park is ideal for biking and picnics. The Milwaukee Riverwalk connects downtown with scenic paths lined with cafes and public art. With more than 150 parks and golf courses, the city's green spaces are easy to enjoy year-round.

Milwaukee's love for sports runs deep. Fans rally behind the Milwaukee Brewers (MLB) and Milwaukee Bucks (NBA), packing American Family Field and Fiserv Forum for every game. Marquette University's basketball program adds to the city's energy, and local leagues and parks give residents of all ages ways to stay active, from soccer and softball to runs along the lakefront trail.





The historic Pabst Theater, Riverside Theater and Turner Hall Ballroom host concerts, comedy and live performances year-round. The Milwaukee Art Museum anchors the city's arts scene, while Discovery World and the Harley-Davidson Museum offer interactive experiences for all ages. Nightlife thrives in districts such as Walker's Point and Brady Street, where live music, local breweries and eclectic bars keep the city buzzing.



Major Employers & Getaways



Milwaukee's economy is driven by manufacturing, healthcare, finance and education. Major employers include Aurora Health Care, Northwestern Mutual, Harley-Davidson and Johnson Controls. The city's strong corporate presence is balanced by a growing startup community and a focus on innovation. With several universities, including the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and Marquette University, the area continues to foster talent and economic development throughout southeastern Wisconsin.

Milwaukee's central location makes it convenient for weekend getaways. About 90 minutes south, Chicago offers world-class attractions, and nearby Door County contains charming small towns, lighthouses and scenic lake views. In winter, ski hills in southeastern Wisconsin provide an inviting outdoor retreat. Whether exploring nature or nearby cities, Milwaukee is perfectly placed to enjoy the best of the Midwest.

