

BAGLEY • BLOOMINGTON • BOSCOBEL • BLUE RIVER • CASSVILLE • CUBA CITY DICKEYVILLE • FENNIMORE • GLEN HAVEN • HAZEL GREEN • KIELER • LANCASTER LIVINGSTON • MONTFORT • MUSCODA • PLATTEVILLE • POTOSI • WOODMAN

GRANT COUNTY IS HOME TO SOME OF SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN'S MOST VIVID LANDSCAPES IN THE DRIFTLESS REGION AND ITS EARLIEST HISTORY.

With nearly 100 miles of shoreline along the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers, much of it lined with dramatic limestone bluffs, Grant County provides abundant opportunities for boating, hiking nature trails, and camping. In the rivers and streams, anglers can cast their lures in more than 100 miles of world-class trout streams, while canoeists, kayakers, and tube riders can paddle or float down a lazy river.

A prime example of the area's beauty is Wyalusing State Park, a 2,700-acre nature area above the confluence of the Wisconsin River and the Mississippi River. Visitors can gaze down at striking vistas from the bluffs, and can look up at night skies so starry that an observatory was built there in 1999 to view the display through highpowered telescopes. Wyalusing was one of Wisconsin's first state parks, established in 1917, but its historical significance dates back nearly 250 years before that. A historical marker notes that explorers Marguette and Joliet reached the area on June 17, 1673.

The Cassville car ferry is a popular way to cross the Mississippi. Serving the settlement as far back as the 1830s—then powered by horses on a treadmill—the ferry now transports pedestrians, cars, bicycles, and even school buses on the 20-minute trek between Wisconsin and Iowa from May through October.

Southwest Wisconsin's mining history is showcased in Platteville. The Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums offer a trip into that past with tours of the 1845 Bevans lead-zinc mine, featuring artifacts from that period and exhibits about its role in the state's early years.

Another noteworthy historic site is Stonefield, where visitors can get a taste of life in a 1900s farming community. Owned and operated by the Wisconsin Historical Society, Stonefield has 30 buildings that include a school, bank, saloon, cheese factory, and a

newspaper office. Also on site are the home of Nelson Dewey, Wisconsin's first governor, and the state agricultural museum, with the largest collection of farm tools and equipment in the state.

Nelson Dewey State Park is part of the historic site, a 756-acre portion of what was once Dewey's 2,000acre agricultural estate. Overlooking the Mississippi River, the exposed rock along the bluffs displays the geological changes that created the layers of limestone and sandstone. The 27-acre Dewey Heights Prairie, designated a State Natural Area in 2000, is a remnant of the thousands of acres of prairie that used to cover much of Wisconsin more than 200 years ago.

Trains take the spotlight at the Fennimore Railroad Historical Society Museum. The former city utility building has been remodeled to look like a turn-of-thecentury train depot, and children can ride on a narrowgauge train called the Dinky. The museum also houses collections of antique farm tools, military memorabilia, and home appliances from the era.

The Potosi Brewing Company represents another highlight of Wisconsin's heritage. Originally founded in 1852, the Potosi Brewing Company became the fifth largest brewery in Wisconsin, selling its beers nationwide. The brewery survived Prohibition, but closed in 1972. Then, in 2008, after a \$7.5 million restoration, the business reopened, now owned by the nonprofit Potosi Brewery Foundation. It houses a brewpub, restaurant, and the National Brewery Museum, and funnels its profits into historical and educational initiatives.

Tourists also flock to the Dickeyville Grotto, a cave-like shrine built of stone, mortar, and colored glass, created by Father Matthias Wernerus, a German-American priest who served the parish from 1918 until his death in 1931.

FOR CALENDAR OF EVENTS & CURRENT INFORMATION: WWW.HIDDENVALLEYS.COM

TOP 10 GRANT COUNTY DESTINATIONS

STONEFIELD HISTORIC SITE

DICKEYVILLE GROTTO

WYALUSING STATE PARK

Bagley

4

THE QUILT PEDDLER

5

ENGLISH PRAIRIE DISTILLING CO.

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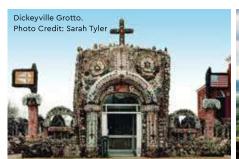
NELSON DEWEY STATE PARK

BOSCOBEL DEPOT HERITAGE MUSEUM

FENNIMORE DOLL & TOY/RAILROAD MUSEUM

10

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POTOSI / TENNYSON





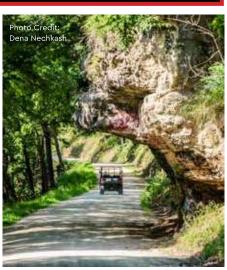


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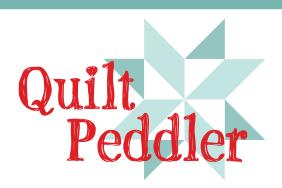












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