

## **Out and About Madison Places to Go—Things to See**

The places listed below are close by and within easy walking distance of The Concourse Hotel.

### **Wisconsin State Capitol--A Great Tour if you wish**

Open to the public weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and weekends from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Free tours are offered daily, year-round. Tours start at the information desk Monday through Saturday at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 a.m. and 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 p.m.; and Sundays at 1:00, 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. A 4:00 p.m. tour is offered weekdays (Monday - Friday). If you'd rather not take a tour, just wander into the Capitol and take a look around the rotunda and open areas. Find the stone incorporated into the building from your state.

### **Dane Country Farmers' Market**

The Dane County Farmers' Market on the Capitol Square is a Saturday tradition in Madison. Hours are 6:15 a.m.-1:45 p.m. You'll find the season's best bounty of vegetables, flowers, and specialty products from approximately 150 vendors. All of the agriculturally-related items are produced in Wisconsin. The Farmers' Market is reported to be the largest producer-only farmers' market in the country--right here in Madison. All items are produced by the vendors behind the tables.

### **Wisconsin Historical Museum**

Located on the Capitol Square at 30 N Carroll St. at the entrance to State Street. Open Tues.-Sat. 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., and Sundays 11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Free guided tours on Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. The museum collections contain over 110,000 historical objects and nearly 400,000 archaeological artifacts documenting the history of Wisconsin. Suggested donation of \$5/adult.

### **Wisconsin Veterans Museum**

Located at 30 W Mifflin St. at the entrance to State Street on the Capitol Square. Hours are Tuesday - Saturday 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. and Sunday noon - 4:00 p.m. This award-winning museum features life-sized dioramas of figures and painted murals that portray events in which Wisconsin veterans participated. For more than 150 years, Wisconsin residents have made significant contributions and sacrifices to keep our nation free. Their stories are preserved and retold at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. When you come here, you will see, hear, and feel those stories. Free admission.

### **Overture Center for the Arts--(Our Grand Concert Venue)**

Located in the 200 block of State Street. Madisonian Jerry Frautschi donated \$205 million dollars to complete this state-of-the art facility designed by famed international architect Cesar Pelli. The Rotunda Lobby and Galleries open at 9:00 a.m. Monday-Friday; 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays and noon on Sundays. Tours are free but must be arranged at least 2 weeks in advance. The building occupies the entire city block and houses the MMoCA—Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Capitol Theater. Overture Hall is spectacular and worth seeing as is the rotunda. Several small art galleries are located inside along with a great gift shop.

### **Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center**

Two blocks south of the Capitol Square at the end of Martin Luther King Blvd., overlooking Lake Monona.

- **Lake Vista Café**--the rooftop café at Monona Terrace. Open 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- **Frank Lloyd Wright Exhibit**--“The Wright Picture” a unique photographic exhibition taken during the last 20 years of Frank Lloyd Wright’s life by acclaimed architectural photographer Pedro E. Guerrero. Upper Martin Luther King Blvd. entrance.
- **Tour of Monona Terrace**--Tours take one hour and are offered daily at 1:00 p.m.: \$5/adult. Tickets may be purchased in the Gift Shop (which has many “Wright inspired” gifts).

### **Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library (NAGCNL)**

Madison is home to one of the finest and most complete Norwegian-American genealogical libraries, located 7 blocks from the Concourse at 415 W Main St. NAGC houses one of the largest bygdebok (farm book) collections in the United States. Open Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m. NAGC members are welcome to visit Naeseth Library free of charge. If you will need staff assistance, please call ahead to make an appointment.

### **Candina’s Chocolates**

Retail boutique located on the Capitol Square at 11 W Main St. Factory and outlet store located in Verona. Excellent, locally made (since 1994) chocolates by Swiss Trained chocolatier Markus Candinas--rated the “best buy” of good chocolate by Consumers Reports for several years.

### **Fromagination**

Located at 121 S Carroll Street, on the Capitol Square. Artisanal cheeses & perfect companions. Great snack foods and many local Wisconsin products.

### **Governor’s Mansion Inn & Cafe**

Opening in March 2020, is the café at the Governor’s Mansion Inn. The beautifully restored building is the former residence of the “rock star” Norwegian violinist, Ole Bull. “What is now Governor’s Mansion Inn & Cafe is one of the city’s earliest surviving homes. In 1867, the home was purchased for \$15,000 by J.G. Thorp, a state senator and millionaire lumber baron from Eau Claire, and his wife, Amelia. In 1870, Ole Bull, the world-famous 60-year-old Norwegian violinist, married the Thorps’ 20-year-old daughter, Sarah, and lived with her in the home for 10 years.” Call for details about scheduling an afternoon coffee or tea.

*Governor’s Mansion Inn and Cafe*

*130 E. Gilman St.*

*Madison, WI 53703*

*(608) 571-2866, [info@governorsmansioninn.com](mailto:info@governorsmansioninn.com)*

In addition, there are numerous restaurants and shops up and down State Street, as well as around the Capitol Square, all within walking distance from the Concourse Hotel.

## **Other places to check out located further from Downtown Madison**

### **University of Wisconsin Memorial Union Terrace and Rathskellar**

Located at the end of Langdon Street at Park Street, (near the end of State Street, on Lake Mendota). Beer and brats, Babcock ice cream, etc. and live music on the Terrace on summer weekends. A great place to relax and enjoy a view of Lake Mendota.

### **Olbrich Botanical Gardens**

Located at 3330 Atwood Ave., just off Lake Monona and across from Olbrich Park. Stroll through 16 acres of outdoor display gardens including the Rose Garden, Thai Pavilion and Garden, Sunken Garden, and perennial Garden. Enjoy a tropical paradise in Olbrich's Bolz Conservatory, a glass pyramid filled with exotic plants and flowers, small birds, a rushing waterfall, and fragrant orchids. Outdoor Gardens are open daily and are free to all. Admission to the Bolz Conservatory is \$2 per person and free to all on Wednesday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. 'til noon. Wheelchair accessible; motorized scooters available.

### **Henry Vilas Zoo**

Located at 702 S Randall Ave., near Lake Wingra. Open 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m. daily and is still FREE! It's a great place to take a walk and check out the animals. Be sure to ride on the restored carousel--located indoors.