

# Summer road trip to Madison

## Explore beauty, culture of the city and its world-class university

By *Tod Pritchard*  
Wisconsin Alumni Association

Summer is a great time to soak in the Madison experience. If you are planning a road trip to the city, we've got some great itinerary ideas.

Start at Alumni Park, the new "landmark on the lake." Located at 724 Langdon St. between Memorial Union and the Red Gym on the UW-Madison campus, the park is free and open daily.

You will be inspired by the stories of Badger greats and the sheer beauty of the park and Lake Mendota beyond it. Don't forget to take a selfie at the "Well Read Bucky" statue. Take a

self-guided tour, or pop in to One Alumni Place — on the lakefront adjacent to Alumni Park — to visit the welcome desk for guided-tour information.

Then head next door to the Memorial Union Terrace, where you will want to pull up an iconic sunburst chair to watch the sailboats and people glide by.

Getting hot? Need some ice cream? Do we have the place for you! Babcock Hall Dairy is the oldest university dairy plant in the U.S. The Dairy Store inside the dairy building is renowned for its ice cream, available in a wide variety of flavors and styles. The recipe for the Babcock ice cream

mix hasn't changed since 1951, and there are typically 22 flavors on hand. You can also watch dairy-plant operations from the second-floor observation deck. Babcock Hall is located at 1605 Linden Drive.

Stroll along State Street up to the state capitol. The mural restoration in the dome of the rotunda will take your breath away. On Saturdays, shop at the Dane County Farmers' Market, which fills the entire perimeter of the Capitol Square. It is the largest producers-only farmers' market in the country.

Head back to campus, stopping at the Madison Museum of Contemporary

Art, with architecture as striking as the exhibits it houses. Back on campus, make time for the Chazen Museum of Art, home to the second-largest art collection in the state.

Hey, how about some food? There are plenty of choices in Madison. Here are just a few:

- Quintessential Wisconsin: State Street Brats, The Old Fashioned, The Coopers Tavern, Nitty Gritty (a must if it's your birthday)

- For brunch: Marigold Kitchen, Mickies Dairy Bar, Daisy Café and Cupcakery, Weary Traveler

- For lunch: Great Dane, Topsy Cow

- Delish burgers: Dotty Dumpling's Dowry

- Field to fork: Graze, Harvest

- Rooftop view: Fresco
- Sophisticated night out: Tornado Steakhouse, Sardine, Avenue Club and the Bubble Up Bar (formerly the Avenue Bar) for a Friday fish fry

There are so many other places to see, too: Olbrich Botanical Gardens, the UW-Madison Arboretum, the Madison Children's Museum, the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, the Bucky on Parade public art statues all around town, and the list goes on.

Whatever you do, you'll have a blast. Enjoy Madison: a capital idea and a Wisconsin gem!




Bucky Badger stops by his own "Well Read Bucky" statue at Alumni Park. (Submitted photo)



Beautiful Alumni Park is located at 724 Langdon St. in Madison. (Submitted photo)

### WISCONSIN WILDCARDS



**BUTLER'S GARTERSNAKE**  
*Thamnophis butleri*  
 Threatened

**BASIC ID**  
 This 14-20" snake has yellow lateral stripes includes part or all of the scale row 4. The head is small and only as wide as the neck. The brown/black body has orangish-yellow stripes.

**HABITS**  
 They eat mostly earthworms. They live in wet and dry prairies, marshes, old fields, grassy roadsides and vacant lots.

**CONSERVATION**  
 Protect open vegetated wetlands and at least 180-feet of open grassy upland fringes around these wetlands.

**FOR INFORMATION**  
[www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er)

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