

# Things to See, Places to Eat in the La Crosse, WI Area

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## Area Attractions

- **La Crosse Area**
  - La Crosse Visitors and Convention Bureau* <http://www.explorelacrosse.com/>
  - Myrick Hixton EcoPark* <http://www.mhecopark.org/>
- **Historic Downtown La Crosse**

This page has a history of La Crosse, a self-guided walking tour, and links to a brochure with all sorts of info on La Crosse <http://www.historicdowntownlacrosse.com/index.htm>
- **Overview of La Crosse from Grandad Bluff**

Description and directions:  
<http://www.explorelacrosse.com/index.asp?CompID=25&btnSubmit=showContact&cboContactID=629&cboContactCategoryID=84&cboCategoryIDMain=133>
- **Mississippi River Boat Rides**
  - La Crosse Queen* (paddle wheeler): <http://www.lacrossequeen.com/>
  - Island Girl*: <http://www.islandgirlcruises.com/>
  - Goose Island County Park*: canoe rental
- **Experience the Mississippi River and its backwaters**
  - Goose Island County Park*:  
<http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/Departments/Facilities/Documents/CampgrndLocs.htm>
  - Perrot State Park, Trempealeau*:  
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/findapark.html#perrot>
- **Mississippi River Lock and Dams**

*Army Corps of Engineers Lock and Dam St. Paul District*:  
<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/navigation/default.asp?pageid=145>  
(Lock and Dams #7 and #8 are the closest to La Crosse. They have observation platforms where you can watch boats and barges pass through the locks.)
- **La Crosse or Wisconsin Souvenirs**
  - Cheddarheads*: <http://www.cheddarheads.com/index.html>
- **Area Biking**
  - Wisconsin State Bike Trails*: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/specific/findatrail.html>
  - Additional information about local bike trails: <http://www.bike4trails.com/>
  - More information on Wisconsin biking: <http://www.mikebentley.com/bike/wisconsin.htm>

- **Folk Art Sites**
  - Paul and Matilda Wegner Grotto in Cataract:*  
[http://www.kohlerfoundation.org/wegner\\_bio.html](http://www.kohlerfoundation.org/wegner_bio.html)
  - Information about other folk art sites: <http://www.kohlerfoundation.org/sites1.html>
- **Norwegian Area History**
  - Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center:* <http://www.norskedalen.org/index.asp>
- **Tomah Area**
  - About 40 miles east of La Crosse – Sand country, cranberries, etc.
  - General info: <http://www.tomahwisconsin.com/>
  - Driving tours: <http://www.tomahwisconsin.com/thingstodo.php> (link to a PDF file is near the bottom of the page under Recreation)
- **Amish Country**
  - As you drive in the countryside around La Crosse you'll see lots of Amish homes. Some have signs on the road indicating that they sell a variety of products from eggs to quilts or furniture. None are open on Sunday.
  - Commercial tours are offered by Down A Country Road (they were the Institute guides):  
<http://www.downacountryroad.com/>
- **Attractions a Bit Further Away**
  - Frank Lloyd Wright* – in Wisconsin <http://www.wrightinwisconsin.org/>
  - Taliesin* - <http://www.taliesinpreservation.org/>
  - House on the Rock* <http://www.thehouseontherock.com/>
  - Wisconsin Dells* <http://www.dells.com/>
  - Wisconsin State Parks* <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/findapark.html>
  - Prairie du Chien* – Villa Louis, Fort Crawford Museum, Wyalusing State Park (WI), Pike's Peak State Park (MN), Casino, Cabela's, Effigy Mounds National Monument, Spook Cave (cave tour is in a boat): <http://www.prairieduchien.org/visitors/index.htm>
  - *Minneapolis, MN:* <http://www.minneapolis.org/>, *Saint Paul, MN*  
<http://www.stpaulcvb.org/>
  - *Madison, WI:* <http://www.visitmadison.com/>

## Area Eating

Addresses, phone numbers and some menus can be found in the local phone book or on-line. Friday night fish fry and fried cheese curds are two Wisconsin traditions.

- **Downtown Restaurants**
  - Fayze's Restaurant and Bakery* (great bakery, good food): <http://fayzes.com/>
  - Buzzard Billy's Flying Carp Café* (New Orleans cuisine): <http://www.buzzardbillys.com/>
  - Freight House* (steaks, more expensive): <http://www.freighthouserestaurant.com/>
  - Piggy's* (ribs, more expensive): <http://www.piggys.com/>

- **Around La Crosse**

- Culver's* (fast food; two locations in La Crosse; great frozen custard and butter burgers): <http://www.culversaurora.com/>
- Rudy's Drive-in* (on La Crosse St. heading to downtown; walking distance from Reuter;; old-fashioned drive-in with car hops and root beer floats): <http://www.rudysdrivein.com/>
- Rosie's* (neighborhood all-around restaurant; look in white pages for info; no evenings)
- Chicago's Beef & Etc.* (La Crosse St and West Ave; walking distance from Reuter; Chicago style roast beef and hot dogs): <http://www.chicagosbeef.com/>
- Culina Mariana Restaurant* (at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, about 7 miles from campus; good food and desserts; no evenings): <http://www.guadalupeshrine.org/PilgrimServices/Home.asp>
- Train Station BBQ* (great BBQ and sides): <http://www.thetrainstationbbq.com/>
- Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que*: (out by the Mall area; good food and great bread pudding – if you have room): <http://www.famousdaves.com/>
- Fast Wok* (within walking distance of Reuter; has takeout; closes early, call to check if open)
- People's Food Co-Op* (downtown La Crosse; deli, bakery, restaurant upstairs, groceries; you don't need to be a member to shop there): <http://www.peoplesfoodcoop.com/>

- **Mexican Restaurants**

- Fiesta Mexicana*: <http://www.fiestamexicanalax.com/>
- Tequila Mexican Restaurant* (within walking distance of Reuter)
- Manny's Cocina* (specialty seafood and steak; more expensive) <http://www.mannyscocina.com/>

- **Friday Night Fish Fry**

Friday night fish fry is a big thing in this area. Restaurants are usually busy on Friday nights.

- King Street Kitchen* (downtown; buffet)
- Hungry Peddler* (make reservation)
- Ardie's* (usually a wait): <http://www.ardiesrestaurant.com/>
- Schmidty's* (usually a wait): <http://www.schmidty.com/>
- Culver's* (see above)

- **Coffee House**

- Jules Coffee House* (downtown La Crosse)
- JavaVino* (Village Shopping Center): <http://www.javavinolax.com/>
- Bean Juice* (Jackson Plaza Shopping Center): <http://www.jacksonplaza.com/javajoint.html>

- **Bakery**

- Fayze's Restaurant and Bakery* (downtown La Crosse; great bakery, good food): <http://fayzes.com/>
- Linda's Bakery* (in West Salem; great bakery)
- People's Food Co-Op* (downtown La Crosse; see above)

- **Ice Cream and Candy**

- The Pearl* (downtown La Crosse; ice cream and candy)

- Culver's* (frozen custard and fast food; see above)

- Ranison Ice Cream and Candy* (16<sup>th</sup> and Market St.; neighborhood store; makes own ice cream and candies)

- Sweet Shop* (on La Crosse's North Side; ice cream, makes own candy)

- **Other Good Restaurants in Surrounding Communities**

- Trempealeau Hotel* (in Trempealeau, near Perrot State Park; nice view of the Mississippi while you're dining; famous for their walnut burgers; live music many evenings):

- <http://www.trempealeauhotel.com>

- Angelini's Pizzeria & Ristorante* (in Sparta; could stop if you go to visit the Wegner grotto)

- Pete's Burgers* (in Prairie du Chien; great burgers with onions; on the main street across from Stark's, an interesting store with boats, liquor, taxidermy):

- <http://peteshamburgers.com/>