

## ALONG THE WAY

**LODI** (pronounced Low-dye) means “peaceful valley.” It was platted in 1848 and incorporated as a city in 1941. Here a vibrant business district serves Lodi’s nearly 3000 residents plus visitors. Here the Ice Age Trail beckons the curious hiker and the very-ancient history buff. The area’s many other recreational opportunities include the Spring Creek trout stream with its adjoining beautiful parks, the indoor and outdoor pools, and a nine-hole golf course. Lodi is known for its beauty, extraordinary schools and volunteer fire and EMS services.

**PRAIRIE DU SAC**, linked by its main street to Sauk City, was named by French fur traders after the Sac Indians before it was settled by Yankees and, later, Swiss immigrants. It is the home of wintering bald eagles, the Wisconsin State Cow Chip Throw, the River Arts Center and Festival, and Culver Franchising System. Originating with Count Haraszthy, the beautiful Wollersheim Winery and its setting enhance the riverside with the look and flavor of the Southern French countryside.

**SAUK CITY**, Wisconsin’s oldest village, is the site of the last eastern war between the U.S. and Indians. Here Chief Black Hawk’s unique strategies and courage are commemorated in annual reenactments and ceremonies. Home to the original Culver’s Restaurant and the poet August Derleth, the village was founded by Hungarian Count and vintner Agoston Haraszthy who planted vines along the sunny riverbanks. New settlers included German and Austrian Catholics and Free Thinkers. Its bustling main street offers pleasant stops for the traveler to relax.

**SPRING GREEN** is equal parts artists’ community and down-to-earth farm town. The natural beauty of the river valley surrounds its neighborhoods’ open space and open people. Frank Lloyd Wright saw this and more, and made Spring Green his home. His masterwork Taliesin, built into the “shining brow” of a stately hill, has much influenced the creativity that continues to shine through the area. Down the road from Taliesin’s buildings and the Wright riverside visitors’ center and restaurant, is the American Players Theatre—one of the nation’s finest Shakespeare playhouses—and, then, the popular House on the Rock.

**LONE ROCK** is named for a tall finger of sandstone on the river’s north bank that was used as a landmark for river travelers. Its greatest claim to fame occurred when, on January 30, 1951, the town’s temperature fell to minus 55 degrees F (before wind-chill factor) and Lone Rock was dubbed “the coldest spot in the nation.” Its warm welcome, however, offers scenic parks and recreational opportunities that include fishing, hunting, canoeing, and biking along the Pine River Bike Trail.

**GOTHAM** (pronounced Gó-tham, th as in theater) lies just north of the river where Hwy 14 joins Hwy 60, reconnecting the traveler with the waterside road leading onto one of its most lovely stretches of bends, rises, and river views. A tiny original village depot is just off 60, down Fulton, one street before Gotham’s inevitable “Bat Cave” bar. The town’s cottages are punctuated by a simple white church, spreading elms and oaks, and the Pine River Bike Trail.

**ORION** (pronounced Óre-ee-an) is an unincorporated hamlet that lies along and just north of Hwy 60 west to Hwy 80 and the Muscoda bridge. Originally named Richmond, it served as the first seat of Richland County. The early town operated a ferry across the river until the first bridge was built in 1870. A motel, with a supper club and a canoe rental business, is located at the intersection of 60 and 80.

**MUSCODA** (pronounced Músk-oh-day) is the Morel Mushroom Capital of Wisconsin, just south of the river in Grant County. It hosts an annual mid-May festival in homage to the fungus and its harvest season. The premier campground on the Lower River lies along its banks in Victora Riverside Park, the finish line for the Wisconsin River Canoe Race held each July. The park offers access to many miles of trails and thousands of acres of public land. The area boasts spectacular examples of effigy mounds and ancient sites, a winery, and a cheese factory.

**PORT ANDREW**, described as a “bustling river town” by mid-1800 travelers, was one of the earliest settlements in Richland County. The port was home to saloons, hotels, merchants, blacksmiths, barbers, and steamboat pilots, supplying the necessities for life on the frontier. Captain Thomas Andrew built the house still on a hill looking down into one of the deepest parts of the river. The railroad on the south side of the river led to the town’s demise, but here there remain a pleasant wayside and an important public access site to the river.

**BLUE RIVER**, in the “heart of the lower riverway,” lies across the bridge from Port Andrew in Grant County. This village of 400 was first a railroad stop that became a cattle town and shipping center for livestock by train and, later, by truck. Today it hosts an Autumn Fest for all ages in late August with engaging ball games, a tractor pull, and a parade. It offers two boat landings—on County Road T in town and at Jones Lake off Hwy 133 a mile east of the village.

**BOSCobel**, Italian for “beautiful woods,” is the birthplace of the Gideon Bible, namely at the historic, stone Boscobel Hotel. Its main street features period architecture with a frontier edge as well as some busy shops and restaurants, including Chinese. It had the first Gamble’s store in the nation. Just off Wisconsin Avenue, a preserved 40s-era movie house operates today with yesterday’s prices. The town of 3000 puts on a fairly elaborate Civil War re-enactment every August, complete with parade and dance; even onlookers show up in costume.

**WAUZEKA**, named after the Indian God Wisaka, is located at the mouth of the Kickapoo, the world’s most crooked river. Kickapoo Indian Caverns, Husher Park Lookout, and the Ocooch (“rugged land and twisting streams”) Mountains run from here to Sparta along yet another beautiful drive in the country, State Hwy 131. Wauzeka showcases some historic buildings, including Century Hall. Here the Wisconsin is particularly secluded and wild, and here is a boat landing, the Lowell Geitz, on the Kickapoo.

**BRIDGEPORT**, at the intersection of the Great River Road (Hwys 18 and 35), a National Scenic Byway, and Hwy 60, had one of the earliest toll bridges on the Wisconsin River. Built in 1857, it operated until the 1920s, enhancing the importance of the town as a railroad shipping point for livestock. Bridgeport could not expand, however, because it is situated in a ravine; only a handful of houses remain.

**PRAIRIE DU CHIEN** (pronounced Sheen) sits at the juncture of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers, a spread of small islands and water vistas. The oldest community on the Upper Mississippi, Prairie du Chien still evokes the ghosts of voyageurs and the original French settlers. Villa Louis, the Effigy Mounds National Monument across the big river, and other historic sites complement the area’s nature preserves and gardens. The town features river cruises, a casino, and a variety of dining and lodging opportunities.

## MAGIC ON A GRAND SCALE

From the Empire Prairie to the Mighty Mississippi, Wisconsin’s 100-mile Scenic Byway 60 follows the graceful curves of the Lower Wisconsin River. This patch of our planet sparkles, by sunny day or starry night, with the wild beauty of Nature left to its own devices for thousands and thousands of years. And nowhere so apt is Heraclitus’s adage that you can’t step into the same river twice. In constant flux, the “river of a thousand isles” continuously sculpts its sandbars, shifts its channels, varies its flows, and repaints its colors, according to the whims of the weather gods.

Here golden bluffs crop out of emerald hills and valleys that roll into rushing streams to the lively river. These waters beckon fishers, canoeists, kayakers, and boaters. Here birdwatchers and botanists can go bananas while, chances are, an eagle is watching them.

As transcendent as the ancient Driftless area landscape itself is the history encoded in its formations. Hundreds of effigy mound earthworks, still alive to the touch, stand today as spiritual gifts and messages from those who peopled this land in the deep past.

The more recent settlements on the Byway route from Lodi to Prairie du Chien have tried to complement rather than conflict with the pristine qualities of Driftless Nature. Each has its own enticing history and contemporary flavor. They offer a rich range of camping, lodging, dining, outdoor and indoor recreation, archeological pursuits, and other learning options. They welcome both the seriously energetic and those who seek serious relaxation. They invite families to experience together this special place, the magic of which has inspired a local goal: No Child Left Inside.

Visit [www.scenic60.com](http://www.scenic60.com) for more information, or contact:

Lodi Chamber of Commerce  
102 N. Main • Lodi, WI 53555  
[www.lodiwisconsin.com](http://www.lodiwisconsin.com) • 608-592-4412

Sauk Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce  
421 Water St. Suite 105 • Prairie du Sac, WI 53578  
[www.saukprairie.com](http://www.saukprairie.com) • 608-643-4168

Spring Green Area Chamber of Commerce  
259 E. Jefferson St. • Spring Green, WI 53588  
[www.springgreen.com](http://www.springgreen.com) • 1-800-588-2042

Richland Chamber & Development Alliance  
397 W. Seminary St. • Richland Center, WI 53581  
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Muscoda Chamber of Commerce  
206 N. Wisconsin Ave. • Muscoda, WI 53573  
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Boscobel Chamber of Commerce  
800 Wisconsin Ave. • Boscobel, WI 53805  
[www.boscobelwisconsin.com](http://www.boscobelwisconsin.com) • 608-375-2672

Prairie du Chien Area Chamber of Commerce  
211 South Main • Prairie du Chien, WI 53821  
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## LOWER WISCONSIN

# RIVER ROAD

FROM THE EMPIRE PRAIRIE  
TO THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI



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BYWAY

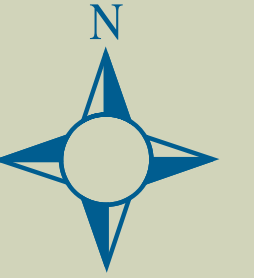


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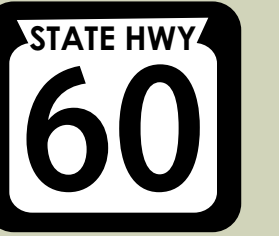
# RIVER ROAD

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Boscobel Chamber of Commerce: www.boscobelwisconsin.com, 608-375-2672 | Prairie du Chien Area Chamber of Commerce: www.prairieduchien.org, 1-800-732-1673

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