



Exploring the Past: Archaeology in the Upper Mississippi River Valley

NEH Summer Institute July 14–August 1, 2014
University of Wisconsin–La Crosse
Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center

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

updated: March 27, 2014

Area Attractions

- **La Crosse Area**

- La Crosse Visitors and Convention Bureau*: <http://www.explorelacrosse.com/>

- La Crosse Area Visitor*: <http://www.lacrossevisitor.com/index.html>

- Myrick Hixton EcoPark*: <http://www.mhecopark.org/>

- **Historic La Crosse**

- Footsteps of La Crosse* provides information about La Crosse and has self-guided walking tours of La Crosse's historic areas that you can print and take with you:

- <http://www.footstepsoflacrosse.org/index.asp>

- La Crosse History Unbound* provides a variety of historic resources, many of them primary resource material: <http://www.lacrossehistory.org/>

- Hixon House* is a beautiful look back in time at an authentic Victorian home located at 429 N. 7th St. in La Crosse. (608) 782-1980

- **Overview of La Crosse from Grandad Bluff**

- Description and directions: <http://www.explorelacrosse.com/grandad-bluff-la-crosse/>

- **Mississippi River Boat Rides**

- La Crosse Queen* (paddle wheeler): <http://www.lacrossequeen.com/>

- Three Rivers Outdoors*: canoe and kayak rental <http://www.threeriversoutdoors.com/>

- Goose Island County Park*: canoe rental

- **Experience the Mississippi River and its backwaters**
 - Goose Island County Park: <http://www.travelwisconsin.com/birding/goose-island-county-park-194361>
 - Perrot State Park, Trempealeau: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/perrot/>
- **Mississippi River Lock and Dams**
 - Army Corps of Engineers Lock and Dam St. Paul District: <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/LocksDams.aspx>
(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.lacrossedowntown.com/TJs-Cheddarheads-m79.html>
- **Area Biking**
 - Wisconsin State Bike Trails: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/activities/bike.html>
 - Wisconsin bicycle maps: <http://www.dot.state.wi.us/travel/bike-foot/bikemaps.htm>
 - 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/preservation/preserved-sites/wegner-grotto/>
 - Information about other folk art sites: <http://www.kohlerfoundation.org/preservation/preserved-sites/>
- **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/> download a PDF file of the 2014 Area Guide which has directions for Amish and Cranberry Country self guided driving tours. Link to a PDF of the brochure is at the lower right under brochures.
- **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/>
 - House on the Rock: <http://www.thehouseontherock.com/>
 - Wisconsin Dells: <http://www.dells.com/>

- Wisconsin State Parks: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/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.visitsaintpaul.com/>
- 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**

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

- **Around La Crosse**

- Ahz Pasta Restaurant* <http://www.ahzpasta.com/>
- 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/visit/culina-mariana-cafe>
- Culver's* (fast food; two locations in La Crosse; great frozen custard and butter burgers): <http://www.culvers.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/>
- 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/>
- Rosie's Cafe* (neighborhood all-around restaurant; look in white pages for info; no evenings)
- 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/index.htm>

- **Mexican Restaurants**

- Fiesta Mexicana* <http://www.fiestamexicanalax.com/>
- Iguana's Mexican Street Café* (across from UW-L Cartwright Center)
- Manny's Cocina* (specialty seafood and steak; more expensive)
<http://www.mannyscocina.com/>
- Tequila Mexican Restaurant* (within walking distance of Reuter)
<http://www.tequilaslacrosse.com/index.htm>

- **Asian Restaurants**

- China Star* (carry out) <http://www.chinastarlacrosse.com/>
- HuHot Mongolian Grill* http://www.huhot.com/locations/wisconsin/la_crosse
- Hunan Chinese Restaurant* <https://www.facebook.com/hunanrestaurantlacrosse>

- **Pizza**

- Big Al's* (bar downtown) <http://www.bigalslacrosse.com/>
- Edwardo's* (woodfired pizza, eat there) <http://www.edwardospizza.net/>
- Pizza Doctor* (pizza buffet) <http://www.pizzadoctors.net/>
- Pizza King* (bake at home) <http://www.pizzakinglacrosse.com/>
- Rocky Roco* (deep dish) <http://www.rockyroco.com/>

- **Friday Night Fish Fry**

Friday night fish fry is a big thing in this area. Restaurants are usually busy on Friday nights. (If you've never had them – you might also want to try fried cheese curds.)

- Ardie's* (make reservation): <http://www.ardiesrestaurant.com/>
- Culver's* (see above)
- Hungry Peddler* (make reservation): <http://hungrypeddlerlacrosse.com/>
- King Street Kitchen* (downtown; buffet)
- Rocky's Restaurant* (located in Stoddard) <http://www.rockysrestaurant.com/>
- Schmidty's* (make reservation): <http://www.schmidty.com/>

- **Coffee House**

- Bean Juice* (Jackson Plaza Shopping Center):
<http://www.jacksonplaza.com/javajoint.html>
- JavaVino* (near Village Shopping Center) <http://www.javavinolax.com/>
- Jules Coffee House* (downtown La Crosse) <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jules-Coffee-House/116275418399838>
- McCaffrey's Coffee* (across from UW-L Cartwright Center)
<http://www.mccaffreyscoffee.com/>

- **Bakery**

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

- **Ice Cream and Candy**

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

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

- <http://www.pearlstwest.com/picHome.html>

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

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

- <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Sweet-Shop/210737328832?sk=wall&filter=12>

- **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>

- 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/>