

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY LANDMARKS TOUR



DESTINATION
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THE SHEBOYGAN COUNTY LANDMARKS TOUR

Established in 1838, Sheboygan County is fairly quiet and laid back, but there's an energetic vibe here that definitely keeps things interesting. From a world-famous racetrack to iconic historical landmarks, see what gives this place its heart and soul.

TOUR DIRECTIONS

23 Highway 23 West to Highway 67 North

Road America Race Track

Established in 1955, Road America's 640-acre parklike grounds feature the legendary 4-mile road course revered as one of the world's finest and most challenging. Nestled in the scenic Kettle Moraine, the track's undulating landscape and 14 turns make it a favorite of racers worldwide. Road America is home to the Indy Car Kohler Grand Prix, NASCAR XFINITY Series and vintage car weekends. It also features a 1-mile super moto/karting track, zip line, group adventure programs, runs, walks and cycling events.

The Village of Elkhart Lake

This charming resort community owes much of its allure to the spring-fed, crystal-clear Elkhart Lake, whose blue-green waters have drawn people for centuries. In the spring and summer, the village bustles with Road America race fans and vacationers. But tourists and residents alike enjoy the lake, scenic beauty, community events, restaurants and shops year-round. Fun fact: notorious gangsters John Dillinger and Al Capone often hid out in Elkhart Lake.

EAST on FF straight to The Straits, at Whistling Straits,

Whistling Straits

Whistling Straits offers two world-class courses crafted by hall-of-fame designer Pete Dye. The Straits, host of three PGA Championships, the U.S. Senior Open and site of the future 2020 Ryder Cup, is defined by its open, rugged terrain. Sculpted along two miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, its Irish-links influence is evidenced in fescue fairways and massive sand-dune bunkers. In contrast, The Irish at Whistling Straits, interspersed by four meandering streams, features a grassland and dune terrain, which despite its appearance is anything but tranquil.

Next through the city of Sheboygan via the Lake Michigan shoreline

City of Sheboygan

Known as "The Spirit on the Lake," Sheboygan is a coastal community with breathtaking views of Lake Michigan and expansive sandy beaches, world-class sailing and premier charter fishing. Prior to settlement by European Americans, the Sheboygan area was home to Native Americans including Potawatomi, Chippewa, Ottawa, Winnebago and Menominee tribes. In the 1830s, migrants arrived from Michigan, New York and New England. Back then, lumbering was the major industry, shipping to eastern markets through the Great Lakes. The city was officially founded in 1846, with a population comprised largely of German, Dutch and Irish immigrants. Today the historic downtown district boasts cool restaurants; a variety of small, unique shops and family-owned businesses that have anchored the community for generations.

SOUTH on Lakeshore Road

Left on Eisner Avenue in the city of Sheboygan

Left on Pershing Avenue

Right on North 6th Street

Left on North Avenue

North Avenue becomes North 3rd Street

Left on Park Avenue

Left on Broughton Drive

The Malibu of the Midwest

Thanks to a unique geographic location that creates waves up to 20 feet, Sheboygan is known as the freshwater surf capital of the world. Surfers have been traveling here for more than 50 years to enjoy the waves. Adding to their challenge is the fact that the surf season runs from August to April, with prime waves occurring in the dead of winter. The conditions: water temperatures hover just a degree or two above freezing, windchills dip far below zero, and dodging ice floe is just part of the experience.



Right on Pennsylvania Avenue

Breakwater Lighthouse

The iconic Sheboygan lighthouse was built in 1915, although the city has been served by a lighthouse since 1839. The skeletal steel pier-head tower was topped with a circular parapet and lantern room. Only the tower remains today. Locals and visitors love walking out to the landmark, which has become a popular “selfie” spot.

Right on North 8th Street

Stefanie H. Weill Center for the Performing Arts

Known as the Weill Center, this historic theater with its Spanish Colonial Revival architecture was restored to its former grandeur in the late 1990s. Constructed in 1928, it’s a fine example of the atmospheric theaters of the 1920s with an interior that evokes an evening in a Spanish garden. Now on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places, the center hosts performances from films to rock bands to the Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra.

Right on Ontario Avenue

Right on 7th Street

Left on New York Avenue

John Michael Kohler Arts Center

John Michael Kohler Arts Center is a nationally acclaimed visual and performing arts museum devoted to contemporary American art with emphasis on craft-related forms, folk traditions, new genres and the work of self-taught artists. The performing arts include dance, music and theater performances from around the world. Programming also includes a renowned Arts/Industry residency program hosted by Kohler Co. The center has ten galleries, an intimate theater, an interdisciplinary performance space, studio classrooms, meeting spaces, the ARTspace shop and the ARTcafe.

Left on 6th Street

Left on Superior Avenue

Left on County Road Y

Back to the Village of Kohler

Y turns into Highland Drive in the Village of Kohler

Village of Kohler

The Village of Kohler was founded as a model company town in 1900 when Kohler Co., a worldwide leader in plumbing products, built a plant at the location. Walter J. Kohler, son of Kohler Co. founder John Michael Kohler, was the visionary behind creating one of the nation’s first planned communities. Walter worked with the prominent landscape design firm, Olmsted Brothers, to create the quaintly picturesque garden/industrial community. The village received botanic garden certification in 2004 and offers self-guided audio tours of the meticulously maintained village gardens.

Go past The American Club.

Straight at the traffic light

Waelderhaus

Built in the architectural style of the Bregenzerwald region of Austria, which is the homeland of the Kohler family, this “house in the woods” features carvings, woodcuts, iron and pewter work designed by Kaspar Albrecht, a talented Austrian architect and sculptor. Musical performances and other local events are held at the Waelderhaus throughout the year as well as daily tours.

Blackwolf Run.

More than two centuries ago, Chief Black Wolf and his Winnebago tribe resided in the Sheboygan River Valley. Today that river basin formed by the flows of glacial runoff is the home of The River and Meadow Valleys at Blackwolf Run. Blackwolf Run, which opened for play in 1988 and regarded as one of Pete Dye’s crowning achievements, has hosted a number of professional championships: the Andersen Consulting World Golf Championships in 1995, 1996 and 1997, as well as the U.S. Women’s Open in 1998 and 2012.

Return to The American Club

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