

ECHO Travel

World of Weather

Weather forecast for parts of Europe, USA and Australia over the next five days (maximum daytime temperature from BBC weather centre) **Barcelona**
 Today 13c
 Tomorrow 13c
 Thursday 15c
 Friday 18c

Paris
 Today 9c
 Tomorrow 7c
 Thursday 12c
 Friday 10c

Melbourne
 Today 25c
 Tomorrow 25c
 Thursday 20c
 Friday 21c

Athens
 Today 16c
 Tomorrow 13c
 Thursday 13c
 Friday 14c

Miami
 Today 28c
 Tomorrow 25c
 Thursday 25c
 Friday 24c

Nice
 Today 5c
 Tomorrow 5c
 Thursday 5c
 Friday 7c

Venice
 Today 16c
 Tomorrow 13c
 Thursday 13c
 Friday 14c

£ The pound abroad

£1 = 2.87 Turkish Lira
 £1 = 1.53 Australian Dollars
 £1 = 1.23 Euros
 £1 = 2.40 Bulgarian Leva
 £1 = 1.59 Canada Dollars
 £1 = 1.61 U.S. Dollars
 £1 = 9.97 Egypt Pounds
 £1 = 20.60 Mexico Pesos

There's more to the Mid West than beer

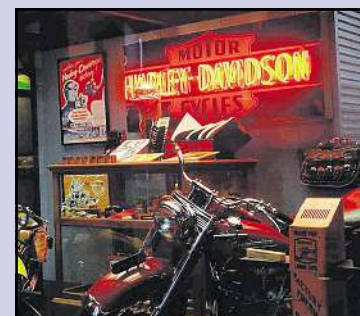


TRAVEL TIPS

For more information on the Great Lakes USA visit www.greatlakesusa.co.uk or call 08456 020 574

Virgin Atlantic flies seasonally from London Heathrow to Chicago -

www.virginatlantic.com or call 0844 2092 770. Car hire is available from Avis, visit www.avis.co.uk or call 0844 581 0147



GREAT VISIT: The Harley Davidson museum

SPECTACULAR: Enjoy the beauty of autumn at Rib Mountain Wausau

Jade Wright goes on an epic US road trip, but makes sure she has a designated driver

THERE'S no better way to see America than by road. Whether it's the evocative small towns or the ever-changing scenery, there's a feeling that you're seeing the real country - the hidden away bits that most people never get to know are even there.

It's one thing seeing the big cities or the coastal destinations, but away from that there is a vast country to discover. This autumn I travelled across the mid-west with a group of girls, stopping off at some of the most interesting places along the way.

We flew into Chicago, driving across the undulating farmland of Illinois, following Lake Michigan up to Milwaukee.

Before I went there I knew two things about Milwaukee - beer and Happy Days. It's the home of the Miller Brewing Company, and Laverne & Shirley worked in a brewery in the 70s sitcom. Their baseball team is called the Brewers. This is beer country. It was also seen as being a very typical Midwest city, hence Happy Days being set in its suburbs.

I must admit I'd expected a traditional small-ish city, with plenty of beer and a penchant for nostalgia. So I was surprised to find a highly cultural, very cool and young city with a thriving arts and fashion scene and some of the best bars I've ever been to.

The Safe House (www.safe-house.com) is a secret spy-themed bar.

You need a password to get into its one-of-a-kind cocktail lounge, but it's worth it - the margaritas are superb. It has a hipster vibe that I'd expected in New York's East Village, but somehow here it took me by surprise.

A couple of blocks away is the excellent Iron Horse Hotel (www.theironhorsehotel.com), a 100-year-old downtown warehouse transformed into a modern luxury boutique hotel. Stop off for a drink - their range of beer is superb, and there's an impressive whisky list too. They have 102 rooms but book early as it gets very busy.

From there it's only a short walk to Milwaukee Art Museum (www.mam.org). Designed by Santiago Calatrava, Milwaukee's icon on Lake Michigan features a 90-foot high glass-walled reception hall enclosed by the Burke Brise Soleil, a "wing-like" sunscreen that can move at the museum's daily opening time of

10am, flap at noon and close at 5pm.

As well as the old masters and modern artists, there are the smaller galleries too. We loved the Historic Third Ward (www.historicthirdward.org) - a six square block area that contains the city's highest concentration of art galleries, as well as theatres and a selection of cute boutiques, speciality stores and antique shops.

We stopped off for lunch at the market (www.milwaukeepublicmarket.org), which puts a fresh new twist on the area's longstanding marketplace tradition. The focus is on Wisconsin-products, including amazing artisan cheeses and creamy frozen custard, but there is also a great range of international food on offer too with sushi, lobster dinners, a

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Paradise found

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