

Top 10 Things to Do in Madison

1. **State Street Historical Walk** (107 State St.)

Sponsored by the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation, this summertime tour series explores one of the city's most notable thoroughfares. Guides direct interested folks along the street, pointing out intriguing architectural features and structures and regaling visitors with anecdotes about prominent citizens and past organizations that made the district what it is today. Tours begin at the House of Wisconsin Cheese and last about an hour. Reservations are not required.

Cost: \$5, cash only; Hours: Saturday, 10:00am

2. **Henry Vilas Zoo** (702 S Randall Ave)

Exhibits are easily managed in a few hours time, and include such animal mainstays as giraffes, primates, lions, camels, and tigers. You'll also find a reptile house, children's zoo (where little ones can feed the animals), penguin exhibit, and more.

Cost: FREE; Hours: Daily, 9:30am-5:00pm

3. **The Arboretum** (1207 Seminole Hwy, University of Wisconsin)

Outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers relish this stretch of preserved land. Spread across more than 1200 acres, the arboretum features a variety of terrains, including prairies, savannas, hardwood forests, evergreen forests, marshes, and ponds.

Cost: FREE; Hours: Trails, 7:00am-10:00pm; Visitor Center, Mon-Fri 9:30am-4pm; Sat-Sun 12:30pm-4pm

4. **Wisconsin Historical Museum** (30 N Carroll St., Capital Square)

For an enlightening overview of Wisconsin and regional history, this museum can't be beat. Spread across four floors are a wealth of information on original Native Americans, fur-trading, immigration, the lumber industry, politics, domestic life, and prominent figures.

Cost: Adult, 4\$; Child, \$3; Family, \$10; Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm

5. **Madison's Children Museum** (100 State St.)

If you're looking to spend quality time with your children, you've come to the right place! Hands-on exhibits and programs are designed to inspire lifelong learning through play, celebrating children's imaginations.

Cost: \$5; Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sunday noon - 5:00 p.m.

6. **Memorial Union** (800 Langdon St.)

Situated right on Lake Mendota, with a huge terrace to have a soda, beer, lunch or dinner, ice cream, read, see a band, watch the sailboats cruise by, or people watch, it's one of the best places to visit in Madison.

Cost: FREE; Hours: Open Daily

7. **Vilas Park** (702 South Randall Avenue)

Located on the shores of Lake Wingra, this park includes the Henry Vilas Zoo, an arboretum and a popular scenic beach. Take a ride down the famous "shoe slide"!

Cost: FREE; Hours: Open Daily

8. **Wisconsin State Capital** (2 East Main Street)

The majestic Roman Renaissance-style State Capitol has the only granite dome in the U.S. and inside has over 40 different types of stone from around the world as well as murals and handmade furniture. Check out the beautiful views of the city and surrounding lakes from the observation deck.

Cost: FREE; Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-6:00pm; Weekends 8:00am-4:00pm

9. **Olbrich Botanical Gardens** (3330 Atwood Avenue)

One of Madison's most popular attractions, this oasis of green includes a sunken garden, perennial garden, rose garden, rock garden, herb garden, wildflower garden and a tropical conservatory.

Cost: FREE; Hours: Daily 10:00am-4:00pm

10. **Monona Terrace** (One John Nolen Drive)

The Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center opened its doors after nearly 60 years of debate. It was first designed by Wisconsin native and internationally renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright in 1938 as a cultural, governmental and recreational building.

Cost: FREE (\$3 Adult & \$2 Student Tours available daily at 1:00pm); Hours: Daily 8:00am-5:00pm