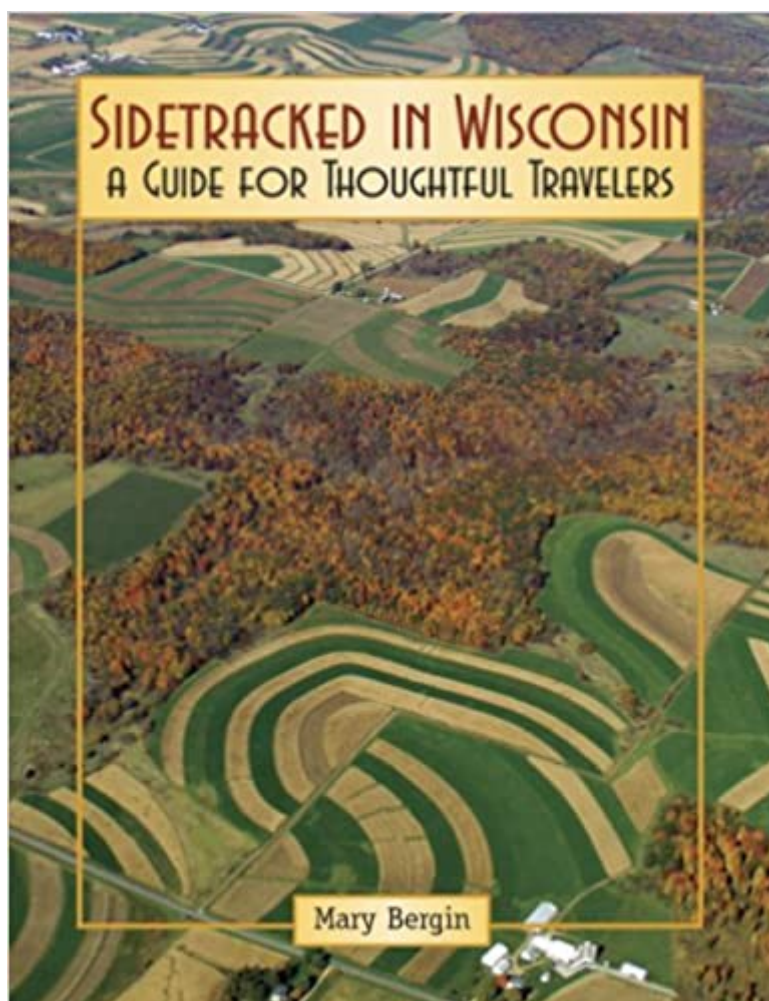


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Sidetracked In Wisconsin: A Guide For Thoughtful Travelers



Synopsis

Wisconsin is a state of incredible diversity, transition, accomplishment and modesty. It's much more than great beer, brats, cheeseheads and polkas. What you have in this book are discriminating glimpses of who and what make Wisconsin worth knowing. It is not meant to be a comprehensive travel guide that tries to please everyone or include every place with an "open" sign in the window. Mary Bergin wrote a guide for the thoughtful traveler, willing to be sidetracked and experience something new, quirky, interesting, and unusual. Maps, road trips, lodging, restaurants, recipes, hikes, museums, taverns, tours, theaters and more. Includes index.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mary Bergin travels into Wisconsin's nooks and crannies and finds extraordinary beauty, charm and wonder blooming at every turn. We've mentioned her book briefly before, but it deserves to be said again: Sidetracked in Wisconsin is a winner. It recently was honored by the Society of American Travel Writers' Central States Chapter as the Best Travel Book of the year. It is delightfully illustrated with many of Bergin's photos, so it's no surprise the organization also named her Photographer of the Year this spring. Regular readers of "The Traveling Shepherd" know Bergin is skilled at finding great stories all over Wisconsin. She was born and raised here and, as she says on her Web site, roadstraveled.com, she has "no intention of calling anywhere else home." Her 242-page book is organized by quadrants, highlighting dozens of reasons to "get sidetracked," as she puts it. But making great travel experiences out of lists is as fruitless as expecting to have a gourmet meal emerge from a list of the contents of a corner grocery store. Bergin's curiosity, insight, experience, research and sensitivity spell the difference between a cart full of groceries and a

memorable feast. Her reports are marked by the great respect she affords people who build, manage and interpret places others pass by. Bergin introduces us to them, tells their stories and reveals glistening gems. Check out A World of Accordions Museum in Superior, the nation's oldest continually operating bowling alley in Fond du Lac, the cheese-maker outside of Dodgeville whose work is served at America's best restaurant or the Markesan Book Castle, which was once a manure storage tank. No matter where you go, you'll enjoy having Mary Bergin show you a gentle, pleasant and proud Wisconsin. --Gary Knowles Shepherd Express

As Americans we like to travel. With the advent of the automobile we started taking Sunday drives or weekend jaunts to nearby attractions. Once upon a time we even had Burma-Shave jingles to entertain us. Mary Bergin aims her book at this crowd. She focuses on attractions big and small in the state of Wisconsin. Beer runs? Yep, they're in here from the Leinenkugel's brewery in Chippewa Falls to the various brewpubs that have sprung up. Cheese and chocolate factories are also featured, the various sporting activities such as marathons and the Birkebiener. Oddities like the Concrete Park in Phillips find space in this book. Basically all those individual and quirky things about Wisconsites past and present are here. The book is divided into the four corners of the state. Each section features an ideal two-day road trip. Throughout the sections are "Detours" to take for more curious, odd and unique sights. For those who get hungry there are recipes culled from select sites as well. Thus one can have an authentic fish boil right at home. The book features color photographs and rough maps to show locations. I would get a free road map of the state (found at any state wayside and visitor's center) to assure one doesn't get lost on the road. I can't assure you won't lose yourself among the attractions. The book will certainly be useful in the coming summers as we plan various weekend trips. --John L. Hoh, Jr., bookideas.com

Mary Bergin is a longtime newspaper journalist whose weekly "Roads Traveled" column is syndicated in daily newspapers around Wisconsin. She also is a freelance magazine writer and staff feature writer for The Capital Times, Madison, and is the newspaper's former features editor. Her new book *Sidetracked in Wisconsin: A Guide for Thoughtful Travelers* describes unusual and interesting people and places off the beaten path. Although Wisconsin is her favorite place, Mary increasingly travels the world. She was a 2003 Women of Wings delegate to Chiba, Japan (a Wisconsin sister-state), and co-led a delegation of Midwest Travel Writers Association members to Korea in 2006. She has earned membership into the Society of American Travel Writers, the continent's premiere organization for travel journalists. She routinely seeks global connections to Wisconsin, considering it one small way to build bridges of cultural awareness and appreciation in

this increasingly complex, misunderstood and troubled world.

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