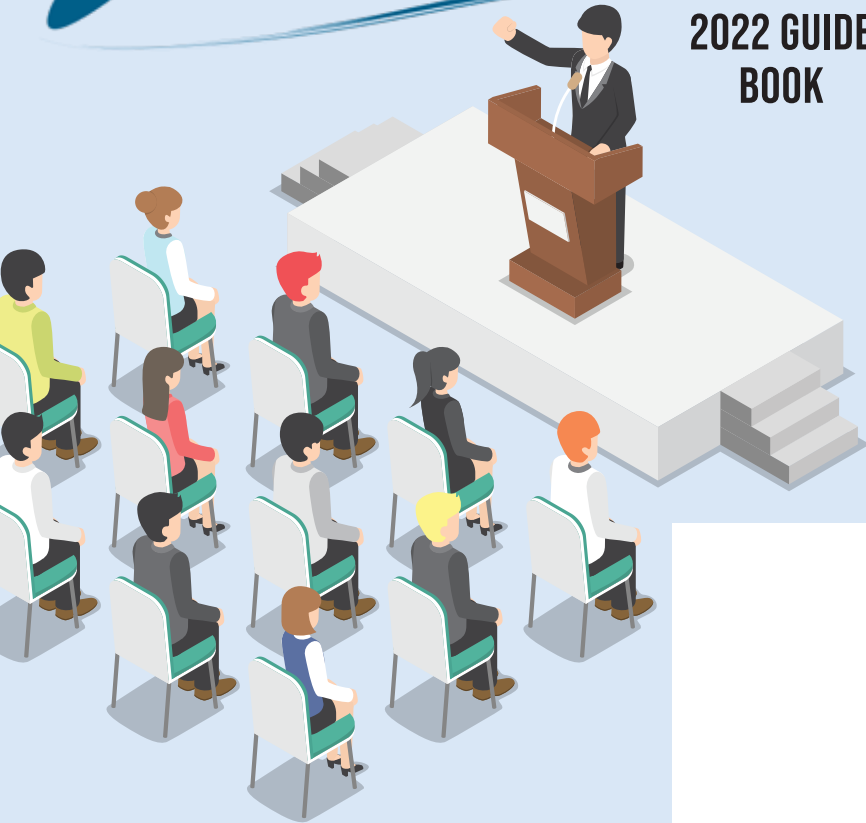


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From the Editor



NAVIGATING THE NEW NORMAL

As we look ahead to spring, meeting planners are working diligently to get their groups back together, and to do so in safe, responsible ways. And attendees are eager to return! The pent-up demand for meeting in-person is great, inspiring planners to be creative with the format, duration and experiences they offer.

Midwestern communities have many advantages over other areas of the country when it comes to hosting groups. Think accessibility, affordability and beautiful outdoor spaces, not to mention that “Midwest Nice” hospitality that leaves lasting impressions on guests.

In this Guide Book edition, we showcase each of the Midwest’s 12 states, sharing their unique character and charm. The communities featured are ready and willing to help you conduct your meetings and events safely. Contact them directly to learn more.

Regards,

Becky Peck

Editor



Explore the all-new
MidwestMeetings.com!

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Whether you seek the electric vibe of one of the world's most exciting cities or desire a quiet, quaint setting, offering outdoor activities, Illinois can deliver. With its central Midwest location and easy access to air travel, bus and train, attendees will find it to be a convenient meeting point. Enjoy world-class museums, dining and shopping.

- Travel outside of Chicago where it's less crowded. Venues offer space to spread out, allowing for comfortable social distancing, and beautiful parks and natural areas offer opportunities for group outings and team building.
- The most popular hike in the Shawnee National Forest, Garden of the Gods, gives tourists amazing insight into the geologic structure of southern Illinois and a view that stretches for miles high over the pristine hills of Shawnee Forest.
- Millennium Park is a popular stop for groups, who can peruse the art installations at the outdoor Boeing Galleries or grab a selfie with the famous Bean sculpture, among a variety of other activities available.

For more ideas, go to
meetinillinois.com

PLACES TO CHECK OUT



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Find more than 32,000 species of sea life at one of Chicago's top attractions. Enjoy one-of-a-kind experiences such as shark feedings, penguin encounters and more. The museum offers private event rentals where you can combine a dinner or reception with private tours for your guests.

shedd Aquarium.org

SPIRIT OF PEORIA

Experience the beauty of the Mighty Mississippi River or the Illinois River aboard the beautiful, 385-passenger paddleboat that is docked in Peoria. It offers trips ranging from a few hours to a few days. spiritofpeoria.com



CHICAGO ARCHITECTURAL BOAT TOURS

Carve out a few hours during the day for your group and book a boat tour on the Chicago River that highlights the city's famous architecture, including the history, different styles and people who designed and built the city. You can schedule a private tour and cocktail reception for your group. choosechicago.com

ABRAHAM LINCOLN NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Abraham Lincoln spent 30 years of his life in Illinois, and now a heritage trail with sites spread throughout 42 counties in central Illinois document some of the most important times in the former president's life. nps.gov



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OF AREA HOTEL ROOMS:
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NEAREST AIRPORT:
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ABOUT THE AREA – Bordering Chicago along Lake Michigan, Chicago's North Shore offers exemplary meeting facilities in safe, open spaces in the most scenic part of Metro Chicago—close to O'Hare Airport and multiple expressways. Accessible lakefront, plentiful hiking trails and the amenities meeting and event attendees are seeking now for an optimal experience. Our full-service hotels and event spaces accommodate meetings from 10–1,000. Chicago's North Shore is home to the Chicago Botanic Garden, Ravinia Music Festival, Northwestern University, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, the Illinois Holocaust Museum, and the Baha'i House of Worship—the only one in North America.

Our lakefront communities feature independently owned restaurants and boutiques on tree-lined streets—a great respite after a day of meetings. A foodie paradise, dozens of restaurants offer unique dining experiences and rooftop dining during the warmer months. Chicago's North Shore Convention and Visitors Bureau offers custom complimentary planning assistance and lucrative incentives for booked meetings.

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Indiana is home to so much more than basketball and cornfields. This midwestern gem offers beautiful scenery paired with urban delights found in such cities as Indianapolis, Fort Wayne and Bloomington. As home to the administrative offices of the NCAA, it's a mecca for sports, hosting everything from the Super Bowl to the Final Four to the Indianapolis 500 and everything in between.

Nature is on full display here, where 45 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline punctuate the state's northern border. Plus you'll find miles of serene waterways perfect for paddling and trails for hiking and biking. Just west of Indianapolis, you'll find the Covered Bridge Capital of the World in Parke County, which is home to 31 of these scenic treasures, more than any other county in the country. And for the golfers in your group, Indiana is rated one of the top 10 states to hit the links.

For more ideas, go to
visitindiana.com

PLACES TO CHECK OUT



INDIANA CAVERNS

Explore an underground area once inhabited by animals during the Ice Age. Tours guide you through a series of underground waterfalls, rock formations, rivers and caves. Learn and explore this hidden underground ecosystem. The constant 56 degree temperature makes it a great place for groups to cool off in the summer. indiancaverns.com

FOUNTAIN SQUARE, INDIANAPOLIS

Just southeast of downtown, this funky Indianapolis neighborhood has a world of independent restaurants, live music and performances, working artists with a vibrant arts scene, and one-of-a-kind stores that sell food, fashion, comics, musical instruments, fresh flowers and much more. discoverfountainsquare.com



TURKEY RUN STATE PARK

Explore Turkey Run State Park, which offers 14 miles of hiking trails, ranging from easy to more difficult. Looking for a challenge? Check out the Ladders Trail, which offers 5.56 miles of rugged hiking, including a ladder and 1,500 steps. On-site lodging allows your group to stay and explore longer. turkeyrunstatepark.com
in.gov/dnr/parklake/2964.htm

GRISSOM AIR MUSEUM

Climb up inside a security tower, sit in an F-4 Phantom and get an up-close look at 24 aircraft that served from World War II to present day at Grissom Air Museum. Check out the history of the military base that started in 1954 as the Bunker Hill Air Force Base. grissomairmuseum.com

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OF AREA HOTEL ROOMS:
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LAKES101.ORG

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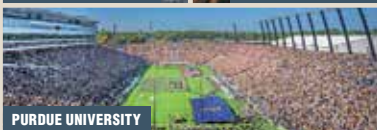
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Possibly one of the most underrated of its midwestern counterparts, Iowa's scenic beauty, intriguing culture and quaint communities should make it a serious contender for your next meeting or conference.

The capital of Des Moines ranks as one of the three largest cities in the country for financial, insurance and bio-ag industries. Its foodie culture is teeming with farm-to-table restaurants that showcase the state's strong agricultural economy.

Perhaps one of the state's best-kept secrets is Lake Okoboji, the largest natural lake in Iowa at 15,000 acres. Resorts line the shores and golf courses, trails, shopping, water recreation and museums can be found nearby to entertain groups of all sizes.

The lively college town of Iowa City, home to the University of Iowa, is a popular destination for groups seeking a cool, hip vibe. Guests will enjoy the variety of eateries and independently owned shops.

For more ideas, go to traveliowa.com

PLACES TO CHECK OUT



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NATIONAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM & AQUARIUM

An affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, the museum engages visitors in exploration of the history, culture, animals and conservation found along the Mississippi River and rivers of America. Enjoy aquariums and historical exhibits, a boatyard and wetland area along the 14-acre campus. Plus, experiences with live animals take place daily.

rivermuseum.com



AMANA COLONIES

German immigrants escaping religious persecution and economic depression in the mid-19th century established seven villages in southeast Iowa and adopted a communal lifestyle. Their culture lives on at this National Historic Landmark where you can visit art galleries, period-style shops and museums documenting the community's early days. amanacolonies.com



© Iowa Tourism Office

HERBERT HOOVER PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

Nestled in an Iowa prairie landscape, the Library and Museum tell the extraordinary story of an orphan boy who lived the American dream, becoming a multi-millionaire engineer, a worldwide humanitarian, and the 31st president of the United States.

hoover.archives.gov



© Travel Dubuque

PAINTED WALLS OF DUBUQUE

Peruse the nearly 40 murals that have popped up in downtown Dubuque since 2016. These cultural treasures depict everything from floralscapes and vintage postcards to timely issues such as solidarity and inclusion. They were created by local and world-renowned artists. traveldubuque.com



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dmbotanicalgarden.com



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FIELD OF DREAMS

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Kansas boasts a wonderful array of unique venues, accessible transportation and communities, and a foodie scene certain to please even the most discerning of palates. You'll find a host of activities to entertain: From rodeos to cultural, music and food festivals, the state provides a slice of classic America. Find rugged with its cowboy culture combined with the urban energy of some of its biggest cities of Kansas City, Manhattan, Salina and Lawrence. And the more than two dozen state parks dotting the Kansas landscape offer ample opportunities for boating, fishing, picnicking, swimming, mountain biking and hiking. When not exploring the great outdoors, visitors to Kansas can enjoy museums, science centers, as well as vintage theaters and newer facilities that offer major shows throughout the year.

And when it's time to relax, unwind and dine, Kansas won't disappoint, as the state is proud of its famous smoked barbecue and comfort foods aplenty.



© Kansas Tourism

For more ideas, go to
travelks.com

PLACES TO CHECK OUT



© Kansas Tourism

THE EVEL KNieVEL MUSEUM

Located adjacent to the Historic Harley-Davidson of Topeka, this unusual museum and its artifacts celebrate Evel Knievel's impact on the motorcycle jumping community. From Knievel's jump bikes to some of his personal possessions, the museum features interactive displays and even a 4-D virtual reality jump experience. evelknievelmuseum.com



© Kansas Tourism

BUFFALO BILL CULTURAL CENTER

This site celebrates the legend of Buffalo Bill with a 16-foot-tall sculpture of the legendary cowboy riding a horse, plus indoor displays and an outdoor story board telling the legendary stories of the famous buffalo hunter. The center also features 3,200 square feet of meeting space for groups. buffalobilloakley.org

TOPEKA CIVIC THEATRE & ACADEMY

Community theater provides some of the best entertainment for individuals as well as groups. At the Topeka Civic Theatre & Academy, visitors can enjoy either dinner or non-dinner shows that complete the overall experience. topekacivictheatre.com

KANSAS COSMOSPHERE AND SPACE CENTER

Find a vast collection of space artifacts at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center, including the second largest space artifact display after the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. In addition to the exhibits, the center features a theater, planetarium and the Apollo Gallery. cosmo.org

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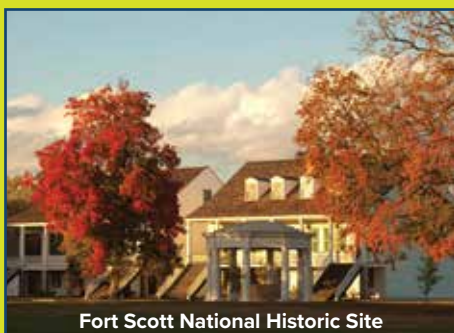
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ABOUT THE AREA – Dodge City, Kansas, is home to over 25 meeting facilities, from state-of-the-art ballrooms to the historic, renovated Dodge City jail, that can serve a wide range of meeting and conference needs. With venues oozing Old West charm that can support everything from regional business meetings to massive conferences with thousands of attendees. The Dodge City Convention and Visitors Bureau is here to help with a variety of complimentary services, from the planning to the execution of your next event. We can also help you create post-conference adventures that will make your next meeting or conference the stuff of legends. Make your next event one for the history books in Dodge City!

VISITDODGECITY.ORG

AT A GLANCE

LARGEST MEETING SPACE (SQ. FT.):
10,000

OF AREA HOTEL ROOMS:
1,200

NEAREST AIRPORT:
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Airport – 2 miles



KANSAS

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AT A GLANCE

LARGEST MEETING SPACE (SQ. FT.):
30,000+

OF AREA HOTEL ROOMS:
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NEAREST AIRPORT:
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VisitSalina

VISIT SALINA

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ABOUT THE AREA – Visit Salina offers resources to planners wanting to customize a memorable event for conference delegates. Unique to traditional, rely on Jo Ann for a complimentary service proposal and package ideas. Meeting planners agree that the service and attention to detail makes planning much easier. The Hilton Garden Inn has 10,000 square feet of meeting space, Tony's Pizza Events Center exceeds 30,000 square feet of versatile space with seating capacity for up to 7,500 people. Our newest luxury hotel, the Homewood Suites by Hilton, Salina Downtown, boasts over 9,000 square feet of creative space. Our location and growing, proud community makes Salina, Kansas, a perfect place to host meetings and conventions. Include a custom adventure to Rolling Hills Zoo and Museum, a scavenger hunt to include Sculpture Tour and even spouse activities.

VISITSALINAKS.ORG



© Visit Detroit



© Shingia Hotel/Nicole Franzen

From urban chic to rugged outdoors, planners have endless opportunities to impress their groups in Michigan. The state's handprint on earth — the mitten-shaped Lower Peninsula — is surrounded by massive blue, freshwater inland seas that impressively make it visible from space. The Great Lakes — Erie, Huron, Michigan and Superior — splash against the state's 3,200 miles of freshwater coastline (more freshwater shoreline than any other state in the U.S.), which define Michigan's two peninsulas and shape its unique identity as "Pure Michigan."

- Michigan is one of the country's top golf destinations with over 650 courses. Find courses designed by greats such as Jack Nicklaus, Robert Trent Jones, Sr. (and Jr.) and Arnold Palmer.
- In northern Michigan, look for white-sand beaches in the summer and ski resorts in the winter. Step back in history, when you take your group to Mackinac Island where motorized traffic is banned. And find all of the excitement and energy of a metropolitan area in southeast Michigan, home to the state's largest city, Detroit.

For more ideas, go to
michigan.org

PLACES TO CHECK OUT



© Stefan Castellein

FRANKENMUTH

As Michigan's "Little Bavaria" this small town prides itself in its German heritage, which is showcased in its architecture, independently owned restaurants and boutique shops. Highlights: All-you-can-eat chicken dinner at Zehnder's, the Frankenmuth Clock Company for cuckoo clocks and pretzels at the Bavarian Inn Restaurant. frankenmuth.org



© Bill Lorenz

GREENFIELD VILLAGE

Explore this collection of nearly 100 historic buildings established by Henry Ford showcasing America's industrial history. Step foot in the lab where Thomas Edison had his light bulb moment or the workshop where the Wright brothers taught us to reach for the sky. Ride in a real Model T or walk through four working farms. thehenryford.org

SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE

Created by glaciers thousands of years ago, this national gem offers recreation and scenic beauty. Don't miss the new Heritage Trail for hiking and biking, explore the Glen Haven Maritime Museum and experience the Dune Climb. Incredible views and soft, sandy beaches await. nps.gov

MOTOWN MUSEUM

This museum tells the story of how a man's vision turned into one of the largest, most successful record companies of all time and how the music — the Motown Sound — captured the hearts of young people, not only in America, but across the globe. motownmuseum.org

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Organizing a corporate retreat or offsite meeting? From historic train depots to state-of-the-art sports venues to garden-infused spaces teeming with splendor, Minnesota presents a variety of experiences for those who are looking for memorable locales. Cozy rather than commercial, these gems offer unique accommodations and amenities aplenty — all while providing ideal opportunities for your group to work some and play some.

More than 10,000 lakes spot the landscape of this great northern state, which adds to Minnesota's appeal as a great outdoors destination. From the mighty Mississippi River coursing through the state, to the premier bird watching opportunities at the National Eagle Center in Wabasha to exploration opportunities in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Minnesota has outdoor adventure covered. And while the Twin Cities is filled with an array of cultural institutions, museums, arts centers and sporting venues, many cities throughout the state also feature destinations that make Minnesota an ideal destination around which to orchestrate events.

For more ideas, go to
exploreminnesota.com

PLACES TO CHECK OUT



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MALL OF AMERICA

With more than 520 stores, 60 restaurants, an amusement park and aquarium, Mall of America is considered the largest shopping complex in the U.S., attracting more than 40 million visitors each year. Just 15 minutes from downtown Minneapolis. mallofamerica.com



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PAISLEY PARK

Explore the home and studio of musical legend Prince. Here, art, music, fashion, and culture were celebrated, energized and inspired by the visionary creative spirit of Prince. Peruse unique artifacts and on a guided tour. Paisley Park now draws people from around the world. paisleypark.com



MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM

If you are simply looking to get away from it all, why not check out the delightful Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen. With 1,200 acres of professionally maintained gardens, it's reminiscent of a gorgeous private estate with stunning gardens, hiking trails and nature aplenty. arb.uwm.edu



CANTERBURY PARK

If you want your next meeting and trade show to really shine, head to Canterbury Park in Chanhassen. Along with exciting horse racing and a visit to the winner's circle, meeting attendees can enjoy delicious meals, private bars and watch the action from various private settings. canterburypark.com



CANAL PARK

No trip to Duluth would be complete without a visit to Canal Park. Located along the majestic shore of Lake Superior, this area is teeming with shops, restaurants, entertainment venues and walkways to enjoy the lake views. Watch as huge ships pass under the Aerial Lift bridge. canalpark.com



TARGET CENTER

Check out Minnesota's favorite Timberwolves in action or enjoy an energetic concert with a few dozen colleagues in the comfort of a private suite. The Target Center offers suites and club seats that can accommodate groups of all sizes. targetcenter.com

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MINNESOTA

AT A GLANCE

MEETING SPACE (SQ. FT.):
25,300

MAXIMUM CAPACITY:
1,800

OF MEETING ROOMS:
3

OF HOTEL ROOMS:
400

ABOUT THE VENUE – The Red Baron Arena & Expo in Marshall, MN, accommodates events large and small, including tradeshows, expos, weddings, concerts and various sized meetings. The Action Arena Floor has built-in bleachers to accommodate up to 1,800 people when pulled out and paired with seating also available on the floor. A 25x14-foot HD video board is also available in this space. Large products can easily be brought onto the expo floor with use of our street level loading dock and 20-foot overhead door. Vendors can drive onto the expo floor to place necessary set up items. The Vast Club room overlooks the Action Arena and can be set up in many different arrangements. The room is equipped with wired internet and comes with use of a projector and podium.

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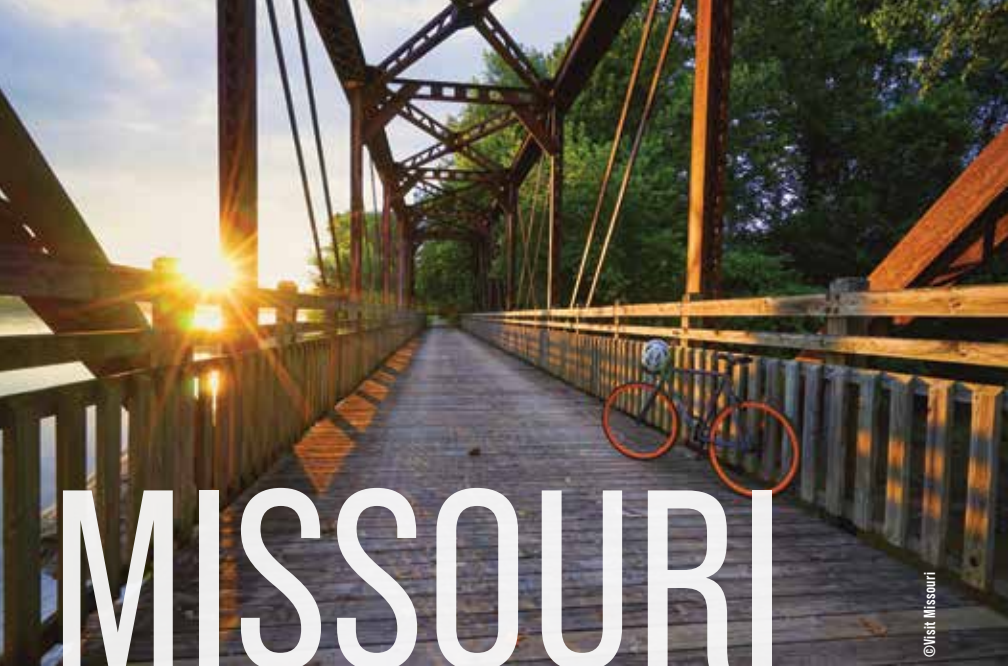

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MISSOURI

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From its picturesque cityscapes to its awe-inspiring landscapes, expansive plains to the valleys and rivers, Missouri offers ample locales for unique meeting options. Teeming with historic sites, quaint towns and mighty metropolitan experiences, Missouri appeals to many planners because of its unique venues, distinct Midwest charm and natural beauty. And thanks to the cultural offerings throughout cities such as St. Louis and Kansas City, Missouri truly has something for everyone. From convention centers with the newest technology to convenient hotels to newly constructed sports facilities and restaurants of every ethnic variety — Missouri is the place to be.

And while the snow may fly and the temperatures may plummet, Missouri is a destination for all seasons. Depending on the time of year and whether your group is in town for a trade show, conference or a board meeting, activities like golfing, kayaking, fishing and hiking are all easily accessible and affordable.

For more ideas, go to
visitmo.com

PLACES TO CHECK OUT



GATEWAY ARCH NATIONAL PARK

Home to the Museum of Westward Expansion and St. Louis' Old Courthouse, however, most recognizable is the 630-foot, stainless steel Gateway Arch, celebrating the spirit of the western pioneers, located near where the Lewis and Clark expedition began. Ride to the top, enjoy a film and peruse the many artifacts. nationalparks.org



THE SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS CANOPY TOUR

Enjoy the beauty of the Ozark terrain as you soar from tree to tree on the Zipline Canopy Tour. Experience breathtaking views and heart-pumping thrills as you glide over the horizon from unique tree-suspended platforms. Open year-round with tours lasting one to two hours in length. theshepherdofthehills.com



ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The stunning Powell Hall is home to the world-renowned St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, which provides a series of concerts throughout the year — from classical concerts to pop-culture productions. SLSO is the country's second oldest symphony. slo.org



MARK TWAIN RIVERBOAT

Hannibal, Missouri, is home to a wonderful Mark Twain replica riverboat. Guests can enjoy a one-hour sightseeing tour and two-hour dinner cruises on the Mississippi River. The 120-foot-long river boat can accommodate groups up to 350 people. marktwainriverboat.com



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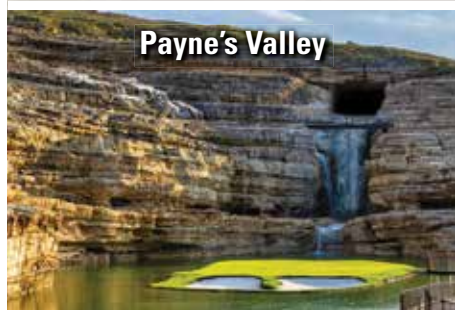
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Payne's Valley



Falls Lodge



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Ruts from the thousands of overland wagon routes from the 1800s still are evident across the plains of Nebraska. And while museums and cultural centers have done a wonderful job of preserving the Wild West spirit throughout this great state, other areas of the state offer unique experiences that keep visitors coming back for more. From a world-renowned zoo for animal lovers to living museums galore for history buffs, the state's two largest cities, Omaha and Lincoln, invite visitors to create adventures of their own. In addition, Nebraska offers some of the best cuisine throughout its award-winning restaurants and bars. And if the timing is right, meeting attendees may enjoy a memorable experience that only happens once a year across Nebraska — the annual migration of a half million white cranes who make a stop in Nebraska as they traverse their migration route each year. Now that's something to tell the grandkids about!

For more ideas, go to
visitnebraska.com

PLACES TO CHECK OUT



© Nebraska Tourism

WESSELS LIVING HISTORY FARM

Explore this real, working farm, set in the 1920s, where you'll find chores to do every day. Tours tell the story of David Wessels and his dream to preserve the simple life of a Nebraska farmer. Play some horseshoes; shop in the mercantile or examine the antique tractor collection. Buildings available for rental. livinghistoryfarm.org



CRANE TRUST NATURE & VISITOR CENTER

During the spring migration (from mid-February to early April) approximately 500,000 sandhill cranes and millions more waterfowl temporarily call Grand Island home. This nature and visitor center offers viewing spots and year-round hiking opportunities. Expert guides lead Sandhill Crane Migration Tours to prime viewing blinds on the river. cranetrust.org



© Nebraska Tourism

THE ARCHWAY

Located in Kearney, The Archway exhibit tells the story of the adventurers who followed the Great Platte River Road and helped to build America. Exhibits detail the beginning of the railroad era, the Pony Express and buffalo drives, among other events. archway.org



NEBRASKA TOUR COMPANY OLD MARKET BREWERY TOUR

The Nebraska Tour Company offers several different tours to help Omaha visitors learn more about this historic city. From Old Market brewery tours to haunted Omaha tours to Omaha mob history tours, there are options for groups of all sizes. nebraskatourcompany.com



AT A GLANCE

LARGEST MEETING SPACE (SQ. FT.): 2,000

OF AREA HOTEL ROOMS: 645

NEAREST AIRPORT: York Municipal Airport

YORK COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU

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ABOUT THE AREA – York is ideally situated at the junction of I-80, Hwy-34 and Hwy-81, the Pan-American Highway. We are literally not only at the Crossroads of the Midwest, but at the Crossroads of the nation. It is located in an area steeped in history, and was indeed a traveler's stop on the original pioneer trails over 145 years ago.

YORKVISITORS.ORG



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LINCOLN.ORG

AT A GLANCE

**LARGEST MEETING
SPACE (SQ. FT.):**
47,000

**# OF AREA
HOTEL ROOMS:**
5,300

NEAREST AIRPORT:
LINCOLN AIRPORT





SCOTTS BLUFF AREA VISITORS BUREAU

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ABOUT THE AREA – The Scotts Bluff Area Visitors Bureau is here to serve you. A true one-stop shopping experience, we stand ready to assist with local programs, registration assistance, name badges, local information, room blocks, custom itineraries, activities, spouse tours, and recreational opportunities. Contact the Scotts Bluff Area Visitors Bureau for assistance on planning your next business meeting, convention or conference.

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AT A GLANCE

LARGEST MEETING SPACE (SQ. FT.):
25,500

OF AREA HOTEL ROOMS:
1,030

NEAREST AIRPORT:
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HORIZONINNANDSUITES.COM



AT A GLANCE

MEETING SPACE (SQ. FT.): 1,700

MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 70

OF MEETING ROOMS: 1

OF HOTEL ROOMS: 49

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AT A GLANCE

MEETING SPACE (SQ. FT.): 14,500

MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 900+

OF MEETING ROOMS: 8

AREA ROOMS: 88



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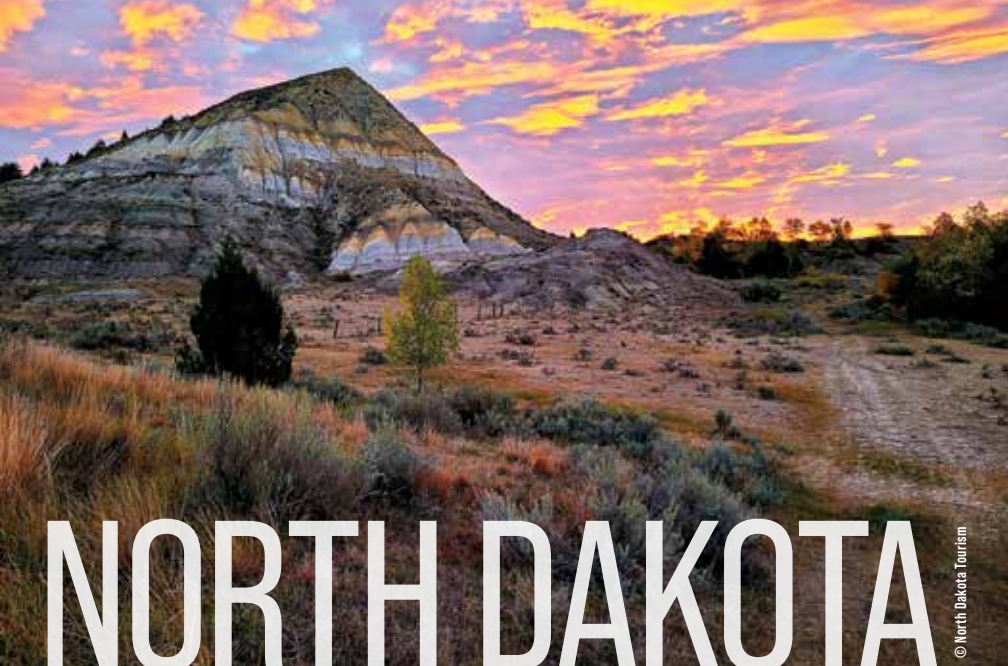
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NORTH DAKOTA



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When you think of North Dakota, what comes to mind? Expansive grasslands? Certainly. Skies that seem to go on forever? Absolutely. But North Dakota offers so much more to visitors.

While this northern state is one of the key areas within the majestic Great Plains, its cities and smaller towns boast a wealth of entertainment, culture, museums and dining opportunities to keep meeting and event attendees entertained.

Set amidst the wide open spaces that North Dakota is known for are natural gems like the Theodore Roosevelt National Park and expansive glacial Devils Lake. Teeming with Native American heritage, North Dakota also is the land of bison, antelope and wild horses. For the more adventurous types, North Dakota also offers rugged landscapes with access to nature trails and many scenic overlooks. And the cityscapes of Fargo, Grand Forks and Bismarck are certain to appeal to the more cosmopolitan types in the group.



© North Dakota Tourism

For more ideas, go to
ndtourism.com

PLACES TO CHECK OUT



FARGO AIR MUSEUM

Located next to the Hector International Airport in Fargo, the Fargo Air Museum is complete with two airplane hangars filled with interactive displays and airplanes that will delight and entertain at every turn. Tour guides, many of whom are Air Force veterans or former pilots, share the stories and facts surrounding the aircraft featured. fargoairmuseum.org



DAKOTA ZOO BISMARCK

While you are bound to see plenty of wildlife roaming the grasslands of North Dakota, if you are interested in experiencing animals of a more exotic nature, check out the Dakota Zoo. In addition to traditional exhibits, the zoo offers various memorable experiences, such as Breakfast at the Zoo, a perfect time to see the zoo animals when they are most active. dakotazoo.org



FARGO-MOORHEAD OPERA

Looking for some classic cultural experiences in Fargo? Look no further than the Fargo-Moorhead Opera (FMO). Each year the FMO offers fully-staged opera productions as well as educational and outreach activities. fmoopera.org



NORTH DAKOTA HERITAGE CENTER & STATE MUSEUM

Beyond the Sacagawea statue, the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum in Bismarck offers an expansive look into the history of North Dakota from prehistoric to modern times. Visitors to the Heritage Center can choose from four museum galleries filled with thousands of different exhibits, artifacts and displays. statemuseum.nd.gov



PLAINS ART MUSEUM

The Plains Art Museum can be found in Fargo's historic downtown district. The renovated warehouse that houses the museum offers visitors a memorable up-close experience to the museum's permanent collection, which includes contemporary art as well as traditional work by Native American artists. plainsart.org



EMPIRE ARTS CENTER

Grand Forks is home to the Empire Arts Center, which is housed in the city's restored Empire Theatre, which was built in 1919. This vibrant performing arts center is also home to the North Dakota Museum of Art. empireartscenter.com



Ohio's thriving arts and culture scene and award-winning culinary experiences, not to mention its convenient location make it an obvious choice for meeting and event planners. Its cities are accessible, easy to navigate and offer a variety of activities for groups. Whether you are planning a training session or a large-scale convention, you'll find a variety of facilities and suppliers eager to make your event a success.



Taking advantage of its location along Lake Erie offers a multitude of team-building experiences, including boat cruises, fishing and lighthouse tours. Waterparks are another popular choice for groups that include families and children in tow. Columbus offers a hip, trendy vibe indicative of a vibrant college town. Cleveland's convention district allow attendees to safely and quickly navigate the city. Venture outside of these urban areas and find unique, memorable facilities and opportunities for hiking, biking and more.

For more ideas, go to
ohio.org

PLACES TO CHECK OUT



© Karamu House

KARAMU HOUSE

Recognized as the oldest, producing African American theater in the nation, Karamu House (meaning a joyful gathering place in Swahili) is considered one of Cleveland's top treasures and is featured in the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture. karamuhouse.org



© Toledo Museum of Art

TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART

From ancient Egyptian artifacts to paintings by Rembrandt, Van Gogh and Picasso, the museum's 30,000-strong art collection ranks among the finest in the U.S. And as the birthplace of the Studio Glass Movement, it keeps this heritage alive with daily glassblowing demonstrations. toledomuseum.org



FISHING CHARTERS

Send your guests home with a trophy when you take them on a fishing charter on Lake Erie. The waters of this Great Lake produce large walleye, as well as steelhead trout, smallmouth bass and yellow perch. Charters provide all the equipment and supplies. wsbca.com



© Kalahari

KALAHARI RESORTS & CONVENTIONS

Located in Sandusky, this sprawling complex offers 215,000 square feet of meeting space, not to mention the 173,000-square-foot indoor water parks (in addition to a smaller outdoor water park) and a 20,000-square-foot arcade. kalahariresorts.com



© Nathan Mihal

ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME

Make your guests feel like rock stars when you arrange a group tour. Or, better yet, rent out part of the facility for a private meeting or event! Guests will find Elvis Presley's military uniform, Michael Jackson's Grammy Award for "Thriller" and Johnny Cash's guitar, among the hoards of unique artifacts and memorabilia. rockhall.com



© Dayton CVB

US NATIONAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM

Located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, is the world's largest military aviation museum. The museum features more than 350 aerospace vehicles and missiles and thousands of artifacts amid more than 19 acres of indoor exhibit space. nationalmuseum.af.mil

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All Occasions Catering, Harding Museum

Small town market means small town hospitality. Just one hour north of Columbus, Marion offers 'from the owner' service for meetings from 50 to 5,000. Easy transports from hotels to meeting venues. Now open - the Warren G. Harding Library/Museum with meeting space for up to 150.

Marion Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

198 West Center Street, Marion, OH 43302
800-371-6688 visitmarionohio.com



AT A GLANCE

LARGEST MEETING SPACE (SQ. FT.): 26,100
OF AREA HOTEL ROOMS: 760
NEAREST AIRPORT: Akron/Canton Airport

WAYNE COUNTY CVB

428 WEST LIBERTY ST., WOOSTER, OH 44691
330.264.1800 | MSTARKEY@WCCVB.COM

ABOUT THE AREA – Conference and catering centers provide superb venues for meetings, conferences, and trade shows, accommodating up to 1,000 people. Athletic fields and indoor facilities, in addition to the Wayne County Fairgrounds, can host a wide range of events.

WCCVB.COM



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OHGROUPS@KALAHARIRESORTS.COM

ABOUT THE VENUE – Serious meetings with serious fun. At Kalahari Resorts & Conventions we give you everything you need to make your event a success. You and your attendees will enjoy amenities including our full-service spa, world-class dining and second to none service. With our flexible hosting capabilities, your attendance-increasing event is one your members will look forward to.



AT A GLANCE

MEETING SPACE (SQ. FT.):
215,000

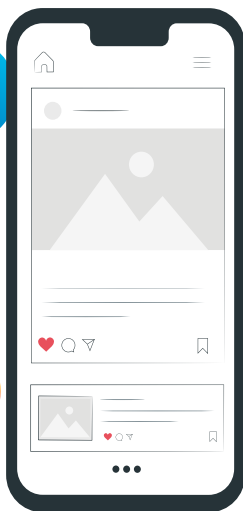
GUEST ROOMS & SUITES:
890

OF MEETING ROOMS:
39



KALAHARIMEETINGS.COM/OHIO

OHIO RESOURCES



TOURISM OHIO: Ohio.org

OHIO HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION:
OhioLodging.com

SOCIAL MEDIA: CONNECT WITH OHIO TOURISM AT

 [Facebook.com/OhioFindItHere](https://www.facebook.com/OhioFindItHere)

 [Instagram.com/Ohio.FindItHere](https://www.instagram.com/Ohio.FindItHere)

 [Twitter.com/OhioFindItHere](https://twitter.com/OhioFindItHere)

 [Pinterest.com/OhioFindItHere](https://www.pinterest.com/OhioFindItHere)



© South Dakota Tourism

SOUTH DAKOTA



© South Dakota Tourism

Natural beauty, complemented by modern amenities truly make South Dakota a great destination for groups. From the Black Hills to the Badlands, Sioux Falls to Rapid City, South Dakota is teeming with experiences proven to make any event memorable.

The state is home to nine tribes of the Great Sioux Nation. Their heritage and culture are woven into the fabric of the lands they still inhabit.

South Dakota does a wonderful job at celebrating its incredible history — from the historic explorations of Lewis and Clark to the days of the Black Hills gold rush. And while wilderness adventures are readily available, the cities dotting the South Dakota landscape offer regional airports, and meeting and event venues to accommodate your every need. The arts, cultural and sports environments of South Dakota also provide ample opportunities for relaxation and fun. And the burgeoning foodie scene in some of the state's cities offer some of the best eats in the region.

For more ideas, go to
travelsouthdakota.com



© South Dakota Tourism

PLACES TO CHECK OUT



© South Dakota Tourism

1880 TRAIN

Explore the stunning beauty of the Black Hills by way of train. A narrated history of the area guides you on this hour-long tour (each way) between Keystone and Hill City. Take in the towering Ponderosa pines, meadows and mountain side views from your window. The tour leads you through old lumber and gold mining communities from the 19th century. 1880train.com



© South Dakota Tourism

THE MAMMOTH SITE

Considered one of the most important fossil sites in the world, The Mammoth Site is an active paleontology site where visitors can see fossils as they were discovered. Reported to have the largest number of mammoth remains in the world, visitors can watch as scientists actively search for and recover new fossils. Self-guided and guided tours for groups available. themammothsite.org



© South Dakota Tourism

DEADWOOD

History buffs will enjoy the city of Deadwood, site of the country's biggest gold rush in the 1870s and epicenter of "the Wild West." Today the community celebrates its history with a variety of period attractions, plus an acting troupe that wanders the streets, reenacting major historic events. deadwood.com



© South Dakota Tourism

HIKING, BIKING & OUTDOOR RECREATION

With countless acres of forests and parks, the state offers a multitude of options for exploring its natural beauty. Groups who value social distance will enjoy hiking trails and scenic overlooks. Adventure seekers can experience the Black Hills by ATV. For those that enjoy the thrill of the hunt, big game, pheasant and waterfowl are popular. travelsouthdakota.com



SOUTH DAKOTA

AT A GLANCE

LARGEST MEETING SPACE (SQ. FT.): 12,920

OF AREA HOTEL ROOMS: 755

NEAREST AIRPORT: Pierre Regional Airport

PIERRE | YOUR ADVENTURE ON THE RIVER

PO BOX 548, PIERRE, SD 57501

605-224-7361 | TKAFKA@PIERRE.ORG

ABOUT THE AREA – Pierre, South Dakota's capital city, is located on the banks of the Missouri River. Close to major population centers, it's an area where you can stretch out, relax and enjoy the great outdoors. If it's a quality meeting experience you're looking for, Pierre can offer it all.

PIERRE.ORG



HOLD YOUR MEETING IN THE WILD WEST

Deadwood gives convention & meeting planners an alternative to the ordinary. Tucked in the Black Hills of South Dakota, the town is surrounded by natural beauty and outdoor adventures. Our gaming halls, saloons, shops, live entertainment and year-round events make us a must-see destination. History buffs love our museums, restored architecture and Wild West re-enactors. Deadwood has more than **1,700 guest rooms** and nearly **130,000 square feet of meeting space city-wide**. Facilities range from intimate settings ideal for executive retreats to full-scale convention resorts.





Contact: Dawn Burns
Deadwood Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau
(605) 578-1876 • dawn@deadwood.org
www.DEADWOOD.com

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Visitbrookings.sd.com/resources

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visitbrookings.sd.com |   



AT A GLANCE

**LARGEST MEETING
SPACE (SQ. FT.):**
11,500+

**# OF AREA
HOTEL ROOMS:**
700+

NEAREST AIRPORT:
Aberdeen Airport



ABERDEEN AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

ABERDEEN, SD 57401

605-225-2414 | INFO@VISITABERDEENS.COM

ABOUT THE AREA – Many regional groups and organizations choose Aberdeen due to its close proximity to their members in surrounding states, variety of restaurants and abundance of group tours and attractions. Treat your attendees to an educational group tour at a working ethanol plant to learn how corn is turned into fuel. Visit a national wildlife refuge, take a trip over the rainbow at Storybook Land and Wylie Park, or enjoy a leisurely hike at a nearby state park.

The Aberdeen Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is ready and eager to help your event succeed by providing visitor packets and name tags. We can also organize group tours, registration assistance, and even block rooms at local hotels for your attendees. Give us a call today and let our award-winning staff show you how planning for your next event should be.

VISITABERDEENS.COM



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© Travel Wisconsin



© Visit Milwaukee



© Travel Wisconsin

From the lush forests of the Northwoods, to the hip and urban city centers of Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin offers a variety of settings for groups of any size. Think a Frank Lloyd Wright designed convention center hugging the lakefront (Monona Terrace); chic, downtown skyscrapers connected by walkways (Wisconsin Center District); team-building on a boat tour that cruises past historic mansions (Lake Geneva) — these are just some of the options available. Need some more ideas to offer your guests an authentic Wisconsin experience?

- Let your group enjoy a friendly round of golf at Whistling Straits, site of the 2020 Ryder Cup.
- Take advantage of the state's 15,000 lakes and 17 million acres of forestland by incorporating outdoor activities such as hiking, biking and snowshoeing at places like Devils Lake State Park.
- Channel the spirit of NBA Champion Milwaukee Bucks, with a private event at Fiserv Forum.

For more ideas, go to
meetinwisconsin.com or
wisconsinmeetings.com

PLACES TO CHECK OUT



POTAWATOMI HOTEL & CASINO

With more than 60,000 square feet of meeting and event space, exquisite dining, onsite entertainment and luxurious lodging, holding an event at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino in Milwaukee is sure to impress your group. Whether you're hosting 10 or 2,000, no need to venture off-site with such a variety of onsite amenities. paysbig.com



UW-MADISON MEMORIAL UNION

Treasured by generations of Badgers, the Memorial Union is one of the most popular destinations on campus. With its picturesque view of Lake Mendota, hip vibe and iconic sunburst chairs, it's a magnet for social activity year-round, but especially in the summer with live music on the weekends, concessions and a beer garden. union.wisc.edu



MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MARKET

With inspiration from Seattle's famous Pike Place, the Milwaukee Public Market is the city's foodie destination. It offers a variety of artisan food products, plus culinary team-building programs. milwaukeekeepublicmarket.org



LAKE GENEVA CRUISE LINE

Explore the playground of the wealthy Chicagoans that flocked here following the Great Chicago fire. View the historic mansions that line the lakefront and listen to the intriguing stories as told by the captain. cruiselakegeneva.com



FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT VISITOR CENTER, SPRING GREEN

Housed in the only restaurant Wright designed, the visitor center is the launching point for tours of Frank Lloyd Wright's home and studio. Learn more about the architect's life and accomplishments. Private tours available. taliesinpreservation.org



NEW GLARUS BREWERY

Home of the popular Spotted Cow beer, New Glarus offers self-guided tours (currently closed due to COVID), and a scenic beer garden surrounded by buildings designed in the style of a German village. newglarusbrewing.com



Historic, traditional and unique venues...

Pictured: The Venue
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WISCONSIN RESOURCES



TRAVEL WISCONSIN: TravelWisconsin.com

WISCONSIN HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION:
WisconsinLodging.org

WISCONSIN MEETINGS RESOURCES:
MeetInWisconsin.com

SOCIAL MEDIA: CONNECT WITH TRAVEL WISCONSIN TOURISM AT

 Facebook.com/TravelWisconsin

 Instagram.com/TravelWisconsin

 Twitter.com/TravelWI

 Pinterest.com/TravelWisconsin



AT A GLANCE

**LARGEST MEETING
SPACE (SQ. FT.):**
13,700

**# OF AREA
HOTEL ROOMS:**
2,335

NEAREST AIRPORT:
Milwaukee, WI

VISIT LAKE GENEVA

201 WRIGLEY DRIVE, LAKE GENEVA, WI 53147

(262) 248-1000 | DEANNA@VISITLAKEGENEVA.COM

ABOUT THE DESTINATION – Make it Memorable: Meet in Lake Geneva. Ideally located between Chicago and Milwaukee, the Lake Geneva region is the perfect place to meet in the middle. Whether you're gathering for business or pleasure (or a little of both), this award-winning lake destination offers distinctive venues with world-class amenities and impeccable service. Choose from four-diamond resorts, historic mansions and breathtaking ballrooms for your next meeting. From spacious conference halls designed to foster creativity and inspiring meeting rooms with lake views to unconventional places like a cruise boat, winery or magic theatre, these are just the tip of the meeting planning iceberg. Take your meetings to the next level with creative teambuilding on our championship golf courses and ziplines and ropes courses too.

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or contact Amy Rivera at
arivera@foxcities.org to plan
your original event. f t i



KALAHARI RESORTS & CONVENTIONS

1305 KALAHARI DR., WISCONSIN DELLS, WI 53965

608-254-3314

WIGROUPS@KALAHARIRESORTS.COM

ABOUT THE VENUE – Unparalleled meetings with unique options for all. Kalahari Resorts & Conventions is the perfect place to hold your meeting. Big or small, we'll make sure your team is taken care of. Enjoy hosting flexibility with access to a full-service spa, and world-class dining. When you book with Kalahari, everything you need for a successful event is all under one roof.

KALAHARIMEETINGS.COM/WISCONSIN

AT A GLANCE

MEETING SPACE (SQ. FT.):
212,000

GUEST ROOMS & SUITES:
794

OF MEETING ROOMS:
47



HAYWARD LAKES VISITOR & CONVENTION BUREAU

PO BOX 1055, HAYWARD, WI 54843

715-634-4801 | INFO@HAYWARDLAKES.COM

ABOUT THE AREA – Hayward is located less than an hour south of Lake Superior, 3 hours north of Minneapolis and 4 hours northwest of Madison. Join us in the Northwoods to hold your next conference, business meeting, reunion, corporate retreat, wedding or other small to medium event. Hayward is a classic — a small resort town surrounded by dreamy pine forests laced with several rivers and 200 lakes. The championship golf, endless ski trails, great snowmobiling, day-long river tubing trips and wilderness hiking for every season. This perfect place has an easy drive.

HAYWARDLAKES.COM

AT A GLANCE

LARGEST MEETING SPACE (SQ. FT.):
10,000+

OF AREA HOTEL ROOMS:
483

NEAREST AIRPORT:
Duluth International Airport



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MANITOWOC AREA VCB

PO BOX 966, MANITOWOC, WI 54221

800-627-4896 | RTHOMAS@MANITOWOC.INFO

ABOUT THE AREA – Come immerse yourself in the coastal cities of Lake Michigan, Manitowoc & Two Rivers, where we invite your group to “Connect on the Coast”. Our scenic shores are filled with rich maritime history, the natural beauty of lush gardens and beaches, picturesque rivers and falls, and cultural attractions that will highlight your time here on the coast and provide unique and exciting venues to host your next meeting.

Your retreat awaits along the coast of Lake Michigan in beautiful Manitowoc & Two Rivers. See more details on what we have to offer at www.manitowoc.info. Make us your headquarters for multiple days as we are in close proximity to Door County (60 minutes), Green Bay (40 minutes) and Milwaukee (70 minutes).

MANITOWOC.INFO



AT A GLANCE

CONNECT ON THE COAST

LARGEST MEETING SPACE (SQ. FT.):
20,000

OF AREA HOTEL ROOMS:
1,000

NEAREST AIRPORT:
Green Bay, Wisconsin



VISIT PORT WASHINGTON

PO BOX 153, 126 E GRAND AVE, PORT WASHINGTON, WI 53074

800.719.4881 | PORT_TOURISM@SBCGLOBAL.NET

ABOUT THE AREA – Bring your meeting to picturesque and historic Port Washington. We can accommodate your needs for meeting space, banquet facilities and any necessary amenities. You'll find outstanding dining and unique shopping. Our hospitality, setting and facilities will provide you with just the location you are looking for.

VISITPORTWASHINGTON.COM



AT A GLANCE

LARGEST MEETING SPACE (SQ. FT.): 5,000

OF AREA HOTEL ROOMS: 200

NEAREST AIRPORT: Mitchell International Airport



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