



## AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATRE

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### **THE SURPRISE OF SPRING GREEN: WHERE ART AND NATURE COLLIDE**

Spring Green, WI and the surrounding Wisconsin River Valley area packs a wallop for visitors who are looking to combine art and nature. The tiny village of just over 1400 people is located in Southwest Wisconsin, just 40 miles from Madison, a 2.5-hour drive from Milwaukee, 3.5-hour drive from Chicago, and 5 hours from the Twin Cities. From world-class theater to internationally acclaimed architecture, from specialty shopping and antiques to outdoor activities that take advantage of the rolling and verdant terrain, Spring Green is well worth a visit.

#### **A Theatre in the Woods**

**American Players Theatre** (5950 Golf Course Rd, Spring Green, WI. Box office: 608-588-2361) presents 8 productions from June 4 through October 16. Productions in the outdoor theater **Up the Hill** include: William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew and The Tempest*, Noël Coward's *Blithe Spirit*, *The Critic* by Richard Brinsley Sheridan and *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck .

In the intimate, indoor **Touchstone Theatre**, the line-up is: *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams, *Crime and Punishment* by Marilyn Campbell and Curt Columbus, from the novel by Fyodor Dostoyevsky and *The Cure at Troy: A Version of Sophocles' Philoctetes* by Seamus Heaney. For more information, visit [www.americanplayers.org](http://www.americanplayers.org)

American Players Theatre is one of the largest outdoor festival theaters in the country, The New York Times said, "Ah, now this is what summer theater is all about." And Terry Teachout of the Wall Street Journal raved "APT fills its naturally beautiful performing space with crisply staged classics that I might call 'Broadway Quality' if I'd seen a Broadway revival lately that was half so good.

#### **World-Class Architecture**

**Taliesin** (5607 County Rd. C, Spring Green, WI) was Frank Lloyd Wright's home, workshop and architectural laboratory for 48 years (1911-1959). Nestled on the brow of a hill near Spring Green, it commands a sweeping view of the valley settled by Wright's Welsh ancestors in the mid- 1800s.

Architects, historians and architecture critics alike have praised Taliesin as a masterwork and a triumph of design. Robert Campbell, Pulitzer Prize-winning architecture critic, called it the “greatest single building in America.” The *New York Times* described it as a “stunning collage of Wright’s ideas magnificently composed.” In 1976 Taliesin was designated a National Historic Landmark, the highest honor bestowed on historic properties by the federal government.

Walk in Frank Lloyd Wright’s path and explore the beauty, serenity and historic and architectural scope of Taliesin, Wright’s home and studio. Built in 1911, Taliesin (Welsh for “Shining Brow”) was designed with three wings that included a living quarter, as well as an office and farm buildings and was used by Wright as a way to further explore his ideas for organic architecture. A variety of tours of the Taliesin Estate are available from April 28 through October 31. Reservations are recommended; call 877-588-7900 or email [tours@taliesinpreservation.org](mailto:tours@taliesinpreservation.org).

### **A House Like No Other**

One of the area’s most unique architectural marvels is **The House on the Rock** (5754 Hwy. 23, Spring Green, WI, 608-935-3639). Begun in the 1940s, the House on the Rock features an extraordinary complex of rooms, streets, buildings and gardens covering more than 200 acres. Originally built as a weekend retreat, House on the Rock is a trip through the wild and fantastic imagination of designer Alex Jordan.

Tours of the full property are available March 25 - October 30, with limited tours available year-round. More information at [www.thehouseontherock.com](http://www.thehouseontherock.com).

### **More Art**

Over 200 artists from across the country gather in downtown Spring Green to share their unique creations during the **Annual Spring Green Arts and Crafts Fair**. Held June 25 - 26, 2011, on Jefferson Street in downtown Spring Green. For more information, visit [www.springgreenartfair.com](http://www.springgreenartfair.com).

In autumn, experience the annual **Fall Art Tour**. Held October 14 -16, 2011, the Fall Art Tour is a self-guided driving tour through artists’ studios located in and around Spring Green, Baraboo, Dodgeville and Mineral Point, WI. Artist studios include those of painters, sculptors, potters, weavers, jewelers, woodworkers, mixed-media artists and more. For more information call 608-588-7509 or visit [www.fallarttour.com](http://www.fallarttour.com).

The **Wisconsin Artists Showcase** (143 S. Washington Street, Spring Green, WI, 608-588-7049) is located in a restored cheese warehouse that showcases fine arts, prints and handmade paper by Jura Silverman. Framing and art consulting services are available. Custom orders welcomed.

### **Shopping Galore**

In addition to all of life's necessities, Spring Green's shopping scene offers a host of eclectic opportunities:

Located in the South Albany Street Courtyard, **43/90 North Earth** (608-588-3313) is southwest Wisconsin's largest source for gifts that nourish the soul. Enjoy soft music and peaceful shopping while pampering yourself with the Goddess Collection of jewelry and flowing garments.

Located in a converted turn of the century schoolhouse, **No Rules Gallery** (120 S. Albany St., Spring Green, 608-588-7509) features the work of 30 artists. Here you will find contemporary and antique jewelry, handmade tiles, pottery and stained glass, handcrafted rings, pins and necklaces, as well as fine American-made jewelry, glass, pottery, tiles and more. Located in the same space, **Bird of Paradise Tea and Chocolate** offers specialty teas, tea pots and artisan chocolates.

Pamper yourself at **Panacea** (248 E. Jefferson Street, Spring Green, 608-588-2280) where you'll find luxurious bodycare products, fun kitchen accessories, tasteful gifts and decorations for the home.

A top 10 quilt shop in the USA and Canada, **The Country Sampler** (133 E. Jefferson St., Spring Green, 608-588-2510) features reproduction quilt fabrics as well as cross-stitch, folk art and period furnishings.

**Nina's Department and Variety Store** (143 East Jefferson Street, Spring Green, is an old-fashioned variety store with modern charm. There you'll find clothing, cards, gifts, toys and almost anything else you're looking for (including the most complete yarn and knitting supply stock for miles).

Also in downtown Spring Green, visit **Pamela's Fine Jewelry** (150 West Jefferson Street, Spring Green, 608-588-2134) and **The Opal Man** (137 South Winsted, Spring Green, 608-588-9317) for all your jewelry needs.

**The Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center** (Taliesin Bookstore, Highway C and 23, Spring Green, Wisc., 608-588-7900) is a unique gift store featuring books on Frank Lloyd Wright and related architects. Includes Wright design inspired clothing, jewelry, china and gifts. Open daily April - mid-December for holiday shopping.

### **Dining Delights**

No one goes hungry in Spring Green, Wisconsin! Choose from casual dining to upscale fare, all prepared with premium, quality ingredients like Angus beef and real Wisconsin cheese (of course).

**Culver's** (4919 US Hwy 14, Spring Green, 608-588-2305): The best in fast food! Enjoy freshly made Butter Burgers, dinners, salads and frozen custard treats.

**The Shed** (123 N. Lexington St., Spring Green, WI, 608-588-9049) offers comfortable, casual dining, specializing in sandwiches, homemade pizzas, soups and award-winning pie. The bar has a nice selection of wine, cocktails and tap beer.

**The Spring Green General Store** (137 S. Albany St., Spring Green, WI, 608-588-7070) features home-style ethnic cooking and gourmet groceries in a converted cheese warehouse. Serving breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday, weekend brunch and lunch. The store also specializes in women's clothing, jewelry and gifts.

**Riverview Terrace Café** (Highways C and 23, Spring Green, WI, 608-588-7937) is located in the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center and serves informal lunches in an unforgettable setting May-October. The Café also offers a year-round seasonal gourmet dinner menu.

### **Outdoor Adventure**

The area around Spring Green features a wide array of outdoor activities including championship golf links, miles of biking and hiking trails, swimming, fishing, canoeing, camping, wildlife watching and more.

#### **Golf**

Rated 4 ½ stars by *Golf Digest* magazine, the 27-hole championship course at **The House on the Rock Resort** (400 Springs Dr., Spring Green, 800-822-7774) utilizes the regions rolling hills to create a memorable and challenging course with carefully spaced tee times.

#### **Hiking**

**Governor Dodge State Park** (4175 Hwy 23 North, Dodgeville, WI, 608-935-2315), Located just 10 minutes from Spring Green, this is one of the state's largest state parks, with 5,270 scenic acres of steep hills, bluffs and deep valleys, plus two lakes and a waterfall.

**Tower Hill State Park** (5808 County Hwy. C, Spring Green, WI, 608-588-2116) features campsites, hiking trails, a canoe landing, picnic areas and a fully staffed park providing visitors with a complete natural recreation experience and a fascinating glimpse of Wisconsin history.

For those that like their recreation on the wild side, **Avoca Prairie** (located in the Avoca Unit of the Riverway, seven miles west of the Lone Rock Bridge on Hwy. 133) is the largest tallgrass prairie east of the Mississippi. The prairie plant and animal species found here are those that built the soil that made mid-America the world's breadbasket. Wisconsin's pre-settlement prairie once covered two million acres. Today a little more than 2,000 scattered acres (one-tenth of one percent) survive.

**Ferry Bluff** (located off of Highway 60, four miles southwest of Sauk City) provides a spectacular and historical view of the river and surrounding topography. To the north and east you can see the Baraboo Hills, containing some of the oldest rock in North America. On a clear day you can spot the highest point in southern Wisconsin, Blue Mound, thirteen miles to the south.

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### Canoeing

The Lower Wisconsin is a river for people who like outdoor activity at a leisurely pace. River currents range from 3 to 5 miles per hour upstream, to only 1 to 2 mph near Muscoda. Along its entire 92.3 miles there are no rapids or falls (or portages), making it ideal for recreation canoeists. Two thirds of river users are found on the 25-mile stretch between Prairie du Sac and Spring Green. A number of local places rent canoes, including **Wisconsin Riverside Resort** (S13220 Shifflet Road, Spring Green, 608-588-2826).

### Fishing

Both the main channel as well as the backwaters of the Wisconsin River support large numbers of game fish and pan fish. In the main channel there are walleye, sauger, channel and flathead catfish, smallmouth bass and northern pike, among others. In the sloughs, bayous and floodplain lakes one can fish bluegill, bullhead, crappie, largemouth bass and northern pike. Be aware of special river regulations, including size limits and protected species.

Good fishing can also be had on area streams and lakes. Hunting & Fishing supplies and licenses can be found at **Woody's** (Hwy. 14, Spring Green, WI, 608-588-2717).

### Wildlife Watching

The Riverway is home to more than 45 species of mammals and nearly 300 bird species, including 23 different waterfowl. River otters, beaver, mink, muskrat, raccoon and many other mammals thrive here, sharing the lush bottomlands with bald eagles, herons, sandhill cranes, pileated woodpeckers, woodcock and osprey. Further "inland" the quiet observer may encounter ruffed grouse, wild turkey, white-tailed deer and even an occasional badger or bobcat. The prairie remnants, in addition to presenting a brilliant three-season display of wildflowers (please do not pick), provide cover and nesting for bob-white, blue-winged teal, bobolinks and other birds.

### Biking

The country roads surrounding Spring Green offer bicycling pleasures and challenges for riders of all abilities. So pack a lunch, pick a direction and enjoy the scenery.

For bicycle touring information, visit [www.cyclesouthwestwisconsin.com](http://www.cyclesouthwestwisconsin.com).

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