

LAKE GENEVA AREA

Historic Tours

• HISTORY COMES ALIVE •

Take a step back in time with luxurious mansion tours, incredible museums, vintage train rides and local heritage in the Lake Geneva area.

LAKE GENEVA CRUISE LINE

Step aboard the Lake Geneva Cruise Line for a mail boat tour of Geneva Lake. Watch in amazement as the mail person jumps off the moving boat and delivers mail to each dock, all while you listen to a detailed history of the beautiful estates surrounding the lake.



YERKES OBSERVATORY

Home of the world's largest refracting telescope, Yerkes Observatory is a must-see. A tour of the observatory will provide a brief history of the facility, while taking you into the 90-foot dome where you can view the 40-inch refractor and its impressive 73-foot diameter elevator floor. The amazing architecture and expansive tree lined lawn provide the perfect back drop for a group catered lunch, lawn games or just a stroll to enjoy the day. Customize your visit anyway that you would like.



OLD WORLD WISCONSIN

Return to the Wisconsin of the late 19th century. Immerse yourself in the state's rich history with a spin on a replica 1890's tricycle, help with family farm chores or play old fashioned games at the school house. Stroll through heirloom gardens and relax with a meal in the Clausing Barn Cafe as your group experiences life at the outdoor living history museum.



BLACK POINT ESTATE

Black Point Estate is the only mansion on Geneva Lake that is open to the public. Once home to a famous Chicago beer baron, Black Point Estate is now a museum that will show you what life was like living on Geneva Lake in the 19th century. Individual visitors arrive by boat but groups are welcome to drive in.



GENEVA LAKE MUSEUM

The perfect companion stop to the Lake Geneva Cruise Line as well as a "don't miss" stop all on its own! Featuring 19th century era shops and businesses, brick streets, Potawatomi Indian lore, Andy Gump memorabilia, stagecoaches, historic residences, and nautical vessels, this is a stop your group won't want to miss!

BAKER HOUSE AND MAXWELL MANSION

Take in the beautiful views from the Baker House garden and front porch while learning about the incredible past of this 19th century mansion. With 13 original fireplaces, decadent furnishings, and interactive history (complete with vintage board games!), your group may never want to leave. Their sister property, the Maxwell House Mansion, is regarded as one of Lake Geneva's finest landmarks. The building predates all of the areas notable summer residences and has hosted the rich and famous for over a century. Both locations host numerous group events, such as murder mysteries, cabaret shows, private teas and lunches, as well as operating a 1920's Speakeasy.



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EAST TROY ELECTRIC RAILROAD

Board the authentic, vintage electric train at the East Troy Electric Railroad Depot. Your group will journey down the tracks for a customized tour that can include a picnic lunch, a leisurely park visit, shopping or dining at the Elegant Farmer, and lakeside views. Or book one of their lunch or dinner trains and dine on board while enjoying the scenery. They recommend you schedule a stop at their gift shop and museum to use the restrooms, stretch your legs and to learn a little about the history of the inter-city rail in Wisconsin.



STEPPINGSTONE

Built in 1875 and saved from the wrecking ball, Steppingstone has been lovingly restored as a historic family home while retaining all of the original architectural elements and charm. Located in the Maple Park National Historic District, customized group tours are offered by appointment. Included in the tour is Horticultural Hall which was built in 1911 as a location for the professional gardeners working on nearby estates to meet and discuss their work.

WALDOGS MURAL TOUR

From the comfort of your bus, a step-on guide will join you in historic Delavan for the Walldogs Mural Tour. 200 artists from across the world joined together in downtown Delavan to paint 18 murals, each depicting a unique story of Delavan's history and heritage. The artwork and craftsmanship alone is captivating, not to mention the amazing stories you'll hear about this charming little Wisconsin town.



DELANAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Delavan Historical Society Exhibit and Resource Center provides the community with a place to collect, preserve and safely keep documents and items that reflect the history of the City and Town of Delavan. Step on guides, walking tours and programs are available to make your group's experience of this one time Temperance community and Circus town, both educational and interesting.

THE WALWORTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nestled on a side street in Elkhorn, WI, the former home of Joseph Webster is a museum and a piece of musical history. Webster composed the popular hymn "In the Sweet By and By" and the American Civil War favorite, "Lorena," which was immortalized in "Gone With The Wind." Civil war artifacts and a 1850's oak beam barn housing an antique carriage round out the collection. Customized group tours and programs can be arranged by appointment to send your group back to antebellum Wisconsin.

BARN QUILT TOUR

Learn about the history of many local farms and the significance of their barn quilts during the step-on guide Barn Quilt Tour. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride as you take the tour in the comfort of your own motor coach. Customize your day with meals and shopping.

