The City of Milwaukee arose from a collection of scattered settlements on a site familiar to the Native American tribes in what is now eastern Wisconsin. Local historians attribute the name to a word derived from the Potawatomi Tribe. The Potawatomis pronounced it Mahn-ah-wauk, meaning council grounds. The first written mention of a word closely resembling Milwaukee was recorded in 1761. A British officer stationed in Green Bay, Lt. James Gorrell, transcribed the name of the area as Milwacky. A traveling companion of the French explorer LaSalle, Father Zenobe Membre, wrote in 1697 of a river called Mellioke. The first immigrants to Milwaukee were French traders and trappers. During the 1830s, settlement occurred rapidly, and in earnest. Families established themselves here, bringing the population to several hundred by 1837. That year, under a mandate from the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature to incorporate, Milwaukee and other settlements in the state became villages. A City Charter was adopted in 1846.

There’s no better way to chase away the stay-at-home blues than a getaway to Milwaukee. Two lively theater districts, a full schedule of nonstop professional sports action and a world-class lineup of museums and historical attractions really turn up the heat. And don’t miss the chance to win big at Potawatomi Bingo Casino or see Vegas-style entertainment at the Northern Lights Theater. There are more reasons than ever to visit. Get a jump on shopping and find a gift with flair in the Historic Third Ward, the Midwestern version of New York’s trendy Soho. You’ll delight in its upscale boutiques, eclectic art galleries and one-of-a-kind antique shops. New to the “ward” this year is The Milwaukee Public Market, a colorful indoor/outdoor year-round farmer’s market offering Wisconsin-grown products, world produce and specialty items. Haven’t been to Milwaukee lately? Then you haven’t been to Milwaukee.

Transportation
Airport

General Mitchell International Airport (MKE), 5300 South Howell Ave., Milwaukee, is a medium-hub airport owned and operated by Milwaukee County. Mitchell's 13 airlines offer roughly 252 daily departures (plus 252 daily arrivals). Approximately 90 cities are served nonstop or direct from Mitchell International. It is the largest airport in Wisconsin. The airport terminal is open 24 hours a day. Telephone for information: 414-747-5300. Visit online at http://www.mitchellairport.com/

Rental Cars

Most national rental companies are located at the airport. Rental car companies include Alamo, Avis, Budget, Dollar, Enterprise, Hertz, National and Thrifty.

Railroad

AMTRAK provides passenger service between most populous cities and Milwaukee. For information by telephone call: 800-USA-RAIL. Visit online at website: http://www.amtrak.com.

Automobile

Milwaukee is easily accessible by traveling the Interstate Highway system. More scenic routes might be followed by using US Highways or local roads. Weather conditions may be a factor in choosing your route.

Bus - Greyhound

Greyhound offers frequent service from Milwaukee south to Chicago, west to Madison, and north to Green Bay and beyond - to The Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Greyhound's station is in downtown Milwaukee between Michigan and Wisconsin Avenues, on the east side of James Lovell Street (the street formerly known as 7th). For information telephone: (800)231-2222. Visit online at http://www.greyhound.com.

Attractions

Potawatomi Bingo Casino

Located minutes from downtown Milwaukee, Potawatomi Bingo Casino offers high-stakes Bingo, Blackjack table games and video and reel slot machines. The 500-seat cabaret-style theater hosts some of the nation’s top performers. Dining options include an international buffet, sports bar & grill, four-star dining restaurant and snack bars. Potawatomi Bingo Casino is one of two casinos run by the Forest County Potawatomi Community. It is a popular attraction for regulars, tourists and tour groups and contributes to local charities and community organizations. Visit online at http://www.paysbig.com.
Harley-Davidson Motor Cycle Company

Harley-Davidson Motor Company was founded in Milwaukee, Wisconsin one hundred years ago, this year. Since its inception, Harley-Davidson has produced the most enduring and recognizable motorcycles in the world. No other motorcycle has the look, the sound and the feel of these two-wheeled pieces of art. The motorcycle defines Harley-Davidson, but a wide range of other products and services is available to increase the enjoyment of the experience or give newcomers a taste. A complete line of genuine motorcycle parts, accessories, apparel and general merchandise offers riders thousands of custom options for their bikes and themselves. Buell Motorcycle Company produces a line of sport and sport touring motorcycles for riders who enjoy pushing their skills to the limit.

Visit online at http://www.harley-davidson.com

Miller Brewing Company

The Miller Visitor Center’s indoor/outdoor guided walking tour takes guests through 150 years of the famous brewery’s heritage. Guests experience everything from the history of Frederick Miller’s 1855 arrival in Milwaukee, to the high-speed production lines being used today. The one-hour tour seamlessly blends the rich history of Miller with the modern age technology of today’s brewing process. The tour begins with an International Award-winning, 3-screen video providing an exciting, colorful look into Miller’s brewing history from past, present and into the future. Guests are then guided through the grounds including Packaging, Shipping, the historic Brewhouse and caves.

Last stop on this journey is to the Bavarian-style Miller Inn where guests will find a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Here, guests are rewarded with a frosty sampling of Miller’s finest. Soft drinks are also available for those who prefer them or who are under 21. Join us during the summer months when Miller’s outdoor beer garden is also open, weather permitting. Visit online at http://www.millerbrewing.com.

Ten Chimneys

Just thirty miles from Milwaukee, WI, Ten Chimneys, home of Broadway legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, is open to the public for its second season of public tours through
November 12, 2005. (Reservations were already being accepted for the 2006 season, which started on May 26th. Special pre opening tours are available to groups of 24 or more) Guests who visit Ten Chimneys are treated to one of the most inspirational house tours in the country. Almost all the estate's beguiling personal décor and collections are intact and unchanged since the Lunts first assembled them in the 1930s and '40s.

Ten Chimneys is simply overflowing with memorabilia: notes from Laurence Olivier and Carol Channing, mementos from Helen Hayes and Noël Coward, inscribed first edition books by Edna Ferber and Alexander Woollcott. For decades, this idyllic retreat inspired the country's finest actors, writers, and artists. Visit online at http://www.tenchimneys.org

Historic Third Ward

Enjoy the ambiance of this turn-of-the-century neighborhood, which boasts a high concentration of art galleries and antique shops. Visit unique specialty stores, dine at distinct restaurants or enjoy an evening at the theatre. For those who like to explore, take a historic walking tour! Located just two blocks south of downtown. Visit online at http://www.historicthirdward.org.

Pier Wisconsin

Exciting new home of Discovery World, Wisconsin's flagship the S/V Denis Sullivan and spectacular banquet and rental facilities with catering by Bartolotta's Catering and Events. Opening Spring 2006. Discovery World's 150 hands-on exhibits, live theatre shows and interactive activities equip you with everything you need to embrace tomorrow’s opportunities with a combination of science, technology, entrepreneurship, and FUN! Visit online at http://www.pierwisconsin.org

Other Attractions:

Artasia Gallery & Museum
Capt Frederick Pabst Mansion
Milwaukee County Zoo
Milwaukee Repertory Theater
Mitchell Gallery of Flight
US Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois

Basilica of St. Josaphat
Lakefront Brewery
Milwaukee Public Museum
Milwaukee Theatre
Museum of Beer & Brewing