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Madison, Wisconsin

Have a sporting good time in these two Big Ten towns—long after football season ends.

By Nancy Gores
March/April 2006

Capitol, Squared

Madison's **Capitol** dome sits between lakes Monona and Mendota. Inside, its French- and Italian-marbled walls frame lavish murals and glass mosaics. (Call 608/266-0382 for tour information.) Former Gov. Lee Dreyfus described the city as "70 square miles surrounded by reality," and *Outside Magazine* named it a "New American Dream Town."

Game Time



Tee off on a world-class golf course at **University Ridge**, designed by award-winning architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. (608/845-7700; www.universityridge.com). Later, bike around the lakes or pedal through the verdant serenity found at the **UW Arboretum**. For a trail map and some hot wheels, head to rental shop **Machinery Row Bicycles** (608/442-5974; www.machineryrowbicycles.com).

Flavor Savor



Stroll down pedestrian-friendly State Street to the historic **Wisconsin Union** (www.union.wisc.edu), your best bet to soak up local flavor. Channel a '60s bohemian vibe on the East Side's Williamson Street at **The Weary Traveler** (1201 Williamson St.; 608/442-6207).

Fair Play



The Orpheum Theatre (216 State St.; 608/255-8755; www.orpheumtheatre.net) is a historic cinematic treasure. Catch a movie and the best fish fry in town under one roof! Crave tradition? Stop by **The Overture Center** (201 State St.; 608/258-4177), a beacon of the downtown cultural arts district, host to national plays, ballets and concerts.

Luxury Box



The Mansion Hill Inn delivers upscale pampering in a secluded setting, just steps from downtown (424 N. Pinckney St.; 608/255-3999; www.mansionhillinn.com; standard doubles, \$165–\$285). Or settle into a room with a lake view at the campus-capitol area **Edgewater Hotel** (666 Wisconsin Ave.; 608/256-9071; www.theedgewater.com; standard doubles, \$129).

Taste Victory



Forget milk. Sip the state drink of Wisconsin, a Brandy Old Fashioned, at the wildly popular (and aptly named) traditional supper club **The Old Fashioned** (23 N. Pinckney St.; 608/310-4545). Try Turkish and Mediterranean delights at local favorite **Husnu's** (547 State St.; 608/256-0900).

Getting There

Daily nonstop flights to Madison, Wis., from Reagan National on Northwest Airlines.

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