



For more information:
Sara Brish, Central Wisconsin Tourism Association
sara@stevenspointarea.com
CentralWisconsin.org | 715-344-2556

Historical and Cultural Tour

Visit historic homes, check out arts exhibits or catch a live performance in a historically and culturally rich region. Interested in a trip to a planetarium or living history site? Opportunities abound in the Central Wisconsin region. Outdoor art installations, quaint bed and breakfasts, endless art galleries and cultural museums are also scattered throughout Wood and Portage Counties.

Feel free to mix and match attractions to suit the needs of your group. The Central Wisconsin Tourism Association will be happy to help assemble an itinerary based on the interests and allotted time

Day One Options

Upham Mansion, the restored home of Wisconsin Governor William Upham, encompasses mid-Victorian architecture and includes furniture original to the former Governor's Marshfield establishment. Just outside, enjoy the **Heritage Rose Garden** which features over 30 varieties of roses. Tours last one hour and reservations are required.

Marshfield plays host to the **World's Largest Round Barn**. Constructed in 1916, the 70 foot high barn is located at the Central Wisconsin State Fair Park. Take a half-hour tour of this unique large cattle showing arena with no supporting beams. Reservations required.

For gallery experiences in Marshfield, **New Visions** within Marshfield Clinic includes national traveling exhibitions. **Chestnut Center for the Arts** is a venue for performing arts, visual arts and literary arts housed in a historic church building. The **LuCille Tack Center for the Arts** has been a staple to the Spencer community for nearly 20 years with a focus on entertainment, culture and education. Within the **Marshfield Center for History**, the **Lest We Forget Military Museum** highlights exhibits from the Civil War to Afghanistan. For all listed galleries, the tour length and hours of operation vary.

Walk through an outdoor park with flair. At **Jurustic Park** in Marshfield, view mythical swamp creatures made of metal that replicate animals said to have existed near McMillan Wildlife Marsh millions of years ago. In addition to seeing oversized flying dragons, plants and more, visit the **on-site studio** of sculpture creator Nancy Wynia. Tours are one-half hour to one hour and reservations are required.

Laird House in Marshfield is listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior, and is associated with the **Laird Foundation for Historic Preservation**. Reservations are required and tour options vary.

Point Basse in Wisconsin Rapids is a living history site dating back to the 1850s. It features the Wakely house, blacksmith, a trading post and more. Open June through October or by appointment.

The **Wisconsin River Paper Making Museum**, housed in an early 1900s mansion, showcases the history over 100 years of papermaking in the Wisconsin River Valley. Open Tuesdays and Thursdays or by appointment. Plan a stop at the **South Wood County Historical Museum** to view works from Disney animator Grim Natwick including Betty Boop, Mr. Magoo, Snow White and others. Tours offered by appointment.

Day Two Options

In Port Edwards, the **Alexander House** is a center for art and history. In addition to rotating art displays, this restored colonial-era home features a historical museum that highlights local lumbering and papermaking exhibits. Tours offered by appointment.

Central Wisconsin Cultural Center is a hub for visual, literary and lyrical arts. Highlights include an open pottery studio, music jam sessions and arts classes. Hours of operation vary. Tours offered by appointment.

Catch a live performance presented by the **Wisconsin Rapids Arts Council** at the **Performing Arts Center**. Or enjoy a show by the **Wisconsin Rapids Community Theatre** at the **Gilbert & Jaylee Mead Auditorium**. Performance schedule varies.

At the **Stevens Point Sculpture Park**, leisurely stroll on 20-acres past towering pines, along a stream and through wetlands to discover the unique connection between nature and art. Next, view **downtown Stevens Point murals** such as *Riverman* or *Market Day* which illustrate the rich history of the Stevens Point area.

Herrschners, the largest mail order craft catalog in the world, is headquartered in Stevens Point. Filling millions of orders each year for needlecraft items, rug kits and Christmas cards, their facility includes a preparation and packaging area, shipping and an outlet store. Tours are available Monday through Friday and last 15-30 minutes.

Built in 1905, the Portage County Historical Society site **Beth Israel Synagogue** acts as a museum of Jewish heritage and display hall. Tours offered June through September on Saturdays. View a reconstructed historical village of buildings from the early days of Portage County at **Heritage Park**, managed by the **Portage County Historical Society**. Heritage Park is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day on the weekends.

Stevens Point based art galleries, including **Riverfront Arts Center**, **Gallery Q, Koerten**, and **Scarabocchio Art Museum** feature eclectic artistic creations. Year-round hours of operation and length of tours varies.

The **Stevens Point Brewery** combines their historic past and art of brewing in a 30 minute guided tour. Walk through one of the oldest continuously operating breweries in the nation and enjoy sampling their newest brews afterward. Hours of operation and tour offerings vary seasonally. There are a total of four **breweries**, two **wineries** and one **distillery** in the Stevens Point area. Tours are available at each location; hours of operation vary.

For group dining and lodging options, and to finalize your itinerary, contact a group tour specialist at the Central Wisconsin Tourism Association, 715-344-2556.