



Conference Tour Schedule, Monday, September 12, 2011

Tour #1 – Leave Stoney Creek at 12:30 pm

Leave Stoney Creek Inn via bus to the LaCrosse Queen. Enjoy a narration on the scenic boat cruise which talks about the river, and a brief history of LaCrosse as it pertains to the river and will explain facts and trivia of the present day river along with points of interest. Watch for eagles and other wildlife as we cruise along. Lower deck enclosed. Has an upper deck for observation. When we depart the boat, we will board the bus for the next stop at **Pleasuring Gourmet Seasoning Factory Outlet**. You will learn different ways to season your cuisine for a healthier life style. *We will return to Stoney Creek at approximately 4:45 pm.*

Tour #2 – Leave Stoney Creek at 12:30 PM

We will begin a memorable day with a city tour. Sit back and relax as your step on guide introduces you to the history of LaCrosse from its beginning as a fur trading post. The tour includes a stop atop **Grandad's Bluff**, which gives you a panoramic view of LaCrosse and the Upper Mississippi Valley. We board the bus – then on to a stop at the **Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe**. You will have time to enjoy some of the many meditation paths. A one-half hour optional video presentation is available (tells about the history of Guadalupe) and a gift shop. Our last stop will be at **Nelson's Flag Display**. An unbelievable selection of flags, gifts, accessories and decorations will be found here. The quilt shop in back also offers a range of materials, patterns, and displays. *We will return to Stoney Creek at approximately 4:30 pm.*

Tour #3 – Leave Stoney Creek at 12:00 PM

Down a Country Road Amish Gift Shop tour of customs, history – stops to see quilts, bakery, and woodworking. This is one of the largest Amish settlements in the State. There are three unique gift shops with products from local artisans. Our bus then moves on to **Old Country Cheese (Amish Cheese Factory)**. The factory is located in the heart of Amish country. They make cheese, Wisconsin cheese boxes, and have a gift shop that offers Amish crafts, candy and maple syrup. *We will return to Stoney Creek at approximately 5:00 pm.*



Tour #4 – Leave Stoney Creek at 12:00 PM

Nature and Heritage Center – Norskedalen (which means the Norwegian Valley) is a nature and heritage center dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and sharing the natural environment and cultural heritage of the surrounding area. You will tour **Beklum Homestead** – an original settler's log home. You can learn how to carve wood, experience rosemaling or make Norwegian flat bread. From here we will stop in Westby for a little shopping at **Dregne's Scandinavian Gifts**, the area's most exclusive gift shop, with a 25-year tradition of providing distinctive giftware for all ages. And of course time for a dessert stop at **Borgen's Café**. *We will return to Stoney Creek at approximately 5 pm.*

Other Tours Available:

Bike Trails: Great River State Trail (maps available). This 24-mile trail travels prairies and backwaters of the upper Mississippi River Valley. Built on an abandoned Chicago-Northwestern railroad line, the trail has a finely crushed limestone surface. The trail passes through the river community of Onalaska and is part of the Driftless area that was untouched by glaciers during the Ice Age. You will enjoy the changing wetlands of the Mississippi backwaters, 500 foot bluffs, hardwood forests, unique sand prairies and oak savannahs. A state trail pass which must be purchased ahead of time is required – this can be obtained from designated vendors listed on a sheet in your welcome packet.

Walking Tours:

- 1. Riverside Park, River Levee and Riverwalk:** Riverside Park is located on the confluence of three rivers: Mississippi, LaCrosse and Black. View the paddle wheelers on the historic levee and enjoy a walk on the Riverwalk. At the park, stroll through the International Friendship Gardens.
- 2. Myrick Hixon Ecopark and Hixon Forest.** Off Highway 16 just north of LaCrosse Street and Losey Boulevard in LaCrosse. Interactive exhibits the whole family can enjoy, wooded bluffs, with 13 miles of free hiking. The park has two shelters, a wading pool, a zoo, and Kids Coulee.
- 3. Walking tour of the LaCrosse Downtown Historic District.** Self-guided walking tour. A tour map will be in your registration packet which includes historic descriptions of 20 buildings in the District.