

door county dining guide 2022

Door County Dining Guide 2022

Door County, Wisconsin, is known for its stunning landscapes, charming small towns, and vibrant arts scene. Among these attractions, the culinary offerings of the region stand out. Whether you're in the mood for fresh seafood, farm-to-table dining, or a cozy café experience, Door County has something to please every palate. This comprehensive dining guide will help you navigate the rich variety of restaurants, cafés, and eateries that this beautiful area has to offer in 2022.

Exploring Door County's Culinary Landscape

Door County offers a unique blend of flavors influenced by its natural surroundings. From seasonal ingredients sourced from local farms to dishes inspired by the region's maritime heritage, dining here is an experience that goes beyond just food. The following sections will break down the must-visit places based on various dining styles and preferences.

Seafood and Waterfront Dining

Being a peninsula bordered by Lake Michigan and Green Bay, Door County is renowned for its seafood. Here are some top spots to enjoy fresh catches and waterfront views:

1. The Old Post Office Restaurant (Ephraim)
 - Features a menu filled with locally sourced fish and seafood.
 - Known for its picturesque waterfront views and charming atmosphere.
 - Signature dish: Door County whitefish, grilled and served with seasonal vegetables.
2. Fish Creek Grill (Fish Creek)
 - A casual spot that specializes in fish fry and burgers.
 - Offers outdoor seating with lovely views of the surrounding area.
 - Try their famous Friday night fish fry, a local favorite.
3. The Crab Shack (Sister Bay)
 - A laid-back eatery famous for its crab dishes and relaxed vibe.
 - Enjoy seafood in a picnic-style setting.
 - Don't miss their crab cakes and clam chowder.

Farm-to-Table Restaurants

The farm-to-table movement is alive and thriving in Door County, with several eateries committed to sourcing local ingredients. Here are some noteworthy options:

1. The Cookery (Fish Creek)
 - Emphasizes local produce and ingredients in their menu.
 - Offers a cozy atmosphere with both indoor and outdoor seating.

- Must-try: The seasonal salads featuring fresh greens and local herbs.
2. Wild Tomato (Fish Creek and Sister Bay)
 - Known for its wood-fired pizzas made with local toppings.
 - A fun, family-friendly ambiance with a strong focus on sustainability.
 - Their "local veggie" pizza is a crowd favorite.
 3. Harvest (Egg Harbor)
 - A farm-to-table restaurant that prides itself on seasonal offerings.
 - The menu changes frequently to reflect the best available ingredients.
 - Be sure to try their daily specials which highlight local farms.

The Sweet Side of Door County

No visit to Door County is complete without indulging in some sweet treats. From bakeries to ice cream shops, the area boasts an array of delightful options.

Bakeries and Cafés

1. The Door County Bakery (Egg Harbor)
 - Famous for its artisanal breads and pastries made from scratch.
 - Offers a cozy spot to enjoy coffee and a pastry in the morning.
 - Don't miss the cinnamon rolls and sourdough bread.
2. Sweetie Pies (Fish Creek)
 - A charming bakery known for its pies and desserts.
 - Features a variety of sweet and savory pies using local fruits.
 - The cherry pie is a must-try, showcasing Door County's famous cherries.
3. Wilson's Restaurant & Ice Cream Parlor (Ephraim)
 - A historic ice cream parlor serving homemade ice cream since 1906.
 - Offers a nostalgic experience with a wide range of flavors.
 - Try their signature soda fountain treats or a classic sundae.

Local Wineries and Breweries

Door County is also home to several wineries and breweries that offer tastings and pairings with local cuisine.

1. Door Peninsula Winery (Carlsville)
 - Offers a wide selection of wines, including fruit wines and traditional varietals.
 - Enjoy tastings in a beautiful setting with outdoor seating.
 - Consider pairing wine tastings with local cheeses for a delightful experience.
2. Bridge Up Brewing Co. (Ellison Bay)
 - A microbrewery focusing on craft beers with local ingredients.
 - Features a rotating selection of beers on tap.
 - Enjoy a flight of beers paired with local snacks from nearby vendors.
3. Cider House (Fish Creek)

- Specializes in hard ciders made from locally grown apples.
- Offers tastings, tours, and a relaxed outdoor setting.
- Perfect for cider lovers looking to explore unique flavors.

Dining with a View

For those who appreciate a stunning backdrop while dining, Door County offers numerous restaurants with breathtaking views. Here are some highlights:

1. The Shoreline Restaurant (Sister Bay)
 - Offers picturesque views of the bay and sunset dining.
 - Features a menu with a mix of American and seafood dishes.
 - Signature dish: The Shoreline seafood platter.
2. Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant (Sister Bay)
 - Famous for its Swedish pancakes and goats on the roof.
 - A unique dining experience with traditional Swedish dishes.
 - Enjoy a hearty breakfast while taking in the charming surroundings.
3. Top Deck Restaurant (Sister Bay)
 - Located on the waterfront, perfect for casual dining with a view.
 - Offers a variety of burgers, seafood, and salads.
 - Try their lobster roll for a delightful seafood experience.

Family-Friendly Dining Options

Traveling with kids? Door County has plenty of family-friendly options that cater to younger diners without compromising on quality.

1. The White Gull Inn (Fish Creek)
 - Known for its family-friendly atmosphere and hearty breakfasts.
 - Offers a range of options for kids, including pancakes and sandwiches.
 - The breakfast menu features a famous Door County cherry stuffed French toast.
2. Pizza Bros (Sister Bay)
 - A casual pizza joint with a fun atmosphere for families.
 - Offers a variety of pizzas, salads, and sides that appeal to all ages.
 - The build-your-own pizza option is a hit with kids.
3. Dairy Queen (Various Locations)
 - While a chain, it's a classic stop for families craving ice cream.
 - Offers a wide range of ice cream treats, burgers, and fries.
 - Perfect for a quick meal or a sweet treat after a day of exploring.

Final Thoughts

Door County's dining scene in 2022 is a delightful reflection of its natural beauty and rich agricultural heritage. With an array of restaurants, cafés, and eateries offering everything from fresh seafood to homemade pastries, there's something to satisfy every craving. Whether you're dining with family, enjoying a romantic evening, or just in need of a quick bite, Door

County has you covered with its diverse culinary landscape. Make sure to explore these options and savor the unique flavors that this beautiful peninsula has to offer.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some must-try restaurants in Door County for 2022?

Some must-try restaurants in Door County for 2022 include The White Gull Inn for breakfast, Wild Tomato for pizza, and The Fish Shack for fresh seafood.

Are there any vegan or vegetarian-friendly dining options in Door County?

Yes, several restaurants offer vegan and vegetarian options, including The Green Owl Cafe and Door County Creamery, which focuses on farm-to-table ingredients.

What is the best time of year to visit Door County for dining experiences?

The best time to visit Door County for dining experiences is during the summer months when many restaurants offer outdoor seating and seasonal menus featuring fresh local ingredients.

What are some popular local dishes to try in Door County?

Popular local dishes to try in Door County include cherry pie, whitefish, and various farm-fresh salads, as the area is known for its fruit orchards and fishing.

Are there any dining spots with waterfront views in Door County?

Yes, many dining spots in Door County offer waterfront views, such as The Boathouse on Sister Bay and The Shoreline Restaurant at the Landmark Resort.

Where can I find a good breakfast spot in Door County?

A great breakfast spot in Door County is The White Gull Inn, renowned for its award-winning cherry-stuffed French toast and cozy atmosphere.

What dining options are available for families in Door County?

Family-friendly dining options in Door County include The Pizza Joint for casual pizza, and Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant, which offers a unique

dining experience with goats on the roof.

Are there any food festivals in Door County in 2022?

Yes, the Door County Wine Fest and the Door County Beer Festival are popular events in 2022, showcasing local wineries and breweries along with food pairings.

Is it necessary to make reservations at restaurants in Door County during peak season?

Yes, it is highly recommended to make reservations at popular restaurants during peak season (summer) to ensure you have a table, as many places can get quite busy.

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