



## YOUR STORY STARTS HERE

**S**toughton's story starts with Norwegian heritage, but we've grown to include so much more. Explore boutique shopping, locally owned restaurants, and the Stoughton Opera House, known for its sublime acoustics. Come visit our new Norwegian Heritage Center, shop, have a bite to eat, and stay for an evening performance. Let us help you plan your next visit!

Stoughton is located within easy driving distance from Chicago and Milwaukee, and just minutes from Madison.

## VISIT STOUGHTON

### DRIVING DISTANCE IN MILES

Madison	19	Eau Claire	190
Milwaukee	81	Springfield	249
Dubuque	99	St. Paul	272
Chicago	132	Minneapolis	281
Green Bay	149	Des Moines	301
Wausau	155	Indianapolis	317



## LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

### STOUGHTON HS NORWEGIAN DANCERS



Stoughton's Goodwill Ambassadors, these high school students perform folk dances in authentic Norwegian Bunads.

### LAKE KEGONSA STATE PARK



Breathe in the scenery at Lake Kegonsa State Park while you hike, swim, fish, camp, and picnic in the great outdoors.

### STOUGHTON VETERANS MEMORIAL



Dedicated to those who serve, the Stoughton Memorial displays the names of over 5,500 Stoughton veterans.

## ADDITIONAL ATTRACTIONS

### STOUGHTON OPERA HOUSE



Enjoy an intimate experience in this historic venue with more than 100 various acts each year!

### LIVSREISE NORWEGIAN HERITAGE CENTER



Map your own journey from Norway or learn about those who have made the trek before.

### RESTAURANTS, BARS & PUBS



Discover dining by way of bakeries and brew pubs from dockside to downtown!

### DOWNTOWN BOUTIQUE SHOPPING



Antiques and uniques for home and heart and gourmet goods, like cheese so fresh it squeaks!

## NEARBY THINGS TO SEE & DO

With state treasures around every corner, Stoughton is a great place to settle in and explore the surroundings.

- Dane County Farmers Market  
Madison • 19mi
- Overture Center for the Arts  
Madison • 19mi
- Wisconsin State Capitol  
Madison • 19mi
- New Glarus Brewing Company  
New Glarus • 30mi
- Wollersheim Winery  
Sauk City • 45mi
- Fireside Dinner Theater  
Fort Atkinson • 23mi
- Rotary Gardens  
Janesville 27 mi
- Koshkonong Prairie Historical Society  
Cambridge 16 mi

## OUR SERVICES

Dedicated to exceptional service, Stoughton's visitor services will help you plan the perfect trip for your guests.

- Site and local attraction selection
- Group tour planning
- Themed or tailored itineraries  
(sample below)
- Lodging and food
- Free motor coach parking
- Brochures and maps
- Step on guides for a rich, tour experience

## SAMPLE ITINERARY NORWEGIAN HERITAGE TOUR

### STEP ON TOUR • 45M

\$1.00 per person donation  
Learn the story of Stoughton's early

Norwegian settlers on a guided tour led by an expert historian.

### NORWEGIAN HERITAGE CENTER, LIVSREISE • 1HR 15M

\$2.00 per person  
Experience the story of Norwegian immigration to Wisconsin with interactive

technology, enjoy special art and artifact exhibits, and use the genealogy research room.

### NORWEGIAN LUNCHEON & CRAFT DEMONSTRATIONS

• 1HR 15M

\$15.00+ per person  
Craft Demonstrations are \$25.00  
Enjoy an authentic Norwegian lunch at the Sons of Norway Lodge and watch demonstrations on topics like rosemåling,

Hardanger embroidery, Hardanger fiddles, acanthus carving, and more.

### STOUGHTON OPERA HOUSE • 45M

Tour our one-of-a-kind Opera House, restored to its original 1901 grandeur, known for its sublime acoustics and

early 20th Century aesthetic. The Opera House hosts musical and theatrical performances throughout the season.

### BOUTIQUE SHOPPING DOWNTOWN • 1HR 30M

Visit locally owned boutiques and galleries located in charming historic buildings dating from

the 1880's. You'll find crafters and artisans who sell art, antiques, gifts, jewelry, and more.

# COME FOR THE TOUR

## STAY FOR THE EXPERIENCE



### PLACES TO STAY

Stoughton offers a variety of comfortable hotels, welcoming bed and breakfasts, and campgrounds.

- **DAYS INN**  
1124 W Main St, Stoughton. . . . .608-873-0330
- **NAESET-ROE BED & BREAKFAST**  
126 E Washington St, Stoughton . . .608-877-4150
- **QUALITY INN & SUITES**  
660 Nygaard St, Stoughton . . . . .608-877-9000
- **TRU BY HILTON**  
2500 Jackson St, Stoughton . . . . .608-205-2566
- **RIVERVIEW #2, AIR BNB**  
Downtown Stoughton . . . . .airbnb.com
- **BEES ON MAIN: AIR BNB**  
Downtown Stoughton . . . . .airbnb.com
- **COACHMAN'S GOLF RESORTS**  
984 Cty Trunk A, Edgerton . . . . .608-884-8484
- **LAKE KEGONSA STATE PARK**  
2405 Door Creek Rd, Stoughton . . .608-873-9695

### NEARBY THINGS TO SEE & DO

With state treasures around every corner, Stoughton is a great place to settle in and explore the surroundings.

- **DANE COUNTY FARMERS MARKET**  
Madison • 19mi
- **NORWEGIAN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL CENTER & NAESETH LIBRARY**  
Madison • 19mi
- **OVERTURE CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
Madison • 19mi
- **WISCONSIN STATE CAPITOL**  
Madison • 19mi
- **FIRESIDE DINNER THEATER**  
Fort Atkinson • 23mi

### STOUGHTON FESTIVALS

- **SYTTENDE MAI FESTIVAL**  
mid-May
- **STOUGHTON FAIR & CATFISH RIVER MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
Fourth of July weekend
- **COFFEE BREAK FESTIVAL**  
mid-August
- **DESTINATION STOUGHTON WEEKEND**  
2nd weekend in February and  
Last weekend in October

## LIVSREISE LIFE'S JOURNEY

Livsreise (lifs-rye-sa) translates to “Life’s Journey.” It is a generational journey, encompassing not only the physical journey Norwegian emigrants traveled, but also the continued journey as generations embrace their Norwegian Heritage here in Stoughton, Wisconsin and across the nation. The Livsreise logo is inspired by the åttebladrose, or eight petal rose, commonly found in Norwegian textiles.



In 2011, members of the Edwin E. and Janet L. Bryant Foundation, Inc. board of trustees conceived of the idea of a Norwegian Heritage Center whose purpose was to create a meaningful experience for Stoughton, WI residents and others to learn of Norwegian Cultural Heritage—Livsreise was born. The charitable foundation’s founder: Janet L. Bryant (widow of Edwin Bryant—one of the founders of Nelson Muffler Corporation and supporter of the Stoughton Community) formed the foundation to honor Edwin and his lifelong giving to Stoughton. The Mission of Livsreise is to create an experience that allows visitors to explore Stoughton’s Norwegian identity and relate this to the culture that Stoughton and the surrounding area have long embraced.

Livsreise includes interpretations of the journey from Norway, features the cultural heritage brought to Stoughton and shares stories of individual immigrants. Also featured are changing exhibits and displays highlighting Norwegian heritage and arts organizations including the Vesterheim National Norwegian American Museum. Additionally, Livsreise is home to a genealogy center that operates in cooperation with Norwegian American Genealogical Center/Naeseth Library and a 68-seat auditorium.



## SONS OF NORWAY MANDT LODGE

Mandt Lodge, organized in 1926, has received numerous visitors from Norway, including both political and royal dignitaries, as well as a host of performers and authors. Norwegian Ambassador to the United State Soren Sommerfelt visited the lodge as part of his trip to Wisconsin and said: “I have come to Stoughton to get some true Norwegian food.” Norwegian Princess Marta Louise was a luncheon guest of the Lodge when she came to Stoughton as part of her book tour in 2006.

Mandt Lodge has been awarded District Lodge of the Year several times, District Family Lodge of the Year, and International Lodge of the Year. It is the only lodge in District 5 that still owns its own building. The lodge has over 230 members and offers a wide variety of activities for members, the community and visitors. Annual events include fish boils, Syttende Mai meals and bake sales, family Christmas event, monthly bingo games, bus trips for members and guests, 3rd grade cultural event, julebukking, hosting bus tours, cultural classes, hosting kubb tournaments, bowling events, monthly cultural programs, organizing the Stoughton Norwegian Summit group and Destination Weekends, and offering baking classes. Visit the lodge Facebook page at [Sons of Norway Stoughton WI](#) for more information.



# LIVSREISE Adult Group Request

Please complete and email to [marg@norwegianheritagecenter.org](mailto:marg@norwegianheritagecenter.org) **OR**

Mail to: M Listug, c/o Livsreise. 277 W. Main St., Stoughton Wi 53589

Group information	
Group Name	
Arrival Date	
Arrival Time	
Departure Time	
Group Leader Name	
E-mail	
Phone	Land line: ( ) _____ Cell: ( ) _____
Group size	
Contact address:	
Mode of transportation?	By car _____ By motorcoach _____
Age range of group?	
Any wheelchairs, canes, or walkers?	If so How many?
<b>I understand that the group leader must accompany the group. Due to the size of our staff, we are unable to provide personal assistance.</b>	<b>SIGNED:</b> _____
Suggested donation \$2.00 per person	
Does your group have any other special considerations or requests?	
I need information about restaurants, attractions and other things to do in Stoughton.	
For Livsreise use only in the below section	
Confirmed by Staff member	Name: _____
Confirmed on:	Date _____
Waiting for final information?	Yes _____ No _____
Received final CF on _____	By _____

# LIVSREISE Senior Group Request

Please complete and email to [marg@norwegianheritagecenter.org](mailto:marg@norwegianheritagecenter.org) **OR**

Mail to: M Listug, c/o Livsreise. 277 W. Main St., Stoughton WI 53589

Group information	
Group Name	
Arrival Date	
Arrival Time	
Departure Time	
Group Leader Name	
E-mail	
Phone	Land line: ( ) _____ Cell: ( ) _____
Contact address:	
Group size (Include chaperones)	
Mode of transportation?	By car _____ By motor coach _____
Age range of group?	
Any wheelchairs, canes, or walkers?	If so How many?
I understand that I must provide a group leader that accompanies the group. Groups with special needs, including mobility assistance, must provide their own caregivers. Livsreise staff members or volunteers cannot assist as caregivers. I agree to abide by this requirement.	SIGNED: _____
A \$2.00 per person donation is suggested.	
Does your group have any other special considerations or requests?	
Anything else that we need to know?	
For Livsreise use only in the below section	
Confirmed by Staff member	Name: _____
Confirmed on:	Date _____
Waiting for final information?	Yes _____ No _____
Received final CF on _____	By _____

08/16/2023 ML

Dropbox/Livsreise/Livsreise Forms

# LIVSREISE Student/Youth Group Request

Please complete and email to [marg@norwegianheritagecenter.org](mailto:marg@norwegianheritagecenter.org) **OR**

Mail to: M Listug, c/o Livsreise. 277 W. Main St., Stoughton Wi 53589

Group information	
Group/School Name	
Arrival date and time and departure time	
E-mail	
Phone	Land line: ( ) _____ Cell: ( ) _____
Group Leader Name and Contact Address:	
Livsreise will provide volunteers to enhance your educational visit but neither the volunteers or the staff are chaperones for the students. Please provide 2 chaperones in addition to the teacher for each classroom.	A short 15-minute video will be shown in the Livsreise auditorium during the visit and a handout for teachers to use when back in the classroom will be given to you.
Mode of transportation?	By car _____ By Bus _____
Visiting other destinations in the area?	
Grade Level or Age range of group?	
Do any students have special needs? <b>If you have a student requiring special needs including mobility assistance, Livsreise staff or volunteers cannot act as an assistant. I agree to abide by this requirement.</b>	<b>SIGNED</b> _____
Focus of your visit:	
Do you have any other special considerations or requests?	
For Livsreise use only in the below section	
Confirmed by Staff member	Name: _____
Confirmed on:	Date _____
Waiting for final information?	Yes _____ No _____
Received final CF on _____	By _____

**Sons of Norway – Mandt Lodge**  
**Bus-Group Tour Reservation Form- Updated June 1, 2022**

Date \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
Day of week                      Month                      Date                      Year

\_\_\_\_\_ # of people in the group that will be eating including the bus driver (bus driver and one escort are free)

What time will they arrive at the lodge? \_\_\_\_\_ Time they will be in the building \_\_\_\_\_

Organizer of group: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Name of group and from where? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a contact for someone on the bus? Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are they coming by \_\_\_\_\_ bus or \_\_\_\_\_ driving by cars?

Did they indicate that there are any handicapped visitors (i.e. wheel chair, walker)? \_\_\_\_\_

Any food allergies? \_\_\_\_\_

**Meal Options- You can only choose one option- everyone gets the same meal!**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Option 1- Full meal -Meatballs**                      \$20 per plate  
Meatballs, potatoes, hot vegetable, cucumber salad, bread item, milk, coffee or water.  
Norwegian dessert.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Option 2- Full meal - Fish**                      \$20 per plate  
Baked cod, potatoes, hot vegetable, cucumber salad, bread item, milk, coffee or water.  
Norwegian dessert.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Option 3- Dessert, beverage**                      \$10 per plate

\_\_\_\_\_ **Option 4- Soup and Sandwich**                      \$15 per plate  
Depending on the season, a lighter meal of soup, sandwich, milk, coffee, water and a  
Norwegian dessert.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Option 5- Soup and Salad**                      \$15 per plate  
Depending on the season, a lighter meal of soup, salad, milk, coffee, water and a  
Norwegian dessert.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Demonstration request- \$25 fee-** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:** Darlene Arneson, 2056 Skaalen Rd, Stoughton, WI 53589. **Checks to:** SN Mandt Lodge  
**Enclose a \$100 deposit when you return this form!**

**Lodge use:** Deposit received: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_. Final payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

**Sons of Norway – Mandt Lodge**  
317 South Page Street, Stoughton, WI 53589  
2022 Bus-Group Tour Meal Information

**Meal Options- Only one option can be chosen! We cannot do a variety of options for one group.**

- Option 1-** Full meal -Meatballs \$20 per plate  
Meatballs, potatoes, hot vegetable, cucumber salad, bread item, milk, coffee or water.  
Norwegian dessert.
- Option 2-** Full meal - Fish \$20 per plate  
Baked cod, potatoes, hot vegetable, cucumber salad, bread item, milk, coffee or water.  
Norwegian dessert.
- Option 3-** Dessert, beverage \$10 per plate
- Option 4-** Soup and Sandwich \$15 per plate  
Depending on the season, a lighter meal of soup, sandwich, milk, coffee, water and a  
Norwegian dessert.
- Option 5-** Soup and Salad \$15 per plate  
Depending on the season, a lighter meal of soup, salad, milk, coffee, water and a  
Norwegian dessert.

**Food allergies-** If the group leader identifies the participants allergies, we will do our best to substitute menu items but please note, we are all volunteers and do not have restaurant or medical expertise.

**Cultural demonstrations: \$25 fee**

Demonstrations will be given by Sons of Norway volunteers will scheduled on member's availability for that date. The lodge will try to honor the group's first choices but may need to substitute with available volunteers. Demonstrations would last 15- 30 minutes. Possible topics could include: Rosemaling, Hardanger, Genealogy and immigration, Lefse, Norwegian cookies, Bunads, and Stoughton History

**Other items:**

- Minimum number of people: 20.
- Meal price includes tax and tip.
- Bus parking, entry details and other information will be sent to the tour coordinator the week before.
- Cancellations: If a tour cancels within five days of the event and food has been purchased, the tour is responsible for the cost of foods bought.
- Enclose a \$100 deposit when you return the reservation form.
- The lodge is handicapped accessible with a lift.
- We do not have a parking lot but can put out "No Parking cones" for the bus to park in front of the lodge.
- Contact Person: Darlene Arneson, President, 2056 Skaalen Rd., Stoughton, WI 53589. Home-arnesonfamily5@gmail.com and 608-873-7209. Cell – 608-514-4951.

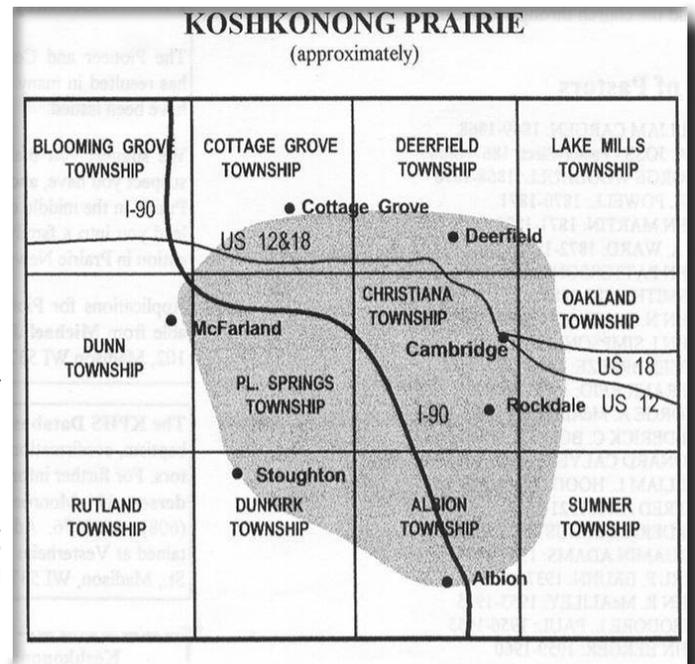
## KOSHKONONG PRAIRIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY TOURS

Bus tour (with or without disembarking) of Koshkonong Prairie. Stops can include:

- WEST KOSHKONONG CHURCH
- EAST KOSHKONONG CHURCH
- ST. PAUL'S LIBERTY CHURCH
- REQUE HOUSE
- AMUND ANDERSON FARM
- NOTSTAD BARN
- BERGE LOG CABIN

### WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC ROCKDALE

Rockdale was founded in 1836 as the Village of Clinton. Yankee pioneer settlers built a mill and dam in 1847 and a bustling community grew around it. The founders hoped it would be the state capital, and when that plan fell through it became a thriving small community heavily populated by Norwegian immigrants. The name was eventually changed to Rockdale to avoid being confused with a town near Janesville of the same name.



### MUSEUM TOUR OF 1906 CAMBRIDGE HISTORIC SCHOOL

The Cambridge Historic School Museum contains a variety of exhibits describing the history of the Cambridge area. See exhibits featuring Veterans, agriculture, education, Lake Ripley, and Matt Kenseth. The museum holds collections of photos, vintage clothing, tools, furniture, and a remarkable collection of Evinrude Motors.



East Koshkonong Church, Cambridge

## STOUGHTON OPERA HOUSE

### SOUTHERN WISCONSIN'S MOST CHARMING THEATRE

Originally called the City Auditorium, the theatre first opened in 1901. For over 50 years, it hosted cultural experiences from operas, musical productions, minstrel, theater and vaudeville shows to temperance meetings, speeches by Governor LaFollette, graduation ceremonies, and class plays.

By 1953, however, the Opera House was painted over with a dull gray paint and extensively damaged by roof leaks. It was eventually shut down, and the clock tower was removed in 1961.

In the early 1980's, a decision was made to save the building and government offices. The "Friends of the Opera House" was established and citizens came forward to fund and work on the restoration.

The first project was to restore the clock tower, which was completed in 1988 and a likeness of it is now used as the logo for the City of Stoughton: In 1990, a fire escape was added and in 1992 air conditioning was installed. A matching grant from the Jeffries Family Foundation funded much of the restoration work. The City of Stoughton contributed to the restoration of the building's main entrance and the addition of an elevator and restrooms in the basement.

Plaster, carpets, floor lights, dressing rooms, paint, handicapped accessibility and the latest in state-of-the-art equipment combine to make the Stoughton Opera House a wonderful mixture of Victorian and modern elements. The "crown jewel" of Stoughton has been restored and enhanced and is lovelier than ever.

