

BAR DISTRICTS OF MILWAUKEE

*Society of American Travel Writers
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BAY VIEW / KINNICKINNIC AVE.

Just south of the city on the coast of Lake Michigan, Bay View is a hip and eclectic neighborhood popular with families and young professionals alike. Named one of Thrillist's best drinking neighborhoods in 2018, Bay View is full of spots for every taste.

At Random – A traditional mid-century cocktail lounge open since 1964 specializing in boozy ice cream drinks and classic cocktails. Recently created the “Magic Forest” – an outdoor, socially distanced patio experience with heated cocktail huts.

Burnhearts – Named one of the best beer bars in the country by Thrillist, you'll be impressed by the tap and bottle list full of local and rare beers, but will stay for the cozy atmosphere, abundance of board games, and friendly bartenders.

Cactus Club – This corner bar and live music venue has seen acts such as The White Stripes, Queens of the Stone Age, and Death Cab for Cutie.

Lost Whale – For those who choose cocktails over beer, Lost Whale's creative craft cocktails and focus on a sustainability practices will quench your thirst. During the pandemic, created “Pufferfish,” and outdoor, tented tiki experience.

Romans' Pub – Mike Romans knows his beer and isn't afraid to share his opinions on it with anyone! Chosen by Imbibe Magazine as one of the 100 Best Places to Drink Beer in America, Romans' Pub is a must-visit for beer enthusiasts.

Sugar Maple – This craft beer bar has 60 constantly-rotating beers on tap, so it's the best place to get the rare finds.



BRADY STREET

“If what you want isn’t on Brady Street, you probably don’t need it.” – Oscar Wilde

A beloved Milwaukee thoroughfare for decades, Brady Street is an eclectic, colorful street that’s popular for diverse dining options and a vibrant bar scene.

Balzac Wine Bar – A cozy atmosphere, dynamic wine list, and delicious small plates are the three ingredients needed for a memorable night amongst friends.

Casablanca – A Middle Eastern two-story bar and restaurant with a second-story patio and hookah lounge.

Hi Hat Lounge/Garage – On the Lounge side, you’ll find a dimly-lit cocktail bar. On The Garage side is a more casual atmosphere with over 70 beers, a large patio, and entertainment.

Nomad World Pub – Homebase for soccer lovers, this bar has been open for 25 years and is a staple on Brady Street.

Wolski’s Tavern – Opened in 1908, this tavern is just a couple blocks off Brady Street. With free popcorn, pool tables, and darts, Wolski’s is most identifiable for their popular “I closed Wolski’s” bumper stickers that you’ll see all over town (and all over the world!). Stickers cannot be purchased. They must be earned.



DEER DISTRICT

One of the hottest new areas in Milwaukee to eat, drink, and play is the Deer District. Built on the 30 acres surrounding Fiserv Forum, the new home of the Milwaukee Bucks, this neighborhood is filled with great places to eat, drink, and gather with friends.

[The Beer Garden](#) – Milwaukee's urban beer garden boasts a giant TV screen, communal picnic tables, and a rotating draft beer selection.

[Drink Wisconsinly](#) – It's everything Wisconsin under one roof. From a brandy old fashioned bubbler to beer, cider, hard seltzer, and liquors only created in Wisconsin, you'll be a true Wisconsinite after a visit to this pub.

[Good City Brewing](#) – This brewery's second location (the original location is on Farwell Avenue on the East Side) features 24 taps of their award-winning beer in a 200-seat taproom.

[The MECCA](#) – Named for the former, iconic arena that was home to the Milwaukee Bucks from 1968-1988, this sports bar, owned and operated by the Bucks, is an extension of the experience you get across the plaza at Fiserv Forum. The focal point of this 2-story bar is a 38-foot HDTV behind the lower level bar, perfect to watch the home team.

[Punch Bowl Social](#) – Milwaukee has always been famous for its cold brews and lake views but Punch Bowl Social is taking things to a whole new level here in MKE. In this amazing adult playground, you'll find hand-crafted beverages, two big patios, private karaoke rooms, and an endless menu of games like bowling, shuffleboard, bocce, and more.



NORTH / FARWELL AVENUES

Milwaukee's East Side is a vibrant melting pot, popular with college students and retirees alike. The area surrounding the intersection of Farwell Avenue and North Avenue is always buzzing at night, thanks to restaurants, bars, movie theaters, bowling alleys, and more.

Hacienda Beer Company – The Milwaukee taproom for this experimental brewing project based in Door County, Wisconsin.

The Jazz Estate – Located half a block off North Avenue, the Jazz Estate has been hosting some of the best local and national jazz musicians for over 40 years. Unassuming and intimate, the space feels more like a neighborhood cocktail lounge than national jazz venue.

Landmark Lanes – With 16 bowling lanes, over 10 pool tables, dart boards, an arcade, and one of the city's best karaoke nights on Tuesdays, this 92-year-old basement bar is a must-visit on Milwaukee's East Side.

Shanghai MKE – Located inside Crossroads Collective Food Hall is this small, intimate speakeasy that can only be accessed through a hidden entrance off Black Cat Alley.

Von Trier – One of Milwaukee's best German beer bars is full of a robust selection of German beers, a carefully curated wine and cocktail list, and some incredible historical pieces and stories.



OLD WORLD THIRD STREET

Once the heart of Milwaukee's German community, today Old World Third Street maintains that traditional vibe with some modern nightlife mixed in. This is one of the hubs of Milwaukee's nightlife, thanks to proximity to concert venues, sports arenas, and plenty of bars.

Buck Bradley's Saloon – One of the oldest buildings on Old World Third Street has been a furniture store, chocolate company, bakery, tuxedo shop, and now features the longest bar east of the Mississippi River.

Milwaukee Brat House – A self-described “professional drinking establishment for beer barons, bootleggers, and patriots,” Milwaukee Brat House is quintessentially Milwaukee, serving Usinger's brats and local Milwaukee beers.

Old German Beer Hall – Milwaukee German heritage comes alive at this Hofbräuhaus-style bar. Visitors will feel transported to Munich, complete with steins of German beer, giant pretzels, and tons of Gemütlichkeit.

Tavern at Turner Hall – Just off Old World Third Street is this National Historic Landmark that houses an athletic club operated by the Milwaukee Turners, restaurant and bar, and event ballroom. Take in the history while sipping on a pint of beer at their 360-degree bar.



RIVERWEST

This diverse, offbeat neighborhood has a DIY sensibility that runs deep. You'll find a little bit of everything here, from funky music venues to tiki bars. This eclectic neighborhood shows its strong communal spirit with a community-run bar and the most microbreweries in any of Milwaukee's neighborhoods.

Black Husky Brewing – This brewery began in a log cabin in the Northwoods of Wisconsin before moving into the Riverwest neighborhood. Not only are their beers named for their sled dogs, but the brewery itself is pup-friendly!

Company Brewing – A cool and inviting brewery, restaurant, and popular local music venue.

Foundation Tiki Bar – Milwaukee's first tiki bar will wow you with their delicious rum concoctions and intimate tiki décor.

Mad Planet – Riverwest's eclectic dance club, featuring a popular retro dance party every Friday night.

Nessun Dorma – A cozy tavern with an extensive craft beer, cocktail, and wine list, perfect for intimate conversations with friends.



HISTORIC THIRD WARD

Trendy shops and dining abound in this revitalized warehouse district. Block after block of formerly industrial space is now home to galleries, restaurants, boutique shops, and swanky rooftop bars.

Camp Bar – This Northwoods-themed bar, complete with old fashions, looks like a log cabin and embodies what “Up North” feels like to Wisconsinites.

Campsite 131 – Camp Bar’s “glamping” sister is the more-polished and swanky sibling. With a focus on wine and cocktails, this bar is for those who don’t like to “rough it” in the woods.

Club Charlies – A gathering place of locals in the Historic Third Ward neighborhood, this bar is full of laughter, friends, and great drinks.

The Outsider – The rooftop bar of the Kimpton Journeyman Hotel is the place to be seen. Beautiful views of the city, creative craft cocktails, and cozy lounge furniture makes this the ideal place for a nightcap.



WATER STREET

Running straight through the heart of downtown, Water Street is one of Milwaukee's prime thoroughfares for nightlife. Just off the Milwaukee School of Engineering's campus and a few blocks from Marquette University, this street is a go-to weekend spot for college students and young professionals.

McGillycuddy's – This popular sports bar, with two floors, multiple bars, and an expansive outdoor patio, has been a staple on Water Street for 28 years.

Red Rock Saloon – Country music lovers will be right at home at this country and rock bar, and the bravest visitors will try their luck on the mechanical bull. "The Unforgiven Challenge" has been featured on the Travel Channel's "Man Vs. Food Nation."

Rumpus Room – A hip, cozy Bartolotta restaurant and bar with a focus on craft cocktails, draught beer, and an adventurous but accessible menu.

Trinity Irish Pub – Three Irish pubs under one roof, surrounding a courtyard patio.

Water Street Brewery – Milwaukee first brewpub, opening in 1987, has brewed over 60 styles of beer over the past 32 years. Stop in for one of their award-winning beers!



WALKER'S POINT / 2ND STREET

The longtime hub of Milwaukee's gay community, this neighborhood is now also a hotbed of foodie activity with an industrial edge. You'll find some of the city's best LGBTQ bars and nightclubs alongside cozy cocktail lounges and historic haunted taverns.

Camino – Opened in 2015, beer enthusiasts will be sure to find a brew they like on their well-curated draft menu.

La Cage – Milwaukee's premier LGBTQ+ nightclub, opened in 1987, is the must-visit place for dancing, great music, and bi-weekly drag shows!

Shaker's Cigar Bar – Milwaukee's only licensed cigar bar also has ties to Al Capone's speakeasy days and some haunted history.

Steny's Tavern – Walker's Point's go-to sports bar to cheer on all your Wisconsin team, as well as being the Official Chicago Blackhawks bar in Milwaukee.

Tin Widow – This dimly lit bar is reminiscent of a cozy living room. Home to a great old fashioned, this bar is truly a gin-lovers dream, with a selection of over 120 different kinds from around the world.



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