

OurTopSpots™

Travel Guide

Number 2

Interurban Bike Trail

Ozaukee County, WI.

Port Washington, Grafton, Cedarburg, Mequon

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While we were doing research to take various trips to destination bike trails, we got frustrated and tired of not having one source which would give us honest reviews and in-depth guidance on what to do, where to stay, best locations to eat and most importantly where to ride.

Each of these OTS Travel Guides is meant to be a review of our experiences during each of these trips to unique destinations and to perhaps make your visit much more enjoyable. We will share what worked for us and what we feel we could have done to improve the experience. Our goal is to make your day trip or weekend getaway more enjoyable with great food, local experiences and accommodations, while having fun.

We will provide links in our OTS Travel Guide to all key items mentioned and provide links to all of our social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and YouTube.

Podcast? Yes, we go even more in depth, highlighting these businesses and destinations on our live, interactive streaming podcast available on [iTunes](#).

Overview:

In 2008 when we decided to move back to the Midwest after living in Northeast Pennsylvania for twenty years, one of the “must haves” for wherever we moved was to be close to a great bike trail, and an apple® store. After a lot of research, we found that there were a wide variety of bike trails in southeast Wisconsin and the one that really struck a chord with us was The [Interurban Bike Trail](#) (TIBT) because of the great towns it wandered through and offered 30+ miles of paved bike trails. We are looking forward to sharing our “home” bike trail located in beautiful Ozaukee County along the shores of Lake Michigan. And even better yet, we discovered as the Interurban Bike Trail wandered through the county it passed by great restaurants and unique retail stores. Now you can enjoy all of these great businesses located in Ozaukee County, whether you travel here on the Bike Trail, motorcycle or car supported by our live/interactive podcast.

How do you get here?

The [Interurban Bike Trail](#) (TIBT) is located just north of Milwaukee and runs from the north edge of [Brown Deer](#) on the south end of the trail and then runs through fast growing [Mequon](#), historic [Cedarburg](#), picturesque [Grafton](#), up through [Port Washington](#) located on Lake Michigan up to the village of Oostburg on the north end. TIBT is easily accessible, with multiple access points literally a minute or two from multiple exits off of [Interstate 43](#).

The Interurban Bike Trail

TIBT follows the path of what originally was an electric light railway system. The trail runs from Brown Deer Road on the south end, up to Oostburg on the north end and in between wanders through Mequon, Cedarburg, Grafton and Port Washington. One of the key elements of this trail was the installation of a bike/pedestrian bridge over Interstate 43. A key supporter and driving force for the Interurban Bike Trail is [Wheel and Sprocket](#) Bike store and it's founder, [Chris Kegel](#) who celebrated life every day.

Food

I am fortunate that Cheryl is a gourmet cook and has been practicing “farm to table” before it was a thing and her dishes are as good as any restaurant we go to. That is why we try to find lodging with kitchens to stay in if we are going to be in one place for more than a few days. On the other hand, if Cheryl is cooking each night, then it is not much of a vacation for her, so we do try to find great local diners and dives to eat in which serve great food. Here are our favorites along The Interurban Bike Trail from Port Washington to Brown Deer.

You are in for an epicurean treat when you come to ride the IBT. Southeast Wisconsin is home to some of the best restaurants, diners and speciality food stores you will find along any bike trail, so let's get started

Port Washington:

We realized ten years ago when we moved to southeast Wisconsin that Port Washington or PW (P-Dub) as it is known to the locals is truly a diamond in the rough and now ten years later PW is emerging as the jewel it is. With a great marina, a quickly emerging downtown living, entertainment and shopping district with extensive public access to Lake Michigan

and PW has become a destination for cyclists, fishing fanatics and people who just want to be on or near beautiful Lake Michigan for a day, a weekend or a lifetime.

Be sure to have several different options of clothing layers to choose from because if you are riding your bike into PW from the south on the IBT, the temp can drop ten+ degrees on the last drop into town on the IBT. This is great on a hot summer day, but can be a little cool in the spring and fall if the breeze is off of Lake Michigan which never really gets much warmer than mid 60's in the summer.

[Dockside Deli](#)

This is one of the first local restaurants we stopped at when we first rode the IBT ten years ago. Dockside Deli is located on the waterfront with expansive views of the marina, the charter fishing fleet, Lake Michigan and the breakwaters. Probably the number one place to watch boats and people pass by.

As a self proclaimed aficionado of cinnamon buns, I am always looking for the next best melt in your mouth, feed your sweet tooth breakfast treat. And I was not disappointed with the large cinnamon bun with a warm brown sugar base layer at Dockside. Make sure you get there early before they sell out.

Dockside has both inside and outside tables with umbrellas on the lakeside to shade you from the intense summer sun. You place your order at the front counter and choose from a great menu posted above the counter. You can choose from salads, grilled cheese, hamburgers and flatbreads. Once you order they give you a scanner which buzzes when your order is ready. Then you can sit back and enjoy your meal along Lake Michigan with it's gentle breezes.

And to top off the meal don't forget to grab a cone or sundae with the great ice cream with your favorite topping.

[Twisted Willow](#)

Looking for a great farm to table restaurant? Then you need to look no further than Twisted Willow which literally has their own outrageous vegetable garden at a farm not more than a mile from our home in Grafton.

The IBT goes right next to Twisted Willow on Franklin Street and they have a few tables nestled on the sidewalk, up against the building. Cheryl and I have stopped there multiple times to enjoy their outstanding flatbread on our way further up the IBT to Oostburg. If we see an open table as we pedal by, we simply get off our bikes, lean them up against the building and try not to drool as we wait for our order of flatbread and a salad along with a cool drink. Daily specials are a highlight of the menu and truly are a joy to your tastebuds.

[Daily Baking Company](#)

This bakery is located in a building that has been lovingly completely renovated by the owners of the bakery. The other street level section of this building is occupied by ZUZU Pedals.

For a long time there wasn't a great bakery in PW and now you can sit at the tables inside and watch the world go by on Franklin Street through the typical old school oversized large windows while enjoying a scone, a sandwich or one of their other great bakery items and of course don't forget to grab a loaf of fresh bread to gently place in your pannier for the ride home and will make sandwiches for dinner or French toast the next morning.

[The Chocolate Chisel](#)

Need we say more? Anything with chocolate in the name has got to be good and this is no different. As master chocolatiers, each creation in the show case is not only a taste sensation, but looks like a work of art. My personal favorite is a sour apple chocolate treat which is a perfect mix of sweet and a little bite of sour. And if you want ice cream, get ready to make a tough decision as you choose a cool treat to enjoy on the chairs out on the sidewalk watching the world pass by on Grand Avenue.

[Wing It](#)

A recent addition to the multitude of food choices in PW, Wing It has quickly established itself as a favorite of locals including myself and my wife. Cheryl likes the wings and I like the cheese curds and we both like the pizza. Located just a block or two off of the IBT on Grand Avenue, be sure to stop by to fuel the rest of your ride or celebrate the end of a day's ride or a day at the beach.

[Cousins Subs](#)

Located right on the IBT and Grand Avenue, sometimes there is nothing better than a sub during a long bike ride, day trip or motorcycle ride. You can enjoy a great Cousins Sub while sitting in the store or grab it and go enjoy the view at the expansive waterfront park known as [Coal Dock Park](#).

[Yummy Bones](#)

Ready for some finger lickin' BBQ from a real Pitmaster? Then you need to stop in at Yummy Bones in the heart of Port Washington. Nuff said!!!!

Grafton, WI

Grafton is our hometown and we love the ability to live “out in the country” and yet be five minutes from Home Depot, Costco, Target and a variety of great restaurants. The Milwaukee River winds through downtown and you can enjoy easy access for kayaking the river with the launch located in Veterans Park on the west side of the river just a block from downtown. You can also enjoy summer concerts in Veteran’s Park during the summer. And just on the south side of town is Lime Kiln park where you can sit along the river, play disc golf and enjoy a simple picnic in the shade of the tree.

Be sure to stop by our [Grafton Chamber of Commerce/Tourism](#) office where the outstanding staff can guide you in the right direction. Ask them about the role Grafton played in the history of blues music.

Or maybe you love the exciting sport of bicycle criterium racing so be sure to check out when [The Tour of America’s Dairyland](#) is in town for the Giro D’Grafton.

[Colectivo](#)

Colectivo is one of our favorite places in our hometown of Grafton and is located on the corner of RT. 60 and Wisconsin Avenue. A great regional cafe with both an extensive coffee and food menu. Cheryl’s favorite drink is a Green Hornet and I love their cinnamon buns and we both enjoy their varied breakfast and lunch menu along with the daily specials. You can sit inside or out on the patio and enjoy some sunshine and fresh air and a break from your travels.

[Atlas BBQ](#)

In the mood for some great ribs, outrageous grilled cheese or daily special? Then you need to stop by Atlas BBQ. Located just across the street from the Interurban Bike Trail, as with many other local restaurants you can enjoy your meal inside or outside, weather permitting. Always a favorite, especially during the annual Tour of America’s Dairyland stop in Grafton.

[Fiddleheads](#)

One of the newest additions to the food scene in Grafton, Fiddleheads has a long tradition of providing outstanding coffee bread and food in Ozaukee County. Once again you have the option of eating inside or outside along the newly installed pond less stream in the adjacent pocket park.

[John’s Pizza](#)

John’s Pizza is located adjacent to the same pocket park as Fiddleheads. We frequently have pizza delivered from or we pick it up from Downtown Pizza. Choose from a great menu to help fuel the rest of your ride.

[Sendik's](#)

Need a few things for home or your stay in a local B&B or hotel? Southeast Wisconsin is home to great grocery stores and this is one of our favorites. Sendik's has a great variety of food to go and if you need an adult beverage they have a great selection of wine and beer.

[Big Apple Bagels](#)

There are good bagels and then there are great bagels and that is exactly what you will find at Big Apple Bagels. This is a weekly stop for us as we load up on Everything, Jalapeño or Onion bagels and with half a dozen you get your choice of a free cream cheese spread to go along with the bagels.

Cedarburg

[Boulangerie DuMonde](#)

If you like chocolate croissants and can't make it to Paris this week, then you need to stop in early and buy a couple of the (we simply call it the Boo) fresh chocolate croissants. Then you can enjoy them on the tables on the sidewalk right outside their door or eat them in your car on the way to your next stop. I prefer to grab a couple, put them in the pannier on my bike and then ride home and enjoy them while reading the Sunday paper....yes, I still like to read the Sunday paper old school.

[Stilt House Gastro Bar](#)

We went to the Stilt House at the recommendation of one of our friends and we were not disappointed. They have an expansive patio which runs between their building and their neighbors building and back to Cedar Creek. You can enjoy a great meal and your favorite adult beverage (they have a lot to choose from) while watching the world go by. Don't forget to get some fresh cut fries and their Angry Ranch dip (I thought it would be really hot, which Cheryl likes, but I don't) I was pleasantly surprised because I would call the dip more Mildly Upset Ranch and it also joined the clean plate club.

Mequon/Theinsville

When we moved back to the Midwest in 2008, we originally moved to Mequon because it was close to The Interurban Bike Trail had great condos and was a small town. Fast forward ten years and this area has experienced explosive growth with the development of two key areas immediately adjacent to the Interurban Bike Trail which have created great local condo options along with an extensive and wide variety of restaurant options.

[Spur 16](#)

Is a great new development on Mequon Road, immediately adjacent to the Interurban Bike Trail, which will include several great restaurants, a Pilates and Yoga studio as well as luxury apartments and condos. We will highlight the restaurants in Spur 16 in the next update of this travel guide.

[Colectivo](#)

This is another location for one of our favorites which we have already discussed in the Grafton listing for Colectivo. As with the store in Grafton, here in Mequon there is a great outdoor seating area and they have the same great menu,

[Hollanders](#)

Ok.....When we ride 15 miles one way on our bikes from Grafton to Mequon I can justify eating the insanely good Cinnamon Streusel French Toast complete with maple brown sugar butter, warm maple syrup and crumblesIf you are riding your bike they have THE best bike rack on the Interurban Bike Trail and if you are riding your Harley, Suburban Harley is two block north of Hollanders on Green Bay Road.

Shopping/Day Trips

Although our main purpose on our trips is to find great trails to ride our bikes on, we also love to take in the local/regional flavors of adjacent towns and available activities.

[Sherper's Outfitters/Port Washington](#)

This is a great new retail store in Port Washington which focuses on outdoor activities and in the summer you can rent one of their kayaks on Lake Michigan at their unique rental locations housed in portable shipping containers.

ZUZU Pedals

One friendly bike shop.....and they have a great service team.....and yoga classes if you need to stretch

The Bailey House

Also owned by ZUZU Pedals and located right on the bike path and a just a couple of blocks from Lake Michigan.

OTS Social Media Platforms/Links

Website: ourtopspots.com from our website you can launch any of our social media platforms.

[Instagram](#) We will post photos and short videos on IG which are automatically shared with our FB page.

Podcast Our live, interactive , streaming podcast will highlight some of our trips, talks with interesting people in the biking community and other thoughts related to enjoying life on a bike.

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