



THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO

Lanesboro MN



**CREATED
BY**



**CAMP VENN: LANESBORO CAMPING RENTALS
CAMPVENN.COM**

About Us



**ALL OF THE CAMPING MEMORIES.
NONE OF THE CAMPING MESS.**

Camp Venn

LANESBORO CAMPING RENTALS

We are a full-service camper rental business in Lanesboro, MN. We handle delivery and pickup, so you can get right to camping!

Our campers are equipped with everything you need for your stay: 8 inch memory foam mattresses, fresh linens, towels, toiletries, family games, and even a bike lock.

Campers will be located in Sylvan Park in the heart of Lanesboro, so you can walk out the front door and enjoy restaurants, tubing, biking, and breweries without ever getting in your car!

If you have been wanting to camp, but haven't pulled out your tent in awhile or aren't ready for sleeping on the ground with your growing family, Camp Venn provides camping without the headaches! Reserve a camper today:

CAMPVENN.COM

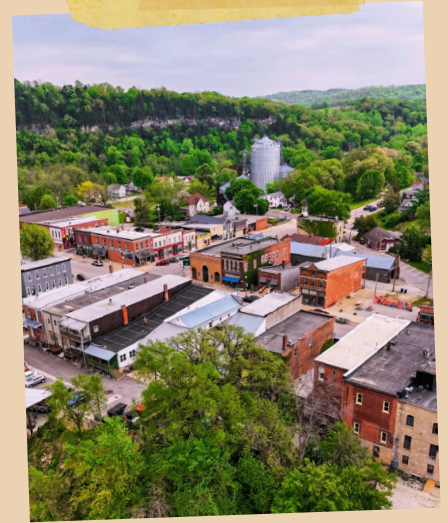
YOUR GUIDES

Our adventure in hospitality started in St. Paul, where we hosted over 500 nights at our first Airbnb. Family life drew us home to Lanesboro, but our love for hosting others remained. Travis' hometown is a special place that we love to share.

Thank you for considering staying at Camp Venn and supporting our family's little dream. With every stay, we hope to deliver delight, rest, and connection through outstanding hospitality!

- Travis & Erica





SMALL TOWN CHARM. THE PERFECT GETAWAY.

The first time my (now) husband and I drove into Lanesboro, his hometown, I turned and said, “oh... so you live in a Hallmark movie?” It’s the small town you wish every small town could be.

A beautiful river known for good fishing and good tubing, topped with a rushing, waterfall-like dam. A vibrant main street filled with locally owned shops, each reflecting the unique flair of their owners. A renowned theater company and non-profit community art gallery that showcases and celebrates Minnesotan artists.

All this goodness tucked into the most beautiful scenery- a special place called the Driftless Region, where rocky bluff sides and flowing waterways are scattered amongst family-owned farms and cow pastures.

GENERAL TIPS:

1. CHECK HOURS

Hours change often due to staffing & seasonality. Always double check hours, especially...

2. CHECK FACEBOOK

...on Facebook! FB is the best place to get up-to-date info including special events!

3. CHECK THE CHAMBER

The Lanesboro Chamber of Commerce is the BEST resource for all things Lanesboro. Check their website for extensive info about what to do in the area, give them a call for personalized advice & stop by in-person once you’re here for maps & more!

The Lanesboro Visitor’s Guide is fantastic and can be found digitally on their site!

WHY VISIT

Lanesboro?

The Best Of

[LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE]

RESTAURANTS

1. PEDAL PUSHERS

CLASSIC ITEMS WITH A FRESH TWIST.
LOTS OF LOCALLY SOURCED INGREDIENTS.
CHEESE CURDS. BRUSSEL SPROUTS. FISH TACOS. HEAVEN.

2. JUNIPERS

THE BEST PATIO IN TOWN WITH DREAMY VIBES.
SMALL MENU BUT EVERY ITEM IS DELICIOUS.
HIGHEST PRICE TAG IN TOWN. BUT WORTH THE SPLURGE!

3. HIGH COURT PUB

THE BAR YOU WISH YOU WERE A LOCAL AT.
GREAT VIBES. WINGS. BURGERS & FLATBREADS.
THE BEST OPTION FOR "AFTER HOURS" DINING.
USUALLY HAS LIVE MUSIC ON SATURDAYS.

ACTIVITIES

1. BIKING THE TRAIL

THE THING THAT PUT LANESBORO ON THE MAP.
BIKES (INCLUDING E-BIKES/TRAILERS) CAN BE RENTED
IN TOWN. FOR A SHORT RIDE. WHALAN TO THE PIE SHOP
OR OLD BARN RESORT FOR LUNCH ARE GREAT!

2. THE THEATER

KNOWN FOR THEIR BEAUTIFUL COSTUMING & SETS.
THE COMMONWEAL THEATER IS A PROFESSIONAL
COMPANY WITH PLAYS TO MAKE YOU LAUGH. CRY &
REMEMBER WHY YOU LOVE THE ARTS!

3. NIAGRA CAVE (HARMONY)

30 MINUTES SOUTH BUT 1000% WORTH THE DRIVE!
ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST CAVES- RIGHT HERE IN MN.
LOTS OF STAIRS... BUT THE COOLEST WORKOUT EVER!

EXTRA STOPS

1. PADDLE ON COFFEE

A COFFEE HOUSE THAT HIGHLIGHTS LOCAL
MAKERS AND ARTISANS. ALSO OFFERS LIGHT
BREAKFAST FARE & SNACKS.

2. SYLVAN BREWING

THOUGHTFULLY CRAFTED BEER IN THE TOWN'S
RESTORED FEED MILL. CHECK THEIR FACEBOOK FOR
LIVE PERFORMANCES & FOOD TRUCK SCHEDULE.

3. THE SCOOP ICE CREAM

THE LITTLE PINK SHOP ON THE CORNER YOU CAN'T MISS!
BRIDGEMAN'S ICE CREAM. SUNDAES. COFFEE. DRINKS.
WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T STOP IN TWICE?

SMALL TOWN CHARM

1. SATURDAY FARMERS MARKET

VOTED FAVORITE FARMERS MARKET IN MINNESOTA.
A SMALL BUT MIGHTY SET OF VENDORS THAT GIVE A
FLAVOR OF SE MN'S LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION.

2. HISTORY MUSEUM

ALL YOU'D EVER WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE HISTORY
OF LANESBORO (AND THEN SOME). BUFFALO BILL,
THE RAILROAD. WORLD WARS. AND WEDDING FASHION...
WELL. YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO VISIT.

3. CHURCH HILL OVERLOOK

THE PARKING LOT OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
HAS THE BEST VIEW IN TOWN. HIKE UP THE HILL
AT SUNSET FOR THE PICTURE-WORTHY VISTA.

TUBING, KAYAKING, & CANOEING ON THE ROOT RIVER

The heart of our community is the Root River. The north and south branches meet north of town and flow onward to the Mississippi. Downtown, **Root River Outfitters** offers a variety of rentals. **Cedar Valley Resort** and **Eagle Cliff Campground** outfit as well.

RENT A BIKE & HIT THE ROOT RIVER TRAILS

RootRiverTrail.org has all the info you need! **Little River General Store** has rentals- ebikes, kids trailers, tandem. For a free option, Google "**Preston Bike Share**" and borrow from the library!

FISHING, FISHING, AND MORE FISHING

Over the age of 16 or not from MN? Get a fishing license first at the **BP Gas Station**. Fish at the **Sylvan Park Bass Pond** or on the river. For an epic experience, do a guided fly fishing trip with **Root River Rod Co.**, family owned and operated with expert-level knowledge.

VISIT LOCAL AMISH FARMS

Southeast of Lanesboro is a large community of Old Order Amish. **Bluffscape Amish Tours** and **Amish Tours of Harmony** offer guided tours with stops. Google "**Preston Self Guided Amish Map**" for a list of business open to the public to go at your own pace.

Keepin' Busy

VISIT THE ARCADE OR GO BOWLING

Raining outside or need to cool off? **Raging Root Adventure Arcade** has axe throwing, arcade games, and old-school candy! **B&B Olympic Bowl & Restaurant** in Preston or **Nordic Lanes / The Creamery** in Rushford have bowling and large menus for a dine-in options!

CATCH A SHOW AT THE COMMONWEAL THEATER

The **Commonweal Theater Company** is SE Minnesota's premier professional live theater company. Check their website for this year's show line-up. The **St. Mane Theater** is ran by Lanesboro Arts- a local non-profit- and often has live music, songwriter show cases, and cultural events.

LIVE MUSIC AT THE SYLVAN BREWING OR HIGH COURT PUB

Lanesboro loves live music! **Sylvan Brewing** has a "Summer Sundays" series of artists and food trucks on Sunday afternoons. **High Court Pub** typically has live performances on Saturday nights. The best resource is their Facebook pages to see what is happening when!



A WEEKEND FOR *the Adventurer*



FRIDAY NIGHT

Start your weekend off with a fun trip to **DreamAcres** for organic, vegetarian pizza on a small-scale farm. If you'd like to stay closer, **Dew Drop Inn** has a fun menu of pizzas to enjoy on their patio down by the river. Grab a slushie cocktail there or, if you'd like to keep the good times rolling, swing by **High Court Pub**. Check their website for live music!

SATURDAY MORNING

Start your morning with a bike ride to explore the **Root River Trails**. Bikes can be rented in town at the **Little River General Store** or, if you plan around their hours, free bike rentals are available at the **Preston Library**. Pack a fancy adult lunchable with goodies from the **Lanesboro Market** or, if out on the bike trail, stop by the **Old Barn Resort** (toward Preston) or **BATCH** (in Peterson), opening Spring 2026.

Once back in town, fish at the **Sylvan Park ponds** or along the **Root River**. If you want the full experience, splurge for a guided fly fishing tour or beginner lesson with **Root River Rod Co.**, with expert local guides who will help you further appreciate our natural wonders!

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The adventures not done- at least if the sun is out! Grab a canoe or tubing rental from one of our local outfitters (**Root River Outfitters** downtown, **Cedar Valley Resort** and **Eagle Cliff Campground** nearby) to cool down and soak up some sun!

If you're looking for something cooler to do (literally), make the drive to **Niagara Cave** or **Mystery Cave**. These incredible natural wonders both offer great tours and stay cool all year round underground. This is one of our most recommended things to do when visiting- the caves are simply incredible!!! If you are out toward the caves, consider dinner at **Estelle's** in Harmony or **181 Taphouse** in Spring Valley- by now you've definitely have worked up an appetite!

SUNDAY MORNING

Cap the weekend off with a breakfast at **The Pastry Shoppe** in town. This is a cash only, no menu breakfast spot that will whip up whatever breakfast creation you'd like. Delicious, in-house pastries and hot coffee.

If you've still got energy left, try hiking at the **Isinours Forest Management Unit** or **Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center** on your way home. Maps available online!



A WEEKEND FOR *the Culturista*



FRIDAY NIGHT

Once you get to town, grab dinner at **Pedal Pushers**. The cheese curds, brussel sprouts, chicken grain bowl, and fish tacos are the favorites of ours. If there is still time, head out to **Sugar Creek Vineyard and Meadery** to taste some locally-made wines and truly delicious meads. Or try the pink ice cream shop, **The Scoop**, for Minnesota-made ice cream.

SATURDAY MORNING

Start the morning walking around town to check out local shops. Be sure to stop at **Lanesboro Fiber Arts** to see community made projects, **The Peddler**, and **Windy Mesa**. The **Lanesboro History Museum** has fun, quirky artifacts to appreciate our small-town history and **Lanesboro Arts** features beautiful pieces, both in gallery and for purchase. Still have the shopping bug? Head to Harmony for great antiquing- **Stardust Retro Revival**, **Generations Antique Mall**, and **Bee Balm**. **Tinker & Makes** and **Seed & Stone** are fun too.



SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Love a good backstory? Walk the **Lanesboro History Walking Tour** with self-guided audio stops to learn more about the rich history of our buildings and landscape. You can stop by the **Visitor's Center** to grab a map. Catch the matinee or evening show at the **Commonweal Theater**. This theater boasts high-quality productions with professional actors, beautiful stage sets, and thoughtfully-selected plays.

For dinner, enjoy the most beautiful patio dinner by the river at **Juniper's**. A small but thoughtful menu crafted by the owner and a former opening chef at Borough in North Loop Minneapolis.

SUNDAY MORNING

Before heading out, stop in Preston at the **Lucky Mud** for espresso and light breakfast. This coffee shop is in a restored bank- vault door and all. You'll want to sit and stay awhile.

If you're open to a drive or it's on your way home, check out the **Minnesota Marine Art Museum**. This hidden gem of a museum was surprisingly delightful- a modern building with curated, water-related exhibitions. You can tell it is a place that celebrates art and wants to bring it to the public.



A WEEKEND FOR *the Lovebirds*



FRIDAY NIGHT

Start your trip at **Lucky Mud** in Preston for pub food and a selection of beverages (Fridays nights only). For something a little more upscale, try the **Branding Iron Supper Club** for steak and seafood with vibes straight out of the 70s. Finish the night at **Sylvan Brewing**, with locally brewed beer and a selection of board games for some friendly competition.

SATURDAY MORNING

Start the morning slow, with a visit to **Paddle On Coffee & Maker Emporium** for a fancy coffee drink. Visit the **Saturday Farmers Market in Sylvan Park** and chat with local food producers. Before the heat of the day, spend the morning strolling around town and take a quick walk down the trail. For lunch, bring a blanket for a picnic by the **Lanesboro dam**. Or, for a cute date for 2, **Clara's Eatery** has retro-style booths to split a sandwich and an ice cream.



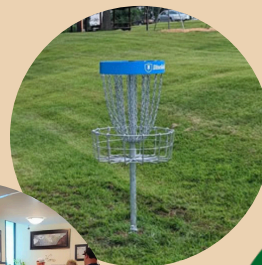
SATURDAY AFTERNOON

For the afternoon, rent a tandem bike together at the **Little River General Store** or tube together down the river with intertubes from **Root River Outfitters**. For a slower pace, lounge at **the Shed at Old Barn Resort** with slushies and bags (cornhole). For dinner, have a romantic dinner on **Juniper's** riverside patio under the string lights (don't skimp on the cake!) or head to Harmony for a movie at **Jem Movie Theater** and dinner at **Estelle's**.



SUNDAY MORNING

Split a sweet and a savory breakfast at **Home Sweet Home**, a cute, small town cafe. Bring your **pickleball** paddles and challenge each other to a game on the courts in the park. Still feeling competitive? Head to Preston to play each other in a round of disc golf at the **Preston Disc Golf Course**.



NIAGARA CAVE

Harmony, MN

My most recommended stop! This 25 minute drive is well worth it to see the one of the best caves in the US. Mini-golf, gem panning, and a fun gift shop. Be warned: there are a million (250) stairs to descend and then, yes- ascend. But every step is worth it for the sights!



STARDUST RETRO REVIVAL

Harmony, MN

An antique store in an old roller rink... what's not to love?!?

New Generations & Bee Balm are other great stops in

Harmony for an antique lover.

Stop at **Estelle's** afterwards. Pork Teriyaki Bowl. Thank me later.



DREAMACRES FARMS

Wykoff, MN

ONLY OPEN SUMMER FRIDAY NIGHTS!!! Off-grid organic farm with a pizza oven. They keep in simple- only vegetarian options, BYO everything. Check the website for cool, cultural events and details.



STELLAR 181 TAPHOUSE

Spring Valley, MN

Delicious menu with a classic taphouse feel. Next door is **Pivot Brew** with coffee and baked goods. While in Spring Valley, stop by **Bluff Brothers**

Brewing for beer and take some swings at their indoor golf simulator.



MYSTERY CAVE

Spring Valley, MN

The longest cave in Minnesota, with a variety of tours available. Reserve a spot online and dress warm, the cave is 48 degrees all year. While you're there, stop by **Historic Forestville**, a late 1800's small town.



NATIONAL EAGLE CENTER

Wabasha, MN

An hour away in Wabasha, this is a drive... but so, so fun! On a beautiful spot by the waters of the Mississippi, see beautiful bald eagles up close. Save time to walk down by the water!

Herb & Arrow is the spot to eat.



HONORABLE MENTIONS LOVECHILD

La Crosse, Wisconsin

MAIN STREET

Decorah, Iowa

SUGAR CREEK VINEYARD

Fountain, MN

WHAT'S WORTH

the drive?

STOPS NEAR LANESBORO

EVERYBODY has to eat... where?

BREAKFAST

in Lanesboro

The Pastry Shoppe- CASH ONLY. But oh, so good. No menu. If it was Stars Hollow, think Luke's.

Paddle On Coffee- Burritos, quiche, oatmeal, and a full coffee menu. Lighter fare!

Home Sweet Home- Classic, small town cafe. Big menu of breakfast staples. Also does lunch!

Drive a Little

Gabby Lou's (Harmony)- Cute, diner-style breakfast with espresso bar. Limited hours.

B&B Bowl (Preston)- Yep, breakfast at the bowling alley... only in a small town! Big menu.

The Sweet Stop & Sandwich Shop (Preston)- Tiny place with just breakfast sandwiches.

THE LIST OF RESTAURANTS YOU NEED.

LUNCH/DINNER

in Lanesboro

Pedal Pushers- Grain bowl, cheese curds, fish tacos are our favs. (Full disclosure- they're family!)

Clara's Eatery- Pizza and paninis/wraps. Fresh fruits & veggies if you need that. 😊 Ice cream too!

Juniper's- Small menu, but higher end. GET RESERVATIONS!!! Sit on the patio- just dreamy.

High Court Pub- Flatbreads, burgers, wings. Food till 10pm, only "late night" place in town.

Old Barn Resort- In a restored barn on a golf course. Check out The Shed too (Hidden Gem)!

Sylvan Brewing Food Truck- Usually has a local food truck out front in the summer.

Dew Drop Pizza- Outdoor pizza spot by the river. Personal-sized pizza available.

Drive a Little

Branding Iron Supper Club (Preston) - Supper club straight out of the 80s. Steak & seafood.

Estelle's (Harmony) - Highly recommend!!! Teriyaki bowl. Curry. Nachos. It's all good. Large, shaded patio. JEM Movie Theater across the street is another great option for rain.

BATCH Kitchen (Peterson)- Simple food made with lots of intention. Tiny spot in a tiny town.

DRINKS & TREATS

in Lanesboro

Sylvan Brewing- Beer in a super cool, old feed mill at the end of main street. It's a vibe!

The Scoop- The pink ice cream shop, you can't miss it! Bridgeman's and espresso.

Lanesboro Market- Local-forward, curated mini-market in the Iron Horse building.

Drive a Little

Lucky Mud (Preston)- Coffeehouse, pub & bakery in an *amazing* old bank. Sit and stay!

Aroma Pie Shoppe (Whalan) - Really great pie. The perfect bike ride! Check hours on FB.

Harmony Spirits (Harmony)- Craft distillery with a tasting room. Patio seating also.

THE SHED

at the Old Barn Resort

An open-air summer patio with corn hole (bags!) and a concession stand, including mini-donuts and slushies. Beautiful setting and right next to the course for a round of golf!



THE PEDDLER

Downtown Lanesboro

An eclectic shop with global finds, vintage, and hippy-esque items. Another fun stop is the **Hammarama Muesem**, one man's ode to a classic Minnesota beer.



MN STATE FISH HATCHERY

Lanesboro, MN

Right down the road from our family farm! Open Monday to Friday from 7am to 3:30pm. Take the self-guided tour around the hatchery to feed the fish, learn more about stocking Minnesota's streams, and walk through nature.



HIDDEN HALLS PUZZLE HOUSE

Lanesboro, MN

A thoughtfully crafted puzzle house (think escape room style games) that highlights the beauty of the The Scandinavian Inn. Bring a group and have fun solving a mystery! Learn more at: hiddenhalls.com

Hidden Gems

NEWBURG VINTAGE HOME

and Garden and Small Batch Bakery

Only open Saturdays from 10-2, fresh made pastries put this little shop on the map. Located in Newburg, population 19. A 20 minute drive from Lanesboro. Homewares and beautiful gardens too!



SPLASH PAD & BREAKERS

Harmony, MN

Located in Freenotes Harmony Park, this small splash pad is open from 11 am to 7 pm Memorial Day to Labor Day. Great spot to cool down with small kids with a playground too!



FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays in Lanesboro

Located in Sylvan Park, our farmers market was voted the favorite farmers market in MN last year! A small but mighty set of vendors are happy to chat about local food production!



ACTION FITNESS

Gym in Lanesboro, MN

Still want to workout while visiting town? Action Fitness offers day passes to use their gym. Free weights, cardio machines, and resistance equipment. Purchase online.

WHEN SHOULD I

visit?



**DATES CHANGE YEAR TO YEAR.
CHECK WITH THE LANESBORO CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE FOR DATES!**

MAY

Bluff Country Gathering

Gathering centered on traditional, folk American music. A concert in the park & The Barn Dance are highlights!

Memorial Day Weekend

Often the most beautiful time of year in SE MN. Memorial Day parade honoring our veterans.

JULY

Fourth of July

A fun weekend in Lanesboro!
Look for the fireworks in Harmony.

Fillmore County Fair

Livestock shows, rodeos, a tractor pull.
Every kid's favorite place or a fun night out!

SEPTEMBER

60 Mile Garage Sale

Root River Trail Town's event that makes for fun (and cheap!) shopping!



APRIL

Bluff Country Studio Art Tour

This event is a highlight of the Lanesboro Arts Gallery and invites you to visit the artists' studios in the area for a deeper look at their work.

JUNE

Rhubarb Festival

The most small town of small town celebrations. Rhubarb Run 5k, Rhubarb Olympics, Largest Leaf contest... a reminder there's good in the world.

Art in the Park

Fine art market with over 100 area artists, live music, food vendors, and kids activities!

AUGUST

Buffalo Bill Days Festival

Lanesboro's town festival the first weekend in Aug. Sand volleyball, parade, fireworks... it's just fun!

Lanesboro Area Art Trail

One weekend in Aug, Sept, and Oct.
Visit artist studios, hear about their process!

OCTOBER

Filthy 50 Gravel Bike Event

A HUGE gravel biking event- main street is closed Saturday morning to launch hundreds of bikers!

If you like gravel biking, you have to check this out!