

SPRING RUNAWAY: NEW GLARUS, WISCONSIN

CRAFT BEERS AND SWISS CHARMS AWAIT



Next Tuesday is the first day of spring. Time to plan your annual pilgrimage to Wisconsin.

Instead of Lake Geneva or the Dells, take the 3-hour ride to **New Glarus**, "America's Little Switzerland," where craft beers and Swiss charms usher in your spring.

What to do

Number one on any list is **New Glarus Brewing Company**, home to the world-renowned **craft kingpins**. Take a free self-guided tour of the immaculate facility with expansive views of the grounds. Sip beers in the patio or tasting room, but **stock up before you leave here: this stuff isn't sold beyond Wisconsin borders.** 2400 WI State Highway 69. (608-527-5850)

After filling up on beer, ride your bike (carefully) along the **24-mile Sugar River Bike Trail** into the nearby **New Glarus Woods State Park**. After passing over the Little Sugar River, stop to admire the woodland critters or belt out your own **The Voice** audition at the **on-site amphitheatre**. W5446 County Road N. (608-527-2335)

Where to stay

Detox in the **whirlpool suites of the Chalet Landhaus Inn** before heading down for a swim in the indoor pool, where you can stare at the sun through window panels in the ceiling. **Ride-in/ride-out bike access to the Sugar River Bike Trail** is an added bonus. \$159 per night. 801 WI State Highway 69. (608-527-5234)

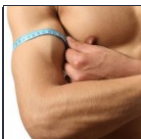
Where to eat

All the action takes place in the **Glarner Stube**, and for good reason. Whether it's **Friday fish fry, tenderloin with peppercorn sauce, or fondue**, this lodge-style hotspot never disappoints. Swap French fries for the roesti potatoes and make your way into "**Gary's chair**" (**barbershop-inspired, named after a local**) for prime TV viewing position. 518 1st St. (608-527-2216)

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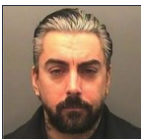
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