

# TRAVEL ON: *Gone Green in Green Bay*

By Nicole Pensiero

Think Green Bay, Wisconsin, and you probably think of the Packers and ... you guessed it — cheese!

But like many other places in Wisconsin, the state's third-largest city is filled with fun surprises, great restaurants, and cultural attractions.

But one major claim to fame is the fact that Green Bay is the smallest of any NFL team's home base, and the Packers are the only team actually owned by the fans (population 106,095 — with **Lambeau Field** holding more than 80,000 fans).

While I didn't become a "Cheesehead" during a recent weekend visit to Green Bay, I gained an understanding of the passion that drives Packers' fans — while enjoying some of this small Midwestern city's finest offerings.

My first reminder that I was indeed in the land of the late coach **Vince Lombardi** — who led the Packers to sports immortality — came at check-in at the elegant and historic **Hotel Northland**, where the clock behind the front desk runs 15 minutes fast. A small sign on the counter explains that you're now on "Lombardi Time."



The author poses for a photo at the cavernous Lambeau Field, where the Green Bay Packers continue to make history.

Or, to quote Vince Lombardi: "If you are five minutes early, you're already 10 minutes late."

The Northland, originally opened in 1924 and recently restored to its original splendor, provided a relaxing stay, along with some fine restaurants — like the Walnut Room, where we enjoyed two lovely breakfasts. Its history has placed it in the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places, and it has hosted many politicians and celebrities over the years — not to mention those NFL "away" teams.



The Lobby clock at the Hotel Northland sets to "Lombardi Time" — meaning it's about 15 minutes early.



A "Kringle" is a particular type of mouth-watering Northern European pastry, especially popular in the Midwest.



Downtown Green Bay is enhanced by many beautiful building murals created by local artists.



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There are some great things to enjoy in Green Bay. Here are some of our highlights:

**Eat Up:** We enjoyed some impressive dining — everything from the relaxed pub vibe of **Poke the Bear** to Lambeau Field's **1919 Kitchen & Tap**. But the true culinary highlight was found at the **Republic Chop House**, where we savored the most delicious steaks imaginable, along with luscious side dishes like double-baked potatoes. And for dessert: a four-layer red velvet cake to die for.

**Enjoy Street Art:** Green Bay's downtown features an impressive mural arts program. We were quite taken by the dramatic and colorful paintings on various buildings, heralding everything from brotherhood to community and respecting nature.

**Shop 'Til You Drop:** The city's weekly **Farmers' Market** is chockful of food, flowers, and fun. You can mill around here for hours, enjoying the various wares and just taking in this very popular scene.

**Take to the Water:** We enjoyed a cruise along the Fox River via the **Foxy Paddler**, a fun party boat where you can paddle or just sit and relax.

**Get Revved Up:** If cars are your thing, don't miss **The Automobile Gallery**, which is jam-packed with a continually changing array of historic, restored cars — from Ford's Model T to its original 1965 Mustang.

**Enjoy Delicacies:** At **Bountiful Boards**, we learned about the fine art of charcuterie-making while enjoying some delicious samples of dips, chips, and cheeses. **Captain's Walk Winery** is a lovely wine bar that offers tasting samples in a spacious and historic home. And **Sara's**



Sara's Artisan Gelato is a popular favorite at its shops and in various restaurants.

**Artisan Gelato** is just that: some of the most delicious and authentic gelato you will ever enjoy in an array of traditional and creative flavors.

**Take in Titledown:** A community development and park just west of Lambeau Field, **Titledown** offers fun, food, and plenty of activities year-round. There is an ice skating rink and tubing lanes in the winter, a full-sized football field, and a unique playground with plenty of outdoor games and fitness activities.

**Join the Pack:** We wound down our trip with a fantastic tour of **Lambeau Field**. Our lead guide, Bob, and his partner, Jeff, were very thorough and filled with true passion for their team. We loved getting behind the scenes, visiting club boxes, and even walking onto the field the same way the players do. *Go, Pack, Go!*

For more information about visiting Green Bay, go to [www.greenbay.com](http://www.greenbay.com).

*Nicole Pensiero is a South Jersey-based writer and a member of the North American Travel Journalists Association.*

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