

Belgian Roadside Chapel Tours



BELGIAN HERITAGE CENTER

Votive chapels of Wisconsin's Belgian settlement

Roadside chapels were built by Belgian settlers in the southern Door Peninsula starting in the mid 1800's. Before the settlers could build churches for an entire congregation, devout settlers built their own small chapels and shared them with travelers. The chapels are found throughout the Belgian settlement, a 150 square mile area covering parts of Door, Kewaunee and Brown counties.



Chapel of St. Roche
Namur

Old World Tradition Following a tradition from the Ardennes region of Belgium and often named for patron saints, descendants of the settlers continue to build and care for these sacred spaces. Many remain open to travelers today.

A local historian from the Belgian Heritage Center will provide a guided narration for your tour group. We will visit chapels built by the early settlers as well as those built in modern times. You will hear about the challenges faced by the settlers and the fascinating stories behind each of the votive chapels.



La Petite Chapel la Sacra Crued
Brussels

Tour Highlights We will visit 4-8 Roadside Chapels. Tours include a stop at the Belgian community's most important chapel – the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help – built on the site where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to a young Belgian woman in 1859. Fondly known as simply as "the Chapel" in the local community, your group will hear the remarkable history of this site and stroll the grounds of the only Marian apparition in North America deemed worthy of belief by the Catholic church.

Itineraries are customized for your group and may include:

- o Belgian Heritage Center
- o Namur National Historic District
- o Norbertine Birthplace/1859 Convent and Schoolhouse
- o Traditional Belgian lunch featuring booyah, trippe (pork/cabbage sausage), jutt (fried cabbage) and Belgian pie

Tours are typically 3-4 hours. Belgian Heritage Center will provide step-on guide, lunch (if requested) and arrange access to all stops. Tour operators are responsible for transportation and all other expenses.



Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help
Champion



St. Odile's Chapel
Gardner



For tour information contact:

Belgian Heritage Center
visit: 1255 County DK, Brussels, WI
mail: PO Box 173, Brussels, WI
website: belgianheritagcenter.org
email: tourinfo@belgianheritagecenter.org
call: 920-493-5969

The Belgian Heritage Center is a 501(c)(3) organization to preserve the history and culture of the Belgian community in Wisconsin.