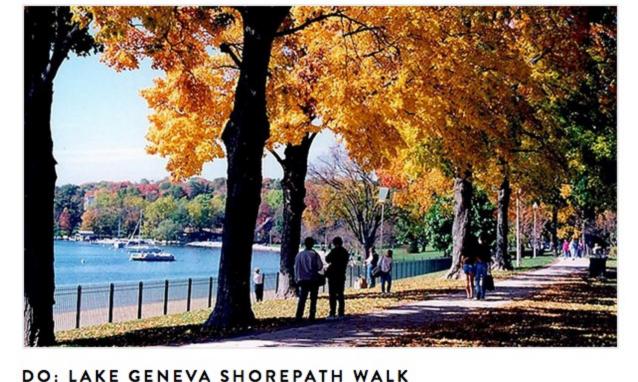
Why You Should Make Lake Geneva Your Next Weekend Getaway

Bet you didn't know you can do all this in Wisconsin

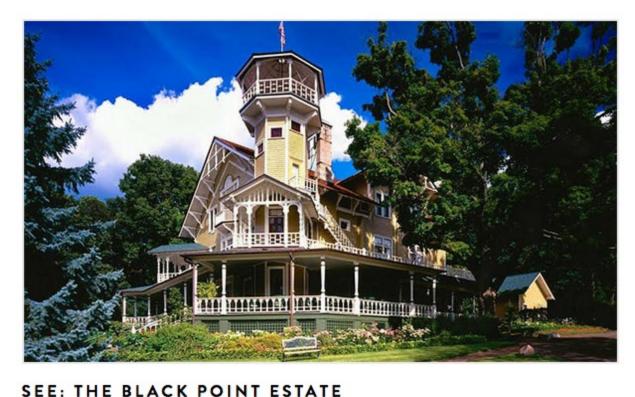
Those PTO days aren't going to use themselves. So before the end of the year--and better yet, before the autumn foliage fades--plan your next trip with this guide to Lake Geneva. About 90 minutes from Chicago by car (i.e., the length of your typical rush-hour commute), the lakeside town has so much to do. And most of it includes mansions.



What CN Traveler says, goes. And the glossy recently named the Lake Geneva Shorepath Walk as one of the best places--in the country--to spot fall foliage. Strap on your hiking boots quickly, because the second week of October is typically when those glorious fall leaves reach their peak. Need more gorgeous sights? The 21-mile, lakeside path wends through the backyards of stately old mansions.

Geneva's official website.

For more info on the path, including where to pick it up, check out Lake



Speaking of old houses, the Black Point Estate is the only historic manse

cruiselakegeneva.com.

that's open for tours. And if you have a thing for the Victorian era, it's a must-see. Constructed in the Queen Anne style, the house dates back to 1888 and has everything from a billiards room to a fishpond. Not bad for an old summer cottage. Seasonal tours take place daily through October 31. Visitors arrive by boat

arranged by the Lake Geneva Cruise Line; 262-248-6206 or



Maxwell Mansion, 421 Baker St.; 262-248-9711 or historichotelsoflakegeneva.com



PLAY DRESS-UP: BAKER HOUSE The staff at the 1885 mansion--which now houses a restaurant and a hotel----wears Victorian-era garb. If you get costume envy, don't fret: The opulent hats hanging in the hallway are available for borrowing, and it's

rare to see a hatless soul in the dining room. Offering small and large plates, the eatery has its plush seats facing out salon-style, and live piano music takes place regularly. If you're really lucky, you'll get caught in a crowd sing-along to sentimental hits like "Can't Help Falling in Love"

Baker House, 327 Wrigley Dr.; 262-248-4700 or historichotelsoflakegeneva.com

(sounds cheesy; is surprisingly heartwarming).