

# HOOKY

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## A little pizza. A little pie. And a lot of quiet.

### A WEEK IN STOCKHOLM, WISCONSIN

Recently I needed a quick, inexpensive getaway after writing a very large website in a very short month. I found exactly what I wanted on the scenic shores of [Lake Pepin](#).

Four blocks long and three blocks wide, the town of [Stockholm](#) sits just below the bluffs on the Wisconsin side of the lake. It's about 80 minutes from St. Paul if you don't stop for lavender sugar cookies at the [Smiling Pelican Bakeshop](#) in Maiden Rock.

As you might guess by its name, Stockholm's original settlers were Swedes. Today it appears to be settled by a coterie of creative people who have brought a modicum of city style to this tiny, tidy town. I've come to this conclusion because 1.) the quality of the logos on the storefronts suggest a higher-than-average quotient of better-than-average graphic designers; and 2.) several of these establishments are devoted

to turning out fancy foodstuffs that would not be out of place in local hipster enclaves like Nordeast or Cathedral Hill.



Aside from shopping and eating, there's not much to do. If you have a boat, you can launch it at the city park. If you like to hike, snowshoe, or perform other random acts of cardio, you can go bother the nesting peregrine falcons on [Maiden Rock Bluff](#).

In my case, not doing much was the whole point of the trip. I arrived with a big stack of books and an even bigger sleep deficit to settle in for a week of reading, eating, and napping. If you could use a break that won't require a ton of cash or gallons of gas, read on for my sincere and biased recommendations.

### WHERE TO STAY

I chose [TansyHus](#), because the website photos were pretty and the location was just one block up the hill from "downtown." When I arrived, I was not disappointed. The house is neat as a pin and clean as a whistle, with fresh paint, tasteful furnishings, and a kitchen that is better-equipped than my own.



### WHERE TO EAT

The much-loved and award-winning [Stockholm Pie Company](#) serves up single slices, whole pies, and six-inch mini pies in a variety of sweet and savory seasonal flavors.

Bring basic groceries from home but stop by [Stockholm General](#) for local cheeses, smoked meats, fancy preserves, and an array of Wisconsin microbrews.

On Tuesday nights, foodies travel to [A to Z Produce and Bakery](#), better known as "the pizza farm." Everything about their pizzas — the flour in the dough, the toppings in the middle, and the cheese on top — is produced on the farm and transformed as if by magic in their wood-fired ovens.



### WHAT TO KNOW

**Stockholm is mighty quiet.** Be prepared for everything to be shuttered by five o'clock sharp. (To provide Stockholm with a semblance of nightlife, [Gelly's Pub](#) stays open until nine on weekends. Nine!) If filling your evenings with board games and books will leave you antsy and restless, bring plenty of libations and amusing traveling companions — or ask your designated driver to chauffeur you across the river to Red Wing.



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### need to play HOOKY?

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