

All I Wanna Do is Have Some Fun (2)

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Hortonville Inn

Just outside Appleton, Wisconsin in Hortonville, naturally. Specialty...German food. Best Reuben sandwich...anywhere.

Just one of those friendly neighborhood small town downtown taverns that you find all over the state of Wisconsin. It's located right in the center of town, on a corner, across from another local spot. Nothing fancy, but the people are friendly and helpful. Forget your fat free diet. You can't eat good German food and expect fat free much less the 30% rule, i.e., only 30% of your calories should come from fat, forget it especially when you ask for the Reuben. Now we're talking about enjoying food. The Walleye pike is also very good and it does have less calories, but in Wisconsin the walleyed is deep fried, that way it retains its flavor.

Ask to be seated upstairs. This building is from another era, round shaped tongue and groove wooden ceilings, antique tools and 'stuff' hanging off the walls. You will get your fill in this restaurant, as you will in most Wisconsin eateries. It's expected.

Ezell's Fish Camp

Forget your Visa and Master Card, this place only takes American Express and, of course, cold, hard cash.

If you are there during the summer, order your cold beer by the glass. A pitcher of beer warms up faster than the friendliness of the waiters and waitresses in this place 'cause there is no air conditioning.

Sitting on banks of the Tom Bigbee river, just downstream from Pennington, Alabama, you are in for the best catfish dinner you'll get anywhere in the country. 'Course you get coleslaw and hush puppies. The menu includes other choices, like fried shrimp, but I strongly suggest the catfish. A cold beer goes well with the meal.

On the way out take notice of the rattle snake rattlers hanging in the display case on the wall and be sure to express your satisfaction with your meal. They know it, they just like to be reminded.

Merriman's

This restaurant, nestled into the bluffs of Moon Stone Beach in northern California, just north of Eureka on Route 101, is million dollar property. While the sun sets over the Pacific and you are in the middle of a fulfilling dinner, accented by a fine California wine, you wonder what can get any better than this.

The menu varies, but each meal is served inclusive of appetizer, dessert and coffee, very reasonably priced, considering the surroundings. Anywhere else you would pay more just for the view which includes several miles of California coastal beach plus a couple of haystack rocks jutting out of the water just to break up the vastness of the ocean view.

Forget your credit cards. As many a traveler has discovered, too late, Merriman does not take any plastic, but he'll gladly accept a business card and send you the bill, and of course cash or a personal check is always welcome. He explains that he has been fortunate in only losing less than 1% this way whereas he would have to give up 3% for the use of credit card services.

Jed Prouty Inn

This building is older than dirt. It has the names in its guest registry to prove it. You can place your name in the registry along with those of famous people from the past and maybe one or two more recent celebrities that got 'lost' in Bucksport while driving Route 1 along Maine's rugged coast.

You haven't even come close to eating real New England fish chowder 'til you've eaten it at the Jed Prouty. If it comes from the Atlantic ocean off the coast of Maine, it's fresh, anything else is a risk. If you like honest sea food served up New England style you will love the food here, and the atmosphere isn't too bad either, allowing your mind imagine a few revolutionaries sitting around the dining room discussing the problem of too much government and slipping in an ...*Aahyup*... once or twice.