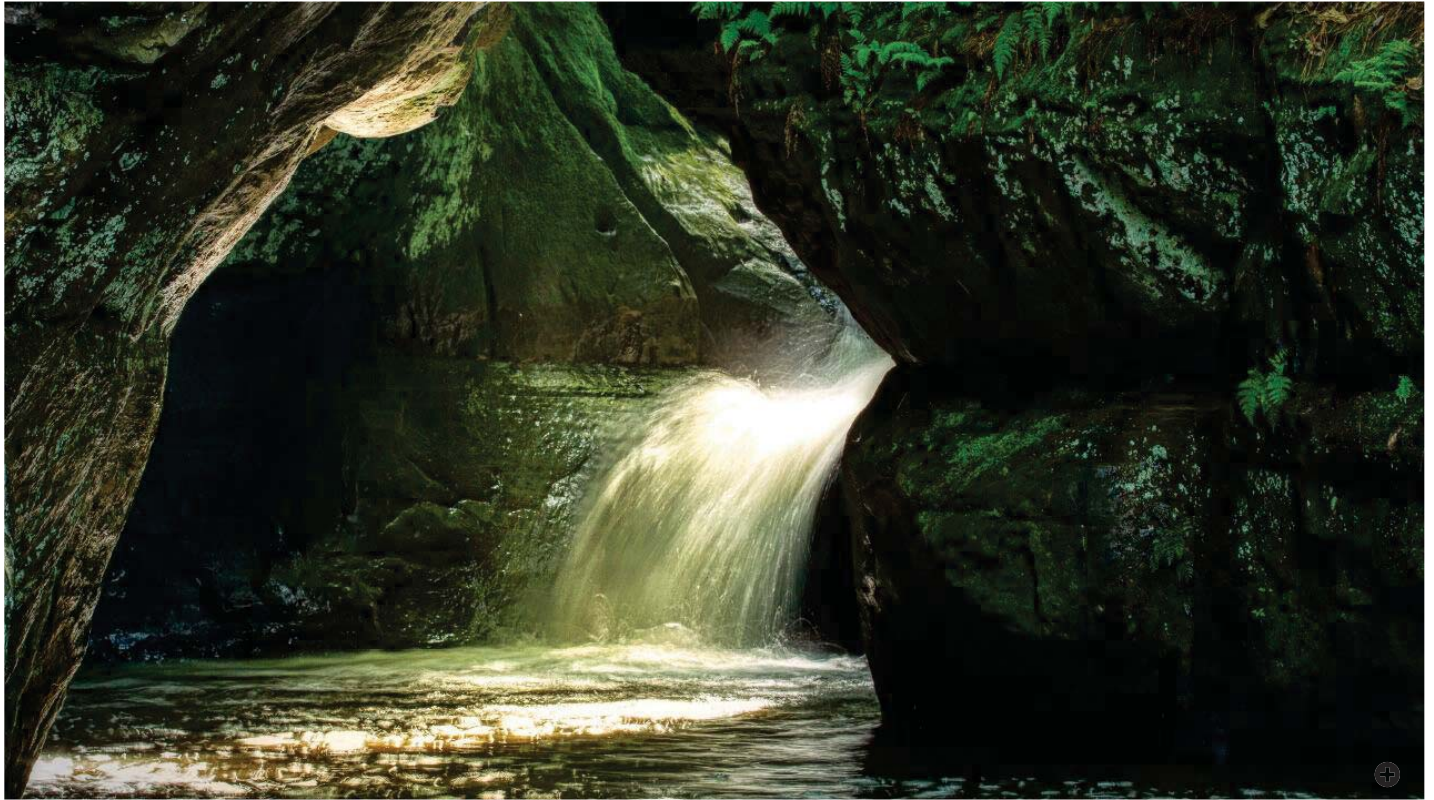


https://www.channel3000.com/madison-magazine/crack-the-code-on-secret-madison-spots-and-scenic-destinations/article_22997150-fa52-11ed-99c0-bb85dd705a0d.html



Crack the code on secret Madison spots and scenic destinations

Here's a bit of Madison insider info, from tucked-away trails to drinks in a train car, and how to experience scenic events and destinations like a local.

Celia Hiorns , Andrea Behling May 26, 2023

Secret's Out

Here's a bit of Madison insider info, from tucked-away trails to drinks in a train car.



Hike four miles of nature trails at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Middleton.

Photo Larry Chua

It might feel like you're trespassing, but the 4 miles of nature trails on **Holy Wisdom Monastery's 130-acre property** in Middleton are open to the public. They're not listed on many of the Madison trail guides you'll come across, so this has true hidden gem status. Enjoy the native prairie and views of Lake Mendota in the North Mendota Wildlife Area. For a more immersive experience, book a stay in one of **Holy Wisdom's two hermitages**. These cozy cabins are available to anyone for a personal retreat. Each hermitage includes a living room, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and deck. You can also book one of 19 rooms (or do a group outing) at the Retreat and Guest House, which feel spare and meditative. A continental breakfast is included with any overnight stay, but for an extra cost, guests can add chef-prepared lunch and dinner buffets made with fresh, local ingredients. Stay for as little as two days, or as long as three months. Find solitude in a peaceful wooded area that's off the beaten path. Though unfamiliar to newcomers, the hermitages have a strong base of retreaters — so book in advance to make sure you get a spot. *4200 County Road M, Middleton*
