

HARLEY MUSEUM AND BREWING HISTORY TOUR

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On a somewhat cool morning in March 11 Badgerland Miata members gathered at the **Harley Davidson Museum** in Milwaukee. After a little confusion in the lobby (medical emergency, not one of us) it was determined that we would have a guided tour through the museum by Tour Guide Jackie. Also joining us would be a Boy Scout group that was working on their engineering patch. Even if you're not a Biker you have to admit Harley did a fantastic job in telling the history of their journey. We saw the earliest bike they ever made, as well as just how small the original shed was that they worked out of. Along the way we saw scores of bikes, all colors and sizes. After the official tour we did have some time on our own, to take pictures sitting on some bikes. At the end of our visit we were surprised that the Museum decided to "Comp" us and no one paid admission due to the confusion that took place that morning.

Thank you Harley Davidson.

We then headed across the way to the **Motor Café** for lunch where we were joined by two more members, Patty and Al. Lunch was very good, but we were on a time line and needed to head to the next venue, **The Best Place** for our brewery tour.

Our next stop was the corporate offices for **The Pabst Brewing Co.** At the time this was purchased in 2011 most of the buildings had been torn down and the only remaining building was the Gift Shop, the Tap Room and the Blue Ribbon room. As part of the tour you get yourself a beer and you settle in for a very detailed history lesson of the Pabst Brewing Co, from owner and historian Jim Heartel. Jim is a lot of fun to listen to and loves sharing his stories. After viewing a slide show which also includes some fun commercials you head upstairs to the newly remodeled ballroom where various events take place. Even though it has been remodeled they were very determined to keep a lot of the original woodwork and stain glass windows. Captain Pabst's office is up there as well. As you move through the buildings you realize just how much history is in those walls. The end of the tour takes you to the Tap Room where again you can help yourself to a beer, sit in front of the roaring fire and just enjoy how quaint and cozy the room is with it's warm woodwork and its German folk tales hand painted on the walls. Our day ended here, but it was a great day with great friends.