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Summary:

Reunion places ... the first in a series.

What do Nashville, Tennessee, and Phoenix, Arizona, and Door County, Wisconsin, have in common?

Reunion places

Hi. I'm Edith Wagner. I'm editor of *Reunions magazine*. This time we'll talk about some locations for your reunion.

What do Nashville, Tennessee, Phoenix, Arizona, and Door County, Wisconsin, have in common?

They are in distinctly different parts of the country — each with its special advantages — but all are great for reunions and places you should seriously consider for your reunion.

Where to have your reunion will always be an issue unless you have a permanent place, as does the Haimbaugh family, who restored a round barn in Fulton County, Indiana, that was in the family and now use it for each reunion; or the Seidemans, who meet annually at the family farm in Newburg, Wisconsin.

If you don't have these advantages, you do have the challenge of finding just the right place that will attract members to your reunion.

I'd like to tell you about these three places I visited recently and some of the reasons you might choose one – or maybe all - of them. They're very different from one another, and in different parts of the country, but all have one very important thing in common: each location has a very helpful convention and visitors bureau, with staffers eager to help you stage your best reunion ever.

First: Nashville, Tennessee, the goal for anyone who loves country music, a subject about which I knew nothing when I arrived but lots by the time I left. Nashville has much to entertain everyone. The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum and the Grand Ole Opry are essentials for everyone who visits Nashville. The museum tells about the history and heart of this all-American music, and the Opry puts you right in the middle of it. Dolly Parton and the late Porter Waggoner were performing the night I went. I hope the show you see is as exciting.

There is much history to be savored in Nashville including President Andrew Jackson's lush estate, The Hermitage. If you're really lucky, you'll encounter interpreter Dave McArdle, who looks remarkably like General Jackson. Nearby Travellers Rest and Belle Meade Plantation demonstrate a time

and life that was quite different from what we enjoy today.

You'll want to visit the new Frist Museum; kids will long remember Artquest, with lots of hands-on activities. Make it out to the Loveless Café, 15 miles from downtown, for a very special family breakfast. And for those with the interest, a drive through rolling hills and beautiful Tennessee countryside to the Jack Daniels Distillery in Lynchburg is a must. To start your reunion planning in Nashville, go online to visitmusiccity.com or call 800-657-6910.

Phoenix, Arizona, is far, far away and in a desert so dry and hot in summer you wonder how anyone could survive. Well, survive they do and most seem to love it. Reunion season, high season in much of the rest of the country, is off-season in Phoenix and you know what that means – a bonus for you and your reunion. You'll appreciate off-season rates at many renowned resorts, plus access to their great amenities such as spas, golf, tennis, pools—and, at the Westin Kierland, a Lazy River water feature. Yes, lying in an giant inner tube is fun no matter what your age. Other renowned resorts with outstanding amenities and off season prices include The Phoenician, the Four Seasons Scottsdale Resort at Troon North, and the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess. All of them are self-

contained and can provide everything you need to relax and enjoy your reunion very comfortably at off season rates in summer.

But Phoenix is in the desert and you'll want to get a taste of what lives and thrives in those conditions. That includes humans, and perhaps one of the most famous of those was Frank Lloyd Wright, who spent many winters engaged in his creativity at Taliesan West. For nature lovers, the Desert Botanical Garden is where you can learn about the plants and creatures that inhabit this place. Consider their flashlight walks after dark: kids will love it!

Native American history and culture are featured at the fabulous Heard Museum, while the Phoenix Art Museum also offers an outstanding collection. And at Pueblo Grande Museum & Cultural Park you can tour the remnants of the Hohokam people who lived here centuries ago.

Scottsdale, adjacent to Phoenix, features many shops, galleries and entertainment that make a reunion in Phoenix a great idea. To start your Phoenix reunion exploration, visit www.phoenixvb.com or call toll free 877-CALLPHX or 877-225-5749.

Door County, Wisconsin, is that peninsula that looks like a thumb sticking out on the Lake Michigan side.

It is a very popular midwest vacation destination, but it's time the rest of the country at least learned what you're missing.

So very many ways to get around: walking, running, of course, but who would want to expend that much energy on vacation? But here's the real list for ways to get around: sailboat, kayak, canoe, pontoon boat, parasail, cross country skis, sled, snowshoes, horse, moped, motorcycle, bicycle, tandem bike, hayride, probably unicycles somewhere and my personal favorite, the Segway!

Door County is like no place else on earth and draws people back like a magnet. You'll even find lots of people who are second and third generation running family businesses — often having come home to Door County after spending time away.

You'll find casual living, small venues, fine dining (don't miss Al Johnson's Swedish pancakes with lingonberries for breakfast), small shops, galleries, cherry and apple orchards and rolling hills and farms between the two coasts of the peninsula, with Lake Michigan on one side and the bay of Green Bay on the other. Lots of great surprises include equity actors at Peninsula Players, a tradition for over 70 years for Door County vacationers. North of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, you'll find a complete lack of all chain restaurants, stores and businesses. And, guess what?

You'll never miss 'em. So start your Door County reunion now at www.doorcounty.com or call 800-52RELAX or 800-527-3529.

Consider these three very diverse reunion locations and you will find much to make your reunion members happy.

At Reunions magazine, we are always looking for new reunion places. If you have a place that was really a winner for everyone, share it with us. Feel free to email suggestions to reunions@execpc.com or send them to *Reunions magazine*, PO Box 11727, Milwaukee WI 53211 or post them at our forum at <http://forums.reunionsmag.com>.

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