Welcome to www.explorejordan.org

Founded in 1854, the charming City of Jordan is a hidden jewel surrounded by the bluffs and rolling green hills of the beautiful Minnesota River Valley.

Jordan offers you a cozy small-town environment steeped in its own unique traditions, such as local artisan fairs and the Jordan Valley Bike Tour.

Only twenty miles from the southwest metro area and just 30 minutes from Minneapolis.

A Walking Tour of Historic Sights

It was round about 1902...

...the Hilgers and Schutz private brewery parks great expansion was drawing hundreds of weekend excursionists to Jordan. Take a walk among the buildings that have stood along these streets for over a century and imagine the bustle of visitors as they detrain the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway, greeted by white painted rocks against the hillside spelling Welcome to Jordan. City folk retreating to the small town for a picnic in the park or a treat from the concessions. Couples waltzing under the conical roof of the massive 64-foot circular pavilion to the music of a grand orchestra or sweet sounds of the Jordan Cornet Band wafting from the nearby bandstand. Revelers enjoying the merriment of the Cigar Makers festival or the vaudeville acts at the Scott County Fair. Sporting fans gathered on the latticed bleachers of the ballpark, enjoying some of the best hometown baseball in the country.

Discover Jordan and live a little history.

Created by Mara Wallach & Terri Knox
Discover Over a Century of American Heritage in Historic Downtown Jordan

1. 225 Water Street • Circa 1870*
   Originally Lebems Harness Shop, John Lebems manufactured and sold harnesses and leather goods here for 57 years. The building then operated as a variety store for decades, serving up assorted sundries to the city. In that tradition, this beautiful structure is now home to 225 Water Street Inc., a Creative Arts & Holding Company and CCG Event & Digital Video Productions. • 952.492.6492

2. 232-234 Broadway Street • Circa 1917*
   Built on a vacant lot where a brandstand once stood, it provided new quarters for the Peoples State Bank. The Jordan newspaper boasted that its “new marble hall” included “polished mahogany, sturdy and opulent bronze and marble tile, with a white and tan interior color scheme and exterior of tapestry brick and Kingston stone.”

3. 240 Water Street • Circa 1875*
   Originally a three-story building, its top floor was later removed. It was once occupied by Mrs. Annie Rogge’s Hat Shop & Pierre’s Saloon & Prohibition era “Confectionery.” The building is currently Water Street Antiques, featuring a collection of multi-dealer shops filling 3 storefronts. • 952.492.0188

4. 224 Water Street • Circa 1875*
   Originally Rapun’s Bar. Many Water Street buildings once had front ironwork balconies & this adornment still remains on this historic structure. This building has housed Ley’s Saloon, Roderick Dress Shop & Hans and All Berg Barbers. Today the building is High Financial Investment & Insurance. • 952.492.3509

5. 218 Water Street • Circa 1892*
   Casper Roderig started Minnesota Volksfreund German language newspaper here in 1892. Businesses since include the Jordan Independent and People’s Weekly newspapers, Karl’s Red & White Store and Roman Rademacher’s Red Owl Grocery. The building is currently JB Antiques. • 952.492.3071

6a. 216 Water Street • Circa 1870*
   Adjoining the drug store, with a small yard near the prescription counter, Scott County Bank operated here until 1903. Reorganized as Peoples State Bank, it operated here until moving to Broadway Street, then occupied by the Post Office. The building is currently New Special Bridal & More. • 952.492.6166

6b. 214 Water Street • Circa 1870*
   Juergens Drug Store, the original hub of Jordan business -- with the bank on one side and post office on the other, provided key services for the area. In 1896, when the telephone made its debut in Jordan, the first operator switchboard was behind the Juergens Drug Store prescription counter.

6c. 208 Water Street • Circa 1870*
   Used from 1876 thru 1916 for the Jordan Post Office, this building later housed Jordan’s second telephone office. Most buildings of this era were constructed of distinctive home brewed Jordan brick, Cedar Valley Tax Service & Photography Studio. • 952.314.6633

7. 204 Water Street • Circa 1864*
   The Fritz Pelton Log Cabin was originally the home of the Fritz Pelton family. This small one-room log building, situated towards the back of the lot, was moved to this site from New Prarie in 1979. The original building on this site housed Mr. Hurlikers Jewelry in the front half and the telephone office in the back. The building is currently Grandma’s Hideout.

8. 200 Water Street • Circa 1914
   The Feed Mill was constructed on this site because of Sand Creek. Water was necessary to operate grind stones of the mill, and this served as the perfect location. Later this spot became the Feed Store. Currently the Feed Mill Restaurant, always a place to get together to catch up and enjoy some truly delicious home cooked food. • 952.492.3646

9. 102 Water Street • Circa 1950
   Family home of John Pilney, a Bohemian immigrant, this building also served as a tailor shop, saloon, and half-way boarding house. However, the saloon with a deer head over the door proved to be Pilney’s downfall, as he died in 1883 of delirium tremens. Currently the Upper Cottonwood Center for Creative Arts. • 952.492.2260

10. Varner Street • Circa 1855*
    The Ambrose Freedman Log Cabin is a memorial to Scott County’s pioneer settlers. Moved to its present location in 1956 and donated by Clement Nachtber in memory of his pioneering parents, Mathias Nachtber and Wilhelmina Mertens Nachtber, who settled near Jordan in 1855. Restored in 1931, dedicated in 1937.

11. 119 Water Street • Circa 1896
   Frank Pekarnek bought the business from his former employer in 1896 and it has been a family tradition for over a century. Take a trip to Pekarnek’s Meat Market, meet the family and shop for some world famous homemade sausages, fresh meats and incredible baby back ribs. Pekarnek’s Meat Market • 952.492.6101

** 106 First Street East
   If you’re getting thirsty, just walk around the corner and stop at Awakenings Coffee Shop and Cafe. • 952.492.6430

12. 200 First Street East • Circa 1892
   Herman and Margaret Herder ran a cigar factory here until it became Rudd’s Pharmacy and then a hair salon. Currently Storekeepers Antiques with a gorgeous side garden.

13. 116 Second Street East • Circa 1895
   Originally City Hall, this building housed fire fighting equipment and the city jail on the first floor with City Council Chambers & city government offices above. The building is currently The Viney Floral & Gifts. • 952.492.5222

14. 311 East Second Street • Circa 1908
   Jordan pioneers desired education for their children as much as a church, and established St. John’s school in 1866. In 1877, a two store floor house was constructed and staffed in 1879 by the Sisters of Notre Dame replacing the log teachers that served until that time. Replaced in 1908 with the current structure, students held classes in an old apartment behind the priest’s garage. The building now lays empty, as students relocated to the new school north of St. John’s church. Listed on the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota’s 2007 Ten Most Endangered Historic Places.

15. 313 East Second Street • Circa 1867
   Catholic services started in private homes during 1854, the year Jordan was established. The first church in the town of Jordan proper was built in 1858. The current structure at the same location was completed in 1867. The Calvary Cemetery is at the top of the hill east of the church. The St. John Baptist Catholic Church also houses St. John’s Parochial School. • 952.492.2640

16. 221 Broadway Street • Circa 1888*
   Frank Nicolli & his sons dominated the affairs of Jordan, often referred to as Nicolliville during the 1880’s. Frank, a four-term Jordan Mayor and accomplished entrepreneur, held the Nicolli Mill, Nicolli Opera House & a stone quarry among his many holdings. The mansion was built in 1888 & was considered the finest residence ever erected in Scott County. Since the Nicolli residence has been, Kaiserhof Hotel, Mertz Hotel & the Nicolli Inn. The building is currently the Nicolli Mansion Bed & Breakfast, fully reconditioned in the original design tradition of the times. • 952.492.6441

17. 231 Broadway Street • Circa 1876*
   Originally the Nicolli Opera House and Mammoth Store this building was the scene for masked balls, oyster suppers, wedding receptions and early movies. The building is currently Carusin Coffee Shop. • 952.492.5553

18. 301 Broadway Street • Circa 1895*
   Joseph Keber, “The Pioneer Druggist” started business in 1880 in a two-story frame building in Jordan. Keber Hospital adjoined the building at the rear. Dr. Jane practiced here in the 1890’s, later joined by Dr. Schneider. Surgical operations were performed here, but mostly removal of tonsils, the occasional flu, broken arm and birth of babies. The hospital opened until the mid-1930’s. The building is currently the Empire Wok Chinese Restaurant. • 952.492.5556

19. 415 Broadway Street • Circa 1868
   The Jordan Brewery Inc., got its start sometime during the mid-1800’s when businessman, Frank Nicolli opened a general store and a brewery in Jordan. Owned by Schutz and Kaiser, and later Schutz and Higlers, the brewery enjoyed success during the early years of Jordan. The hill behind the building, is faced with storage caves utilized by the brewery for aging their product. The building is currently Brewery Antiques. • 952.492.7833

20. Mini-Met Baseball Park
   Since 1888, the baseball park now known as the Mini-Met has served up baseball, bandstand concerts, state fairs and picnics. The adjacent beautiful Lagoon Park, Mill Pond and Sand Creek Waterfall, enjoy finishing your day with this special experience.

* 1868-1917
Mission Statement

The foundation of Jordan is built on a small town historic presence that supports quality services, collaboration, leadership and a well-planned future.

By the late 1850’s, Jordan boasted a hotel, churches, a school, tavern, post office, two mills and a number of new homes. Today, as many as 15 Water Street and South Broadway buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Part of the most rapid growth area in Minnesota, Scott County, Jordan benefits from its close proximity to the Twin Cities metropolitan area and offers a full range of urban land use services, making it a desirable cultural and economic core of the southern metro region.

Exciting things are happening in the city including improved infrastructure and transportation routes, creating new business opportunities and increasing planned residential growth. Stop in and visit... you’re sure to be greeted with some hometown hospitality.

Jordan...something for everyone.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY – YEAR ‘ROUND

| FEBRUARY | • Lions Pork Dinner  
| APRIL    | • Celebrate Jordan  
| MAY      | • Easter Egg Hunt in Lagoon Park  
|          | • City-Wide Garage Sale Saturday  
| JUNE     | • Memorial Day Parade & Service  
|          | • Pork in the Park  
|          | • Jordan Art Festival  
|          | • Jordan Area Bike Tour  
| JULY     | • Scott County Fair  
| SEPTEMBER| • Heimatfest-2nd Saturday  
| OCTOBER  | • St. Johns Fall Festival  
| NOVEMBER | • Apple Time  
| DECEMBER | • Jordaness Fashion Benefit  
|          | • Breakfast with Santa  

WELCOME TO JORDAN