



Original Wisconsin Ducks Fact Sheet

- What is a Duck:** An original World War II “Duck” is an amphibious vehicle, meaning it can travel on land and water. It has six driving wheels, a steel hull and the capacity to carry 25 people while afloat and 5,000-pounds of general cargo. (Original WI Ducks carry a maximum of 21 passengers plus the driver.) The Duck's land motor is in the front. The vehicle operates in water by means of a pusher/propeller located at the rear.
- Vital Statistics:** Weight = 7½ tons Length = 31 feet Width = 8 feet Height = 10½ feet
Engine = Engines were six-cylinder GMC model 270 truck engines.
The OWD operational fleet has been converted to six-cylinder Cummins diesel engines.
Transmission = Four- and six-wheel drive; 10 speeds forward / two reverse
Top Speeds = 50 mph on land; 11 knots on water
- Official Name:** DUKW is the official military code used to describe the unique vehicles.
“D” stands for 1942, the year of production
“U” indicates it is an amphibious utility vehicle
“K” represents front-wheel drive
“W” signifies twin, rear-driving axles
- Everyday Name:** American soldiers simply called them “Ducks,” a fitting nickname since the military code DUKW looked similar and the vehicles could operate on land and water.
- Our Fleet:** With 92 Ducks, Original Wisconsin Ducks is the largest fleet of authentic WWII amphibious tour ducks in the nation. There are an estimated 300 operational Ducks in the United States. However, many more of the vehicles were abandoned in Europe where OWD managers have traveled to find Ducks in good condition to add to the fleet.
- Other “Ducks”:** In recent years, other amphibious tours have started around the country, but most of them are not using authentic WWII DUKW vehicles. Many are newly manufactured machines with similar amphibious features called Truck Ducks. While those operations call themselves “Ducks” they are not authentic DUKW vehicles and cannot be compared to our fleet.

Naming OWD Ducks: Each Original Wisconsin Duck bears the name of a famous military leader, such as General MacArthur, or a famous battle or locations where Ducks participated in war efforts. A few are named after the girlfriends of our early Duck drivers.

Tour Highlights: Original Wisconsin Duck tours wind through some of the most beautiful scenery of Wisconsin Dells. The 8½-mile, one-hour excursion includes two water entries and features narrated highlights of the unique sandstone rock formations along the Wisconsin River, as well as historical accounts of the region. Tour guides also offer up interesting facts about the Ducks original use as war vehicles and splash in some good old-fashioned humor to keep things light.

2021 Ticket Prices: Adults (ages 12 and older) – \$30
Children 4 to 11 – \$15
Children age 3 and younger ride FREE
Group tour rates are available

Season/Hours: Duck tours are traditionally offered from mid-March through mid-November, weather permitting. During Summer, tours begin at 8 a.m. and depart every few minutes through 7:00 p.m. Spring and Fall tours vary dependent on weather. Call for tour times.

Parking & Shuttle Info: Original Wisconsin Ducks provides FREE shuttle service to the Duck Dock from two locations in downtown Wisconsin Dells. Adequate FREE parking is available at the Duck Dock as well.

Other Amenities: Visitors will find restrooms, a snack bar and a picnic area located at our Duck Dock. Our PX Store offers a variety of Original Wisconsin Ducks merchandise and other souvenir and gift items.

Duck Staff: Original Wisconsin Ducks employs 110 people including 40 Duck tour drivers, a variety of ticket agents, parking lot attendants, office and management staff and vehicle maintenance crew.

Location: 1890 Wisconsin Dells Parkway
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

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