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SEASON OF  
*you*<sup>®</sup>

SPRING / SUMMER 2026 TRAVEL GUIDE

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**SCALE OF MILES**  
 0 10 20 30 40  
 ONE INCH = APPROXIMATELY 40 MILES

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PURE MICHIGAN®  
 Your trip begins at michigan.org  
 2025 State Map was provided by the Michigan Department of Transportation



### HIGHWAY MARKERS

- INTERSTATE ROUTE
- U.S. ROUTE or B.R. (B.R. - Business Route)
- U.S. ROUTE or B.R. (B.R. - Business Route)

### INTERSTATE, U.S. AND STATE ROUTES

- FREEWAY (Distance and Fuel only at Interchanges)
- MULTI-LANE DIVIDED
- PAVED - TWO OR MORE LANES

### MAP SYMBOLS

- NATIONAL PARK
- STATE PARK
- NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION FACILITY
- PASSENGER & AUTO FERRY
- PASSENGER FERRY
- FERRY/BOATLINE
- COUNTY BEAT
- STATE CAPITAL (LANDING)
- WELCOME CENTER & REST AREA\*\*
- GREAT LAKES CIRCLE TOUR (SIGNED)

\*\* Accessible to people with disabilities



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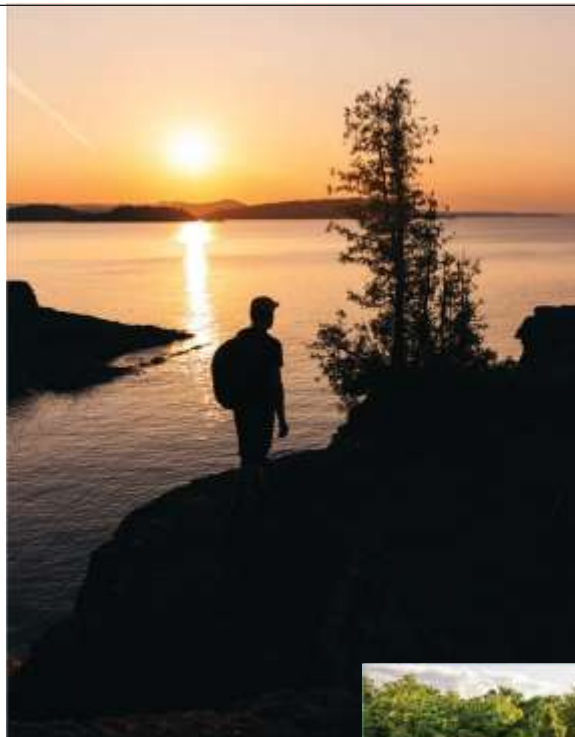
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SPRING / SUMMER 2026



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Discover the D (and Motor City history) during the city's 325th birthday.



### DIGITAL EDITION

To access a mobile-optimized version, visit [michigan.org](http://michigan.org)



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PHOTOGRAPHS: SOLOHIKER/FELICIAFULLWOOD,(GOLF)AARONPETERSON,(THEATER)ADOB ESTOCK,(HIKERS)EEBERGER

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 MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

# on YOUR MARQ<sup>↑</sup>

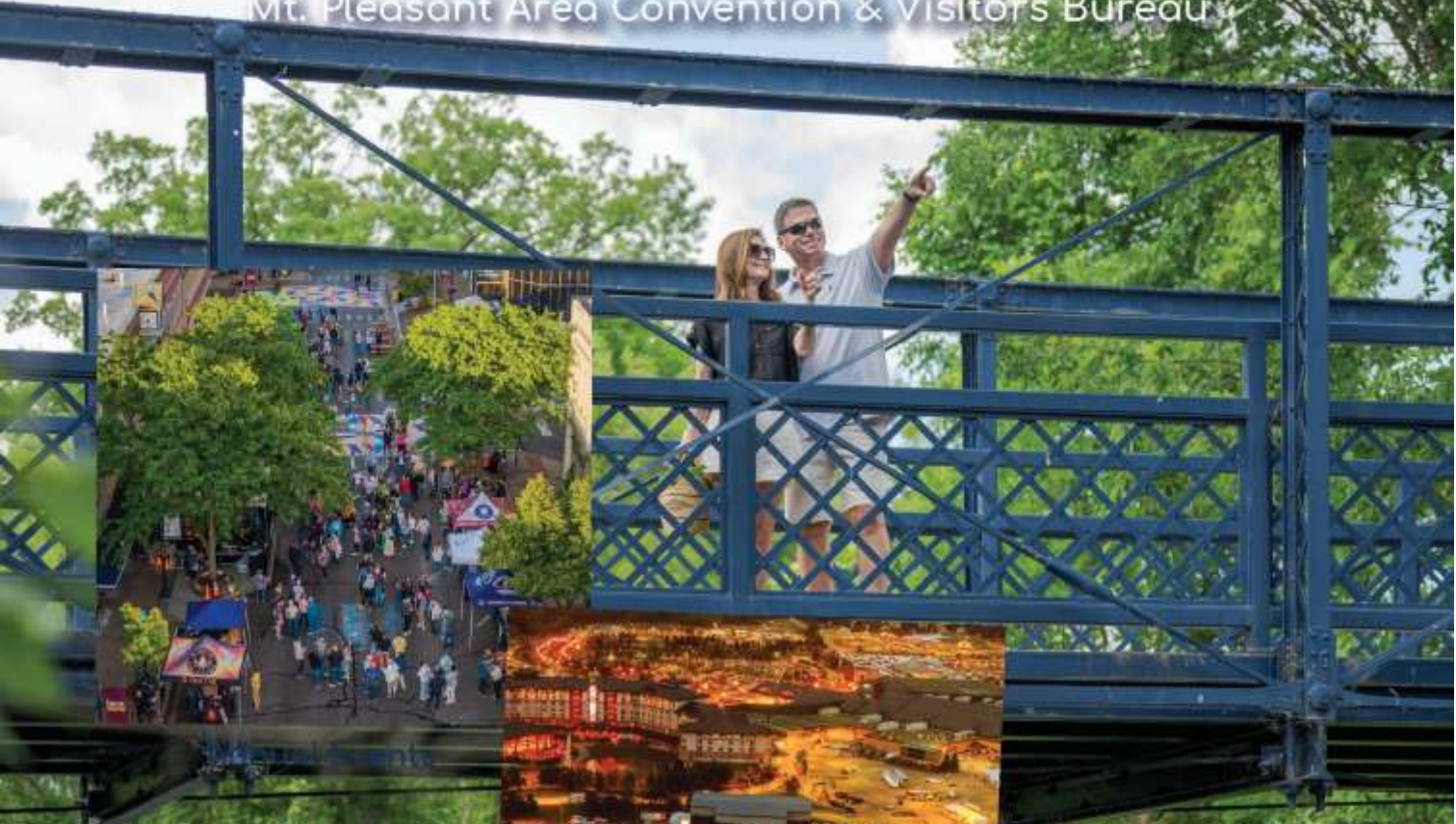


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MARQUETTE

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# Meet Mt. Pleasant

Mt. Pleasant Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



Soaring Eagle Casino



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for Entertainment!

Plan Your Trip!



Central Michigan University



SEE WHAT'S NEW

# THE PREVIEW

Discover fresh debuts and notable events worth planning a trip around.

Celebrate  
Detroit's  
birthday in style,  
page 72.

STORY: KRISTIN HAGENSON. PHOTOGRAPHS: (CAROUSEL) LEE BERGER, (AMBUS EMENT) PARK VIVIST MUSE, KEGON



**FROM TOP**  
*Detroit Riverfront; Michigan's Adventure, Muskegon*

## Milestones

Celebrate Detroit's 325th birthday this Founder's Day (July 24), honoring the date French explorer Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac founded Detroit in 1701. Seventy-five years later, the United States signed the Declaration of Independence. America250 events include local parades and museum exhibits, such as The Henry Ford's *Fabric of America: Our Fashions, Textiles and Technologies* (June 7–September 13), in honor of the nation's semiquincentennial. The state's largest amusement park, Michigan's Adventure in Muskegon, turns 70 this year, while Pure Michigan, the state's tourism campaign, turns 20. (See *page 14* for more.)

Nine rentals at Fresh Coast Cabins offer views of the lake, and possibly the northern lights, in Eagle Harbor.



## Worth the Wait

New and almost-new attractions are ready for you to discover.

### ACRISURE AMPHITHEATER GRAND RAPIDS

The inaugural outdoor concert series includes big name stars like Lionel Richie, Pitbull and Meghan Trainor at this new venue along the Grand River downtown.

### THE BIRCHY MARQUETTE

Borrow cruiser bikes and explore the nearby Heritage Trail or gaze upon Lake Superior from your balcony at this rebranded and renovated hotel with yard games and coolers.

### DETROIT ZOO ROYAL OAK

The all-new Fred and Barbara Erb Discovery Trails connect multiple immersive experiences with animals in a stingray encounter, a goat-brushing yard and much more for children and families.

### EXPLORE: MARQUETTE MARQUETTE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Hotel guests savor complimentary early-evening local brews and creative cocktails on the spacious deck overlooking Lake Superior at this 13-room boutique lodging.

### SMALL CRAFT HANCOCK

Three unique attractions work in harmony on the Keweenaw Peninsula. Last year, Jason and Lynn Makela opened Small Craft bar next to Takka Sauna in Hancock. For an unplugged getaway, book one of nine Fresh Coast Cabins in Eagle Harbor.

### GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE DETROIT TO WINDSOR

Opening soon: Automobiles cruise on three traffic lanes, while cyclists and pedestrians enjoy a 12-foot-wide dedicated path on the bridge between the United States and Canada.



FROM TOP  
Fresh Coast Cabins, Eagle Harbor;  
Explore: Marquette

# OUR RHYTHM, YOUR MOVE.

DETROIT IS MORE THAN A CITY.  
IT'S A MOVEMENT.

WE MAKE THE HITS YOU REMEMBER  
AND CREATE CULTURE ALL AROUND YOU.

EVERY BLOCK HAS A BEAT.  
AND EACH SIGHT HAS A STORY TO TELL.  
FROM CRISPY EDGES ON A DETROIT-STYLE SLICE  
TO CRISP JERSEYS STRAIGHT FROM THE PRO SHOP.  
ALL THE FLAVORS, SOUNDS AND FEELINGS  
ARE PURE POETRY IN MOTION.

WE SET THE STAGE.

NOW IT'S YOUR MOVE.

*Detroit*

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Communal  
tables at Granor Farm  
unite foodies  
during dinners, classes  
and workshops.



**FROM TOP**  
*Granor Farm Distillery, Three Oaks; Chihuly at Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids*

**A CURATED PREVIEW OF THE NEW,  
NOTABLE AND NEWSWORTHY—ADDING MUST-SEE  
DESTINATIONS TO YOUR TRAVEL LIST.**

**GRANOR FARM DISTILLERY  
THREE OAKS**

The team behind the organic farm now uses their own grains to distill whiskey, vermouth and dry gin in limited quantities that can only be sampled at the Farm Store or during a dining event.

**GREENFIELD VILLAGE AT  
THE HENRY FORD  
DEARBORN**

Civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others met in the living room of the Jackson family home to plan the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965. The historic Jackson Home was relocated from Selma and will open for self-guided tours at the Village (beginning June 9).

**GUN LAKE CASINO RESORT  
WAYLAND**

Come for the gaming, stay for the full-service spa, two indoor pools (one for guests 21 and older), fitness center, steakhouse and cocktail bar at the all-new resort hotel.

**THE MILL AT ZEHNDER PARK  
FRANKENMUTH**

Coming soon: The 1848 mill will reopen as a boutique hotel with four suites. Each includes a fireplace, spacious living space and private balcony with views of the Cass River.



**Limited Editions**

Come see these special exhibits before they're gone.

**MAY–NOVEMBER**  
*Chihuly at Meijer Gardens*  
Grand Rapids

**MAY 16–SEPTEMBER 13**  
*M.C. Escher: Infinite Variations* at Flint Institute of Arts Flint

**SEPTEMBER 12–JANUARY 3, 2027**  
*Georgia O'Keeffe Architecture* at Detroit Institute of Arts Detroit



# EXPLORE

*Coldwater Country*


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Experience Michigan's natural wonders as it dons its familiar seasonal garb. Heed the call of beckoning waters throughout the state or explore the wilds of the Upper Peninsula.

Aptly named Twelvemile Beach is part of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore between Grand Marais and Munising.

# WOODS & WATERS

PHOTOGRAPH: AARON PETERSON



# ONLY IN MICHIGAN

Experience 20 enthralling attractions and  
destinations in honor of the 20th  
anniversary



Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore boasts more than 14 hiking trails totaling 100+ miles to explore.



## National Park Pride

**2** Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, a mix of dunes and unique glacial features, sits in the northwest corner of the Lower Peninsula. Dunes reach 450 feet tall, and sandy beaches stretch across the 35-mile shoreline. Trekkers with up to four hours of time (and plenty of water) can hike the Dunes Trail to Lake Michigan.



**FROM TOP**  
*Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Munising to Grand Marais; Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Empire; Isle Royale National Park, Lake Superior*

of Pure Michigan, the iconic brand that



has become the calling card of the  
Great Lakes State.

**1** Michigan is the only state made entirely of two peninsulas, the Lower and Upper (UP). An extension of the UP, the Keweenaw Peninsula's northern region is also an island—the **Portage Lake Lift Bridge** connects Houghton with the northern portion of the Keweenaw.

**3** In 1966, **Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore** was established as the first of the nation's three Copper Harbor on the national lakeshores. Keweenaw Peninsula. **Park** is reachable by ferry or seaplane during warm-weather months

The 42-mile stretch of shoreline between Munising and Grand Marais includes 15 miles of colorful sandstone cliffs and more than 12 miles of pristine sandy beaches. **5** The **Keweenaw National Historical Park** on the Keweenaw Peninsula is home to the first great mining boom (copper, 1843) in the United States, with 23 heritage sites.

**4** One of the most remote and least-visited national parks known for its rugged beauty and backcountry resulting in the greatest camping, Michigan's **Isle Royale National Park** commemorates the 1813 battles

---

*Stroll through the clouds in a place where  
reality exceeds expectation. See for yourself.*



Cruise under the Mackinac Bridge aboard a 90-minute Sip n' Sail outing; some tours include live entertainment.



**FROM TOP**  
Mackinac Bridge; Bond Falls, Paulding; Holland Harbor Light, aka Big Red, Holland

U.S. defeat during the War of 1812. Begin your exploration at the Visitors Center.

## Water Wonders

**7** Four of the five Great Lakes (Erie, Huron, Michigan and Superior) touch the aptly named Great Lakes State, which also sports the longest freshwater coastline in the world.

**8** The **Soo Locks** connect Lake Superior to the lower Great Lakes in Sault Ste. Marie. Experience the world's busiest locks by cargo tonnage on a tour.

**9** The Upper Peninsula boasts more than 300 waterfalls. The developed areas of **Tahquamenon Falls**

**State Park** near Paradise and **Bond Falls** in Paulding are universally accessible. The Lower Peninsula's largest waterfall, **Ocqueoc Falls** (west of Rogers City) is also universally accessible.

**10** Wherever you are in Michigan, you're within 6 miles of a natural body of water for swimming and paddling (river, stream or inland lake, of which there are more than 10,000).

**11 Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary** near Alpena is a treacherous stretch of Lake Huron. Nicknamed Shipwreck Alley, 100 ships have been discovered to date. See the wrecks on a glass-bottom boat tour.

**12** The 5-mile-long **Mackinac Bridge**, the longest suspension bridge in the Western Hemisphere, connects the Lower and Upper Peninsulas.



## OPEN TO ALL

Michigan state parks and recreation areas welcome people of all abilities to experience the great outdoors. Some of the accessible amenities found at various state parks include beach and track chairs, easy-to-use kayak launches with transfer benches and slide boards, and colorblind scenic viewfinders. The **Muskegon Luge Adventure Sports Park**, within Muskegon State Park, offers adaptive equipment for year-round outdoor activities, including ziplining and roller luge.

Other top attractions with accessible features include Midland's Canopy Walk at **Whiting Forest**. Guests of all ages and abilities are immersed in the forest on this quarter-mile path, four stories above ground. It's the country's longest canopy walk. In Alpena, the **Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center** has an ADA-approved *Exploring the Shipwreck Century* exhibit.



# YOUR SUMMER STARTS HERE.

If your idea of the perfect vacation is sugar-sand beaches, clear blue waters along 28 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline, outdoor adventures, climbing to the top of historic lighthouses, or exploring a charming downtown, Ludington is your destination for Pure Michigan fun.

Ludington's unspoiled natural resources offers a quintessential "Up North" experience all within easy reach located at the intersection of U.S. 31 and U.S. 10. No matter what you're seeking - a beach or outdoor adventure, a peaceful get-away, or just a community of friendly faces - you can find it in Pure Ludington.

[PURELUDINGTON.COM](http://PURELUDINGTON.COM)





**13** Michigan has **Island** covers more than **FROM TOP**  
 129 lighthouses, the 80 percent of the island. *Beaver Island*; most of any state, and

**Time** **16** **Beaver Island**, the *DeGrandchamp*  
 each one is unique. (The tallest you can climb: **14** Explore **Les** largest in Lake Michigan,  
*South Haven Farms*,

**New Presque Isle** **Cheneaux Islands**, a is also home to a dark  
 collection of 36 land sky sanctuary, perfect



## MICHIGAN TASTES

Many of the state's most famous flavors and treats were invented in Detroit. In 1907, Russian immigrants used bakery flavors to create **Faygo** pop. **Vernors** Ginger Ale was the idea of a Detroit pharmacist in 1866. The city also produced **Better Made** potato chips, Coney Island dogs and Detroit-style pizza. The square shape came from Buddy's Pizza, where they used steel auto parts pans for a crispy crust and put the sauce on top. The theatrics of making fudge on a marble slab in front of customers began with **Original Murdick's Fudge** on Mackinac Island in 1887. Today, there are 13 more fudge shops. In the UP, Cornish miners brought pasties to the states. The hearty, handheld meal consists of meat, potato, onion and rutabaga wrapped in pastry.



Rock out to local and regional artists during the annual Beaver Island Music Festival (July 16–18).



Mackinac Island State Park, Michigan's oldest,



## HOMEGROWN

Michigan's agriculture scene ranks top in the nation for tart cherries. Taste the delectable tangy fruit found in more than 200 products at **Cherry Republic** stores throughout the state. This year marks the 100th celebration of the **National Cherry Festival** (July 4–11) in Traverse City, the Cherry Capital of the World. Whether it's biting into a crisp apple or sipping a glass of cider, Michigan comes in second for apple production. Many of the state's orchards line the Lake Michigan shore. Also along the shore, South Haven has the largest concentration of blueberry growers, including U-pick **DeGrandchamp Farms**. Taste the fruit at the **National Blueberry Festival** (August 6–9).

in Presque Isle. The masses of varying sizes, for stargazing. The oldest: **Fort Gratiot** in



on a guided paddle island sits about  
Port Huron. The most adventure with outfitter 30 miles offshore from  
photographed: **Big Red,** Charlevoix. (Ferries  
best seen from the north Woods and Waters. operate seasonally;  
side of the channel at **15** On automobile- flights are year-round.)  
Holland State Park). free **Mackinac Island,**

**MEMORIES**

Discover treasured traditions and fresh experiences in Michigan.

**LEFT**

*Manabezho Falls at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, Ontonagon*

## The Great Outdoors

**17** The **Traverse Wine Coast** sits on the 45th parallel, which is in line with esteemed European wine regions, such as Piedmont and Bordeaux. Lake Michigan's lake-effect microclimate creates milder temperatures; fertile ground and extended daylight help nurture the grapes of the area's 50 wineries.

**18** The massive **Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park** is home to the most extensive track of old-growth forest in the U.S. An accessible overlook provides dramatic views of Lake of the Clouds.

**19** See the Milky Way and northern lights dance across the sky at one of Michigan's three **international dark sky parks** (Keweenaw Peninsula, Mackinaw City and Vandalia) and six state-designated dark sky preserves.

**20** Of the eight states connected to the 4,800-mile **North Country National Scenic Trail**, Michigan has the most miles (1,180).



READY, SET, GO!

# CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE

As you romp, roam, plunge and slide through Michigan's many thrills, prepare your stomach for the occasional exhilarating flip-flop and your face for a post-grin ache (the best kind).



**ABOVE**  
Suspension  
Bridge,  
Manistee  
River Trail



## ADRENALINE RIDES

## PICK UP SPEED

If you still love racing down hills like a kid, try these high-octane sports.

Skip the uphill pedaling and opt for a lift that transports you and your mountain bike to the top of the trail at **The Highlands Bike Park** in Harbor Springs. Then zoom down beginner-friendly paths or adrenaline-pumping expert singletrack. Ride the Heather chairlift to the start of the nine-hole disc golf course that weaves through the wooded hills. Farther south, visit **Muskegon Luge Adventure Sports Park**, the old stomping grounds of Olympian luger Mark Grimmette. Though the ice luge track closes for the summer, the wheeled version delivers a similar experience. “It’s a sport, so it’s not like going down a waterslide,” says Dan Bonner, outdoor adventure specialist at the park. “You’re actively engaging core muscles, using your legs and your body to turn. It’s exhilarating.” A coach teaches you how to steer the sled, then sets you free to practice on the 320-foot-long fiberglass track.

*Bike Park,  
Harbor Springs*

## BRIDGE WALKS



**ABOVE**  
*The Highlands*

**MAKE** that crosses the “Little Mac” Foot **A SPLASH** Bridge? The structure spans 245 feet,

If you prefer some thrill with your summertime chill, try these aquatic wonderlands.

can’t see what’s coming inside prefer accessing your overpasses the pitch-black tube of one of the with a dramatic ride through dense most intense rides in Muskegon’s treetops, board **Boyne Mountain ski WildWater Adventure** park, but resort’s Hemlock Chairlift in Boyne the name gives it away—Mine Shaft, Falls. Ascend to the 1,200-foot-long where rush-seekers hurtle down a **SkyBridge Michigan**, the world’s vertical drop to an epic splash. For largest timber-towered suspension group diversions, hop in a three-bridge. Cross the accessible **Canopy** person tube and brave the nearly **Walk at Hidden Lake Gardens**, which gravity-defying banked turns of the sits at tree height in Tipton. Mammoth River slide in the same water park. The Big Couloir slide at **Avalanche Bay Indoor Waterpark** in Boyne Falls serves up lose-yourbreath speeds, launching you from the start at 38 feet per second. After a float on the Lazy River, snag a board and experiment catching waves on the surf simulator.

## BOTTOM RIGHT REACH FOR THE SKY

*SkyBridge Michigan, Boyne Falls*  
If you’d like to try walking on air, step across these aerial bridges.

Miles of trails wind through Michigan, **WATER PARKS** but why not hike the **Manistee River Trail**, an 11-plus mile jaunt

connecting the lush green banks of the Manistee River. Peer down 166 feet to the tributary below—its soothing rush of water is interrupted only by paddling kayakers. If you



**LEFT**  
*Avalanche Bay Indoor Waterpark, Boyne Falls*

A 36-foot span of SkyBridge Michigan features glass panels, allowing pedestrians to look down into the valley.





PURE MICHIGAN

[michigan.org](http://michigan.org)

# UNDERWATER TREASURES

The teeming turquoise waters of Thunder Bay in Michigan’s Lower Peninsula enhance Alpena’s charming harbor-town vibe. But this cove also holds more than a century of submerged ships that practically beg visitors to dive in.

 **PHOTOS**  
*Thunder Bay  
National Marine  
Sanctuary,  
Alpena*



Underwater wrecks, some less than 6 feet from the surface, are scattered throughout Thunder Bay.



# CRYSTAL VACAY

AT MICHIGAN'S PREMIER FAMILY RESORT

Sunlight shimmering down through Lake Huron sends pale squiggles dancing across the *Monohansett*.

The wooden steam barge met its end just 18 feet below the surface in 1907, leaving its boilers, hull and machinery visible to snorkelers overhead.

Such is the case for most of the 100 shipwrecks discovered to date in Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, an underwater preserve overseen by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the state of Michigan. Located in the northern section of Lake Huron, the watery stretch has long been a popular intersection for commercial boats, says Stephanie Gandulla, a NOAA resource protection coordinator and maritime archeologist. Thanks to the cold water and lack of corrosive salt, many of the vessels unlucky enough to sink during their passage are preserved.

Some ships settled in deep water and require technical diving skills to see up close, like the *Ironton*, a schooner barge that disappeared in 1894 and was rediscovered hundreds of feet deep with all three of its masts still standing upright. "That wreck literally looks like you could haul it out of the water, hoist the sails and just continue its run," Gandulla says.

Shops like Thunder Bay Scuba in Alpena can help you with gear, and the local visitors bureau can recommend dive shops and charters in the area. But you don't need scuba gear to admire many of the wrecks. "There are shipwrecks that



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CRYSTAL  
MOUNTAIN

THOMPSONVILLE, MI

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP**  
Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, Alpena; Alpena Shipwreck Tours (2)



anybody can visit at 5 feet deep, on the beach, even," Gandulla says. "So you don't have to be a deep technical diver to visit these special places of our shared maritime history."

Buoys identify about 50 wrecks, enticing stand-up paddleboarders and kayakers to tie up to the floating markers and gaze down at the remains. Visitors can find more information at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena. There, walk on a life-size schooner and crawl through clear tubes winding through a replica shipwreck, mimicking a deep dive. The Center also sells tickets for a journey put on by Alpena Shipwreck Tours aboard the glass-bottom *Lady Michigan*.

Explore the shipwrecks of Thunder Bay during a 2.5-hour narrated tour aboard *Lady Michigan*.





MICHIGAN

... BOND FALLS ...

# Break the routine

[uptravel.com](https://uptravel.com)

## PLAY + EAT + STAY

### PLAY

Images of space swirl across the domed screen of **Besser Museum's Sky Theater** with wheelchair-accessible seating. Settle into one of the planetarium's tilted seats to memorize the constellations before seeing them for real at **Rockport State Recreation Area**, a dark sky preserve north of Alpena. The mysteries of the cosmos pair well with the curiosities found throughout the former limestone quarry during the day—the earth falls away into the park's 13 sinkholes surrounded by fossils. Take your mountain bike for a spin or hike to the **Besser Natural Area** to see building remnants from an abandoned village.

### EAT

Back in town, savor the notes of pear, grapefruit and tropical fruit in the 45er IPA at **Austin Brothers Beer Company**. Or belly up to the bar in the restored saloon where **Red Brick Tap and Barrel** serves bourbon-marinated pork. At **Court Yard Ristorante**, order the walleye freshly caught from Lake Superior.

### STAY

Wind down with views of Thunder Bay from **Big Bear Lodge**, or settle in at **Holiday Inn Express** or **Hampton Inn and Suites**.



**TOP**  
*Rockport State  
Recreation Area,  
Alpena*

**BOTTOM**  
*Besser  
Natural Area,  
Presque Isle*



**LOST** Explore a ghost town, a shipwreck and an almost-three-quarter-mile sandy **ON THE** coastline at Besser Natural Area north of Alpena. It's a 1-mile trek—through **LAKE** the former village of Bell and a virgin stand of white pine trees—to the Lake Huron shore, where pieces of the shipwreck *Portland* lie 250 feet offshore.

# BOOK YOUR SOO GETAWAY



VISIT  
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Ste.  
Marie**  
MICHIGAN

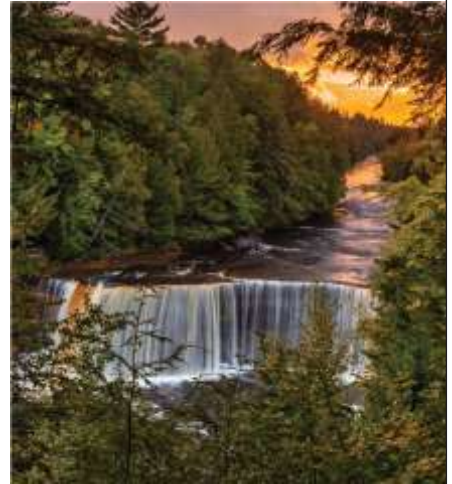
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# BEYOND THE BRIDGE

The Upper Peninsula holds nearly a third of the state's land but just 3 percent of its population. This ratio lets outdoor beauty steal the show. Here are three ways to earn your UP bragging rights.





The Great Lakes  
 Shipwreck Museum is  
 open seasonally  
 (May 1– October 31).

waterfalls bordered

## IF YOU HAVE A DAY ...

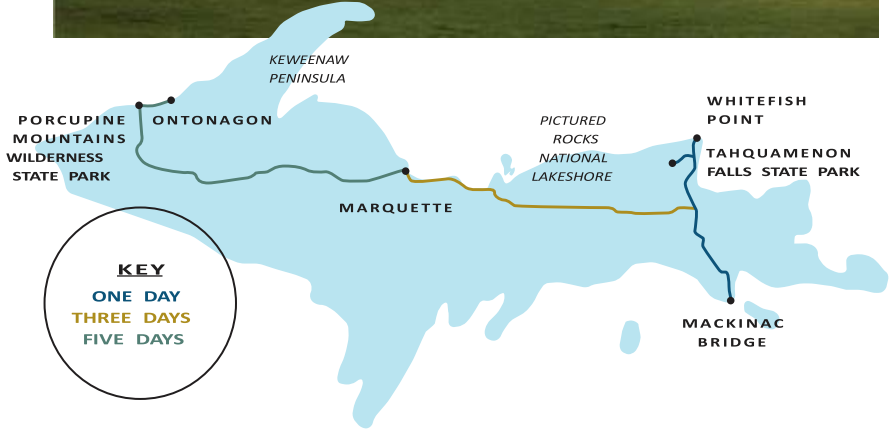
From Mackinac Bridge, drive 1.5 hours north to **Tahquamenon Falls State Park** near Paradise for an incredible double feature: two

**FROM TOP**  
*Tahquamenon Upper Falls, near Paradise; Whitefish Point Light Station, near Paradise*

rowboat for downstream reaches of the rapids. “The earthy smell of the waterfalls, the mist on your face—it’s a whole sensory experience,” says park manager Kevin Dennis. “There are designated locations where you can dip your toes in the water, too.”

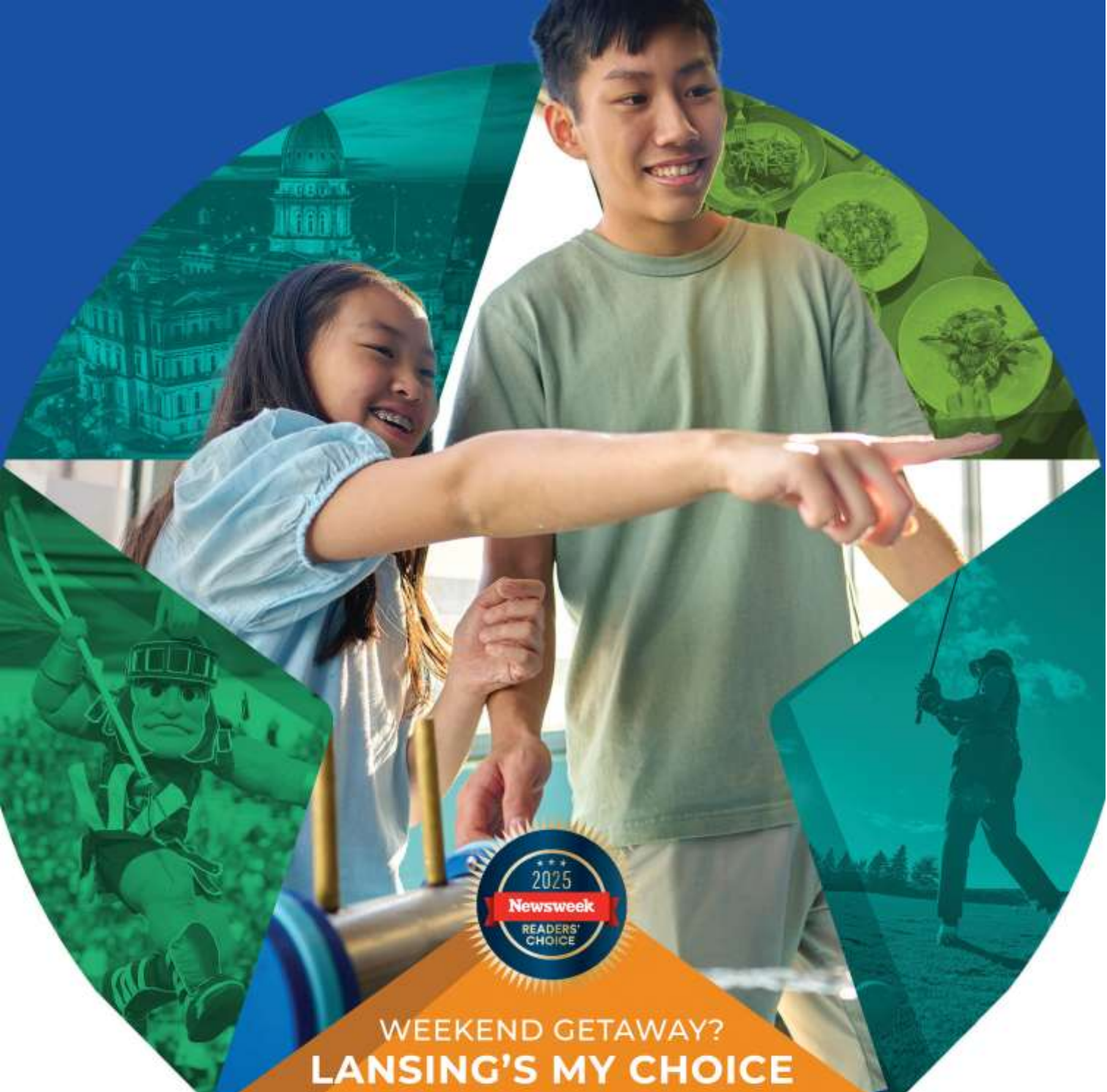
For another vantage point, eye the 50-foot-drop of the Upper Falls from a new accessible boardwalk before grabbing a burger, salad or sandwich at on-site **Tahquamenon Falls Brewery and Pub**.

Finish your day 22 miles farther north at Whitefish Point, where the **Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum** and **Whitefish Point Light Station** stand guard over the “Graveyard of the Great Lakes.” Shining over the shoreline is the oldest active lighthouse on Lake Superior. Inside the museum, artifacts include the original bell from the wreck of the *SS Edmund Fitzgerald*. Outside, the shoreline invites slow, obsessive beachcombing. (Agate hunters know the drill.) The point’s position along a major spring and fall migration route also makes it one of the Midwest’s best birding spots.





by accessible  
boardwalks and miles  
of trails. Explore  
the Lower Falls by  
boardwalk, circling  
an island to catch the  
cascades in their full  
glory, or rent a



## WEEKEND GETAWAY? LANSING'S MY CHOICE

Plan a road trip to Lansing, Michigan and discover Impression 5 Science Center, named **Best Children's Museum** in the US. Find even more attractions and museums, five indoor entertainment centers, great outdoor recreation, lively festivals and diverse dining.

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**LANSING**  
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## IF YOU HAVE THREE DAYS ...

From Whitefish Point, tack on a visit to Marquette, the UP's largest city. Just 2.5 hours west of Tahquamenon Falls, the former iron-mining hub is now surrounded by biking, hiking and birding opportunities. The 47-mile **Iron Ore Heritage Trail** stitches together old mining sites and Lake Superior views. **Marquette Mountain** has a bike park, and nonprofit NTN maintains cycling trails minutes from downtown. For a quick climb with big payoff, head to **Sugarloaf Mountain**, known for stone steps, multiple overlooks and lake views; or **Mt. Marquette**, where gentler forested paths lead to quiet, lake-facing lookouts.

Beach time fits easily between hikes, as does a stop at the **Marquette Maritime Museum** and neighboring lighthouse. A guide takes visitors on lighthouse tours, while museum tours are self-guided.

Downtown rewards wandering, with independent shops, galleries and restaurants clustered along Washington and Third streets. The new boutique hotel **Explore: Marquette** makes it easy to stay central.

From the overlook at Mt. Marquette, take in panoramic views of Lake Superior, downtown and the Ore Dock.



**TRAVEL TIP** If you're traveling the UP from Wisconsin rather than lower Michigan, reverse the order of recommended stops in this trip plan, as the western portion of the UP is closer. If you're coming from Canada through Sault Ste. Marie, the drive time is about the same to the first destination, Tahquamenon Falls State Park near Paradise.



*Harbor;  
Marquette  
Lighthouse*

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The challenging 8.2-mile Escarpment Trail provides dramatic views of Lake of the Clouds.



## IF YOU HAVE FIVE DAYS ...

Continue your trek 2.5 hours west of Marquette to **Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park**, also known as the Porkies, near Ontonagon.

Michigan's largest state park includes an old-growth forest, ridges, rivers and nearly 23 miles of Lake Superior shoreline.

**FROM TOP**  
The Porkies,  
Ontonagon;  
Fitzgerald's,  
Eagle River

Waterfalls are the headline draw here. Check out roadside cascades or take a challenging 10-mile round-trip hike on the Shining Cloud Falls trail, which threads

white pine forest, a rocky shoreline and the Big Carp River before revealing two falls in one go.

Lake of the Clouds delivers the park's most recognizable view: a broad basin tucked between ridgelines where

fog banks roll in and the sunrise shimmers in waves of brilliant color. For even wider vistas, climb the 40-foot Summit Peak observation tower, the park's highest point. Keep your eyes open for spring wildflowers, says park manager Mike Knack. "You can pick thimbleberries in summer. They're a UP thing—like a raspberry but bigger and juicier."

After a long day in the Porkies, Ontonagon covers the extras. Grab a latte at **Gigi's Coffeehouse**, and restock trail snacks at **Porkies Outpost**. For dinner, locals point to **Syl's Cafe** for classic comfort food, **Paul's Superior View** for the lake backdrop, and **Roxey's** for bar-and-grill ease. **Scott's Superior Inn and Cabins** and **Superior Shores Resort** offer lakefront lodging close enough for early starts at the park.

**TWO MORE** Extend your trip to visit more UP destinations: Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (page 71) and the Keweenaw Peninsula (page 67).



### WHAT'S UP?

Discover more places to visit and things to see and do in the UP.

Watch the sun set from Fitzgerald's on Lake Superior in Eagle River.



# DISCOVER

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the trail,  
nights on  
the town.**



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on dishes—try Spencer,  
a neighborhood  
hot spot with a wine shop.

Michigan's cities and towns can take you back to a simpler time and place—or nudge you in new directions. Which way should you go? Trust your instincts and take a detour to unforgettable flavors and experiences.

# CITIES & CULTURE



Headlands  
International  
Dark Sky Park,  
Mackinaw City

SAULT  
ST. MARIE

ST. IGNACE  
MACKINAW  
CITY

GAYLORD

GRAYLING

WEST  
BRANCH

BAY CITY

SAGINAW

FRANKENMUTH

FLINT

AUBURN HILLS

ROYAL OAK

DETROIT  
DEARBORN

MONROE

# 75 THINGS TO SEE AND DO ALONG INTERSTATE-75

A dark sky park, an 1889 lighthouse and a herd of elk are just a handful of reasons to veer off Michigan's longest interstate, a thoroughfare that links the state's southern border to the nation-bridging city of Sault Ste. Marie.

The Keweenaw is calling...

# Adventure North

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MICHIGAN, USA

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VISIT  
**Muskegon**



**MICHIGAN'S BEST BEACHES**

MONROE

Rich in history, the state's World-class museums and markets— third-oldest community has as well as an island in the heart of multiple military ties. the river—top the charts on things to

1. Walk on hallowed ground at the **River Raisin National** **11.** Diego Rivera's **Detroit Industry Battlefield Park**, where the **Murals** take center stage at the United States' greatest defeat **Detroit Institute of Arts.** occurred during the War of 1812.
12. Walk through the city's history at
2. Michigan's only state park on the **Detroit Historical Museum.**

Lake Erie, **William C. Sterling State Park** has kayak rentals, designated swim area and a 3-mile paved loop.

13. Opened in 1891, **Eastern Market** draws up to 45,000 customers a on Saturdays.

14. Spend the day on **Belle Isle**, home 3. See live theater, dance and to an aquarium, conservatory, musical shows, and other putting green, giant slide, performances at the Art Deco- gardens, a maritime museum and designed **River Raisin Centre** a sandy beach.

for the Arts.

4. Set on the site of Gen. George

**Detroit Princess** 23. Tee off at indoor **Topgolf**, an 15. Dine aboard the as the riverboat cruises the river Custer's widow's original home, between Detroit and Canada.

DETROIT



25

FROM LEFT

the **Monroe County Historical Museum** displays 18th- and 19th-century artifacts from the area.

#### DEARBORN

*The United States' largest concentration of Arab Americans and Muslims live here.*

5. Step on the bus where Rosa Parks took a seat at the **Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation**.
6. Henry Ford's collection of history lives on at **Greenfield Village**, an 80-acre outdoor museum.
7. Hear the voices and stories collected from more than 80 hours of interviews with Arab Americans at the **American National Museum**.
8. Wander the gardens and grounds of **Fair Lane**, the estate of Henry and Clara Ford, while the main home undergoes restoration.
9. Walk or ride the 2-mile **Rouge River Gateway Trail** as it passes over two bridges; the trailhead sits across the street from The Henry Ford complex.
10. Enjoy double-feature flicks year-round from five screens at the **Ford-Wyoming Drive In**.

16. Rent bikes, ride a carousel and watch freighters from the almost 5-mile-long **Detroit Riverwalk**.

17. Families can experience Michigan's natural wonders inside at the **Outdoor Adventure Center** on the 2-mile **Dequindre Cut Greenway**.

18. Travel through time in the moving exhibit about racial equality *And Still We Rise* at **The Wright**.

19. For nonstop gaming, choose from three casinos: **Hollywood Casino Greektown**, **MGM Grand** and **MotorCity**.

#### ROYAL OAK

*Find dozens of restaurants, such as Vinsetta Garage and Crispelli's, along Woodward Avenue and downtown, both close to the zoo.*

20. See penguins, polar bears and more than 2,000 animals at the **Detroit Zoo**.

#### AUBURN HILLS

*Entertainment for the whole family abounds, including free music on Friday nights at Knight Amphitheater.*

21. With nearly 170 stores, **Great Lakes Crossing Outlets** is the state's largest indoor outlet center.

22. Touch a sea star and walk through an underwater tunnel at **Sea Life Michigan** aquarium.

entertainment venue with food and beverages.

#### FLINT

*The birthplace of General Motors, Flint leans into learning and discovery.*

24. Tour the colorful gardens and historic Mott family home at **Applewood**, next to the **Flint Cultural Center**.

25. The **Flint Institute of Arts** has more than 20 galleries and offers free glassblowing demos on Saturdays.

26. Use your hands and discover science at **Sloan Museum of Discovery**. Next door see the stars at **Longway Planetarium**.

27. At **Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad**, a steam locomotive transports guests to a re-created village with more than 30 buildings.

28. Hike 8 miles of trails and visit a barrier-free tree house at **For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum**.

#### FRANKENMUTH

*Michigan's Little Bavaria is best known for its famous chicken dinners and indoor water parks.*

29. Find premium name brands, like Lululemon and Pottery Barn, plus nearly 90 additional stores, at **Birch Run Premium Outlets**.

*Flint Institute of Arts, Flint; Belle Isle, Detroit; Japanese Cultural Center, Tea House and Gardens, Saginaw*



14



38

- 30. The all-new **Bavarian Blast Waterpark** is the state's largest indoor water park, with 16 slides and an adult swim-up bar.
- 31. Experience all thrills and no chills (it's always 84 degrees) at **Zehnder's Splash Village**.
- 32. **Bronner's Christmas Wonderland**, the world's largest Christmas store, occupies a space as big as almost two football fields with holiday magic.
- 33. Dine on family-style chicken dinners at **Zehnder's Restaurant and Bavarian Inn Restaurant**.
- 34. The newest property, **The Mill at Zehnder Park**, welcomes guests to four suites with fireplaces.
- 35. Challenge yourself on a suspended obstacle course connected by ziplines at **Frankenmuth Aerial Park**.
- 36. Pet chicks, bunnies and lambs in the big blue barn at **Grandpa Tiny's Heritage Farm**.

**SAGINAW**

*Cultural experiences are plentiful in this river town, once the Lumber Capital of the World.*

- 37. Climb aboard the accessible train as it skirts the perimeter of the **Saginaw Children's Zoo**.
- 38. Stroll through the gardens and attend a tea ceremony at the

**Japanese Cultural Center, Tea House and Gardens of Saginaw.**

- 39. The *Spirit of Detroit* sculptor shows off his works at the **Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum**.

**BAY CITY**

*This nautical town sits on the Saginaw River, which flows into the bay of Lake Huron.*

- 40. Catch an immersive show by day and sky viewing by night at the **Delta College Planetarium**.
- 41. Tour the *USS Edson*, a destroyer that served during the Vietnam War and is now home to the **Saginaw Valley Navy Ship Museum**.
- 42. Shop three floors of antiques at the downtown **Bay City Antiques Center**.

**WEST BRANCH**

*A yellow smiley water tower welcomes all to this charming community of 2,300 people.*

- 43. Shop name-brand stores like Carter's and Old Navy at the **West Branch Outlet Shops**.
- 44. A new ADA-accessible wooden bridge crosses the river at the **Rifle River Recreation Area**, home to 14 miles of trails.

**GRAYLING**

PURE MICHIGAN

*The Au Sable River delivers worldclass fly-fishing, canoeing, kayaking and tubing.*

- 45. At **Hartwick Pines State Park**, stand among dozens of old-growth pines in one of the largest state parks in the Lower Peninsula.
- 46. The **Au Sable River** is best known for its cool, clean water; brown trout fly-fishing; and canoeing and kayaking opportunities.
- 47. Book a guided trip, purchase gear or sleep in the lodge of the **Old AuSable Fly Shop** on the bank of the river.
- 48. Family-owned since 1915, the **Rialto Theater** still shows first-run flicks.
- 49. Watch trout and painted turtles gobble up fish food at the **Grayling Fish Hatchery**, where more than 1,000 rainbow trout live.
- 50. **Borchers Canoe and Kayak** is a one-stop shop with rentals and a bed-and-breakfast on the Au Sable River.

**GAYLORD**

*This small town (population 4,300) boasts an up-north vibe with all the outdoor activities visitors crave.*

- 51. Tee off at Jones Masterpiece, one of five spectacular courses at **Treetops Resort**.

michigan.org

52. In the heart of the Sturgeon River Valley sits **Otsego Resort**, home to two golf courses.
53. Scope out the herd of 60 from multiple viewing areas at **Patrick Mankowski Elk Park**, a mile south of downtown.
54. Adjacent to Elk Park, **Aspen Park's** paved loops total 2 miles for walking or 6 miles for singletrack riding.
55. Elk roam the **Pigeon River Country State Forest**, also home to 80 miles of trails, campgrounds and sinkhole lakes to take a dip in. To prevent erosion, only bring the essentials to swim as the lake abuts the forest (there's no beach).
56. **Alpine Chocolat Haus** makes delectable chocolate-covered potato chips (try them with sea salt) and other tasty treats.
57. Historical interpreters bring 18th-century **Colonial Michilimackinac** to life with musket and cannon firings and cooking and craft demonstrations.
58. Climb 51 steps to the top of the 1889 tower and explore the Keepers Quarters at **Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse**.
59. Journey along the Straits of Mackinac aboard **Shepler's Ferry** on a 3- to 5-hour Lighthouse or 90-minute Sunset Cruise.
60. For more than 60 years, the *USCGC Mackinaw* was the Great Lakes' primary ice cutter; it's now home to the **Icebreaker Mackinaw Maritime Museum**.
61. Shop, eat and play at **Mackinaw Crossings**, with more than 50 specialty shops and a free nightly laser light show.
62. See the Milky Way at **Headlands International Dark Sky Park**. The best stargazing happens 90 minutes to two hours after sunset.

#### MACKINAW CITY

*An 19th-century lighthouse and reconstructed fort sit in the shadow of the Mackinac Bridge, a gateway to the Upper Peninsula. Ferries depart daily to Mackinac Island.*

#### ST. IGNACE

*Father Jacques Marquette founded this once fur-trading town on the Straits of Mackinac in 1671. Now it's an entryway to Mackinac Island and the Lower Peninsula.*

63. For one of the best views of Mackinac Bridge, head to **Straits State Park**.
64. The mile-long **Huron Boardwalk** follows the shore and ends at the **Wawatam Lighthouse**.
65. The **Museum of Ojibwa Culture** shares the history of this Native American tribe and is also the final resting place of Father Jacques Marquette.
66. The climb (177 steps) is worth the view of Mackinac Island, Mackinac Bridge and Lake Huron, and the cost of admission is just \$1 at **Castle Rock**.
67. Experience optical illusions and sensory confusion at the **Mystery Spot**.
68. A 350 million-year-old sea stack known at **St. Anthony's Rock** rises from the ground downtown.
69. Half of the UP's 10 gaming facilities are branded **Kewadin Casinos**, owned and operated by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

#### SAULT STE. MARIE

*The state's oldest city connects lakes Superior and Huron via the Soo Locks, the busiest lock system in the world.*

70. At the **Soo Locks Visitor Center**, watch up to 1,000-foot freighters pass through the **Soo Locks**.
71. Cruise through the locks with **Original Soo Locks and Famous Soo Locks** boat tours.
72. **Bird's Eye Outfitters** is the area's go-to spot for hiking, biking and paddling gear, guides, coffee, cocktails, and food.
73. The **Tower of History** provides panoramic views of the Soo Locks, St. Marys River and the shipping channel from 210 feet up.
74. Go below the **Museum Ship Valley Camp** deck to see crew quarters and 100-plus exhibits of artifacts.
75. Audio files and artifacts tell the history of the St. Marys River at the **River of History Museum**.

#### FROM LEFT

*Alpine Chocolat Haus, Gaylord; Original Soo Locks Boat Tours, Sault Ste. Marie; Museum of Ojibwa Culture, St. Ignace*



56



71



On the grounds of the museum, metal sculptures depict Anishinaabe clan roles and traditions.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (CHOCOLATE)COURTNEY KENT, (BOAT)TOUR/JASON LINDSEY, (MUSEUM)JILL RICHARDS

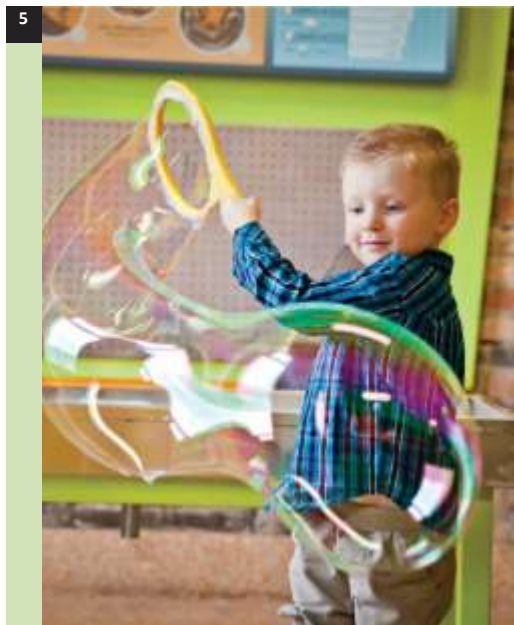
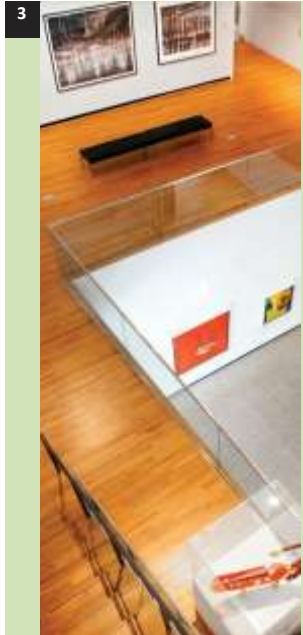
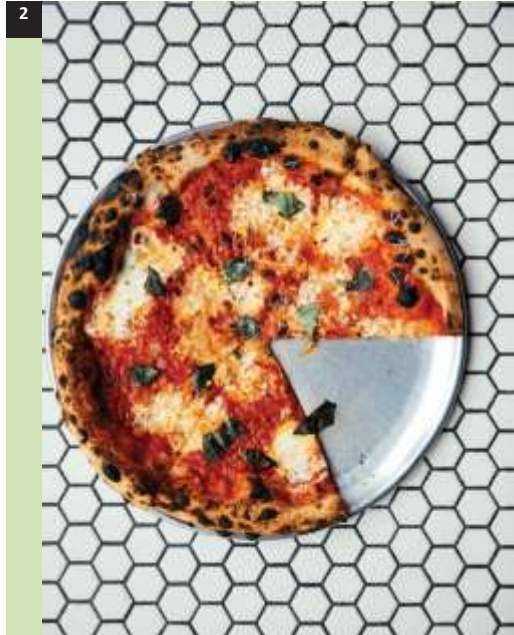
# SUMMER IN THE CITY

In these major metros, maximizing Michigan’s warmest months means lingering on restaurant patios, soaking up vineyard views , or mapping visits to accessible attractions and waterfronts.



**THIS SPREAD**

- 1** Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids
- 2** Mani Osteria and Bar, Ann Arbor
- 3** University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor
- 4** Michigan State Capitol, Lansing
- 5** Impression 5 Science Center, Lansing
- 6** Grand Rapids Public Museum





### GRAND RAPIDS

The **Grand River Greenway** glow-up brings fresh additions and restorations. Integrating universal accessibility (for rolling, walking and even paddling), the trail will transform connectivity along 85 miles of paths and across 45-plus parks. Several improvements are already complete. In May, the first acts hit **Acrisure Amphitheater**, an outdoor concert venue. And thanks to a **Grand Rapids Public Museum** expansion, the historic carousel now spins in a stand-alone pavilion. Find more "green" at the **Grand Rapids Art Museum**, the world's first LEED Gold certified art museum, and throughout **Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park**.

### ANN ARBOR

Internationally inspired dining makes Ann Arbor a culinary destination. After weekend brunch at Albanian-influenced **Sava's**, feast your eyes on the exhibits at the **University of Michigan Museum of Art**. Its collection includes hundreds of public installations. The **U-M Museum of Natural History** includes the Planetarium and Dome Theater. Little scientists love the **Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum**, blocks from **Zingerman's Delicatessen** in the Kerrytown district. Other can't-miss restaurants include **Mani Osteria and Bar**, an Italian restaurant known for its antipasti; **Miss Kim**, a Korean spot and James Beard semifinalist for best chef; and **Spencer**, a communal table restaurant and wine shop and James Beard semifinalist for outstanding wine and other beverages.

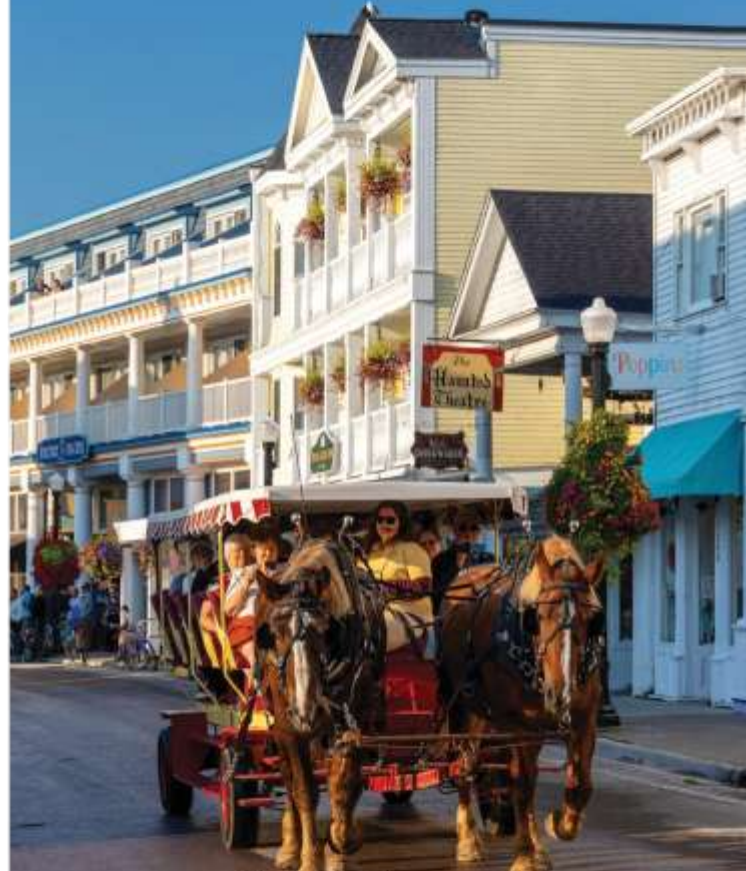
### LANSING

Michigan's 1879 **Capitol** features details designed to delight. Peering closely at walls, ceilings, columns and woodwork reveals hand-painted techniques. Sensory-friendly tool kits at **Heritage Hall** enhance the experience here and at other attractions, such as the **Impression 5 Science Center**. At the downtown **Play Michigan!** playground, all-inclusive equipment fosters fun. Accessible facility upgrades at Michigan State University's **MSU Museum** in East Lansing catalyzes science and creativity for all.



STORY: BRIANNE SANCHEZ. PHOTOGRAPHS: (1) STARBOARD AND PORT, (2, 3) EE BERGER, (4) GETTY/HALBERGMAN, (5) COURTESY OF IMPRESSION 5 SCIENCE CENTER, (6) KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI/REDLUX

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3



6

## 5 MORE WEEKEND- WORTHY CITIES

Pack your bags—weekend wonders await. Explore these towns, where you can pilot a plane, marvel at architecture and catch a live show.

### ON THE MAP

Planning your next getaway? Use this map to set your itinerary.

### KALAMAZOO

Pace yourself while zooming through the Smithsonian-affiliated **Air Zoo Aerospace and Science Museum**, home to more than 100 air and space crafts, plus flight simulators. In nearby Hickory Corners, the **Gilmore Car Museum** campus shows off hundreds of vehicles.

### MARSHALL

Known for historic preservation, local landmarks like the 1860 **Honolulu House** and more museums fascinate visitors with a diverse range of 19th-century architecture styles. Stay downtown in **Lofts@128**, a short walk from storied **Schuler's Restaurant and Pub**.

### MOUNT PLEASANT

Home to Division 1 **Central Michigan University**, which has Indigenous-focused classes. The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan owns and operates the **Ziibiwing Center** with cultural exhibits and **Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort** with an on-site water park.





PHOTOGRAPHS: (1, 2) TONY DEMIN, (3) BOB STEPKO, (4) NEW BUFFALO EXPLORED, (5) BE BERGEN, (6) COURTESY OF PURE MICHIGAN

### THIS SPREAD

- 1** *The Village at Grand Traverse Commons, Traverse City*
- 2** *Lads Winery, Old Mission Peninsula Wine Trail, Traverse City*
- 3** *Journeyman Distillery, Three Oaks*
- 4** *Froehlich's Bakery and Deli, Three Oaks*
- 5** *Huron Lightship Museum, Port Huron*
- 6** *Air Zoo Aerospace and Science Museum, Kalamazoo*

### TRAVERSE CITY

**Traverse City Food and Wine** festival returns for its second year (August 19–23), showcasing bold bites, local wines and craft beverages. Learn from top-tier chefs and experts while sampling the best of the region. Throughout the growing season, destinations along the **Old Mission Peninsula Wine Trail** serve cellar creations and host special events. Or hop on the 17-mile **Leelanau Trail** to rustic-chic **Farm Club**. It's among numerous sustainably sourced eateries: **The Cooks' House**, a chef-owned restaurant with ties to Michelin-starred kitchens; **Martha's Leelanau Table**; and **9 Bean Rows** are in Suttons Bay. Find more dining options and boutiques at **The Village at Grand Traverse Commons**.

### PORT HURON

Embrace Michigan's Thumb coast at **Huron Lightship Museum**, then take a boat cruise that passes beneath **Blue Water Bridge** and near the state's oldest-working lighthouse. The **Thomas Edison Depot Museum** sits inside the former train depot where Edison worked as a news reporter.

### THREE OAKS

Creative programming established **The Acorn** theater as a Harbor Country arts hub, with a lineup that includes live music (rock, jazz and tribute bands) and comedy acts. Stock up on indulgent provisions at **Froehlich's Bakery and Deli**, **Drier's Meat Market**, and **Journeyman Distillery** during your stay.

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CAPTURE THE MOMENT

# PICTURE-PERFECT ESCAPES

Dubbed the Art Coast of Michigan, Saugatuck draws artists for its landscapes and Ox-Bow School of Art.

These eight small towns charm with breweries and art, lakes and dunes—but one-of-kind wonders await as you explore their harbors, main streets and green spaces.



**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT**  
*Village Cheese Shanty, Leland; James Brandess painting, Saugatuck; Spillway Lodges, Bellaire; Short's Brewing Company, Bellaire*

## SAUGATUCK

Here the day begins with dock lines swaying and coffee cups warming palms along the Lake Michigan harbor. Retro boats idle, while galleries like **James Brandess Studios** open their doors. **Lake Shore Resort** anchors an established boutique lodging scene in an LGBTQ-thriving community. Before the sun sets, tasting rooms start pouring local wine for visitors planning beach walks and late dinners.

### SIGNATURE SURPRISE

Climb 303 steps to the top of **Mount Baldhead** for sweeping

views of the Kalamazoo River. The backside of the dunes leads to beloved **Oval Beach**, known for its sugar-fine sand on Lake Michigan.

## BELLAIRE

Wake up at **Spillway Lodges**, then follow your heart's desire. **Shanty Creek Resort** inspires play with five golf courses and chairlift rides. Back in town, **Short's Brewing Company** sets the evening tone, **Mammoth Distilling** refines it, and the scenic **Chain of Lakes Water Trail** is never far from view.

### SIGNATURE SURPRISE

Arnold Palmer's **The Legend at Shanty Creek** tees up classic course design, elevation changes and long views that are a treasure in Midwest golf.

## LELAND

The novelty of Fishtown is a standout here. In this historic fishing village, local businesses occupy fish shanties. **Carlson's Fishery** smokehouse scents the docks, sandwiches stack high at the **Village Cheese Shanty**, and **The Dam Candy Store** goodies linger on fingertips. At the entrance to Fishtown, stop in **Two Fish Gallery** for ceramics, jewelry and local art, followed by downtown shops like **Leland Galf** for fashion and decor. At **Van's Beach**, the blue stones you see are slag glass known as Leland Blue.

### SIGNATURE SURPRISE

Sip and savor the taste of locally made vino along the **Leelanau Peninsula Wine Trail**. You'll find more than 20 wineries, including **Verterra Winery's** downtown tasting room.

STORY: TREEMEINCH; PHOTOGRAPHS: SANDWICHRYAN DONNELL; (PAINTER) SAUGATUCK DOUGLAS; (LODGE) COURTESY OF SPILLWAY LODGES; (BREWERY) NATE LUKE

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Grand Haven  
AREA  
MICHIGAN

FROM TOP

Friends Good Will, South Haven; Sweetwater Gourmet Deli and Bar, Lexington; Galien River County Park, New Buffalo

**SOUTH HAVEN**

Bikes roll into town on the 34-mile **Kal-Haven Trail State Park**. Riders and weekend road-trippers disperse to pristine beaches, the **Michigan Maritime Museum**, and the **Friends Good Will** replica tall ship. Settle into a glamping tent or idyllic cottage for the night at **The Fields of Michigan**, then rinse and repeat with a lineup of waterfront attractions.

**SIGNATURE SURPRISE**

South Haven calls itself the World's Blueberry Capital, due to roughly 300 area farms harvesting the fruit.



a bakery and cafe.

**LEXINGTON**

Like buried treasure, Lexington towering sand hills, trails and Lake marks the spot, low on Michigan's Michigan views in one stop. thumb. Downtown curated shopping delights, **Sweetwater Gourmet Deli and Bar** hums all day, and the

**SIGNATURE SURPRISE**

**Lexington Village Theatre** regularly books nationally known comedians, tribute bands and touring acts in an intimate, polished venue.

**NEW BUFFALO**

In the resort town of New Buffalo, everything feels intentional. The **Harbor Grand** hotel's **Foundation Spa** refines relaxation, while **Galien River County Park** adds upland and wetland habitats to the landscape. Make a reservation to secure a table near the hearth or waterfront at **Bentwood Tavern**, and linger in **Michigan Mercantile**, a collection of retail stores, such as **Lake Feste** for women's fashion, on Whittaker and Merchant streets. Purchase fresh produce from **Farmette**,

**SIGNATURE SURPRISE**

**Warren Dunes State Park** awaits

12 miles north of town, packing

**COPPER HARBOR**

Adventure begins where US-41 ends **Cadillac House Lexington** hotel at the top of the Keweenaw Peninsula. and tavern maintains deep roots.

If you want to pedal or paddle, the Days drift between Lake Huron **Keweenaw Adventure Company** beach swims and pier walks, where has the gear and guides. The terrain the view does the heavy lifting and and trails make this a true mountain nobody rushes you off, even during bike experience, plus there are peak summer weekends. 40-plus miles of singletrack. For incredible views of Lake Superior, dine at **Harbor Haus** where fresh fish, steak and German specialties are always on the menu.

**SIGNATURE SURPRISE**

In addition to hiking and biking trails and a 9-hole historic wilderness golf course, **Keweenaw Mountain Lodge** is an International Dark Sky Park.

**EAST TAWAS**

The sprawling **Tawas Point State Park** sets the scene for this Lake Huron hub. The park touts a lighthouse, swimming beach, campground, and hundreds of migrating bird species, making it a bird-watcher haven. In town, **Marion's Dairy Bar** serves up delightful homemade waffle cones.



The marshes of Galien River County Park are best seen from the Canopy Walkway, boardwalk or Ridge Trail.

Head to the **Boathouse Beer Company and Boozery** for fish, steak, salad and sandwiches (and lake views); the **Village Chocolatier** for a treat; and **Tawas Family Theater** for a movie night.

**SIGNATURE SURPRISE**

The **River Road National Scenic Byway** stretches 22 miles, linking overlooks, **Lumberman's Monument** and the stair climb at **Iargo Springs**.

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energy at this rustic  
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a messy art studio to

open-air inspiration at

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when live music spills  
through downtown and  
into an outdoor concert.

**OX-BOW**

**SCHOOL OF ART  
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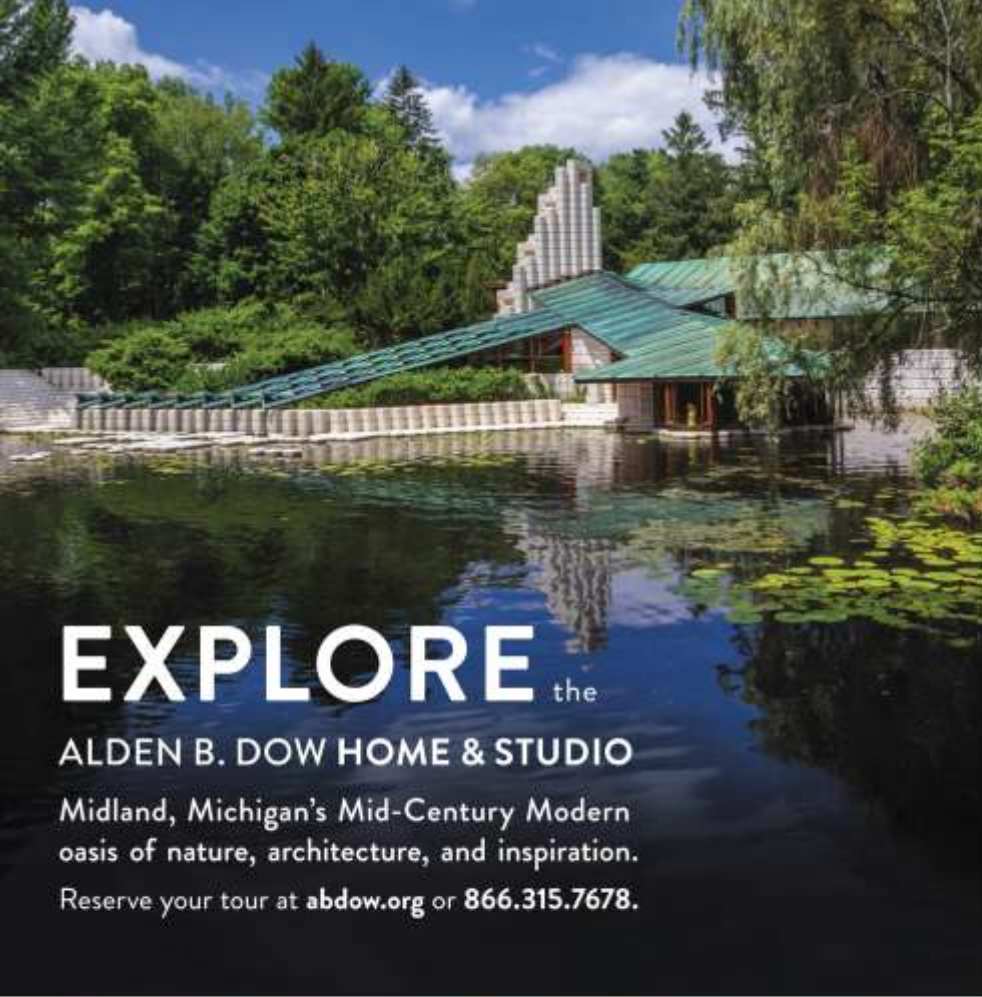
Learn how to waltz  
December; **SAUGATUCK** me painting class  
round can end with a bluff-top  
Friday Night Open where art, theater  
and dance workshops August 7 and 21) during turn spectators into **MUSIC ON** which  
visitors can drop participants. **THIRD STREET** by classes, meet artists, **MARQUETTE** and  
see their pieces

**RESIDENCY** or take a parent-and- September-  
and January-March) The working campus at this year-  
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large-scale artworks. Studios (June 12 and 26,  
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Third Street every third Thursday night (July,

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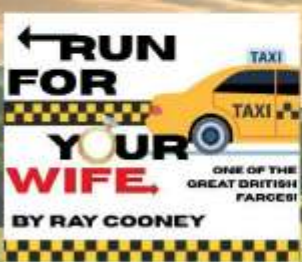
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**IT UP**



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Experience the allure of Saugatuck/Douglas, where scenic waterways meet rolling sand dunes and breathtaking sunsets paint the shore and sky. Home to a captivating art scene and a world-renowned craft beverage and culinary landscape, inspiration awaits at every turn. Rediscover wonder and embrace your perfect escape here.

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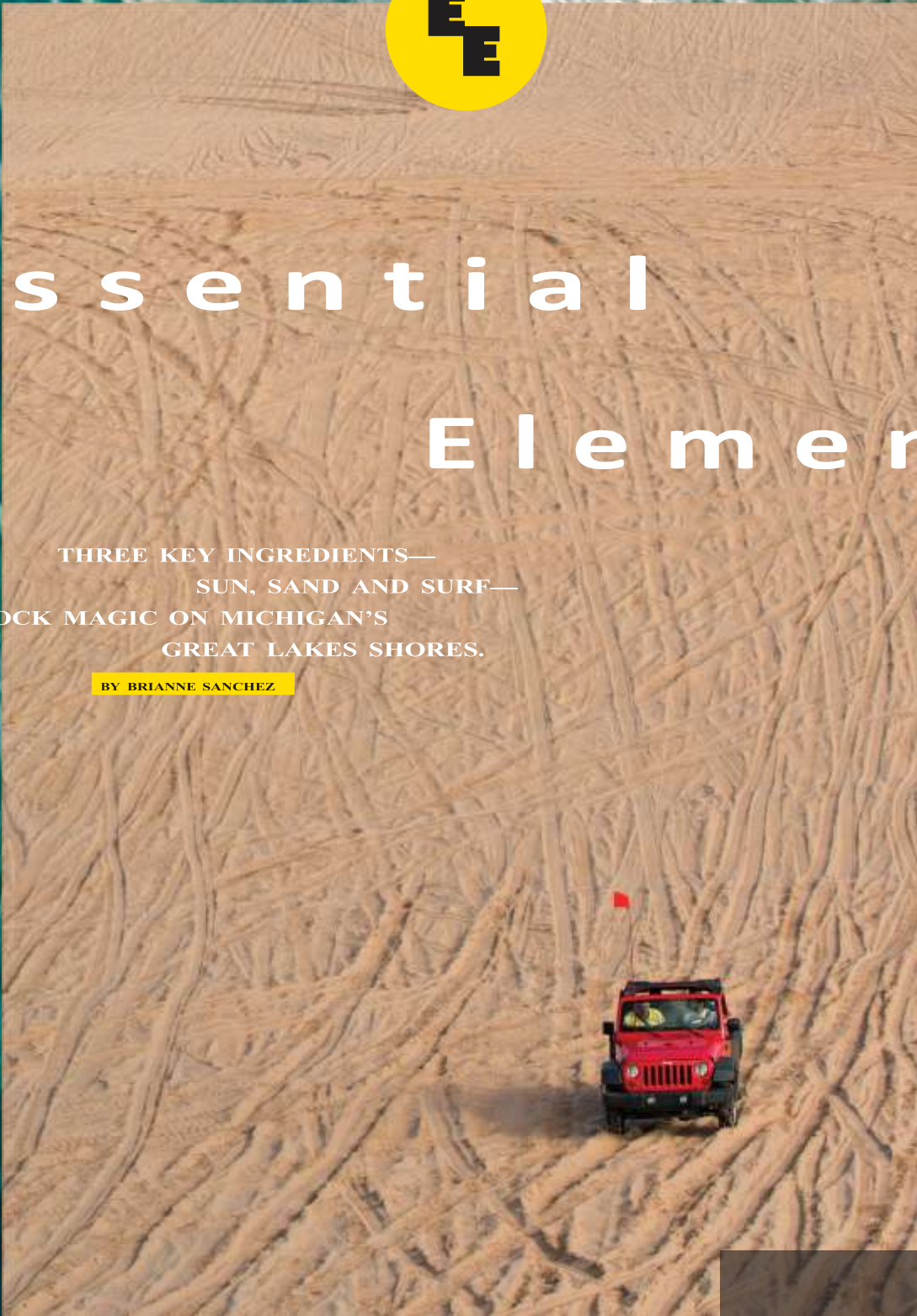





# Essential Elements

THREE KEY INGREDIENTS—  
SUN, SAND AND SURF—  
UNLOCK MAGIC ON MICHIGAN'S  
GREAT LAKES SHORES.

BY BRIANNE SANCHEZ



PHOTOGRAPH BY SAND JASON LINDSEY (SURF) / JO GAPANKOVA / GETTY

 **ABOVE**  
Silver Lake State  
Park, Mears



# Sun



PHOTO

Presque Isle Park,  
Marquette

**FROM THE DAY'S FIRST RAYS TO SUNSETS, THESE DISTINCTIVE BEACHES, PARKS AND LIGHTHOUSE LANDMARKS DELIGHT.**

**WALK, DRIVE OR**

**BIKE THE 2-PLUS-MILE**

**LOOP THROUGH**

**PRESQUE ISLE PARK.**

## SERENE SUNRISSES

**Predawn drives on Heritage Route 23, known as the Sunrise Coast Pure Michigan Byway, pave the way for brilliant mornings along Lake Huron. Two more morning spots to try add Lake Erie to the mix.**

### PUBLIC BEACH, LUNA PIER

Smooth-as-glass water reflects the sun as it rises over this charming Lake Erie town 6 miles north of the state's southern border.

### DOWNTOWN LEXINGTON

Catch sunrise over Lake Huron from the breakwall along the harbor near Tierney Park. Friday nights during warm months, the village hosts live music in the park. Special events, such as the Fine Arts and Crafts Street Fair, MargaritaFest, and Thumbfest, take place each August.

### PORT AUSTIN

Those seeking a truly singular sunrise should set sights on Turnip Rock in Lake Huron.

Accessible via a 7-mile out-and-back kayak trip via Pointe aux Barques trail, the tree-topped formation juts from shallow waters. Saturdays, shop at the downtown farmers market.

### STURGEON POINT LIGHTHOUSE, HARRISVILLE

For a tranquil sunrise over the water, paddle by on the Sturgeon Point-Harrisville Blueway. Kayak access is within Sturgeon Point State Park with an easy haul to the beach. Later, visit Alcona Historical Society's free maritime museum.

### HURON SUNRISE TRAIL

With more than 12 parks and expanses of unspoiled Lake Huron shoreline along this 11-mile paved trail, finding a spot to catch a sunrise is a cinch. The stretch between Rogers City and 40 Mile Point Lighthouse inspires early risers.

## STELLAR SUNSETS

**Painterly skies appear to watercolor Michigan's west coastline in oranges and pinks. Wiggle sand beneath your toes while watching the sun dip below the horizon.**

### PRESQUE ISLE PARK, MARQUETTE

In the UP, the sun sets late in the summer (June and July), often after 9 p.m. Sunset Point, on the western shore, offers numerous vantage points of the changing sky, Huron Mountains and other nearby islands at the water's edge.

### WARREN DUNES STATE PARK, SAWYER

Watch sublime sunsets—and migratory birds. Raptors, warblers and rare species flock to the southwestern Lower Peninsula's acres of shoreline, forests and wetlands each spring. If the wind cooperates, hang gliders can snag a permit to share their elevated perspective on Lake Michigan.

### OVAL BEACH, SAUGATUCK

Climb 250 feet of wooden steps to the Mt. Baldhead Park observation deck for a panoramic sunset view over this soft-sand beach. Or watch from the sparkling water, cruising aboard a 65-foot two-masted tall ship, Sailing Saugatuck's *Serenity* schooner.

### GRAND HAVEN STATE PARK, GRAND HAVEN

After shopping and dining around this historic downtown, stop for a cool treat. Frozen yogurt or ice cream in hand, follow the riverfront toward the lake. Pier and lighthouse structures frame a sherbet-color sunset for a sweet end to the day.

### P.J. HOFFMASTER STATE PARK, MUSKEGON

An observation platform at the top of the Dune Overlook Trail rewards hikers. Arrive well before evening to check out the recently renovated Gillette Sand Dune Visitor Center. Its dioramas and interactive exhibits tell the story of these important habitats.

### SUNSET PARK, PETOSKEY

Dubbed the Land of the Million Dollar Sunsets by a reporter in 1873, Petoskey's bluff-top park proves this county seat retains its riches. Take the stair tower from Bayfront Park to reach outstanding views of Lake Michigan's Little Traverse Bay.

**KICK UP SOME SAND WHILE TREKKING ALONG THE BEACH, WHERE TOP SPOTS ON THE GREAT LAKES SHORES UNLOCK UNFORGETTABLE GETAWAYS.**

## LAKE MICHIGAN

Sand dunes and sandcastles shape the base of memorable moments along Lake Michigan's shoreline. Convenient park amenities—splash pads, concessions and sports rentals—amplify the warm-weather fun.

### SILVER LAKE SAND DUNES, MEARS

Encounter nearly 2,000 acres of sand divided into activity zones. ORV enthusiasts traverse a 450-acre scramble with spots like Sunset Hill. Hikers and sandboarders climb and slide on rolling dunes in a central area. Guided groups tour the southernmost end.

### SILVER BEACH COUNTY PARK, ST. JOSEPH

Families can swim and play all day at this clean, wide beach. Volleyball courts, on-site kayak and SUP rentals, and a new, inclusive playground keep everyone active. Walkways connect to Whirlpool Compass Fountain, Silver Beach Center and Carousel, and downtown.

### CLINCH PARK, TRAVERSE CITY

Traverse Area Recreation Trail (TART) access makes biking to this popular beach on West Grand Traverse Bay a breeze. Slip into swimsuits in the changing rooms before heading to the shore or splash pad. Expect views of bustling boat activity from the neighboring municipal marina.

### FIRST STREET BEACH, MANISTEE

Voted Best Beach in Michigan in the 2024 and 2025 *USA Today's* Readers' Choice Awards, this vast sugar-sand beach and adjoining multisport recreation area hosts concerts, fireworks and fishing tournaments. Tails wag for the dedicated dog run and beach.

### GLADSTONE BEACH, GLADSTONE

Warm, shallow water and a sandy shore make this beach in Van Cleve Park a family favorite. Parents appreciate the beach umbrellas, kids love the waterslide and Kids Kingdom playground. Other amenities include a concession stand, restrooms and showers.

### MUST-SEE LIGHTHOUSES

Snap a selfie from the Holland State Park boardwalk with Michigan's most photographed lighthouse, Big Red, in the background. Capture another angle atop Mt. Pisgah. At Ludington State Park, switch to panorama before climbing Big Sable Point's 112-foot black-and-white striped tower. On designated bus days, paying visitors can skip the 4-mile round-trip walk. "Sound on" for Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, where costumed interpreters demonstrate the fog signal whistle and host tours.

## LAKE HURON

Sunlight—rising early over Turnip Rock, heating a midday dip in Alpena or glinting off Tawas Bay—spotlights Huron's brilliant beaches from dawn to dusk.

### CHRYSLER BEACH, MARYSVILLE

Thanks to shoreline restoration projects at this park on the St. Clair River, it's nearly as easy to spot migratory birds as freighters headed for Lake Erie. Bring binoculars. Picnic, playground, restroom and concession amenities encourage visitors to linger.

### PORT CRESCENT STATE PARK, PORT AUSTIN

During the day, 3 miles of sandy shore, woodlands and Pinnebog River access support hiking, fishing, paddling and birding. After sunset, this dark sky preserve reveals a stargazer's dream. Hammock camp near the waterfront or overnight in a geodesic dome.

### FOUR MILE SCENIC TURNOUT, PALMS

Hidden just beyond a roadside park off M-25, this secret beach in Sanilac County provides a picturesque pit stop. Follow a staircase and paved trail toward beach access. Dog owners make the pet-friendly stretch south of Delaware Park a wag-worthy destination.

### LAKESIDE BEACH AND PARK, PORT HURON

On weekends, beach volleyball games spike, and boaters anchor offshore. A playground, splash pad, picnic tables, concession stand and restrooms complete the scene. Assistive equipment, including an ADA beach access mat and a beach wheelchair, helps all visitors join the fun.

### STARLITE BEACH, ALPENA

Recreation near Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary isn't all wreck-related. Families will appreciate shallow waters, children's play areas and a splash park, plus restaurants within walking distance. Find even more amenities, like a BMX track, within the adjacent Mich-e-ke-wis Park.

### MUST-SEE LIGHTHOUSES

Near Port Huron's Blue Water Bridge, tour Michigan's oldest lighthouse, Fort Gratiot. The 1829 structure helped sailors navigate this eastern Great Lakes gateway. Approved applicants to the Guest Lighthouse Keepers program across Michigan stay for various periods of time at select lighthouses, including 40 Mile Point. Here, guest lighthouse keepers stay for weeks, sharing stories—like the 1905 *Joseph S. Fay* shipwreck—as volunteer docents. See Round Island Lighthouse in Hiawatha National Forest up close on a kayak tour. Or take a ferry from Mackinac City or St. Ignace to Mackinac Island.

 **PHOTO**  
Big Sable Point,  
Ludington State Park

PHOTOGRAPH: ANGE LATREIMER

S

## LAKE SUPERIOR

Surf and spray lend lava-formed lookouts an air of excitement. Superior's rugged coastlines and deep, cool waters combine for ideal rock hunting and haunting shipwrecks.

### BLACK ROCKS, MARQUETTE

Plunging into the lake from Presque Isle Park's 1.7 billion-year-old volcanic rock formations charms and challenges strong swimmers. Catching rays on the basalt cliffs at the tip of this forested peninsula, then wading in the cove, feels just as refreshing.

### AGATE BEACH PARK, TOIVOLA

Comb the coastline around the rocky Keweenaw Peninsula for wave-polished pebbles. Prehistoric lava flows that formed copper created other interesting geological deposits. To spot agates, look for banding and translucency. Limited collecting for personal use is allowed here.

CLIMB 130 STEPS

TO THE TOP OF

BIG SABLE POINT

LIGHTHOUSE IN LUDINGTON

STATE PARK.

### BETE GRISE, GRANT TOWNSHIP

Singing sands of this bay are the stuff of Native American legend. When people walk or shuffle their feet through the sand, which has high levels of quartz, the sand produces a humming noise. According to the legend, this is how the maiden hears her lost love sing to her. Play on the public beach or wander through the expansive preserve. Local conservation groups permanently protected 5,000 acres of nearby coastal wetland ecosystems and 5.5 miles of shoreline.

### TWELVEMILE BEACH, GRAND MARAIS

This pristine, aptly named stretch lends itself to long walks. Reserve a spot at the campground to stroll from dawn to dusk. It's located in the middle of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, among sandstone cliffs, sand dunes, waterfalls and bluffs.

### WHITEFISH POINT BEACH, NORTH OF PARADISE

A boardwalk beyond the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum (a must-stop honoring vessels like the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, and sailors' lives lost beneath these waves) leads to a rocky, sandy beach. Look out from the point's tip to Canada on a clear day.

### MUST-SEE LIGHTHOUSES

If spending the night in a lighthouse sounds like a dream, reserve one of the elegant rooms at **Big Bay Point Lighthouse Bed and Breakfast**. Its active beam is visible for 20 nautical miles. Public tours are offered on summer Sundays. To the north, **Keweenaw County Historical Society** maintains four museums at **Eagle Harbor Lighthouse**. Southeast, combine an interpretive tour of **Marquette Harbor Lighthouse** with a visit to see **Marquette Maritime Museum's Fresnel lens collection**.

## LAKE ERIE

The smallest of the Great Lakes surrounding Michigan, Erie merges with the Detroit River near Grosse Ile. Along the way, discover quaint towns and two beaches, one with a lighthouse.

### WILLIAM C. STERLING STATE PARK, MONROE

A 1-mile swimming and sunbathing beach abuts the only Michigan state park on the smallest of Michigan's Great Lakes. Nearby, the park boasts 7 miles of hiking and biking trails.

### PUBLIC BEACH, LUNA PIER

At this all-in-one spot, visitors will find the rebuilt red Luna Pier Lighthouse, which now houses restrooms and a shower for the adjacent white-sand beach and walking/fishing pier.

# and

# Surf

MICHIGAN'S MAGNIFICENT MITTEN HAS THE MOST FRESHWATER COASTLINE IN THE UNITED STATES. FIND IMMACULATE SANDS, CALM BLUE WATERS, DRAMATIC SHORES AND SURFS WORTHY OF WET SUITS.

CATCH THE BEST

LAKE MICHIGAN WAVES

BEGINNING IN

LATE SUMMER WHEN WINDY

WEATHER MOVES IN.



PHOTO

Lake Michigan,  
near Frankfort



## RIDE THE WAVE

**When windy conditions whip up waves and reshape shorelines, daredevils have their day. Buddy up for adrenaline-pumping water sports and thrills on shifting sand dunes.**

### **SURFING**

“It takes a lot to understand waves here on the Great Lakes,” says Ella Skrocki of Sleeping Bear Surf. “Definitely jump into a surf lesson with us. You not only will learn about riding waves, paddling techniques, and how to pop up and utilize your board—we focus on water safety and will give

you an inside look into surf forecasting.” Skrocki’s parents founded the full-service shop in Empire in 2004, growing a community that converges at spots like Frankfort Pier. Enthusiasts host the annual Great Lakes Surf Festival (early August), “sharing the stoke” through a welcoming celebration on Muskegon’s Pere Marquette Park beach.

### **KITEBOARDING**

Great Lakes Kiteboarding, with locations in St. Clair Shores and East Tawas, teaches beginners to safely and confidently harness wind power. Owner Brian LeFevre recommends Tawas Point State Park on

Lake Huron for its steady wind, shallow water and large beach. Motor City Kite and Surf’s lesson center also offers instruction in wingfoiling, a simpler gliding experience. Thumbs Up Kiteboarding in Caseville supports a variety of water sports. For smooth, flat water kiteboarding conditions on Lake Michigan, try Tiscornia Park in St. Joseph, near Stoke Riders store. Find equipment and expertise at MACkite in Grand Haven and Muskegon’s Pere Marquette Park.

### **DUNE RIDES**

Mac Wood’s Dune Rides began carrying adventurous sightseers across the sands

of Silver Lake Beach in 1930. Hosted by affable drivers who skillfully navigate the changing sand mountains, their 7-mile, 40-minute trips continue to delight multigenerational groups with accessible adventures. Each open-air dune scooter is outfitted with four aircraft tires and can carry 20 people. Saugatuck Dune Rides offers a similar experience, combining local lore and nature viewing along Lake Michigan’s coast. Off-road operators traversing the Silver Lake State Park ORV Area in Mears must display an ORV license and ORV trail permit, plus a Recreation Passport.



### **SHORE UP**

For a freshwater getaway, choose from more than 1,000-plus public beaches.

A scenic view of a golf course featuring a prominent rocky ridge. In the foreground, a group of five people, including a man in a blue jacket and a woman in a pink shirt, are walking on a well-maintained green. The background shows a dense line of trees under a sky filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The overall atmosphere is bright and natural.

# DRIVE

MARQUETTE GOLF CLUB,  
MARQUETTE

# TIME

MICHIGAN SITS ATOP THE LEADERBOARD WITH  
650-PLUS PUBLIC GOLF COURSES, MORE THAN  
ANY OTHER STATE. WORLD-CLASS DESIGNERS AND  
MOTHER NATURE COLLABORATE ON  
BREATHTAKING PLACES TO PLAY—AND STAY.

BY GARY THOMPSON

PHOTOGRAPH: AARON PETERSON



THE JEWEL,  
MACKINAC ISLAND



SHEPHERD'S HOLLOW  
GOLF CLUB, CLARKSTON

# STUNNING SCENERY

MARK TWAIN SUPPOSEDLY CALLED GOLF *A GOOD WALK SPOILED*. THESE MICHIGAN COURSES SPOIL YOU WITH THEIR SPECTACULAR NATURAL BEAUTY, WHETHER YOU WALK THEM OR RIDE A CART.

## AMERICAN DUNES GOLF CLUB GRAND HAVEN

They set a bear loose on the former Grand Haven Golf Club—golf's Golden Bear, Jack Nicklaus. He reimagined the course and left his design footprints all over it, especially in the 30 formal bunkers, less defined sand areas, and holes that route through and around striking dunescapes on the shore of Lake Michigan.

## ARCADIA BLUFFS ARCADIA

Be gobsmacked by vast views of seemingly endless Lake Michigan on the links-style Bluffs Course, which evokes Scotland and Ireland with tall native grasses and sod-wall bunkers. Pause at the third tee—the highest point—to admire the view. The more inland South Course features few trees, opening up long views. A brand-new course, The Dozen, is a unique 12-hole layout—six par 3s and six par 4s.

## BLACK RIVER COUNTRY CLUB PORT HURON

Founded in 1926, the course is mature and full of character for its age, but not tired and staid. Woods, water and gentle hills pose doable challenges, with players appreciating the flat lies and consistent greens. The most scenic holes are where the river and venerable trees frame your tee shot.

## FOREST DUNES GOLF CLUB ROSCOMMON

The Forest Dunes course, designed by British Open champ Tom Weiskopf, is aptly named: Huron National Forest pines plus lots of sand—in bunkers and waste areas. The Loop course is reversible: Its 18 holes are played in clockwise order one day, counterclockwise the next. In either direction, the setting is lovely.

## THE JEWEL MACKINAC ISLAND

This gem beckons from the iconic, über-romantic Grand Hotel. You can't Uber to the first tee (no cars on Mackinac), but you can ride a horse-drawn carriage from the front nine to the back nine (more than a mile away). The inward half, shrouded by trees, climbs to views of Mackinac Bridge and the Upper Peninsula.

## MARQUETTE GOLF CLUB MARQUETTE

The club's original Heritage course is beloved for its classic beauty, which shows off gorgeous views of Lake Superior. At the much newer Greywalls course, designed by Mike DeVries, prepare for a wild ride over rugged UP terrain. You'll navigate tumbling fairways, sharp contours and dramatic elevation changes.

## OTSEGO RESORT GAYLORD

Take an 18-hole tour of the Sturgeon River Valley on The Tribute course, where elevated tees provide uplifting views. Towering trees, gorgeous greens and shapely slopes invigorate your round. The Classic course is classic country club golf—no gimmicks, just green and grace in a parkland setting. From the ninth green, you can see for miles.

## SHEPHERD'S HOLLOW GOLF CLUB CLARKSTON

This hollow is hallowed—the course property was leased from Jesuit Priests who planted now-majestic pines on it decades ago. As a result, though you're playing just outside Detroit, the vibe is woody northern Michigan. And the 27 holes are well spaced—the site could hold twice as many—creating an uncrowded, natural and spacious milieu.

## THOUSAND OAKS GOLF CLUB GRAND RAPIDS

It feels like the course has a million trees, fostering surprising seclusion minutes from downtown. And it looks like a million bucks, thanks to renowned designer Rees Jones. The holes have a wild and forested feel, with wide but well-bunkered fairways. Jones sculpted raised greens out of hillsides—that means tricky up-and-downs.

## ALL THE SENIOR LADIES

Top female golfers age 50 and over converge on Ann Arbor this summer for the 2026 U.S. Senior Women's Open Championship (August 20–23) at Barton Hills Country Club. The Donald Ross-designed course opened in 1922.



THE TRIBUTE,  
OTSEGO RESORT,  
GAYLORD

THE HIGHLANDS,  
HARBOR SPRINGS



**TEE OFF**

Luxe lodging  
turns a round of  
golf into a getaway.

# LINKED LODGING AND LUXURIES

AT THESE GOLF DESTINATIONS, YOU CAN HAVE FUN WITHOUT A CLUB IN YOUR HANDS. PICK UP A GLASS, A FORK OR A PADDLE—OR TREAT YOURSELF TO SOME SPA TIME.

## BOYNE MOUNTAIN RESORT HARBOR SHORES RESORT BOYNE FALLS BENTON HARBOR-ST. JOSEPH

Each hole of The Monument course Jack Nicklaus has designed more than honors a golf great, like designers 300 courses worldwide, but this resort Donald Ross, Robert Trent Jones Sr., claims the only one on Lake Michigan. It George Fazio and Pete Dye. The Alpine showcases the area's dunes, woodlands, course starts atop Boyne Mountain and rivers and wetlands, the same natural runs a slalom of hazards. When you're beauty that surrounds condos and not golfing, book a spa session, go The Inn's luxury guest rooms, spa and ziplining or just dig your digs—cabin, pools. Plank's Tavern on the Water hugs condo, villa or hotel suite. the St. Joseph River.

## CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN THE HIGHLANDS THOMPSONVILLE HARBOR SPRINGS

It's easy to try your hand on the lofty Five courses reflect the work of elite Mountain Ridge course—home of the designers. The Donald Ross Memorial Michigan Women's Open—while the re-creates 18 of the icon's greatest Betsie Valley course traverses creeks, holes. The resort's original course, ponds and lush meadows. When your The Heather, was designed by Robert cart is parked, hitch a chairlift ride to Trent Jones Sr., and remains a beautiful mountaintop views and skitter down on test after 60 years. Off the links, take Michigan's only alpine slide. a scenic chairlift ride or mount a mountain bike.

## GARLAND LODGE AND GOLF RESORT LEWISTON

Expect birdies and eagles, even if The Arnold Palmer-designed Manitou not on your scorecard—bald eagles, Passage Golf Club course flaunts hawks and wild turkey hang out here. northern Michigan's meadows, dense The Swampfire and Fountains courses hardwoods, red and white pines, feature several water holes, plus the elevation shifts, and meandering waters. resort has two off-course watering Highlight hole? The par-5 eighth. Wake holes: Antlers Bar and Grill, and Tiki up in lodgings beside Sleeping Bear Bar. Enjoy more liquid refreshment Dunes National Lakeshore, a natural in swimming pools and in-room treasure to explore on foot or bike. The whirlpool tubs in some of the rooms. resort's Beach Club offers spectacular sunset views.

## GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT AND SPA ACME

Play two beastly courses designed A new nine-hole course, Cedar (opening by golf legends: Jack Nicklaus' The mid-summer), joins Sweetgrass Bear and Gary Player's The Wolverine. and Sage Run in merging nature and Soothe your back with a

massage or Native culture. How will you love refresh your skin with a facial at Spa this resort? Let us count the ways: Grand Traverse, trade bunkers for 400-plus hotel rooms, 24/7 gaming, the sand of a private beach, or have a Horizons Steakhouse, Club Four One ball in the water (intentionally) with a entertainment, and all the H<sup>2</sup>O in Splash paddleboard, Jet Ski or kayak. Island water park and Drift Spa.

## INN AT BAY HARBOR BAY HARBOR

A trio of nine-hole courses, played in pairs, form three distinct 18-hole layouts. The Links imports a wee bit of Ireland, The Preserve offers wooded sanctuary, and The Quarry rocks a stony look. The Inn, a grand retreat on Lake Michigan, promises a blissful stay—loll on the beach, swim, bike and play lawn games.

## SHANTY CREEK RESORT BELLAIRE

Golf greats Arnold Palmer and Tom Weiskopf are gone but not forgotten—their design legacies live on here. Palmer's course, The Legend, incorporates the resort's namesake stream, while Weiskopf's Cedar River is a masterpiece painted on a glacier-cut canvas. Four villages offer lodging, dining and outdoor rec options, including hiking, biking, swimming and stargazing.

## TREETOPS RESORT GAYLORD

Ace designers Robert Trent Jones Sr., Tom Fazio, and Rick Smith composed a quintessential quintet that includes The Jones Masterpiece, Fazio Premier, Smith Tradition, and Smith Signature courses, plus par-3 Threetops. Lodgings boast winning designs, too, especially rustic-chic chalets near a private putting green. Relax your aching backswing at The Treetops Spa and sit down for a round at The Sports Bar.

## TULLYMORE GOLF RESORT STANWOOD

Double your pleasure with two great courses. Tullymore tests with long par 5s and deep bunkers. St. Ives shifts the ground under your spikes and catches your eye with views. Two hotels—The Inn

## ISLAND RESORT AND CASINO HARRIS



**TRAVEL TIP**

Cell service along the Keweenaw Peninsula can be spotty. Download mobile maps in advance and consider keeping a paper map handy. Locals still swear by them, and for good reason.





# The *Michigan* Difference

Car-free islands, towering dunes and Great Lakes wilderness seamlessly blend with nostalgia and adventure to create a naturelover's paradise at this quintet of definitive destinations. *by Tree Meinch*

## Keweenaw Peninsula

Michigan's northernmost peninsula feels like the edge of the map, where the Keweenaw curls like a wave crashing into Lake Superior. Encounter vast mining history, dense forests and dramatic rock formations alongside several ghost towns and the lively hubs of Houghton and Copper Harbor. The 9-mile

### **Brockway Mountain**

**Drive** traces the northern shore and presents a stunning lay of the land and water via overlooks and scenic stops. From there, let the waterfalls, stardappled night skies and rhythmic waves of Lake Superior guide you.

#### **SAVE**

Bring your own mountain bikes and kayaks—or rent them—and chart your own tour through the hardy terrain.

#### **SPLURGE**

Book full-day and multiday adventures biking or paddling with Keweenaw Adventure Company for access to expert guides sharing a library of knowledge on the geology, culture and history of the area.

oo In Hancock, tour **Quincy Mine** to grasp how copper shaped this place, then hike or paddle the timeless scenery with **Keweenaw Adventure Company** in Copper Harbor. Refuel at **Jampot** in Eagle Harbor over baked goods and preserves made by monks. Or chase waterfalls near Calumet before taking a long steam at **Takka Saunas** in Hancock. On a clear night, the **Keweenaw Dark Sky Park** at the **Keweenaw Mountain Lodge** in Copper Harbor promises views of the Milky Way that even a smartphone can capture.

**EAT** Time a waterfront dinner for sunset

in Eagle River at **Fitzgerald's**, called The Fitz by locals. **The Den** keeps it casual with steaks, pastas, martini flights and other creations in Houghton. Nearby, you can savor old-school Italian at **The Ambassador**. Or pair pints with German classics and a lakeside view at **Harbor Haus** in Copper Harbor.

STAY Choose an overnight space made for northern lights viewing at **Fresh Coast Cabins** in Eagle Harbor. **The Vault Hotel** and its speakeasy lean stylishly historic in Houghton, and the **Laurium Manor Inn** delivers grandeur in a National Register of Historic Places site in Calumet.

**TRAVEL TIP**

Isle Royale is refreshingly empty of people and bugs after Labor Day. But beware of foxes swiping unattended hiking boots. (They eat the salty leather.) “Many visitors have hiked out with one boot,” John Dunn says.



## Isle Royale *National Park*

Remote, rugged and deeply rewarding, Lake Superior’s Isle Royale National Park is a bucket-list destination for adventurers. “It’s not the kind of park where you go to sit in a lodge and relax,” says John Dunn, a cultural resources volunteer for Isle Royale. This 45-mile-long island near Canada is situated in the northwestern corner of the world’s largest freshwater lake. Reachable by public ferries, small seaplanes, and private boats and sailboats, the appeal comes from what it lacks: roads, cars, crowds and quick exits. The

reward is pristine solitude and captivating wildlife, including moose and wolves.

▣ “If you’re a hiker, paddler or fisher, you’re going to have a great time,” Dunn says. **Moskey Basin** in Tobin Harbor makes a spectacular camping hub on the east end, but can be busy. “You can hear the wolves a lot down there,” Dunn says. If you’re seeking pristine solitude, you may be able to find it

on the trail. Take day hikes to **Hidden Lake** and **Lookout Louise** and explore the **Greenstone Ridge Trail**.

**EAT** The park offers two restaurants, both at the main stop of Rock Harbor. The **Greenstone Grill** steers casual —pizzas, burgers, sandwiches. **Lighthouse Restaurant** serves seared walleye, New York steak and wine with a view. All of it—even your freeze-dried backcountry rations—tastes divine after a few days in the wilderness.

**STAY** **Rock Harbor Lodge** provides comfy rooms and hot showers, while backcountry campsites deliver true immersion. Visitors can also book basic camper cabins in **Washington Harbor** on the island's southwest end.

**SAVE**

Book the *Ranger III* ferry from Houghton or the *Isle Royale Queen IV* out of Copper Harbor for a one-way ticket under \$100.

**SPLURGE**

A scenic, speedy arrival via Isle Royale Seaplanes will run closer to \$300 one-way or \$400 round-trip—a great way to avoid choppy conditions and possible seasickness.

Mackinac *Island*

Floating between Michigan's two largest peninsulas, Mackinac Island evades the passing of time. The car-free island is 80 percent state park, accessible by ferries from Mackinaw City and St. Ignace. After finding solid ground, you can crisscross the island by trails, eat yourself silly sampling world-famous fudge and meander atop picturesque bluffs. Here, horses clip-clop down the streets with carriages, bikes outnumber residents, and the pace of life resets. It's part summer camp nostalgia, part refined retreat—and entirely its own world.

🚲 Bike the 8-mile island perimeter, hike inland trails or tee off at one of America's oldest golf courses. **Fort Mackinac** combines history with sweeping views. And the new **Milliken Nature Center** adds interactive

exhibits steps away from the iconic **Arch Rock** natural landmark.

**EAT** Stopping at **Original Murdick's Fudge** remains a rite of passage for anyone with a sweet tooth. Sink your teeth into the signature MAC Daddy Burger at **Gate House**, part of the **Grand Hotel** on Main Street, **Patrick Doud's Irish Pub** embodies a delicious, unfussy time warp featuring pub fare, real espresso martinis and more than 20 Irish whiskey varieties.

**STAY** The central **Island House Hotel** has been a fixture since 1852 when it opened as one of Mackinac's only lodging options. **Mission Point Resort** specializes in bikes, lawn games, spa access and dog-friendly rooms. Head to the **Chippewa Hotel Waterfront** for nightlife at **Pink Pony** bar.

#### SAVE

Buy a day pass to the **Grand Hotel** for access to the sprawling front porch, the world's largest. You'll have immaculate gardens and lake views without the overnight rate.

#### SPLURGE

When you book a color-popping, vintage-studded suite at the **Grand Hotel**, consider a package with a variety of dining experiences included.

#### TRAVEL TIP

Ferries from St. Ignace are often less busy than Mackinaw City options. A calmer start can be a game changer for your summer weekend away.



# Sleeping Bear Dunes *National Lakeshore*

Along Lake Michigan's shore, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore includes 35 miles of mainland coast along with North and South Manitou Islands. Near Glen Arbor and Empire, it's both accessible and otherworldly. "The influence of the dunes extends well beyond the shoreline and defines the entire Leelanau Peninsula," says Julie Den Uyl, founder of **Sleeping Bear Tour Company**. Just past the wind-swept mountains of sand—rising nearly 450 feet above turquoise water—wineries, rivers, bespoke resorts and old-growth forests await. Follow the iconic **M-22** scenic highway to savor every layer.

**DO** Drive slowly and stop frequently along Sleeping Bear Dunes' 7-mile **Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive**, also frequented by advanced cyclists. **Empire Bluff** and **Dunes trails** make two beloved hikes with spectacular

views of Lake Michigan. You can fish the **Crystal River** or paddle it with **Crystal River Outfitters** out of Glen Arbor, and explore maritime history at **Glen Haven** and the **Martime Museum**.

**EAT** Celebrate Michigan's delicious Montmorency tart cherries at **Cherry Republic**, touting 200-plus products inspired by the unofficial state fruit. In Glen Arbor, **Art's Tavern** does no-frills burgers right, and **Boonedocks** is a favorite for local and rustic flair.

**STAY** Book a serene campsite in the park in advance, or base yourself nearby. At **The Homestead**, slopeside chic meets lakeside boutique just north of the dunes in Glen Arbor. And outdoorsy Traverse City offers a whole menu of stylish stays just a short drive away.

#### SAVE

Platte River Campground is open year-round. Find more camping options on [nps.gov](https://nps.gov) on the Sleeping Bear Dunes camping page.

#### SPLURGE

The Homestead's Grand Shoreside townhomes feature multiple bedrooms, gas fireplaces and sunset decks overlooking the lake.

#### TRAVEL TIP

Come early and stay late to avoid crowds at popular spots like the Dune Climb, Pierce Stocking Drive and the Philip A. Hart Visitors Center. Lesser-known trails like Kettles, Windy Moraine and Shauger Hill take trekkers into the woods.



PHOTOGRAPHS: SLEEPINGBEARDUNES|JEEBERGER,PICTUREDROCKS|JASON|LINDSEY



**TRAVEL TIP**

Purchase a Standard Pass (good for seven consecutive days), Annual Pass, or an America the Beautiful Pass (good for National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands) for entry.

## Pictured Rocks *National Lakeshore*

For ages, wind and water carved this shoreline in the Upper Peninsula. Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore covers 42 miles of Lake Superior with towering sandstone cliffs and hidden beaches. “It’s a feeling unlike any other to be water level at some of the most beautiful spots on the largest freshwater lake in the world,” says Pictured Rocks Kayaking guide Lillian Manceau. Near Munising, the colors shift hourly—iron reds, mineral greens, inky blues. Here it’s cooler, bolder and more vertical than the Lake Michigan shoreline, making a visit unforgettable from every angle.

**DO** **Grand Island** sits just offshore in this paddlers paradise, adding a fun layer of aquatic adventure. Book a boat tour or kayak to glimpse the scale of the

cliffs. Then pick your favorite cove for a private picnic, or hike to **Miners Castle** for an photo op.

**EAT** **ByGeorge Brewing Company** in Munising is conveniently located next door to **The Driftwood** deli, specializing in tasty sandwiches ideal for dine-in or a packed lunch. **Eh! Burger** hits the spot with signature patties, Holy Wah Sauce, and frozen cocktails after a wilderness escape.

**STAY** You can book a room with a deck and bay view at **Roam Inn**, just a 10-minute drive from Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore park headquarters. **Holiday Inn Express** is also close to trailheads and the favorite tour outfitters.

**SAVE**

Focus on traversing the cliff-top trails—there’s more than 100 miles of them—to panoramic overlooks and tumbling waterfalls.

**SPLURGE**

Guided paddling with Pictured Rocks Kayaking gets you close enough to touch history, with

layers of lore and interpretation.



**VIBRANT** An artsy vibe permeates The Belt, an alley with cocktail bars between Broadway and Library streets.



**HISTORIC** Five thoroughfares converge near Campus Martius and an 1867 Civil War monument.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY, *Detroit*

Though both Detroit and the United States celebrate milestone birthdays in 2026, the Motor City is notably older—founded in 1701, before the Founding Fathers were even born.

BY GARY THOMPSON

**F**rench explorer Antoine de La Mothe Cadillac established Fort Pontchartrain du Détroit July 24, 1701. The British gained control of the fort, then known as Fort Detroit, in 1760, with the U.S. taking over Detroit in 1796. When Michigan became the 26th state in 1837, Detroit was its capital. Over the next century, the city excelled in the arts, architecture and automobiles. The Detroit Museum of Art, later named the Detroit Institute of Arts, opened in 1885 and became renowned for its collections. Also in the 1880s, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted designed Belle Isle. But it was the Ford Motor Company's 1903 founding that transformed Detroit—Henry Ford's assembly lines powered what became the world's automotive capital. With job seekers migrating from all over, Detroit's population swelled to nearly 1 million in 1920, making it the nation's fourth-largest city.

A 1920s architecture boom included skyscrapers like the Book Tower, Book-Cadillac Hotel, Fisher Building, Guardian Building, and Penobscot Building. The melting pot of people fostered a globally influential music scene, highlighted by the launch of Motown Records in 1959. Starting in the 1960s, Detroit faced challenges followed by a revitalization that continues today, with fresh investments in downtown and nearby neighborhoods, restoration of historic buildings, and new energy in the arts, dining, music, outdoor rec, sports and technology. Turn the page to discover where to experience Detroit now while celebrating its past.

## MOTOR CITY HISTORY

1701	Detroit founded
1837	Michigan becomes the 26th state
1880	Belle Isle Park established
1885	Detroit Museum of Art founded
1903	Ford Motor Company founded
1913	First assembly line introduced
1919	Detroit Symphony Orchestra moves to Orchestra Hall
1919-29	Architectural boom (Book Tower, Guardian, and Fisher buildings built)
1920s	Forth-largest city in the U.S., earning Detroit the nickname Motor City
1928	Detroit Zoo opens
1946	Buddy's invents Detroit-style pizza
1959	Motown Records founded
Mid-60s to Mid-70s	Punk music's birth and early development
1980s	Techno music's introduction and evolution
2000	Comerica Park, home of the Detroit Tigers, opens
2002	Ford Field, home of the Detroit Lions, opens
2009	Dequindre Cut Greenway opens
2012	Detroit Riverwalk expands
2017	Little Caesars Arena, home of the Detroit Pistons and Red Wings, opens
2024	Michigan Central Station reopens
2025	Detroit Riverwalk expands to the west in conjunction with Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Centennial Park

## Exhibits

### MUST-SEE MUSEUMS

Mine a rich Detroit cultural vein at the **Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History**. In honor of the **Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit's** 20th anniversary, the museum is featuring Detroit-based artists such as Olayami Dabls, founder of **MBAD African Bead Museum**, and others. Visit the birthplace of Henry Ford's iconic Model T, the **Ford Piquette Avenue Plant Museum**.

## Theaters

### WATCH A SHOW

Before a performance at the **Fox Theatre**, take a pic of its famed neon marquee. **The Fillmore Detroit** features an 80-foot dome ceiling with ornate chandeliers. **Orchestra Hall** boasts A-list acoustics and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the nation's fourth-oldest orchestra. **Saint Andrew's Hall** helped launch legends Nirvana, Eminem, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

## Hotels

### STAY RIGHT HERE

**Detroit Foundation Hotel** rescues a landmark firehouse, preserving original truck bays and brass poles. **Shinola Hotel**, namesake of the Shinola watch company, offers well-buffed boutique rooms. **Hotel David Whitney** occupies a historic building honoring the lumber baron. **El Moore** elevates urban lodging in a renovated 1898 apartment building with solar panels.

**BRUNCH TIME** Begin your weekend at San Morello in the Shinola Hotel.



**CHEERS** Mixologists get creative with cocktails at Grey Ghost.

## Food and Drink

### NEIGHBORHOOD EATS

**Norm's Diner** in the West Village dishes up comfort-food breakfast and lunch. Meat-forward **Grey Ghost** in Brush Park also crafts innovative cocktails. **Father Forgive Me**—part of the Shepherd, a century-old former church in Little Village—serves light bites, craft cocktails and small-producer wines. Spiritual vibes also bless **The Congregation**, a coffeehouse and bar in a resurrected church in Boston -Edison. Its sister restaurant, **The Rectory**, serves heavenly pizza next door.

## Pro Sports

### CATCH A GAME

Detroit's four major professional teams play downtown—all within a half mile of one another. The Pistons (NBA) and Red Wings (NHL) call Little Caesars Arena home, while the Tigers (MLB) play at Comerica Park next to the Lions' (NFL) Ford Field. The entertainment area, known as The District Detroit, is also home to retail shops, hotels, two dozen diverse restaurants, renowned jazz hot spot Cliff Bell's and the Theater District.



#### DO THE D

Discover artistic alleys, delectable dining and boutique hotels.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (BRUNCH) COURTESY OF SAN MORELLO; (BARTENDER) EEBERGER; (FOX THEATRE) JON BILIOUS/STOCK.ADOBE.COM

**SHOWTIME** The opulent 1928 Fox Theatre  
seats more 5,000 people.



plot the fastest, easiest way here.

### By Car

Detroit is less than five hours

### By Plane

Michigan has 18 airports with **2** from many metro areas.

### BY THE NUMBERS

passenger service.

#### MAJOR CITIES WITHIN

#### 300 MILES OF DETROIT

Cleveland, OH 170 miles

Columbus, OH 203 miles

#### PRIMARY HUB

Detroit Metropolitan Wayne  
County Airport, Detroit (DTW)

#### REGIONAL HUBS LOWER PENINSULA

#### Distinct Peninsulas

**3**

#### International

#### Dark Sky Parks

# YOUR MICHIGAN TRANSIT GUIDE

These essential drive times, plus Michigan's major and regional airports, can help you



Toronto, ON 231 miles

Traverse City 255 miles

Traverse City 319 miles

Indianapolis, IN 287 miles

Gerald R. Ford International,

5

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WITHIN THE STATE, DETROIT TO ...

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Lansing 90 miles

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Copper Harbor 600 miles

CHICAGO TO ...

Saugatuck 140 miles

Detroit 283 miles

Keweenaw Peninsula 432 miles

Grand Rapids (GRR)

Flint Bishop International, Flint (FNT) **103**

Cherry Capital Airport,  
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MBS International, near Saginaw,

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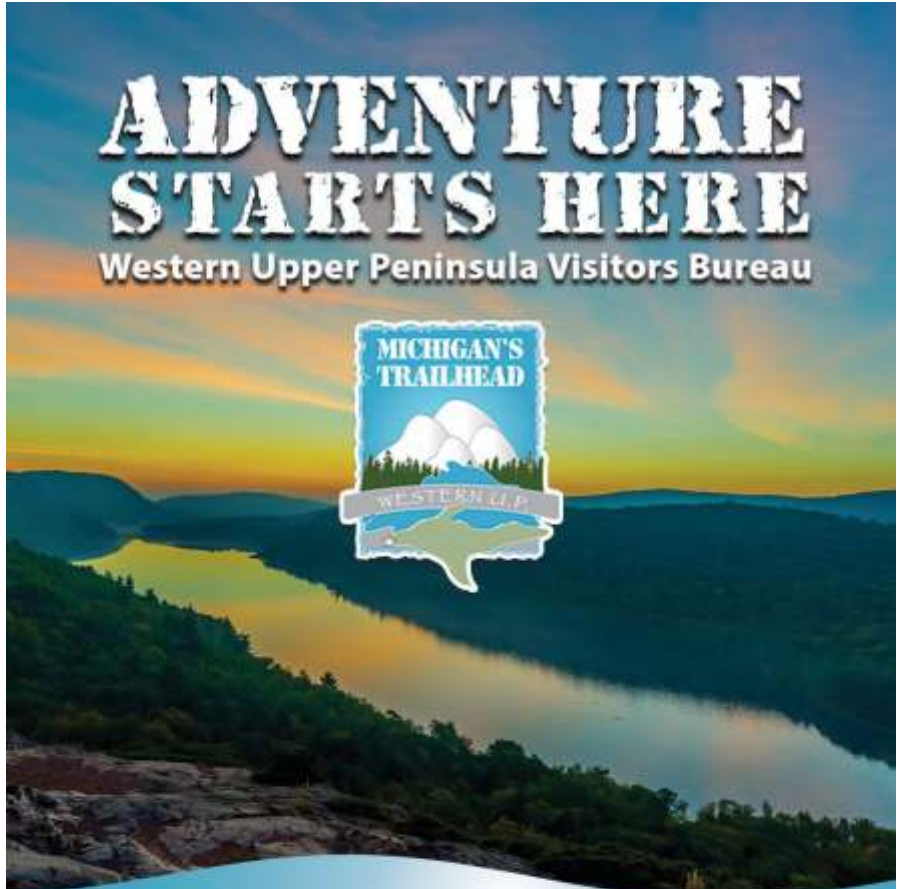
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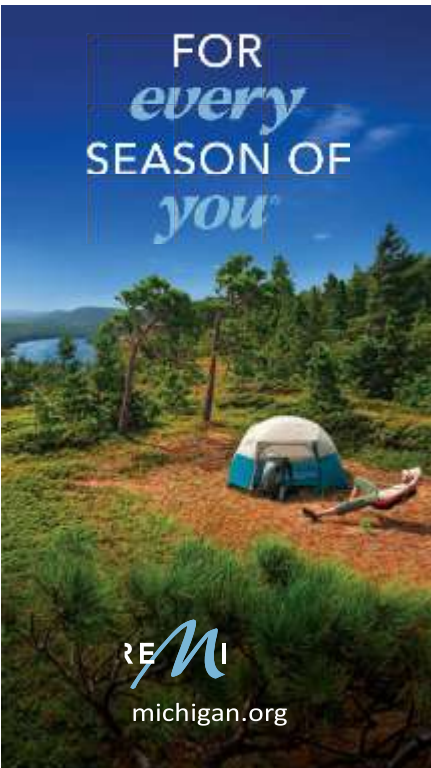


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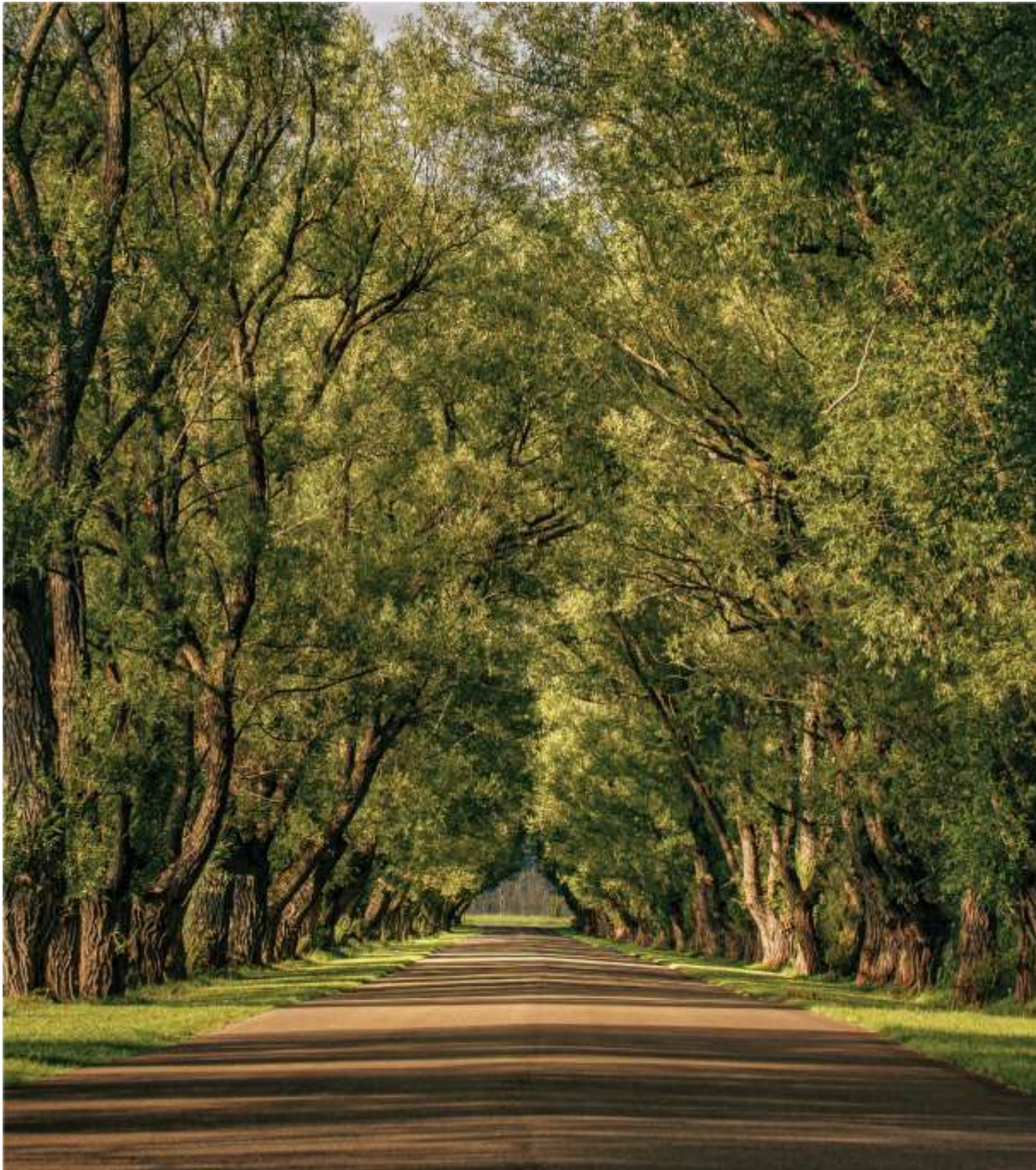


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