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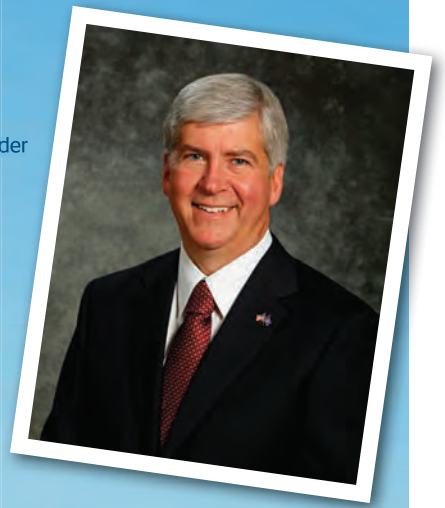


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WELCOME TO MICHIGAN

Governor Rick Snyder



Dear Fellow Traveler:

There's nothing like Michigan in spring and summer.

Spring signals the start of outdoor festivals, garden tours and farmers markets, as well as the anticipation of a warm-weather adventure.

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Michigan offers the perfect warm-weather escape. So no matter where you travel around the state, you'll make memories of rejuvenating under the summer sun, the warm sand between your toes and splashing in our refreshing waters.

Plan your warm-weather getaway now with the new **2015 Pure Michigan Spring/Summer Travel Guide**. Whether you're looking for an adventure, a memory-filled family vacation or a romantic getaway, it's time to visit the playgrounds of Pure Michigan.

We look forward to sharing our wonderful state with you.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rick Snyder in black ink.

Rick Snyder
Governor

Handwritten signature of Brian Calley in black ink.

Brian Calley
Lt. Governor



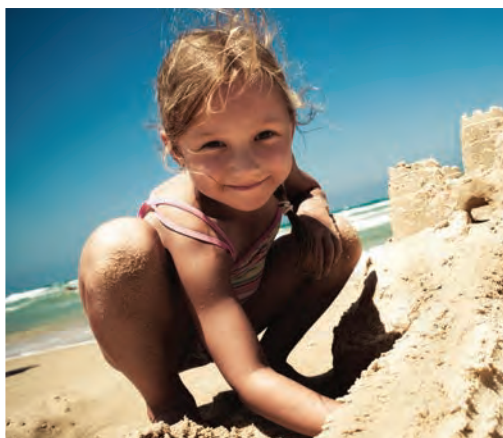
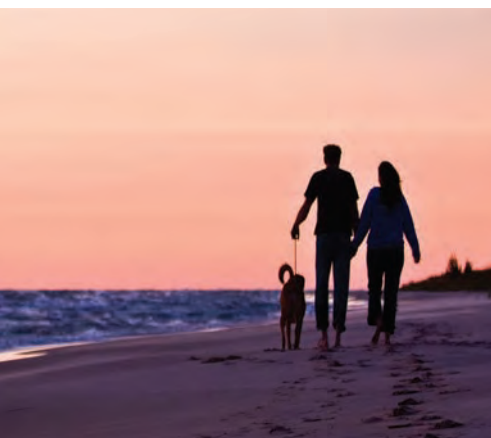
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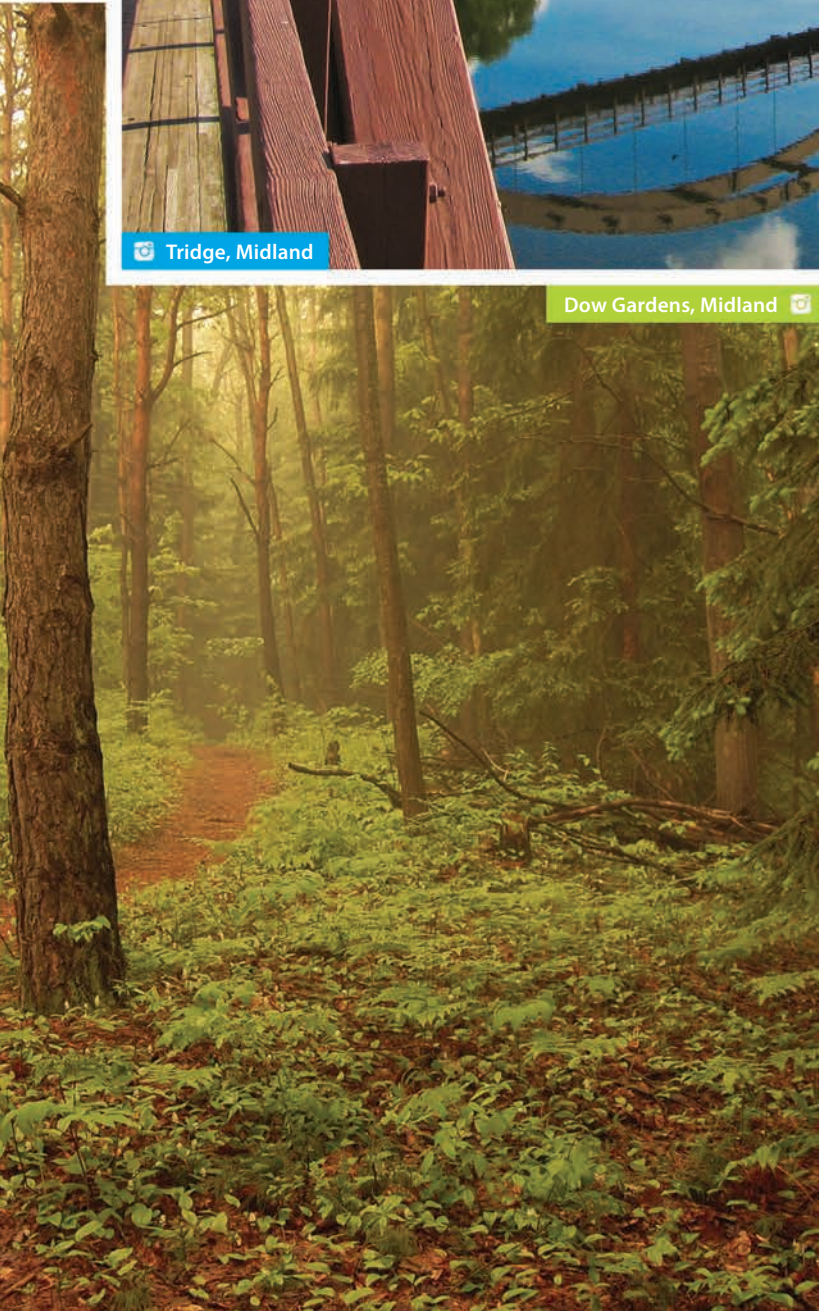
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 Tridge, Midland



 Dow Gardens, Midland

 Appledore Tall Ships, Bay City



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Bayview Mackinac
Yacht Race, off
Mackinac Island.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JASON LINDSEY

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COVER PHOTO:

Looking across the Detroit River to downtown Detroit and the towering GM Renaissance Center. For more on the city's culture, nightlife, music and sports, turn to page 32.

Photographer: Mike Boening

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2
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Experiences, places
and events that
embody the essence
of Pure Michigan.

MICHIGAN MOMENTS

BY JESS HOFFERT



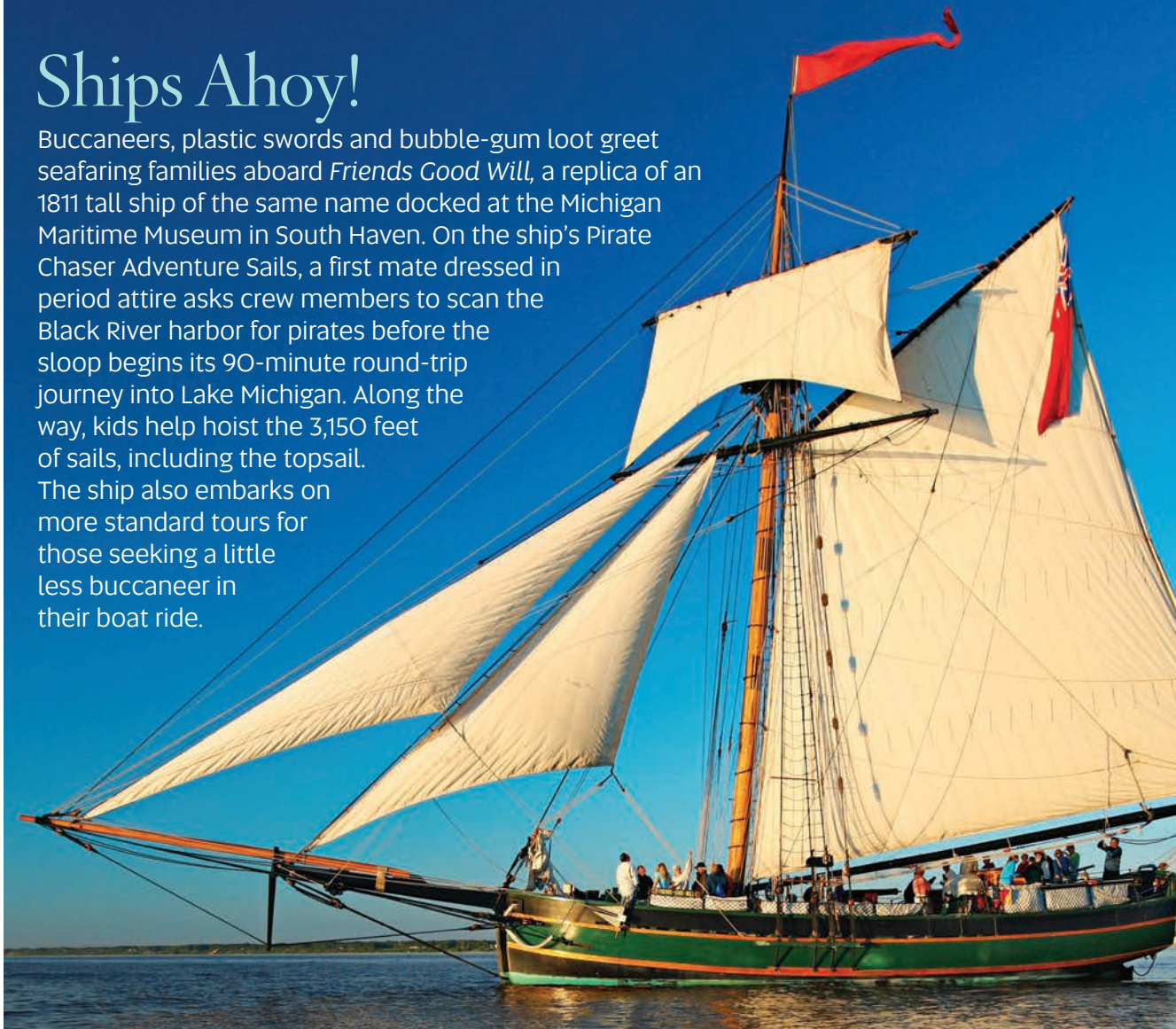
GARDEN
TOUR

SENSE OF ADVENTURE

Kids sniff a plant that smells like buttery popcorn, peer through periscopes and feel leaves as soft as lamb's ears at the children's garden in Grand Rapids' Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. Visitors seeking quiet wander among four waterfalls and a teahouse in The Richard and Helen DeVos Japanese Garden, a new-this-June section of the sprawling park.

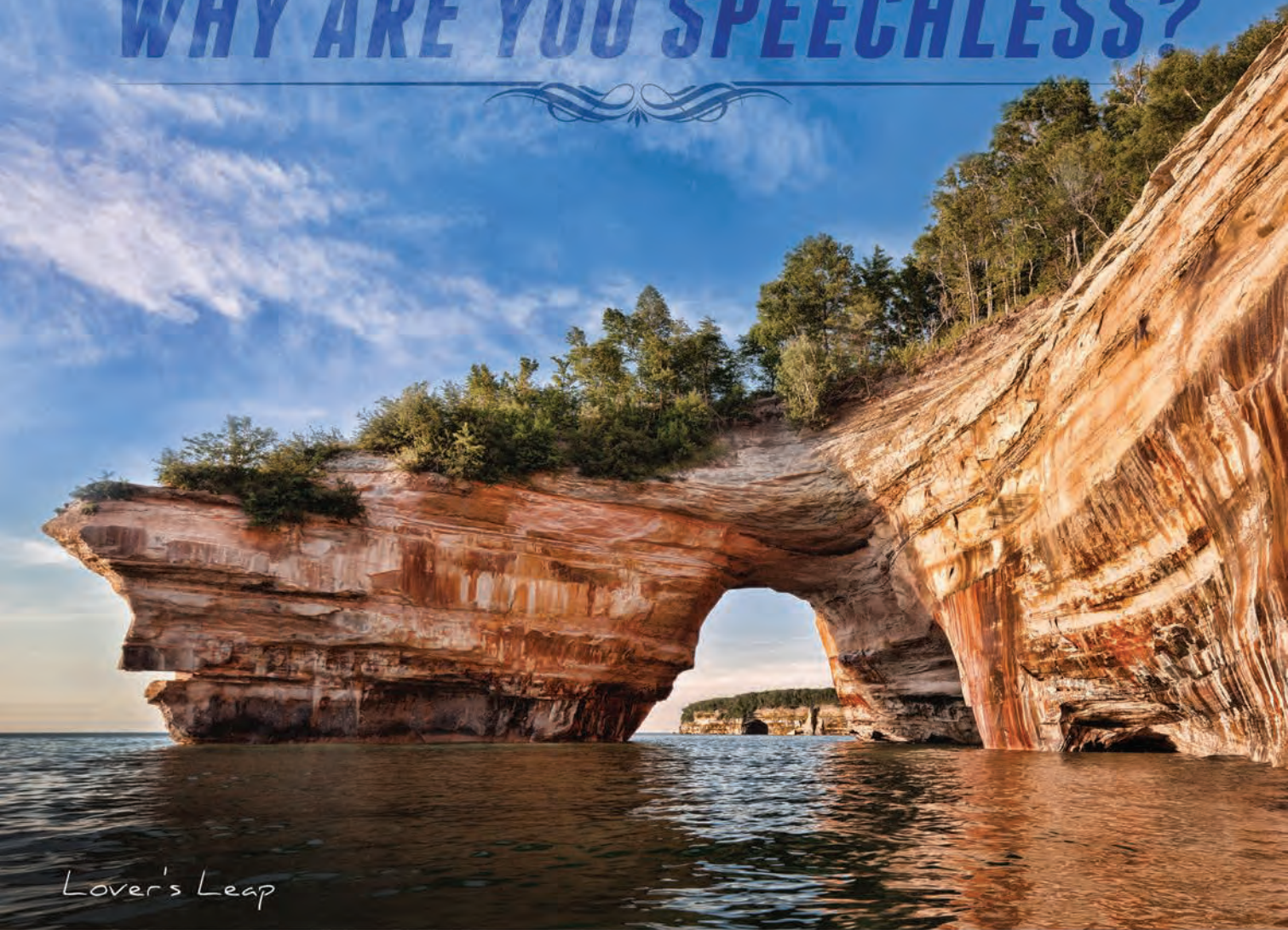
Ships Ahoy!

Buccaneers, plastic swords and bubble-gum loot greet seafaring families aboard *Friends Good Will*, a replica of an 1811 tall ship of the same name docked at the Michigan Maritime Museum in South Haven. On the ship's Pirate Chaser Adventure Sails, a first mate dressed in period attire asks crew members to scan the Black River harbor for pirates before the sloop begins its 90-minute round-trip journey into Lake Michigan. Along the way, kids help hoist the 3,150 feet of sails, including the topsail. The ship also embarks on more standard tours for those seeking a little less buccaneer in their boat ride.



The original *Friends Good Will* temporarily sailed for the enemy when the British captured it in the War of 1812.

*IF A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS,
WHY ARE YOU SPEECHLESS?*



Lover's Leap



17 WATERFALLS



6 LIGHTHOUSES



WHITE SAND BEACHES



KAYAKING



HIKING

HOME OF THE PICTURED ROCKS

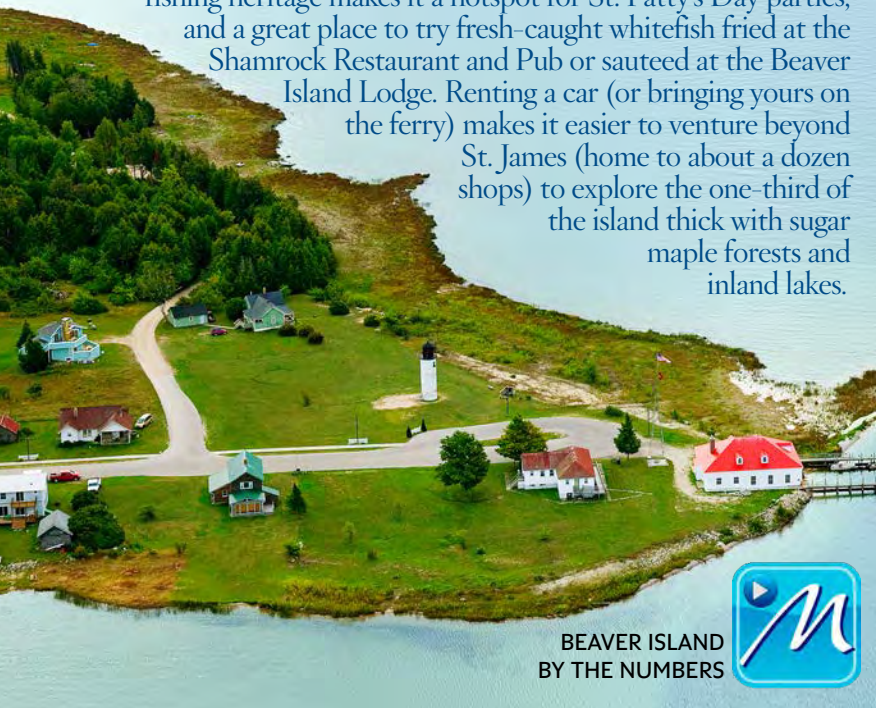


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ISLAND TIME

Fifteen minutes by plane from Charlevoix lies Beaver Island, an escape as relaxed as any in the Caribbean. The lightly populated island provides a quiet beach getaway with bargains on rental homes and other laidback lodging. The island's Irish fishing heritage makes it a hotspot for St. Patty's Day parties, and a great place to try fresh-caught whitefish fried at the Shamrock Restaurant and Pub or sauteed at the Beaver Island Lodge. Renting a car (or bringing yours on the ferry) makes it easier to venture beyond St. James (home to about a dozen shops) to explore the one-third of the island thick with sugar maple forests and inland lakes.



BEAVER ISLAND
BY THE NUMBERS



MICHIGAN MOMENTS

1866

The year Adrian's **Croswell Opera House** opened, making it Michigan's oldest continuously operating theater. The renovated community theater, decked with red velvet curtains and carpeting, produces its own shows and hosts touring road shows, concerts and movies. Musicals *Into the Woods* and *Mary Poppins* grace the stage this year.

ALES in odd places

What do a former funeral chapel, horse stable and hardware store have in common? They're all places where you can sip some of the state's finest brews. Vaulted ceilings and stained glass set the tone for a communal experience at Grand Rapids' funeral-parlor-turned-brewhouse Brewery Vivant (*right*). Choose from 18 microbrews in a spot where hay was once more prevalent than hops at The Livery in Benton Harbor. The only tool you'll need at a former Bellaire hardware store is a bottle opener, but you won't even need one of those to order what's on tap (try the malty Huma Lupa Licious IPA) at Short's Brewing Company.

BREWERY
BUCKET LIST



PHOTOGRAPHS: (FROM TOP) KEVIN J. MINAZAKI/REDUX, JASON LINDSEY

FRANKENMUTH®

❖ MICHIGAN'S LITTLE BAVARIA ❖



2015 Annual Calendar of Festivals & Events

Zehnder's Snowfest - January 21-26, 2015
Bavarian Easter Celebration - March 20-April 19, 2015
Bringin' Back the 80's - April 24 & 25, 2015
World Expo of Beer - May 15 & 16, 2015
Dog Bowl & Balloons Over Bavaria - May 22-24, 2015
Tour de Frankenmuth - May 24 & 25, 2015
Bavarian Festival - June 11-14, 2015
Volksläufe (The People's Race) - July 4, 2015
Summer Music Fest - August 13-15 & 20-22, 2015
Frankenmuth Auto Fest - September 11-13, 2015
Oktoberfest - September 17-20, 2015
Wein & Stein - October 1, 2015
Crabby Clam & Lobster Fest - October 9 & 10, 2015
Michigan's Big Country Fest - October 16 & 17, 2015
Scarecrow Fest - October 17-18 & 24-25, 2015
Holiday Celebration & Candlewalk - November 27, 2015

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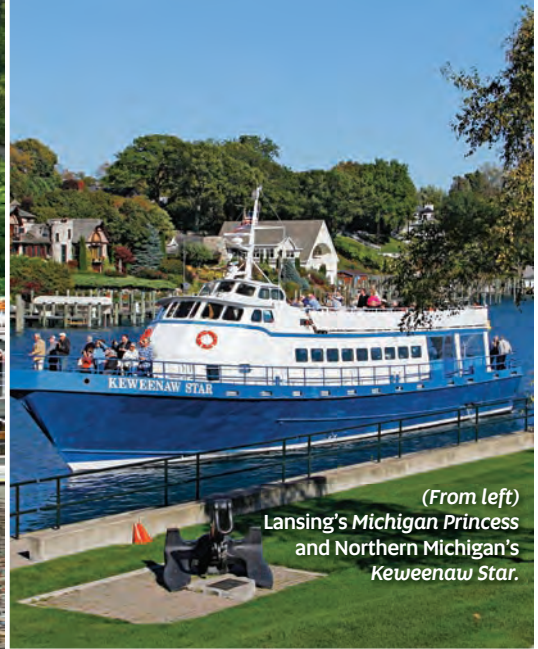
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MICHIGAN MOMENTS



(From left)
Lansing's *Michigan Princess*
and Northern Michigan's
Keweenaw Star.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (FROM LEFT) COURTESY OF MICHIGAN PRINCESS, COURTESY OF KEWEENAW STAR

Hands-on FUN

Kids explore Earth, air and water at Michigan's interactive museums. Harness the power of magnets at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum (*below*), where you can also use a joystick to navigate your way around the world at the Google Earth Liquid Galaxy. Pretend you're a lighthouse keeper and climb to the top of a 25-foot-tall replica lighthouse with views of Lake Michigan at Curious Kids' Discovery Zone in St. Joseph, and soar through the sky in a flight simulator at Kalamazoo's Air Zoo.



PHOTOGRAPH: JOHNNY QUINN

RIVER CRUISES

A dramatic pass under the 5-mile-long Mackinac Bridge. Unsurpassed views of more than 12 lighthouses. A round trip through the famous Soo Locks. If you're looking to check a boatload of wonders off your Michigan bucket list, embark on a three-day excursion aboard the *Keweenaw Star*, with overnights at the Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie. The 110-foot boat departs from Charlevoix and provides up-close views of hard-to-reach lights like Skillagalee, Gray's Reef and White Shoal on its journey through three Great Lakes and along the St. Marys River. Have the camera ready for

trips under the Mighty Mac, the longest suspension bridge in the Western Hemisphere. Evenings allow gaming time at the casino (vouchers included) or downtime.

Chandeliers sparkle on the five-story *Detroit Princess Riverboat*, a replica paddle-wheeler that journeys past the Ambassador Bridge and around Belle Isle Park in the Detroit River. Hop on for three-hour dinner cruises and musical revues.

Solve a whodunit on a Murder Mystery Dinner Theater cruise aboard Lansing's *Michigan Princess*. Guests enjoy dinner and role playing as the old-fashioned riverboat cruises the Grand River.

6 The number of drive-in theaters in Michigan. Catch a flick on the 75-foot-tall screen at the Capri Drive-In, a family-owned Coldwater tradition since 1964.

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MICHIGAN MOMENTS

10 great places around Saginaw Bay

Visit these favorites in the Lake Huron region surrounding Bay City.

1] Bavarian Inn of Frankenmuth

Little Bavaria's 360-room resort includes indoor pools, water slides and Oma's Restaurant for schnitzel.

2] Bay Antique Center Thousands of antiques and collectibles fill a block of Bay City's Riverwalk district.

3] Birch Run Premium Outlets

Score bargains at 145 name-brand outlet stores, like Ann Taylor, Brooks Brothers and J. Crew.

4] Bronner's Christmas Wonderland

Greeters pass out maps to the world's largest Christmas store (50,000 gifts and trims!) in Frankenmuth.

5] Castle Museum Downtown Saginaw's 1897 replica of a French château chronicles the region's history of lumbering.

6] Dockside Bay City Savor burgers and Michigan wines while watching boats along the Saginaw River.

7] Dow Gardens Sculptures and flowerbeds unfold around every corner, just as Dow Chemical Company founder Herbert H. Dow envisioned when he began the Midland gardens in 1899.

8] Midland Center for the Arts

Create a virtual fireworks display and bring out your inner rock star at the Karaoke Studio inside this center's engaging Hall of Ideas.

9] Old Town Saginaw Walk brick sidewalks to shops and eateries, such as Jake's Old City Grill, in Saginaw's 12-block district that's on the National Register of Historic Places.

10] Zehnder's Restaurant The Frankenmuth hot spot serves nearly 1 million meals each year. Try the fried chicken dinners.



EXPLORE THE BAY REGION

PHOTOGRAPH: KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI/REDUX



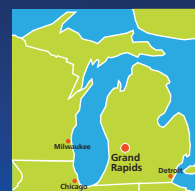
FISHTOWN

The freshest catches come from Leland's 19th-century fishing village, Fishtown. A blue haze and smoky aroma waft from a cluster of weathered gray buildings along northern Lake Michigan. Racks of whitefish, lake trout and fish sausage pack the smokehouses at Carlson's Fishery. Steps away, Two Fish Gallery sells lake-inspired pottery, watercolors and photographs by locals. Soak in views of the Leland River from the dock at The Riverside Inn, a 112-year-old B&B with an extensive wine list and four comfortable rooms.

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MICHIGAN MOMENTS

WILD TIMES

A herd of new animals promises an exciting year at the state’s zoos. Meet Nika, Kuza and Yuri, a trio of majestic Amur tigers at Grand Rapids’ John Ball Zoo. Three orphaned Alaskan black bears have a permanent home at the Binder Park Zoo in Battle Creek. Later this year, 80 penguins will waddle into the Detroit Zoo’s iceberg-shape Polk Penguin Conservation Center. Watch them splash and swim in a deep-dive area that provides views from above and below the water.



PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY OF THE DETROIT ZOO

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Keys to the KEWEENAW

Portage Lake Lift Bridge between Houghton and Hancock transports you into the heart of the Upper Peninsula's Keweenaw Peninsula, an old copper mining region now known for rustic charm and adventures.

DAY 1 A cog-wheeled tram carries visitors wearing hard hats to the underground portion of Quincy Mine tours in Hancock. While in town, grab a bowl of smoked-fish chowder at 4-Suns Fish and Chips Outdoor Cafe. Peter Hahn crafts unique art and jewelry at Hahn Hammered Copper in Calumet. The Victorian-Era Laurium Manor Inn has beautiful stained-glass windows and 10 guest rooms with private baths.

DAY 2 Interactive displays at Calumet Visitors Center share the area's story. Head north to Eagle River for smoked meats at Fitzgerald's on a Lake Superior beach. Explore 20 restored buildings at Fort Wilkins Historic State Park in Copper Harbor. Let Keweenaw Adventure Company lead your mountain biking and sea kayaking trips in the wilds.

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SPRING

Southwest Michigan royalty waves from floats,
and Holland tulips nod their bright blooms.
Two different events, one message: Hello, spring!

BY JESS HOFFERT



Holland's
Dutch windmill,
DeZwaan.

BLOOMS



A BURST
OF BLOSSOMTIME

Blossomtime Festival

BENTON HARBOR AND ST. JOSEPH

Pink and white apple blossom petals bloom as a parade in their honor celebrates the region's bounty.

Crowns and sashes sparkling, Mr. and Miss Blossomtime wave from their float near the front of the century-old Grand Floral Parade. At their sides, the rest of the Blossomtime court smile hellos to the crowd of 250,000 sitting on blankets and chairs along the downtown route that stretches almost 2 miles. The 2-hour-long queue crosses the Bicentennial Bridge and includes uniformed marching bands,

polished antique cars, the Indy 500 Drill Team and beribboned teams of horses (April 26–May 2, 2015).

All around, acres of orchards wear their spring finery of pastel blossoms. After all, there's a lot to celebrate here at the southern end of Lake Michigan: The region is home to 60 percent of the state's 9.5 million apple trees and more than a dozen vineyards.

Apples flavor the jams, jellies and salsas at Jollay Orchards, which has been growing fruit since 1857, but in the century-old barn of Round Barn Winery, Distillery and Brewery,

guests sip vodka made from grapes and handcrafted beers.

Visitors to St. Joseph's Krasl Art Center drink in views of *Beacon Gold Chandelier*, Dale Chihuly's glittering glasswork of more than 200 golden-yellow swirling shapes. Downtown, upscale clothing boutiques meld with quirky shops like FuzzyButz Pet Bakery and Boutique.

Shoppers and festivalgoers ready to unwind head to one of New Buffalo's water-view resorts. The Harbor Grand welcomes guests with a pool, 24/7 Ben and Jerry's room service and deep-tissue massages fit for a parade-weary queen.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (FROM TOP) NATE LUKE, KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI/REDUX (2)





(From far left) Bursts of pink and white signal growing season in Michigan's fruit belt. Events like the Blossomtime Festival celebrate with a parade. Nearly 4.5 million tulips bloom throughout Holland.



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For more details and ideas, visit:
michigan.org/springblooms

See and share the beauty of spring by tagging your photos #PureMichigan at [Instagram.com/PureMichigan](https://www.instagram.com/PureMichigan)

Tulip Time HOLLAND

Millions of blooms and the clapping of wooden shoes greet visitors to America's Dutch capital.

As May evenings fall on Holland, visitors lean in from the curbs to watch dancers twirling by the hundreds in the streets. It's hard to find the limit of this town's Dutch pride, considering kids practice for months for these dances, a VIP crew sweeps the streets before parades and wooden shoes are so common that businesses often post signs asking customers to remove them. All these scenes are familiar during Tulip Time

(May 2–9, 2015), when 4.5 million tulips bloom around town and nearly 500,000 guests come for the festivities.

Daily guided tours wend through the compact downtown full of boutiques, bookstores, coffee shops and restaurants. Free Saturday tours check out the local brews at New Holland Brewing, which also distills spirits.

Downtown Holland sits on the banks of Lake Macatawa, which meets Lake Michigan at Holland State Park, known for its beaches, campgrounds and views of the photogenic lighthouse dubbed Big Red by locals.

In downtown, native Michigander Alisa Crawford, the nation's only female Dutch-trained miller, grinds flour at a 12-story windmill. The 250-year-old mill (imported from Holland) highlights Windmill Island Gardens, where a Dutch village includes a museum, carousel and shops selling delftware and wooden shoes. Children clamber on a playground.

Outside Holland, visitors come by the busload to Veldheer Tulip Gardens, which grows 5 million flowers. After touring the gardens, visit the De Klomp wooden shoe and Delft factories, where guests can see both processes start to finish.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) BRIAN CONFER, JOHNNY QUIRIN (2), BRIAN CONFER



(From far left) Sip vino in the Round Barn Winery, Distillery and Brewery's tasting room, a century-old barn in Baroda. Three parades march through downtown Holland during Tulip Time.



NATIONAL

“The best idea we ever had,” said historian Wallace Stegner about America’s national parks. The numbers say we agree: Almost 2 million people visited Michigan’s five national parks last year. Join them in exploring these natural and historical treasures.



MICHIGAN'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE

Standing on top of a dune 400 feet above Lake Michigan offers primo views of the world’s largest freshwater dunes. Overlooks demand stops on the 7-mile Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive, the 13-mile multiuse Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail and the 13 hiking trails. Shade your eyes and look across the blue water for the shadowy outlines of North and South Manitou islands (served by ferry). Then turn away from golden dunes and beaches to search out inland lakes amid dark forests. Also along this Leelanau Peninsula park’s 35 miles of mainland shoreline is a Coast Guard Station with exhibits on Great Lakes maritime history, plus century-old farmsteads and a cannery.

PHOTOGRAPH: TONY DEMIN

TREASURES





PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKESHORE

Sandstone cliffs stained by colorful minerals and sculpted like sandcastles loom up to 200 feet over Lake Superior. Those formations gave this park its name, but they're just one of the reasons to visit this 42-mile stretch between Munising and Grand Marais in the Upper Peninsula. A hundred more reasons are the miles of hiking trails skipping between sandy beaches and bluff edges; trails lead to waterfalls, inland lakes, a lighthouse and Lake Superior overlooks. But the best views are from the water. Sightseeing boats depart frequently from Munising, and guided kayak tours sidle up to cliffs, coves and caves.

ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK

Fifty-six miles from the nearest part of mainland Michigan, Isle Royale is a model of national park wilderness: remote, rugged and roadless. Exploring the 50-mile-long Lake Superior island—home to wolves, moose and more—requires boots or paddles. It's a backpacker's and kayaker's dream, with 165 miles of hiking trails, 34 backcountry campgrounds, a rocky shoreline and more than 400 adjacent, smaller islands. Two dots of development, Rock Harbor and Windigo, receive guests by ferry, seaplane and private boat. The Rock Harbor Lodge provides the island's only hotel-style accommodations; Windigo has two rustic cabins.



ISLE ROYALE
BY THE NUMBERS





KEWEENAW
TREASURES

PHOTOGRAPHS: BOB STEFANO (OPPOSITE) DANA STIEFEL

KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

The Upper Peninsula's unprecedented copper riches sparked a mid-1800s mining boom that soon dwarfed the California Gold Rush. This multilocation park preserves vestiges of the wealth and industrial might that once thrived on the Keweenaw Peninsula, which has returned to its quiet, wild roots. Park attractions—many of them nonprofit Heritage Sites—dot the length of the peninsula and include the Quincy Mine, one of the world's largest and most lucrative copper mines; an extravagant opera house in Calumet; and Fort Wilkins Historic State Park, where costumed interpreters and a restored garrison depict 19th-century life on the northern frontier.

RIVER RAISIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK
 “Remember the Raisin” isn’t a well-known rallying cry, but it arose as a salute to fallen comrades. On the banks of the sleepy River Raisin in Monroe (40 miles south of Detroit), British forces and their Native American allies overpowered about 1,000 American soldiers during the War of 1812. Established as a national park in 2010, the park’s exhibits, reenactments and other events bring to life what one general called a “national calamity” in the fight for control of the lower Great Lakes.



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STATE PARKS

In addition to visiting the state's five national parks, discover the more than 100 managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Here's a sampling.

BELLE ISLE

Detroit's renowned riverfront park combines urban amenities and natural attractions. Sports courts and a Great Lakes museum mix with playgrounds, an aquarium and a conservatory.

BURT LAKE

Fishing and boating draw visitors to this 10-mile-long lake (32 miles east of Petoskey). It's part of a 45-mile-long inland waterway linking Lake Huron and Crooked Lake.

FAYETTE

Once the site of an iron-ore smelting operation, today it's an industrial ghost town that wraps around a white-bluff harbor on Lake Michigan's northern shore (120 miles west of St. Ignace).

IONIA

The Grand River bends through forest and field at this recreation area, popular for camping, fishing, horseback riding and dog field trials (36 miles east of Grand Rapids).

LEELANAU

Waterfront camping and an 1858 lighthouse draw visitors to this peninsula's tip. Five miles south, forested trails lead to a curving beach on Cathead Bay.

MITCHELL

Learn about wildlife and native fish at the Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center before reeling in a walleye, northern pike or perch from lakes Cadillac and Mitchell (Cadillac).

NEGWEGON

Largely undeveloped by design, this park beckons with 12 miles of trails and an 8-mile string of Lake Huron beaches and rocky bays (20 miles south of Alpena).

PETOSKEY

A sandy beach and trails along Lake Michigan's Little Traverse Bay provide a getaway for camping lakeside, savoring sunsets and hunting for Petoskey stones.

PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS

Vast wilderness, rivers and the Midwest's largest stand of old-growth trees stand along Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula.

STRAITS

Here at the north end of the Mackinac Bridge, views encompass the Straits of Mackinac that divide the Upper and Lower peninsulas. An open-air building with interpretive panels honors missionary explorer Jacques Marquette.

WARREN DUNES

Sand beach, 260-foot-tall dunes and views that stretch over Lake Michigan star at this park (8 miles east of New Buffalo). Head north from the day-use area for more solitude.

WATERLOO

A patchwork of glacial lakes, hills and forest create one of Michigan's largest recreation areas and a convenient getaway in the state's southern tier (27 miles west of Ann Arbor).

DETROIT

No one knows you like your family, and no one knows the soul of a city better than life-long residents. Three exuberant insiders introduce us to the Detroit they love, which includes bold classics like Motown and the Detroit Institute of Arts, sultry sounds from favorite jazz clubs, and budding business districts, plus faves like the RiverWalk.

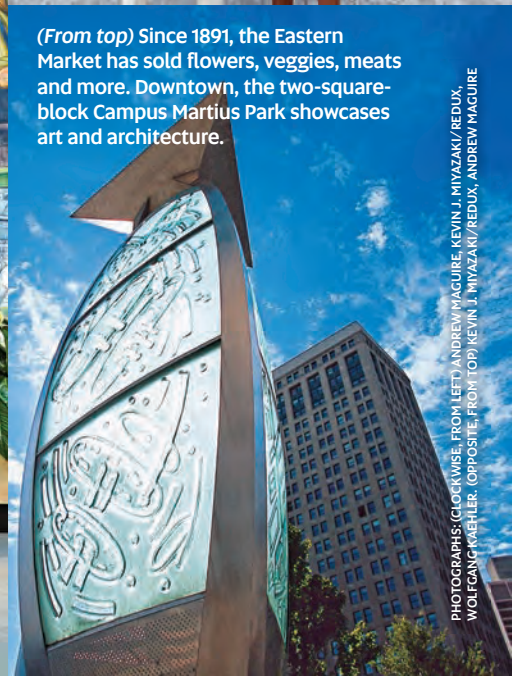
BY TINA LASSEN



Adorned with pieces like this Diego Rivera mural, even the walls of the Detroit Institute of Arts turn heads.

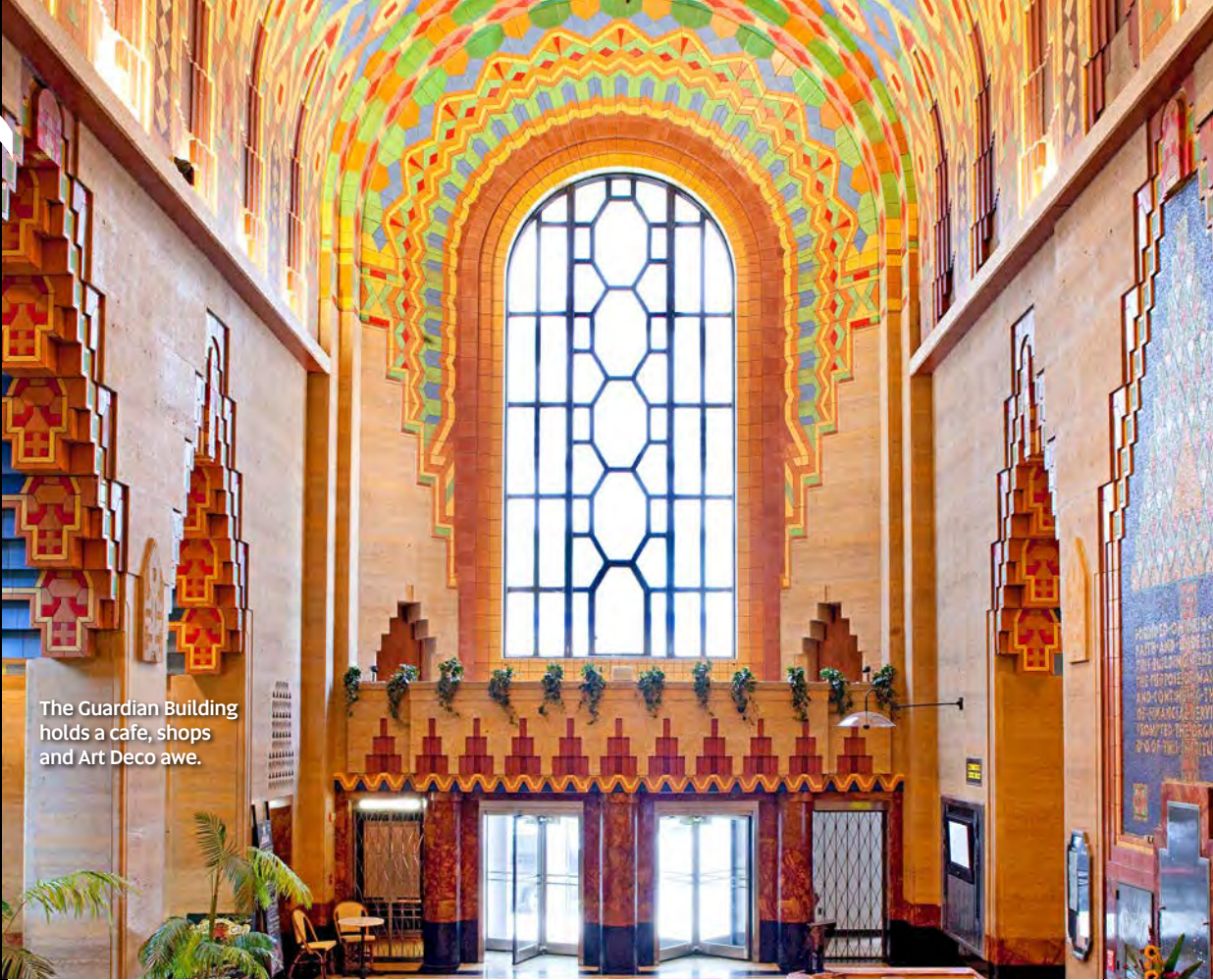


(From top) Since 1891, the Eastern Market has sold flowers, veggies, meats and more. Downtown, the two-square-block Campus Martius Park showcases art and architecture.



PHOTOGRAPHS: CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT: ANDREW MAGUIRE, KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI/REDUX, WOLFGANG KAEHLER. (OPPOSITE, FROM TOP) KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI/REDUX, ANDREW MAGUIRE

CONFIDENTIAL



The Guardian Building holds a cafe, shops and Art Deco awe.

FOR A CITY WITH GLOBAL IMPACT (think auto assembly lines and Motown tunes) and 118 suburbs, Detroit can be remarkably intimate. The generally small burbs—half cover less than 5 square miles—make for a small-neighborhood feel within a metro footprint the size of Manhattan, San Francisco and Boston combined. That's a lot of exploration. Where to start?

"A lot of what's happening in Detroit now is grassroots," says Jeanette Pierce (see below). "If you didn't live here, you wouldn't know about it."

Here's help from locals who know: three districts to get your visit started.

DOWNTOWN AND RIVERFRONT

"I always tell people to look up," Jeanette says of the city's steely skyline sprouting along the Detroit River's north bank. "The architecture is amazing." Step inside the 1929 Guardian Building, which dazzles with a cathedrallike extravaganza of mosaic tile and Tiffany glass. A few blocks east, the Renaissance Center rises 73 stories as a monument to the Motor City; the General Motors' complex is so large that it demands its own Zip code. Near Campus Martius Park, modern buildings like the glass-and-granite Compuware World Headquarters represent Detroit's latest renaissance.

EXPERIENCE
THE MOTOR CITY



JEANETTE PIERCE } **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DETROIT EXPERIENCE FACTORY**

JEANETTE'S PICKS: GUARDIAN BUILDING • WILLIS-CANFIELD RETAIL DISTRICT
1917 AMERICAN BISTRO • RIVARD PLAZA • LINCOLN STREET ART PARK

Jeanette grew up in Detroit and has been celebrating and promoting it ever since. These days, her enthusiasm radiates throughout the Detroit Experience Factory, offering insider tours, visitor information and lots of love for the city. "Detroit is big enough to matter in the world," she says, "but small enough that you can matter in it."



JOSH LINKNER } FOUNDING PARTNER, DETROIT VENTURE PARTNERS

JOSH'S PICKS: CLIFF BELL'S • DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM • BOSTON-EDISON DISTRICT
MOTOWN MUSEUM • DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA/ORCHESTRA HALL

Josh often juggles his busy schedule by holding meetings on foot. "I think one of the best ways to bust through misconceptions about Detroit is to go for a walk," says the entrepreneur and jazz guitarist. "I'm always discovering new nooks and crannies. It fills me with pride to be associated with such an incredible city."

Dozens of small start-ups—many founded by Detroiters under 40—tuck among big-name employers, making downtown a collage of hip and historical.

Locals knock back Michigan brews under the soaring arched ceiling of Grand Trunk Pub, once a railroad ticket office. Cliff Bell's purrs with a cool, intimate ambience and live jazz six nights a week.

"I'm a die-hard jazz fan, and it's a wonderful spot," says Josh Linkner (see above). "It reminds me of all the great things of Detroit's past—our rich musical soul—fused with the opportunities of the future. It's just a great place to hang out."

The ribbon of the Detroit River forms the border between Michigan and Ontario, Canada. It also serves as Detroit's front yard, thanks to the RiverWalk, more than 3 miles of pathways, parks and gardens stretching to Belle Isle Park, an island between the two countries with an aquarium, zoo and conservatory. The RiverWalk "is just beautiful," says George N'Namdi (see opposite). "For years we didn't utilize our water. And now you can walk downtown to Belle Isle, and then it connects to other walkways."

ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

The riverfront district segues into an entertainment area that crackles with energy from arts patrons and sports fans. "Detroit has the second-largest theater district in the country—more than 13,000 theater seats within a two-block radius," Jeanette says. Venues include the Fox Theatre and the Detroit Opera House, both ornate 1920s beauties.

A few blocks away, major-league sports take the stage, with Comerica Park hosting Tigers baseball and across-the-street Ford Field holding Lions football. They keep the area hopping long after the workday ends.

On Saturdays, foodies flood the nearby historical Eastern Market to shop its six blocks of stalls run by more than 250 vendors selling flowers, fruits, spices, cheeses and other foodstuffs.

MIDTOWN

From downtown, Detroit's iconic Woodward Avenue cuts a broad path north beyond the Fisher Freeway. It's where the city's renowned cultural institutions, Wayne State University and leafy neighborhoods mingle in a vibrant region known as Midtown.

It would take days to explore just the museums. Stories both heart-wrenching and inspiring touch visitors to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. The Detroit Institute of Arts holds one of the world's premier collections, including the famed *Detroit Industry* frescoes by Diego Rivera. Josh recommends the Detroit Historical Museum, which re-creates an experiential 19th-century Detroit, complete with storefronts and cobblestone streets. Farther north on Grand Boulevard, the slice of history known as Motown gets its own museum in the building where Berry Gordy founded his recording empire. "The creativity from there is unbelievable," says Josh of the man who created stars that played a giant role in American music.

Canfield and Willis streets anchor a budding business district that is one of Jeanette's favorites and is home to breweries, coffee houses, organic bakeries and cheeky shops. City Bird specializes in Detroit-theme gifts; Bob's Classic Kicks gives Detroiters a sneaker boutique.

And the creative energy continues to spread, which is no surprise to those in the know. Just ask a local: Detroit isn't done making its mark on the world.

(Below, from top) Cliff Bell opened his intimate namesake jazz club in 1935. The downtown People Mover makes it easy and inexpensive (75 cents) to switch locales.



PHOTOGRAPHS: (FROM TOP) BRAD ZIEGLER, KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI/REDUX (2)



DETROIT BUCKET LIST



(Clockwise)
The RiverWalk
strings together
miles of surprises,
including festivals,
gardens and a
carousel. The glass
rotunda anchors
the Charles H.
Wright Museum of
African American
History. The Tigers
call Comerica Park
home.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT) KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI/REDUX, WOLFGANG KÄHLER, KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI/REDUX, BRAD ZIEGLER



“DETROIT ISN'T DONE MAKING ITS MARK ON THE WORLD.”



GEORGE N'NAMDI }

FOUNDER-CEO,
N'NAMDI CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

GEORGE'S PICKS: CHARLES H. WRIGHT MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY
MOTOWN MUSEUM • SUGAR HILL ARTS DISTRICT • MBAD'S AFRICAN BEAD MUSEUM

“You have an opportunity to buy art here,” George says of Sugar Hill Arts District within Midtown. That’s where his gallery, along with the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit and the Detroit Artists Market, calls home. While in the area, he recommends dining at Seva, a vegetarian restaurant.



PHOTOGRAPHS: ANDREW MACUIRE

Explore the relationship between drivers and their cars with interactive kiosks (above) and pop-culture treasures in the *Driving America* exhibit.



THE HENRY FORD

LESS THAN 20 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN, THE HENRY FORD COMPLEX MAKES FOR A GREAT DAY TRIP.

Many of the 1 million-plus visitors entering this Dearborn complex annually expect an automobile museum, but Henry Ford had a broader vision. The ingenious inventor was so enamored with ingenuity that he began collecting innovations he felt represented the resourcefulness of everyday Americans. One of the wealthiest men in the world, Ford collected not art, but things like steam locomotives and printing presses. At one time, he attempted to acquire one of everything ever made in the United States.

Many of those objects are the sort of priceless artifact—George Washington's camp bed, the first helicopter—that you'd expect to find in the Smithsonian. But The Henry Ford displays thousands of them in its cavernous 8-acre exhibition hall that is the heart of The Henry Ford complex. Touch screens, hands-on displays and thoughtful interpretations make sense of it all.

Of course, a museum named for Henry Ford does not disappoint car buffs. The *Driving America* exhibit ranks among the world's top automotive collections, showcasing the automobile's evolution and exploring its effect on society. Kids can repair a car in a shiny Texaco station. Vintage neon McDonald's arches and a 1960 Holiday Inn sign highlight how the car prompted cultural shifts like chain restaurants and road trips.

Collections include entire buildings transported to Dearborn brick by brick then reassembled and arranged in Greenfield Village, just outside the museum. Visitors walk through—or putter past in Model Ts—several of America's most significant buildings, including Thomas Edison's laboratory, the Wright Brothers' shop and Ford's own birthplace.

Grab a bus from The Henry Ford to the nearby Ford Rouge Factory Tour for a quick trip back to the 21st century. As 2015 F-150 trucks roll out of the retooled plant, even Henry himself would no doubt marvel at the ingenuity.

TRAVEL
THROUGH
TIME



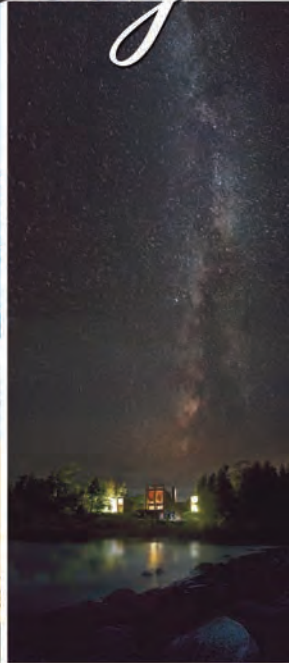
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10

From the peaceful resort town of Mackinaw City to bustling ship-lined Port Huron, Michigan's eastern shore delivers attractions as varied as its landscape. Explore the best of the shoreline with our top 10 picks.

WAYS TO LOVE LAKE HURON

BY SARA DIEKELMANN

FUN ON
THE LAKE



1 Kayak to rock formations

To see the most stunning scenery around Port Austin, you'll have to get in the water. Or at least a kayak. Formations like Turnip Rock (shown) are surrounded by private land and water open only to nonmotorized watercraft.

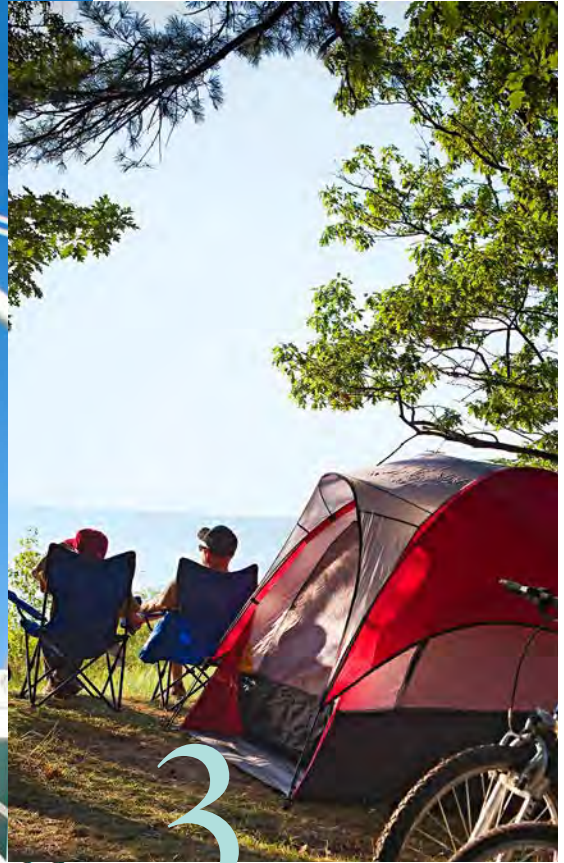
So rent a boat and hit part of the 139-mile Tip of the Thumb Heritage Water Trail for a look at caves, cliffs and other formations. More than 40 launch sites let you tailor a trip that fits your skill and time frame.



2

Travel by horse-drawn carriage

Perched high in a horse-drawn carriage, you have a bird's-eye view of the rows of fudge behind glass in the pastel-painted buildings of Mackinac Island. But riding a bike means it is easier to stop and sample the flavors. (Motorized vehicles aren't allowed on the island.) The best view of the lake is from a rocking chair on the Victorian-style Grand Hotel's 660-foot-long porch—the longest in the world. The straits beyond the dining room windows sparkle as brightly as the chandeliers shining down on diners in all their formal attire.



3

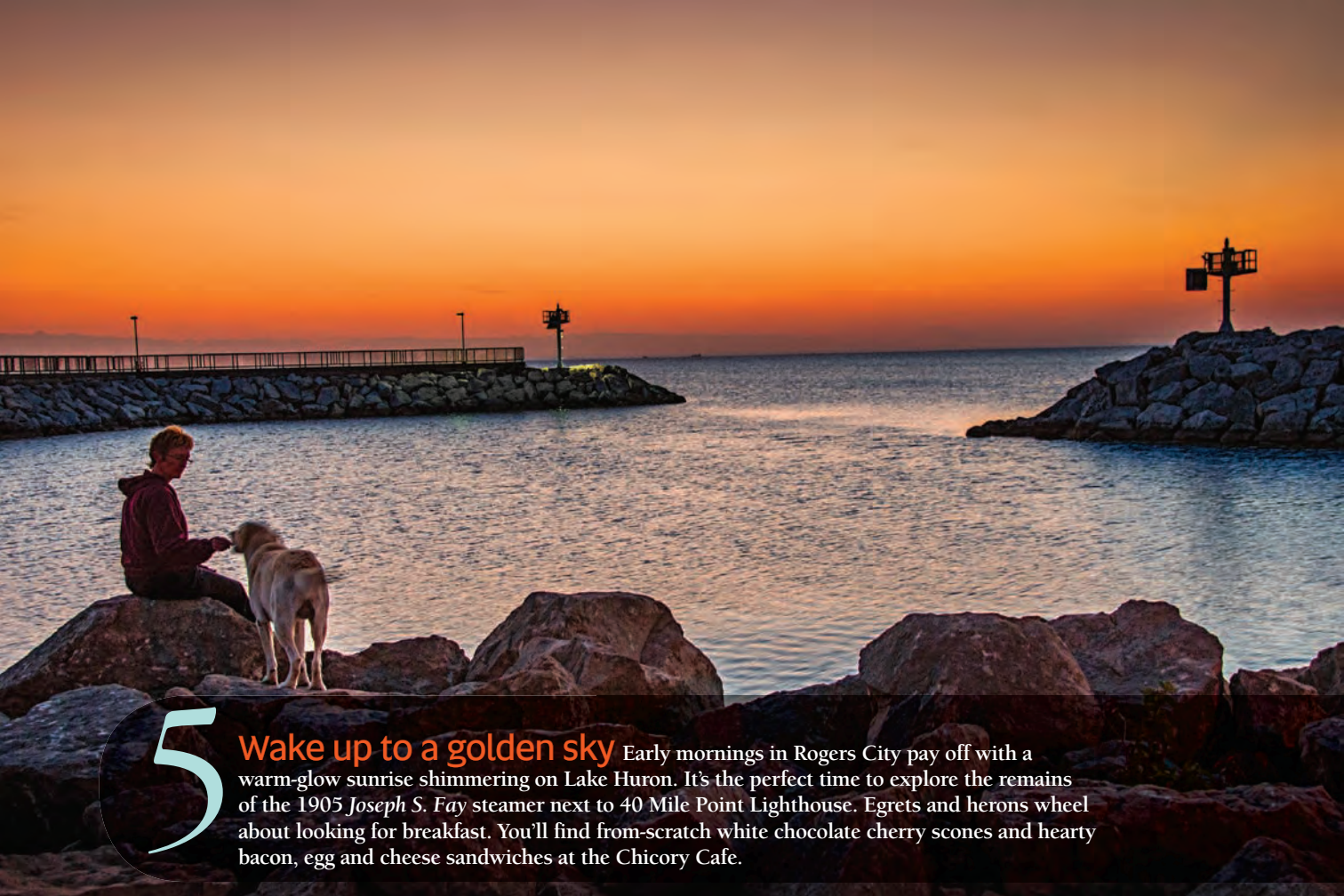
Explore a state park

It's not unusual to have a stretch of grassy dunes or a hiking trail to yourself at laid-back Albert E. Sleeper or Port Crescent state parks on the tip of Michigan's Thumb. Stay the night at modern campsites next to dunes or on shady wooded spots. A 900-foot boardwalk means easy beach access at Port Crescent.

4

Discover sunken ships

Climb to the top deck of the glass-bottom *Lady Michigan* for a primo view of a handful of 19th- and 20th-century shipwrecks haunting the water offshore from Alpena. The two-hour tour sails across crystal-clear Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, where hundreds of shipwrecks lie. Crew members recount tales of some of the famous ships taken down by the rocky coast and treacherous storms.



5

Wake up to a golden sky Early mornings in Rogers City pay off with a warm-glow sunrise shimmering on Lake Huron. It's the perfect time to explore the remains of the 1905 *Joseph S. Fay* steamer next to 40 Mile Point Lighthouse. Egrets and herons wheel about looking for breakfast. You'll find from-scratch white chocolate cherry scones and hearty bacon, egg and cheese sandwiches at the Chicory Cafe.



6

Set sail on a classic

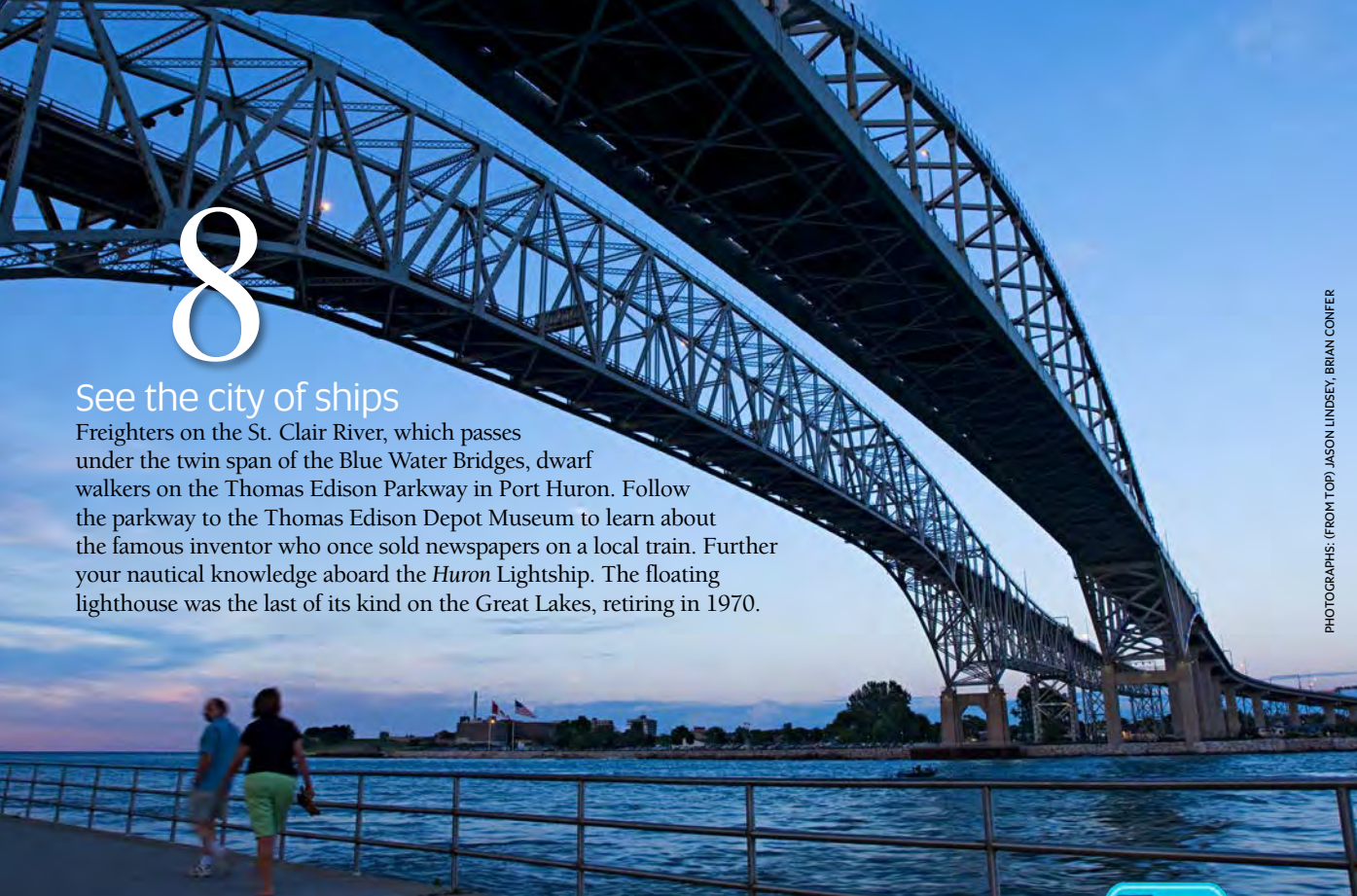
Join the crew in hoisting the sails to set the *Appledore IV* sailing out of Bay City. The 85-foot schooner skims along the Saginaw River during its three-hour daytime or evening cruises. Shoreline views include the docked *USS Edson*, a Vietnam War-Era destroyer. Peer below deck at the close living quarters—just part of life on the lakes.

Play with history Kids can dress up like soldiers and play a giant fife (a flutelike instrument) at Fort Mackinac, a historic military outpost on Mackinac Island. Across the Straits in Mackinaw City, Colonial Michilimackinac keeps kids busy with daily activities that include musket and cannon firings, cooking and crafting demonstrations. This reconstructed fort and fur-trading post sits near the Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse; climb to the top of the 1889 tower and tour the keeper's quarters. These, nearby Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and a handful of other family-friendly attractions make up Mackinac State Historic Parks.

8

See the city of ships

Freighters on the St. Clair River, which passes under the twin span of the Blue Water Bridges, dwarf walkers on the Thomas Edison Parkway in Port Huron. Follow the parkway to the Thomas Edison Depot Museum to learn about the famous inventor who once sold newspapers on a local train. Further your nautical knowledge aboard the *Huron* Lightship. The floating lighthouse was the last of its kind on the Great Lakes, retiring in 1970.



PHOTOGRAPHS: (FROM TOP) JASON LINDSEY, BRIAN CONFER

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**LAKE
HURON
LIGHTHOUSES**

9

Live at a lighthouse

Volunteer keepers at Tawas Point Lighthouse sleep on quilt-covered beds in the recently renovated redbrick keeper's quarters—no worries about carrying oil 85 steps up to keep the light going. The volunteers here and at other select lighthouses will, however, spend the week leading public tours and maintaining the grounds. Only have an afternoon? Go ahead and climb the white stone tower, then visit the museum store below.

10

Sink your toes in sugar sand

More than 20 miles of serene sugar-sand beaches draw generations to the resort town of Oscoda. Almost two dozen motels, inns and camping cottages, like the Sandpiper at Anchorage Cottages (left), provide quaint accommodations steps from the water. Here, parents in lounge chairs oversee kiddos splashing and swimming in shallow waters while teens spike volleyballs over nets. At night, fire pits draw everyone together to recount all the memories made.

Pop over to play this summer!

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BY SARA DIEKELMANN



ST. JOSEPH

In a word: KIDCENTRIC

Beach snapshot: Families with toddlers to teenagers easily fill a day at Silver Beach and its neighboring amusement area. Just off the sand, Silver Beach Center houses a vintage carousel with 48 hand-carved animals. Interactive exhibits make learning about the Great Lakes (and much more) fun at The Curious Kids Discovery Zone (*above*). At the splash park, 28 water jets and eight water cannons guarantee a soaking.

Talk of the town: Mom and dad appreciate contemporary outdoor sculptures surrounding the Krasl Art Center, which features works by local artists.



GRAND HAVEN

In a word: SOCIAL

Beach snapshot: RV and tent campers may be steps from one another, but the beach is equally close at Grand Haven State Park. Close quarters mean you'll likely make new friends. Sand volleyball courts, grills, fire pits and swing sets add to the enjoyment.

Talk of the town: The Harbor Trolley whisks visitors from the beach to downtown Grand Haven, where one-of-a-kind boutiques, such as Calico Cat (*above*), and restaurants await. Wood-fired pizzas, some with crazy-good combinations, come from K2 (on the second floor of Kirby House).

HOLLAND

In a word: TWOFOLD

Beach snapshot: Double the fun at Holland State Park, which has two beaches, two lakes, two campgrounds and one well-known lighthouse, affectionately known as Big Red. Boats putter a channel linking the lakes, which sandwich the park. Most day visitors head to Lake Michigan's sandy shore, where children splash and build sandcastles, or indigo waters to paddle a kayak or stand-up paddleboard (on-site rentals available). Where you overnight depends on whether you like sun and sand or shade and woods: Camp on paved sites between picturesque dunes or in the woods along Lake Macatawa.

Talk of the town: Holland's tulip-lined downtown embraces its Dutch heritage. Family-owned de Boer's Bakery and Dutch Brothers Restaurant is known for its authentic *krakelingen*, a buttery cookie rolled in sugar. European-style Alpen Rose Restaurant and Cafe serves a variety of schnitzels with braised red cabbage and house-made spaetzle; be sure to snag patio seating.



Paddleboarding
Lake Michigan at
Holland State Park.



LUDINGTON

In a word: SERENE

Beach snapshot: Leading to Ludington State Park's entrance, a quiet undeveloped beachfront feels like a private shore for swimmers and sunbathers. The only downside: no restrooms or concessions. Inside the park, 22 miles of hiking trails and 2 miles of bike trails attract active travelers. Calm Lake Hamlin is a prime spot for fishing, kayaking and canoeing. Multiple campgrounds invite overnights.

Talk of the town: Lick a scoop of House of Flavors signature Blue Moon ice cream while strolling among sculptures at Waterfront Park, which also features two marinas and a playground.



EMPIRE

In a word: BREATHTAKING

Beach snapshot: With 65 miles of shoreline and dunes that reach 450 feet above Lake Michigan, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is the place for dramatic vistas. Choose from a half a dozen swimming spots, including Platte Point River beach. Tubers float the swift and shallow Platte River, which flows into Lake Michigan.

Talk of the town: The size of the giant Boomchunka cookie might make you gasp; its generous flavorings of dried cherries, oats and chocolate surely will. Get it and all things cherry at Cherry Republic in nearby Glen Arbor. The bakery-cafe, winery (with free tastings) and retail store sell hundreds of cherry-theme foods and drinks.

MEARS

In a word: ADVENTUROUS

Beach snapshot: The only state park in Michigan to allow off-road vehicles, Silver Lake State Park lets users bring their own ORV, rent one in town or lets someone else do the driving. Watch sand fly as four-wheelers climb steep dunes and zoom over moguls on close to 400 acres run by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Mac Wood's Dune Rides takes thrill-seekers on a 40-minute roller coaster-like ride in cherry red dune buggies.

Talk of the town: Nearby Pentwater's main drag inspires afternoon shop-a-thons with its fashion boutiques, art galleries and antiques stores.



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PHOTOGRAPHS: (BACKGROUND) JASON LINDSEY (FROM LEFT) JOHN NOLTNER, TONY DEMIN, JOHN NOLTNER, DAN WEEKS, JOHN NOLTNER



SOUTH HAVEN

In a word: WALKABLE

Beach snapshot: Popular South Beach is so close to the historical downtown that beachgoers can swim, shop and dine without hopping in a car. Pristine paths wind past picnic areas and benches at Riverfront Park, a relaxing spot to watch boats, including tall ship *Friends Good Will*.

Talk of the town: More than 50 specialty shops and boutiques, such as Props for the Home with quirky hostess gifts (above), line downtown's quaint streets. Stop in The Blueberry Store for Michigan-made blueberry products, including preserves, teas and muffin mixes.



MUSKEGON

In a word: EDUCATIONAL

Beach snapshot: Home to Mt. Baldy, one of the tallest sand dunes along Lake Michigan, P.J. Hoffmaster State Park focuses on the ecology of dunes at its Gillette Visitor Center. Compare sand from five different states; then explore the dunes or take a guided nature program.

Talk of the town: It's all physics in action during a side trip to Michigan's Adventure, the state's largest amusement and water park. Seven roller coasters, a giant Ferris wheel and many more rides surround a picture-perfect lake. Zip down water slides or chill in wave pools at the connected WildWater Adventure (above).



SAUGATUCK

In a word: POPULAR

Beach snapshot: Towering sand dunes and plenty of room to roam at Oval Beach attract sunseekers. Be sure to pack umbrellas, coolers and plenty of water toys. Feeling ambitious? Ascend 600-foot Mount Baldhead. To reach the top, climb 282 stairs on the eastern side of the beach. Catch your breath and race down to the water's edge.

Talk of the town: Hungry Village Tours leads three-hour walking tours in downtown Saugatuck or six-hour driving tours to local eateries, farms and vineyards.



A handful of local companies rent off-road vehicles for sand dune fun at Silver Lake.



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Trattoria Stella
in The Village at
Grand Traverse
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EXPLORE
TRAVERSE CITY

When you pack your bags for Traverse City, include your sense of adventure. Lively experiences—wine-country tours by bike, pub crawls by water, summer camp for grown-ups and sunsets from high in a white pine—color escapes here. And no matter what direction you head, a visit to this Lake Michigan harbor town broadens your horizons.

BY KIM SCHNEIDER



Ciders. Owners Dan Young and Nikki Rothwell started the business after a cider-tasting trip through the United Kingdom via—of course—the tandem bike now hanging above the tasting room entrance.

A few hills and bends in the road deliver us to Forty-Five North Vineyard and Winery, where general manager Alanna Grossnickle leads a comparison of Cabernet Franc, Pinot Gris, sparkling Crémant and Rieslings.

On our 10-mile ride, we visit a handful of the 25 stops on the Leelanau Peninsula Wine Trail (there are another eight wineries on Old Mission Peninsula). Immersing yourself in wine country is just one way to experience Lake Michigan's Grand Traverse Bay, which embraces these two peninsulas. Anchoring them is the harbor town of Traverse City and its horizons—colored with blue water, golden beaches and green hills—that draw you toward many kinds of adventure.

PADDLE TO DISCOVERIES

Along the city's redeveloped downtown waterfront, Clinch Park invites a day in the sun with a popular sandy beach, outdoor grill, splash pad and Adirondack chairs with perfect bay views. Outfitter The River rents bicycles,

(Clockwise, from above) Watercoloring at Interlochen Center for the Arts. Downtown signage. Tastings at Blustone Vineyards on the Leelanau Peninsula. Tamarack Lodge at Traverse City. Dog prints at Art and Soul.

Ripe cherries dangle from trees lining a country lane north of Suttons Bay on the Leelanau Peninsula. They hint at the bounty that will flavor my wine-country bike tour led by a guide from Grand Traverse Bike Tours. My group puffs over the occasional hill and coasts along backroads between orchards and vineyards thriving in the sandy soil and temperate climate created by Lake Michigan.

Apple, ginger and berries burst on my tongue during tastings of five on-tap ciders and homemade sodas at Tandem



stand-up paddleboards, canoes and kayaks and arranges adventure tours, such as Pedal Up, Paddle Back.

A 20-minute bike ride along the Traverse Area Recreation Trail and south through downtown ends at the put-in point on Boardman Lake. I trade a beach cruiser for a kayak and join the swans and ducks on the smooth-as-glass lake until the gentle current of the Boardman River pulls me past parks and condos and under bridges across this trout stream that Hemingway once fished.

This route to the bay becomes a pub crawl if you dock your canoe, kayak or SUP at the waterside breweries of the TC Ale Trail. Earn stamps in the trail passport with microbrew purchases at any of 10 breweries. Right Brain serves standards and experimental flavors like Cherry Pie Whole (yes, 80 cherry pies—crust and all—go in batches of this amber ale) and Lips Like Sugar (that, naturally, incorporates 320 pounds of Michigan-grown beets). Passports are available at the breweries.

SUMMER CAMP FOR GROWN-UPS

A tangle of iris emerges on my sketch pad under my charcoal pencil. Sitting near me in the grass, a CEO sketches the curves



of a rusty red abandoned chair. Other adult campers at the College for Creative Arts (think summer camp for grown-ups) include a couple who attended clarinet camp almost 40 years ago and a mother whose daughter studies at the original camp for youth, Interlochen Center for the Arts.

“Train your powers of observation,” watercolor instructor Catherine Carey

says, “and just have fun.” Over two days, we draw and paint a weathered crimson cabin, a bloom-covered garden pond and even our sack lunches. Laughter breaks our concentration as we try to capture our turkey and rye on paper only to have the lettuce look wilted and the tomatoes resemble anemic peaches.

Watercolor workshop is just one of 50 summer classes. Others include mystery writing and fingerstyle guitar playing; all are under the same shady pines that inspired Interlochen alums like Norah Jones and *Breaking Bad* creator Vince Gilligan.

SOPHISTICATED HUB

Art galleries populate downtown’s Front Street, which follows the bay and river. There, Art and Soul displays dog prints, oil landscapes, pottery, handblown glass, local art and necklaces hung with rocks shimmering blue and green like Lake Michigan down the block.

Eight-hundred feet of that shoreline fronts Tamarack Lodge of Traverse City, one of a dozen resort-style lodgings in the area. Bonfires on the beach and wine tastings by the Arts and Craft-style lobby’s stone fireplace draw guests out of luxury rooms with private patios.



TRAVERSE CITY
ATTRACTIONS





TRAVERSE CITY THEME SONG

In town, stone arches shelter diners enjoying homemade pastas and traditional Italian cuisine at Trattoria Stella. It was the first restaurant to open in The Village at Grand Traverse Commons. Additional restaurants, as well as an art gallery, boutique shops and wine tasting rooms, now fill what was built as a mental hospital in 1885. The hospital's history and the renovation of its Victorian-Italianate architecture come to life on 90-minute tours of the 63-acre property and its labyrinth of utility tunnels.

The evening ends as clouds glow pink and purple and obscure the sun as it slips under the horizon that stretches farther than usual: I'm watching the scene unfold from the top of an 80-foot white pine.

I broke through the forest canopy in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore under the tutelage of Climb A Tree owner and arborist Bo Burke. After a 30-minute climb using his system of harness, ropes and pulleys, he says, "Everybody leaves with a better understanding of trees, their role in nature and how alive they are."

3 MORE INSPIRING TOWNS

➤ **Ann Arbor** The University of Michigan's hometown supports a world tour of creative culinary, shopping and arts experiences. In addition to touring The Big House (the largest stadium in college football), check out the metallic and stone sculptures, mosaics and fountains at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Dig into the food scene during a two- to three-hour Savor Ann Arbor tour, then walk off the calories in Kerrytown Market and Shops.

➤ **Grand Rapids** Inspiration flows on both sides of the Grand River, especially near downtown. Vendors at indoor Grand Rapids Downtown Market sell fresh meats, produce and baked goods. Collections at the Grand Rapids Art Museum span the pre-

Renaissance Era through the 21st century. Take in a musical at the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre, one of the largest community theaters in the country. Cap off the day with a Nitro Oatmeal Stout at Founders, a popular craft brewery.

➤ **Marquette** Three city beaches line the Upper Peninsula's largest city, and it's only two blocks from the Lake Superior shore to downtown. Pick up a map (\$3) at the Marquette Regional History Center for a self-guided walking tour of the family-friendly town. Kids pilot an airplane at hands-on Upper Peninsula Children's Museum, and families feast at Italian restaurant Casa Calabria. Book Room 502 at the Landmark Inn (Amelia Earhart once spent the night here).

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From Traverse City, venture to other creative communities, including Grand Rapids, home to an indoor-outdoor farmers market. (Left, from top) Front Street in Marquette. Fustini's in Ann Arbor is known for flavored oils and vinegars.

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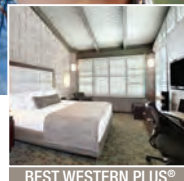
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A Lake Michigan steelhead starts its journey to a Grand Haven restaurant.



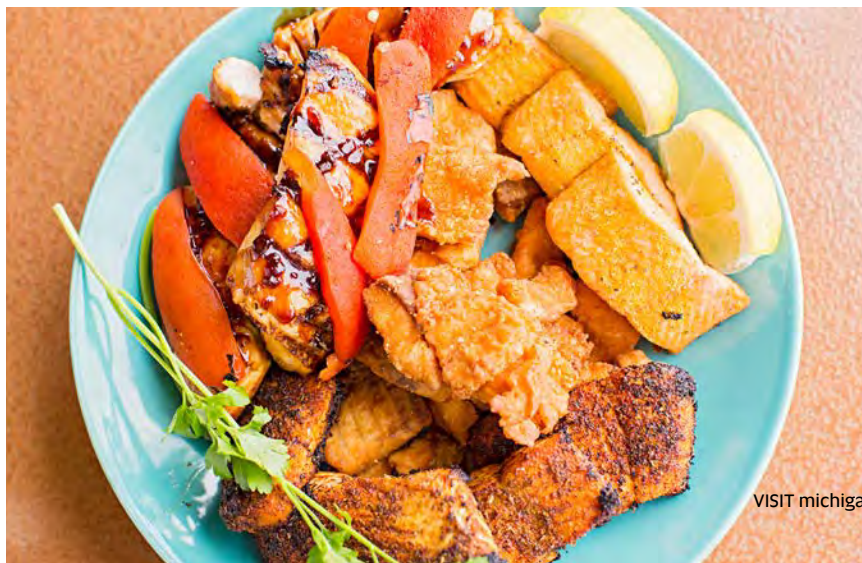
CATCH and HOOK



TAKE A
FISHING
TRIP

How do you guarantee your fish dinner is fresh? Hook it yourself. Michigan's recently launched Catch and Cook program lets charter-boat clients deliver their catch straight to a local chef for a meal they'll never forget.

BY TREVOR MEERS • PHOTOGRAPHS BY JASON LINDSEY



CAPT. DENNY GRINOLD is working hard on our lunch order, even though the sun just poked its brow over Lake Michigan's eastern horizon. A light east wind rocks the *Old Grin* as it trolls, a forest of fishing rods rising from the stern. Seven miles offshore from Grand Haven and 60 feet down, the main noon course is—we hope—watching our lures with hungry eyes.

By 7 a.m., we're more than an hour into Phase One of a Catch and Cook outing, in which we intend to reel in a cooler full of salmon and/or steelhead, then head to Old Boys' Brewhouse near Grand Haven with our harvest cleaned and bagged. The Catch and Cook program aligns a variety of wildlife and food-industry organizations to endorse charter-boat captains as food handlers. That means participating chefs can cook fish anglers carry in—provided it carries a captain's official sticker. About 50 restaurants around the state currently accept Catch and Cook fish.

By 9 a.m., Capt. Denny is pulling out a career's worth of tricks to speed up progress on our menu. A strong northwest wind yesterday pushed much of the lake water around, changing

underwater temperatures enough to disrupt previous fish patterns. "Everything's changed since yesterday," he mutters between shouting captain-speak commands to first mate Bart, like "40 feet down on No. 1 rigger!"

But we all sense that it's only a matter of time before Denny gets the fish dialed in. "Fish on!" Bart shouts, and points me toward the bending rod. I pull it from the holder, brace the rod's end against my belly and start cranking the massive reel. A counter on the reel tracks my battle with the fish, showing how many feet of line are in the water. I lift the rod, then start cranking the reel as I drop the tip. The counter rolls down from 191 to 186. As I prepare to crank again, the fish runs, pushing the reel back to 195.

My arm quickly tires, but the fish gives out first, and within minutes, an 8-pound steelhead flops out of Bart's net and onto the deck. After landing a few more for the cooler, we head back to Grand Haven, where Bart fillets and bags the fish and sends us off to Old Boys' Brewhouse.

Inside, we sit at a high table and choose from the preparations chef Dan Paquin offers: blackened, citrus pepper, Cajun and the standard fried. Before long, a waitress delivers a platter mounded with our steelhead in various new incarnations, plus slaw and fries.

As everyone snaps photos, Capt. Denny drops by to hear 8-year-old Owen say again how big his fish was that day. Owen holds his hands about 18 inches apart, and Denny—drawing on a lifetime of making every fisherman look better—takes Owen's hands and pulls them a few inches farther apart.

MORE TOP MICHIGAN FISHERIES

THESE STRONG CATCH AND COOK COMMUNITIES ALONG THE GREAT LAKES PROVIDE OUTSTANDING FISHING OPPORTUNITIES.

Alpena Hundreds of shipwrecks create ideal habitat for lake trout, lake whitefish, walleye and bass that rely on rocky reefs for spawning and foraging. Catch and Cook restaurants: Court Yard Ristorante and Twin Acres/19th Hole.

Manistee Fishermen won't run out of options at one of the state's richest fisheries, located at the junction of the Manistee River, Manistee Lake and Lake Michigan. Catches include Chinook salmon, steelhead, lake trout, Coho salmon and brown trout. Catch and Cook restaurants: Bungalow Inn and Bluefish Kitchen and Bar.

Marquette Chinook and Coho salmon, lake trout and whitefish rule in Lake Superior along the northern stretch of the Upper Peninsula. Catch and Cook restaurants: Crossroads Restaurant and Landmark Inn.

Saginaw Bay area Charter boats sail from communities all around this immense Lake Huron bay. Along with great walleye populations, the bay offers top smallmouth bass fishing. Catch and Cook restaurants: The Village Inn and Captain Morgan's Bar and Grill.

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GO BEHIND THE SCENES



The *Old Grin* passes the Grand Haven lighthouse on its way out to Lake Michigan.



(Top row) With an arsenal of lures at their disposal, first mate Bart (shown) and Capt. Denny Grinold usually don't take long to get clients into a battle with a steelhead, lake trout, or Coho or Chinook salmon.

(Middle row) In the Catch and Cook program formed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other groups, charter clients hand off bags of fresh-caught fish to chefs like Dan Paquin of Old Boys' Brewhouse who then prepare the meal to order.

(Bottom row) Capt. Denny regularly drops in at Old Boys' in Grand Haven to see how clients are enjoying their catch—and to train beginners in how to tell a good fish story.



RUGGED



SHORES

FALLING



PHOTOGRAPHS: JASON LINDSEY



WATER

Michigan's wild north coast meets America's inland sea along The Great Waters Lake Superior Trail. On this Upper Peninsula route from Sault Ste. Marie to Munising, discover a tapestry of sculpted cliffs and shifting dunes, crashing waterfalls and quiet pine forests. Interpretive museums, lighthouses and boat tours relate the rich history of the region that mariners called the Graveyard of the Great Lakes.

BY TINA LASSEN



Chapel Falls, one of seven named waterfalls within Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. (Opposite, from top) Audio sticks narrate at the River of History Museum, Sault Ste. Marie. Lighthouse lens at Whitefish Point Lighthouse. Native American culture at the Museum of Ojibwa Culture, St. Ignace.



SAULT STE. MARIE TO WHITEFISH POINT

The baritone honk of a ship's horn is the soundtrack of Sault Ste. Marie, where 1,000-foot freighters routinely thread their way through the Soo Locks on the St. Marys River. The sole ribbon of water linking Lake Superior to the rest of the Great Lakes, this waterway has nourished Sault Ste. Marie since French missionaries settled here in 1668.

The River of History Museum and the Museum Ship *Valley Camp* recount the Great Lakes' role in navigation. Visitors get up close to maritime traffic from the

observation deck at the Soo Locks Visitor Center and on boat tours through North America's busiest locks.

West of the Soo in Brimley, the 1857 Point Iroquois Lighthouse guided ships on Lake Superior toward the narrowing St. Marys River. The tower, open to the public, has a fourth-order Fresnel lens and sweeping views of Whitefish Bay.

Whitefish Point juts out into the open waters of Lake Superior. Exposed to the full fury of prevailing northwestern winds, this particularly perilous stretch of the Superior shore has claimed many

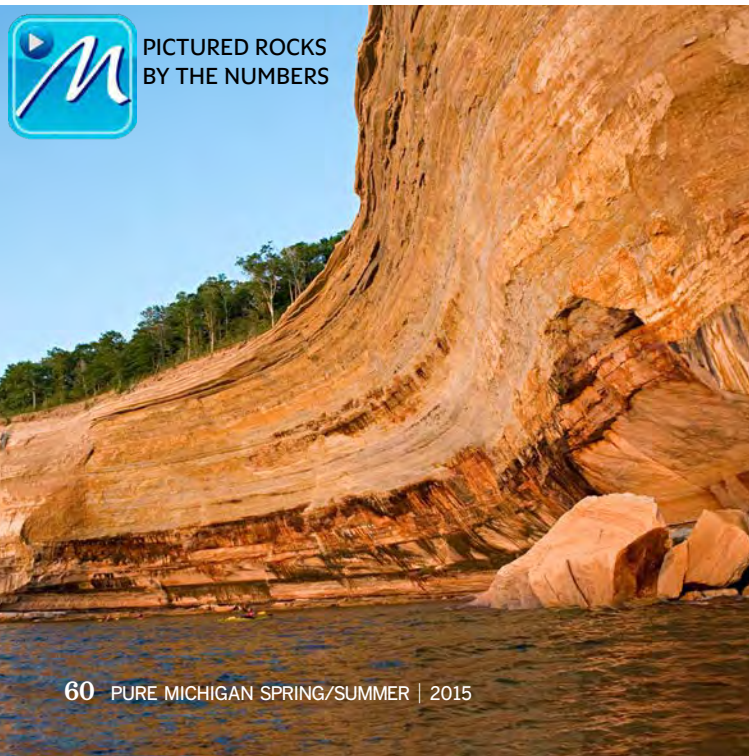
ships. It's the fitting site of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum, home to a restored light station, crew quarters and exhibits on ships like the *Edmund Fitzgerald* that didn't make it around the point to the safety of Whitefish Bay. Whitefish Point also provides a welcome rest for tens of thousands of migrating birds. Naturalists lead walks and other programs at the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory.

WHITEFISH POINT TO GRAND MARAIS

More lakes and rivers than roads twist through the remote lands west of



PICTURED ROCKS
BY THE NUMBERS



(From left) Mineral-stained cliffs rise 200 feet at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. St. Ignace's Museum of Ojibwa Culture shares the area's rich heritage. Upper Falls at Tahquamenon Falls State Park.



(From left) An open-air deck provides up-close views at the Soo Locks Visitors Center. The 550-foot-long freighter Valley Camp is now a maritime museum in Sault Ste. Marie. Whitefish Point Light Station at Whitefish Point.



Whitefish Point. After rolling serene and largely unseen for miles, the Tahquamenon River meets up with the area's only highway, State-123, just south of Paradise. Here, the caramel-color waters hurtle over a 50-foot-high, 200-foot-wide ledge. Hiking trails and observation platforms in Tahquamenon Falls State Park get visitors close enough to feel the mist and thundering power at the Upper and Lower falls.

It takes a sense of adventure to explore the jack pine forests and the Superior shore north of State-123. Once

a beacon for mariners, the 1904 Crisp Point Lighthouse remains a guide for backcountry explorers. For years, the light was inaccessible by land; now a sand-and-gravel road leads to the whitewashed brick tower alone on an arc of sand.

GRAND MARAIS TO MUNISING

Two harbor towns—Grand Marais and Munising—bookend Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, a 42-mile-long park with three distinct areas: dunes, beach and its namesake rocks. Near Grand Marais, dunes perch hundreds of feet

above the lake. Some of the best views are along a 2-mile segment—from the Log Slide Overlook to the Au Sable Light Station—of the North Country Trail. The dunes gradually give way to white sand near desolate Twelvemile Beach.

A handful of waterfalls grace Pictured Rocks. Hikes lead to favorites like Sable Falls, tumbling toward a Superior beach, and Chapel Falls, cascading 60 feet into a rocky basin. Boat tours showcase several more, like Spray and Bridalveil falls, pouring from cliffs and offer another perspective of this grand landscape.

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(From top) Heavenly Lemon Mousse from Martha's Leelanau Table. A classic dessert at Hermann's European Cafe. Brisket at Fitzgerald's.



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AROUND THE STATE DISH UP
MEMORABLE SETTINGS AND
DOWNRIGHT DELICIOUS CUISINE
WORTHY OF A DETOUR.

DESTINATION DINING

BY SARA DIEKELMANN

1) HERMANN'S EUROPEAN CAFE, CADILLAC

Austrian-born chef Hermann Suhs makes traditional Wiener schnitzel and tangy sauerbraten taste as good as they do in his homeland. The authentic dishes, along with other favorites like creamy morel soup and mango and pepper chicken salad, leave diners stuffed. Hermann greets each table with, "Good?" We bet you'll say yes, especially after sampling the Esterházy Schnitten—vanilla mousse and apricot preserves layered between almond cake and topped with fondant icing and chocolate drizzles.

2) FITZGERALD'S, EAGLE RIVER

Barbecue and whiskey—lots of it—keep locals and out-of-towners coming to this joint overlooking Lake Superior. In 2008, two young guys saved the 1950s-era establishment. Their vision: smoked meats, like tender ribs and tangy pulled pork, paired with more than 100 whiskeys from around the world. Snag primo patio seating, and start with the beginner's flight.



3



5



4



1



6

3) EVANS STREET STATION, TECUMSEH

In a refurbished firehouse, chef Alan Merhar merges Michigan-made ingredients with Southern and Middle Eastern influences. Succulent lamb chops with fattoush (a tomato and cucumber salad) and beer-braised pork belly with collard greens are edible works of art. White-clothed tables and candlelight make it date-worthy. Order à la carte or splurge on the chef's five-course tasting menu for \$65.

4) COPS AND DOUGHNUTS, CLARE

When the 2009 recession threatened closure of a small-town bakery, the local police force of nine doughnut-loving officers came to the rescue. Proving they can take a joke, the officers named the place Cops and Doughnuts. Classic cake doughnuts, apple fritters and the renowned Squealer (a long john topped with maple frosting and bacon strips) command a cult following, as do the tongue-in-cheek souvenirs, like a T-shirt reading, "You have the right to remain glazed."

5) THE ANTLERS, SAULT STE. MARIE

More than 300 taxidermied animals watch over tables in this huge, lodgelike restaurant along the St. Marys River. Save your appetite for the infamous Paul Bunyan burger: two ½-pound patties on a fresh bun and a side of hand-cut fries. Venison meat loaf and venison poutine (fries topped with mushrooms, onions and gravy) are just as hearty. Don't be alarmed by boat whistles and bell chimes; it's all part of the rowdy fun.

6) MARTHA'S LEELANAU TABLE, SUTTONS BAY

Lush garden beds surround a picture-perfect red farmhouse where chef Martha Ryan creates from-scratch fare starring seasonal, local ingredients. Fluffy blueberry flapjacks and open-face egg sandwiches dressed with pesto, tomato and arugula are breakfast favorites. For lunch, deli meats and local cheeses between crispy breads pair with just-picked salad greens. The new prix fixe early-bird dinner is only \$17 for soup or salad, entree and dessert, such as the Heavenly Lemon Mousse.



MORE ITEMS
TO TRY



WHEN THE FIRST
LOCAL INGREDIENTS
OF THE SEASON
BEGIN SHOWING UP
ON OUR DOORSTEP,
... IT'S A BEAUTIFUL
THING.

—CHEF ALAN MERHAR,
EVANS STREET STATION



8

7) SAVA'S, ANN ARBOR

College students, business professionals and tourists pour into this eclectic two-level bistro for breakfast, lunch and dinner. To keep the diverse crowd happy, Albanian-born owner Sava Lelcaj presents 150 menu items. Burgers on pretzel buns, thick panini and breakfast hashes sate casual tastes. Dinner entrees include scrumptious lamb ragu, fancy mac and cheese, and Cappellini Marlon—saffron-sauced lobster and shrimp over pasta. Produce comes from the Eastern Market in Detroit, so it's always fresh.

8) GRAND TRAVERSE PIE COMPANY, TRAVERSE CITY

Flaky-crust fruit pies from this local chain are so good that it's hard to believe owners Mike and Denise Busley had never baked a pie when they quit office jobs to open their first shop. A kind lady taught them well. More than 20 years later, their pies are legendary. Choose from more than three dozen flavors, like cherry crumb and apple dumpling, at the original or downtown shop. Soups, salads and potpies satisfy the lunch crowd.



9

9) SCHULER'S RESTAURANT AND PUB, MARSHALL

For more than a century, generations of the Schuler family have served slices of juicy prime rib, Swiss onion soup and burgers at this landmark downtown restaurant. Dark wood beams inscribed with Gothic lettering and vintage town photos on walls give the main dining room old-world ambience. Save room for warm Michigan cherry crisp or a coconut snowball: a scoop of ice cream rolled in toasted coconut and topped with hot fudge sauce.

10) SALT OF THE EARTH, FENNVILLE

Savor comfort foods prepared with veggies, meats, cheeses and herbs from farmers and producers within 50 miles of the intimate exposed-brick dining spot. Artisanal breads are a constant on the always-changing menu, featuring ravioli filled with wild mushrooms or creamy polenta topped with braised pork. Specials scrawled on a chalkboard never disappoint guests. Neighboring Fenn Valley Winery supplies some of the vino; local brews are available, too.

I LOVE PICNICKING
ON WONDERFUL
MICHIGAN FOOD
AND LEELANAU
PENINSULA WINES
ON A TORCH
LAKE SANDBAR.

—CHEF HERMANN SUHS,
HERMANN'S EUROPEAN CAFE



FLAVORS
OF MICHIGAN



10

HOMEGROWN FAVORITES

In July and August, plump cherries and blueberries star at roadside stands, orchards and U-pick farms from South Haven north to Traverse City. Michigan's moderate climate and sandy soil create the ideal environment for producing 250 million pounds of tart cherries (75 percent of the nation's bounty) and 100 million pounds of blueberries each year. Stock up while the goods are fresh.

BLUEBERRIES Head to South Haven in southwest Michigan for the state's biggest supply.

Pick Fill buckets with blueberries at DeGrandchamp Farms, one of the region's largest blueberry growers. Open since 1958, the family-owned biz also makes blueberry barbecue sauce, candies and baking mixes.

Purchase Count on roadside stands for fresh berries, jams and pies. The Blueberry Store in downtown South Haven sells tons of edibles and blueberry-theme gifts.

Celebrate A parade, pie-eating contest, live music and blueberry foods draw berry-lovers to the National Blueberry Festival, August 6–9, 2015.

CHERRIES Dubbed The Cherry Capital of the World, Traverse City is tops for both tart and sweet varieties.

Pick Since 1971, Gallagher's Farm Market and Bakery has supplied quality cherries and home-baked goods. Pick cherries here or at other area orchards: Farmer White's, King Orchards and Rennie Orchards.

Purchase In Glen Arbor, about 30 miles northwest of Traverse City, Cherry Republic is a must-see for the cherry enthusiast. Hundreds of delectable cherry products tempt visitors.

Celebrate Sample some of the region's best cherry pie at the National Cherry Festival, July 4–11, 2015. See parades, a performance by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and bands.

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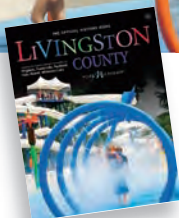
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PHOTOGRAPH: BRIAN CONFER

RIVER TIME

Catch the current of the famed Au Sable for a float trip through Michigan's piney north woods.

BY TINA LASSEN



CANOE THE
AU SABLE

VISIT michigan.org 69



(From left)
Hartwick Pines State Park.
Outfitters like Borchers
AuSable Canoe Livery get
groups on the river.



Dogwood branches red as raspberries dip and nod along the brushy riverbank, dragging their fingers in an almost invisible current. Trout suspend as dark shadows in the clear water that moves, for the most part, a little faster than a casual walk.

Michigan courses with scenic paddling rivers, but few carry the cachet and the heritage of the Au Sable (“of sand”), a National Wild and Scenic River that runs partly through the Huron-Manistee National Forest. It provides 114 miles of navigable waterway from Grayling to the Lake Huron port town of Oscoda. North and south branches add dozens of miles.

Depending on the stretch, the Au Sable provides an easy family float, a pilgrimage to the “holy waters” of fly-fishing, a hidden retreat beloved by Detroit’s early auto aristocracy or a multiday paddling adventure with riverfront campsites all along the way. Here are two ways to experience sides of its personality.

MAIN CHANNEL

Near Grayling, a major access point, the scent of sunscreen mingles with the spice of warm cedar as canoes and kayaks slip down the Au Sable’s main channel. Some users paddle earnestly; others lean back and let the river do the work, dipping a paddle only when necessary to negotiate a sharp curve, avoid a low-hanging branch or land on a sunny sandbar.

Outfitters like Borchers AuSable Canoe Livery and Penrod’s AuSable Canoe and Kayak are great resources when it comes to planning a paddling excursion. Both rent canoes and kayaks at river’s edge and will be waiting at a predetermined takeout—anywhere from three hours to five days downstream.

The farther from Grayling, the less river traffic and fewer cottages along the banks, giving paddlers a taste of the serene side, such as on the 5½-hour float from Borchers to Wakeley Bridge.

Some paddlers cap off their trip back in Grayling with a stay at Borchers B&B,

where the Au Sable’s waters riffle past the wraparound porch. They stretch “canoe legs” on the 1-mile Rayburn Trail to the river, wander amid the stately old growth in nearby Hartwick Pines State Park or stroll past downtown’s hand-painted murals of Au Sable River scenes. At Dawson and Stevens Classic ’50s Diner, cheery servers shuttle burgers and homemade milkshakes from the vintage soda fountain to tufted vinyl booths.

At the nearby 1882 train depot, now home to the Crawford County Historical Museum, century-old photos put faces to the names made familiar from the river: Mason, Stephan, Durant. The Au Sable is the thread that connects it all.

SOUTH BRANCH

A wooden sign near Roscommon alerts paddlers to a change in spirit. “Sportsman, slow your pace. Ahead lies the fabled land of the South Branch... rich in tradition and stands ready to renew your soul.” With that, paddlers nudge their boats into the water for a languid float through the Mason Tract, originally a 1,500-acre preserve



MORE RIVER TRIPS

► **The Manistee** From Grayling, the Au Sable flows east and the Manistee flows west—a route long used by Native Americans to traverse the Lower Peninsula. Today, the Manistee carries paddlers down its snaky course, flowing largely through undeveloped woodlands. Wilderness Canoe Trips in Mesick has rentals and shuttle service.

► **The Sturgeon** An offshoot of the Inland Waterway linking several Lower Peninsula lakes, the brisk Sturgeon River keeps things exciting for more experienced paddlers, with riffles and light rapids punctuating its woodsy route north toward Burt Lake. Big Bear Adventures transports paddlers upstream and runs the Northwoods Lodge near the takeout in Indian River.

► **The Jordan** The crystalline Jordan—the first waterway named to Michigan's Natural Rivers Program, which preserves and protects the state's rivers and streams—twists through a green valley on its way north to Lake Charlevoix. With some spots of quick current and tight turns, it delights paddlers with minimal experience. Jordan Valley Outfitters rents canoes, kayaks, rafts and tubes.



Ready to paddle. (Below) Stools at an original soda fountain and vinyl booths provide seating options at Dawson and Stevens Classic '50s Diner in Grayling.

that was once the private retreat of Nash Motors Company President George Mason.

The hills of cedar and pine remain serene. In keeping with Mason's wishes, few signs of human influence interfere. A half-mile downstream from the former site of General Motors founder William Durant's mansion is a chapel honoring Mason. For more than 9 miles—from the Chase Bridge put-in to the Smith Bridge takeout—it's a restorative ride through nature. On this stretch, Campbell's Canoe Livery in Roscommon provides rentals and shuttle service. But the on-the-water experience of losing yourself in the Au Sable mystique remains solely up to you.



GRAYLING
ATTRactions



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MUST LOVE DOGS

When it comes to road trips, Michigan is a dog owner's best friend. Bring the pooch to an array of pet-friendly hotels, restaurants and hiking trails, plus a sunset cruise in the Keweenaw. **BY JESS HOFFERT**

Four-legged sleepovers

Snuggle up in the pet-friendly hot-tub suites of Straits Lodge at Mission Point Resort, which overlooks the bluffs of Mackinac Island. The resort's expansive front lawn facing Lake Huron and the Straits of Mackinac allows plenty of room for fetch or catch. Afterward, relax in one of the Adirondack chairs (906/847-3000).

More stays that allow dogs: Barefoot Beach Resort, Oscoda (989/739-1818); Candlelite Inn Bed and Breakfast, Ludington (231/845-8074); Dapple-Gray Bed and Breakfast, Eagle Harbor (866/909-1233); Dog Dreams Inn, Williamsburg (231/534-6765).

Doggie dinner guests

Your canine pal can loll at your feet while you dive into seared salmon or a hanger steak sandwich on the patio of Detroit's Fountain Bistro in Campus Martius Park. During warm months, the south lawn of the downtown park gets covered with sand, so pups can roll around while masters sip cocktails at the adjacent Beach Bar and Grille (313/237-7778).

More dining with dog-friendly space: Art's Tavern, Glen Arbor (231/334-3754); Crane's in the City, Holland (616/796-2489); Julianne Tomatoes, Petoskey (231/439-9250); Monroe's Cafe-Grill, Saugatuck (269/857-1242); The Livery, Benton Harbor (269/925-8760).

Roam with a view

Most state parks allow pets on leashes up to 6 feet long. And there's plenty of room to walk on the 24 miles of Lake Superior shore at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park in the Upper Peninsula. The park near Ontonagon contains more than 25 trails, from flat and smooth to hilly and rugged (906/885-5275).

More great walks: Little Traverse Wheelway, Charlevoix to Harbor Springs (231/348-8280); Michigan Legacy Art Park at Crystal Mountain, Thompsonville (231/378-4963); Norman F. Kruse Park, Muskegon (231/724-6991); Menominee River State Recreation Area, Norway (906/875-3324).



DOG-FRIENDLY
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DOG DAYS

Canines get their moment in the spotlight at these annual festivals.

DOG BOWL 2015 Frankenmuth, May 23–24 Pro-athlete pups leap into pools, catch flying discs and sprint through obstacle courses at the world's largest Olympic-style event for dogs. Any pooch can enter the 25- and 50-yard fun runs (800/600-0105).

WINE AND WAGS PARTY Baroda, June 6 Bring your dog to navigate the agility course at Round Barn Winery, Distillery and Brewery, or adopt a new companion at this fund-raiser for area shelters. Stick around for live music (269/422-1617).

ALPENFEST Gaylord, July 14–18 Prizes go to the ugliest dog (it's nothing personal) and to the best-dressed pooch in Friday's pet parade at the town's unofficial homecoming weekend (989/732-6333).

A DOG DAY OF SUMMER Dexter, July 25 Hudson Mills Metropark hosts a peanut butter eating competition, plus contests for best dressed and biggest and smallest dogs (734/426-8211).

NORTHPORT DOG PARADE Northport, August 8 Join the throng of costumed canines parading through downtown to kick off the 28th annual Northport Wine Festival (231/386-5575).

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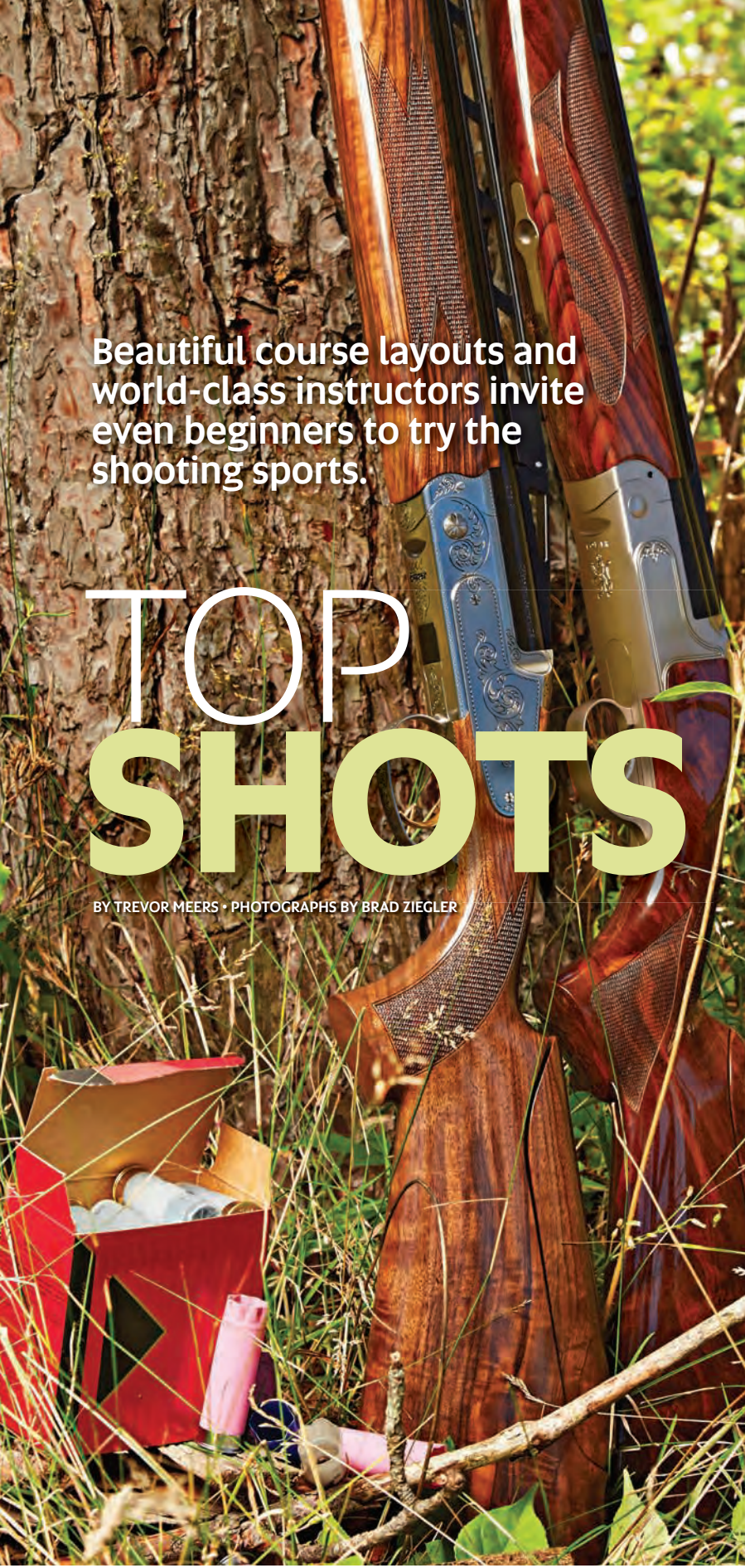
Paw-some activities

Lake-loving owners and their canines are welcome aboard the *Isle Royale Queen IV* ferry for sunset cruises in Copper Harbor. Motor past Great Lakes freighters and lighthouses while listening to stories about the Keweenaw as the sun dips below the Lake Superior horizon. Cruises run July 4 through late August (906/289-4437).

More dog-friendly attractions: Cherry Republic, Glen Arbor (800/206-6949); Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Corners (269/671-5089); Must Love Dogs Boutique and Spa, Grand Haven (616/935-9588); Tree-Mendus Fruit Farm, Eau Claire (269/782-7101).

A scenic stroll on
historical Water Street
in Sault Ste. Marie.





Beautiful course layouts and world-class instructors invite even beginners to try the shooting sports.

TOP SHOTS

BY TREVOR MEERS • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD ZIEGLER



YOU DON'T GET FAR into a lesson on shotgun shooting before realizing it's really a Zen thing. The harder you aim at the orange clay pigeon flying away from you, the more you miss. The secret, instructors like Vince Lori will tell you, is practically forgetting the shotgun altogether. "Don't look at the gun; look at the target," Vince says during lessons at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Bald Mountain Shooting Range. "Let your eye become the barrel." Do that, and you'll soon know the satisfaction of watching clay pigeons disappear in an orange cloud when you pull the trigger.

In the sport known as sporting clays, the constant emphasis on relaxing and letting things flow might seem to explain the nickname of "golf with shotgun." But the comparison mainly comes from the way shooters move among various stations laid out in natural settings like marshes, meadows and forest clearings.



(Clockwise, from above left)
A sporting clays station at the DNR's Bald Mountain Shooting Range. Instructor Vince Lori helps a shooter's form. Shells and a broken target. (Below) Instructor Pat Lieske, a medalist in world competition.

During a typical round, shooters encounter true-to-life shooting situations with clay targets thrown by machines to replicate hunting ducks, geese, pheasants, grouse and more. The variety of setups challenges proficient shooters and keeps things from seeming repetitive to first-timers. "We get shooters with all levels of experience, including tournament pros and bachelor and bachelorette parties," Vince says.

The natural settings of the DNR's two ranges at Bald Mountain and Island Lake literally make a day of shooting feel like a walk in the park.

At Bald Mountain (35 miles north of downtown Detroit in Lake Orion), three sporting clays courses cover 150 acres of varied terrain with 33 stations and 90 clay-target throwers. At Island Lake (20 miles north of Ann Arbor in Brighton), the sporting clays course features 14 stations with four throwers at each. Multiple options at each station mean shooters can pick challenges

appropriate to their skill throughout the course.

Rookies can turn to on-site pro shops for lessons, rental gear and golf carts for driving the course. Bald Mountain and Island Lake also offer 5-stand, a setup that presents a variety of shots similar to sporting clays, but in a smaller area.

Whether you're taking your first shot or tweaking your competitive form, Vince and the other certified instructors (led by 2014 National Sporting Clays Champion Pat Lieske) can boost your accuracy. Even a single session focusing on stance and gun mounting can have you breaking targets and waiting to yell "Pull!" another time.

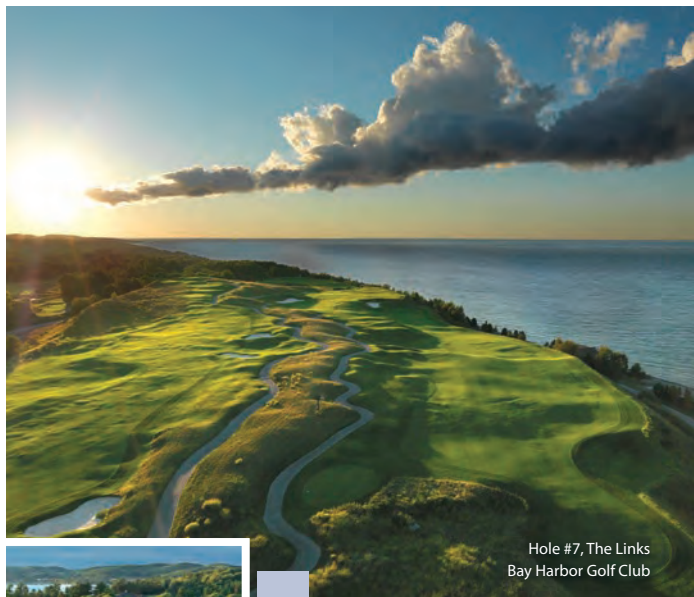
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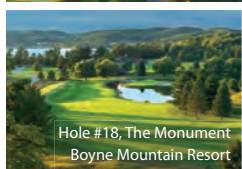
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Bay Harbor Golf Club



Hole #18, The Monument
Boyne Mountain Resort



Hole #16, The Moor
Boyne Highlands Resort

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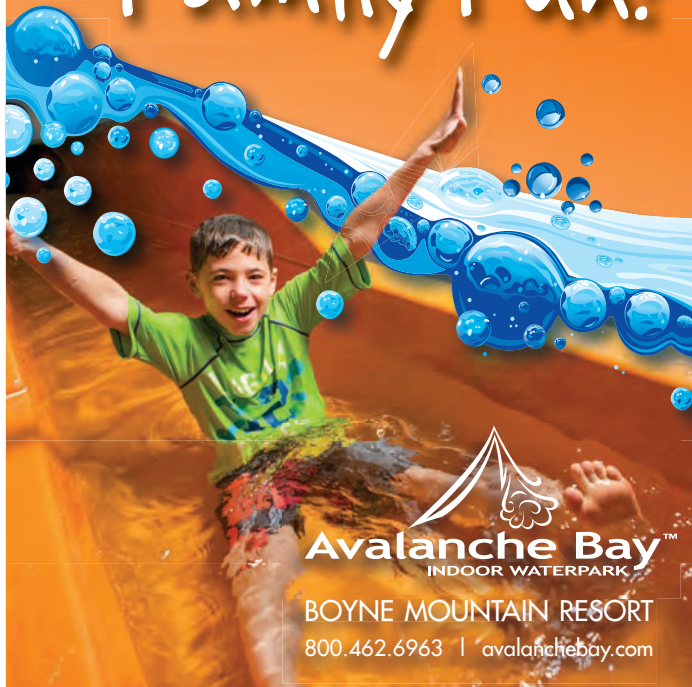
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GOLF STYLE

PHOTOGRAPH: BRIAN WALTERS



Early morning tee time at Arnold Palmer's The Legend, at Shanty Creek Resorts in Bellaire.

Tough decisions fill a round of golf. How much should you play the wind? Cut the dogleg corner or play it safe? Yet the toughest decision in Michigan might be choosing where to play. The state's rich topography seems to foster great courses—some ranked in the nation's top 100, some designed by golf legends and some rated tops by players. On these pages, you'll find at least one that's perfectly on par with you.

BY DANNY LEE



BEST OF THE BEST

Test your game at some of the 100 greatest public golf courses in the United States, according to *Golf Digest* magazine.



MICHIGAN'S
GOLF COURSES



PHOTOGRAPH: DAVE RICHARDS

Bay Harbor Golf Club

A panoramic stunner incorporating some of the state's most diverse terrain—Great Lakes, dunes, woods and even a quarry—the Arthur Hills-designed course (ranked #65) overlooks Little Traverse Bay in northwest Michigan. Three distinct nine-hole experiences await; pick any two for your round. The Links delivers deep-blue freshwater vistas; The Quarry shimmies between shale cliffs and waterfalls; and The Preserve plays through meadows and wetlands.

►Arcadia Bluffs

Skilled golfers seek out this links-style course in northwest Michigan (ranked #13) for its natural challenges, like the stiff lakefront breezes on No. 12 and the beautiful but visually deceptive steep drop to the par-3 green (it sits closer than you think) on hole 13.

►Elk Ridge

Marshes, timber, doglegs, undulating greens and some impressive elevation changes (par-3 hole 10 falls 100 feet) test golfers on this Jerry Matthews course (ranked #95) near Hillman in northern Michigan. The payoff is lovely Valentine Lake views.

►Forest Dunes

Golfers with designer Tom Weiskopf's deep grasp of the game love this course (ranked #23) with two distinctive nines. Enfolded in north-central Michigan's Huron National Forest, the front nine features woodlands. Dunes and water features test your skill on the back nine.

►Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

Jack Nicklaus' imposing The Bear (ranked #72) near Traverse City leads daring golfers over tangled stands of trees and mounds the size of a VW Beetle. Chewy rough and deep bunkers menace the fairways. Plan your shots with care.

►Tullymore Golf Club

With a slope rating matching the toughest courses in Michigan, Tullymore (ranked #45) intrigues with an unusual makeup of holes—including five par 5s and five par 3s—and exceptional variety to the size and shape of greens.

5-STAR COURSES

When golfers pick favorites, expect courses with unique layouts, ample challenge and beauty, such as these at the top of *Golf Digest* reviews.

PHOTOGRAPH: BRIAN WALTERS

Shepherd's Hollow

This popular Detroit gem draws skillful golfers who relish its 27 sprawling, tree-lined fairways that meander over almost a square mile. All that wide-open play encourages a peaceful round in keeping with the property's original occupant—a seminary.

►Black Lake

Designer Rees Jones believes a course should challenge experts but accommodate beginners. Hole No. 5 at his northeast Michigan course illustrates that philosophy: Nine tees let golfers choose how much challenge they want in facing a 185-yard natural sandpit hazard.

►Lakewood Shores Resort—The Gables

Purists who revere the formidable Scottish game love this Oscoda course for its gaping sod-faced sand hazards and fescue roughs as thick and tangled as Highland cattle's coats.

►Marquette Golf Club

Accomplished golfers who crave rounds with a keen edge will relish this ambitious test. On the Greywalls course, shots carve between Upper Peninsula stone outcrops and thick roughs, all set against a rugged Lake Superior backdrop.

►Harbor Shores

The best seek out Jack Nicklaus' top Benton Harbor course to face the master's skillful weaving of forest, river, wetlands and Lake Michigan country into a medley of golf challenges.

►Otsego Club and Resort

A stunning course, The Tribute barely leaves a footprint in Gaylord's beautiful Sturgeon River Valley. The heavily timbered setting follows challenging elevation changes—with payoffs like a 30-mile vista on the par-4 hole 3.

STAY AND PLAY

Sometimes the best links lay just outside your door, such as at these resort-golf gems.



PHOTOGRAPH: BRIAN CONFER

Evergreen Resort

Warm up your swing with a round on the Norway course, a forgiving nine-holer that beginning, midlevel and rusty golfers will appreciate. Then take on The Spruce. This course in north-central Cadillac serves up 18 classic holes with roomy fairways, but beware: The trees complicate shots and strategy.



TOUR
GARLAND

► Boyne Highlands Resort

Boyne's Donald Ross Memorial in Harbor Springs replicates 18 famous Ross holes from other courses. Or try challenging The Heather by Robert Trent Jones Sr., dogleg-packed The Moor or sylvan Hidden River.

► Crystal Mountain Resort

Discover topographical highs and lows at Crystal Mountain's soaring Mountain Ridge and Betsie Valley courses in northwest Michigan. Scenic fairway sight lines await on the mountain; the valley's classic greens require keen shot making.

► Garland Lodge and Golf Resort

Pile up the tee times on Garland's four Lewiston-area courses: Fountains with bentgrass greens; the modest-length, pine-filled Reflections; the Swampfire, with water on all but two holes; and the Monarch, which requires golfers to use every club.

► Shanty Creek Resorts

Arnold Palmer's The Legend course in northwest Michigan earns its name with striking elevated views, exacting but fair shot lines, and hardwood-cloistered fairways. Also try nearby Cedar River (by Tom Weiskopf), Schuss Mountain and the Summit.

► Treetops Resort

Brand-name architects Robert Trent Jones Sr., Tom Fazio and Rick Smith beguile the golfer with their Masterpiece, Premier and Signature courses coiling through Treetops' forested nooks and shady fairways in the hills of northern Michigan.

MASTER DESIGNERS

Top golf architects turn Michigan's terrain of forests, lakes and hills into beautiful challenges. Here are a few of our favorites.

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PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY GRAND HOTEL

The Jewel at Grand Hotel

Play two ways. In the shadow of the Grand Hotel, views abound on the manicured and genteel Grand Nine, a 1901 course redesigned by **Jerry Matthews**. A leisurely 20-minute horse-drawn carriage ride takes golfers deeper into the Mackinac Island pines for an exploration of the game's quiet, rustic roots on Matthews' Woods Nine.

► Eagle Eye

A **Pete Dye** contribution, Eagle Eye at Hawk Hollow near East Lansing brings convenience and roominess. But steady nerves and—what else?—an eagle eye are crucial, especially when putting hole 17's island green undulations.

► The Orchards

Robert Trent Jones Jr. pays tribute to the classic style of 1920s clubs at this Detroit-area course featuring marshland carries, multiple doglegs, generous landing areas, and a challenging but playable design.

► Ravines

Woodsy Ravines' fair landing areas and obvious hazards show that **Arnold Palmer** wants golfers to see what they're getting—and getting into. Manageable early holes give way to a need for precise targeting, such as hole No. 6's dogleg left.

► Red Hawk

Above Lake Huron's Saginaw Bay, this **Arthur Hills** design emphasizes accessibility, but the restrained sand trouble and ample green fronts shouldn't distract from the ball-trapping grasses and swales lurking greenside.

► Thousand Oaks

Near Grand Rapids, this course lets many skill levels experience what it's like to tackle a **Rees Jones** creation. Golfers love the Oaks' northern Michigan feel of sylvan fairways and wavy terrain.

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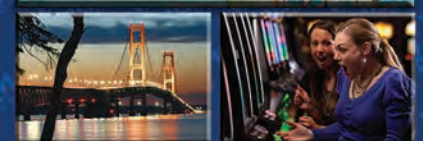
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EVENTS Calendar

BY KATIE MINER

MARCH

BUTTERFLIES ARE BLOOMING

Grand Rapids, March 1–April 30

See thousands of exotic butterflies flutter through palm trees and past the waterfall in Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory (888/957-1580).

GREAT BEAR CHASE

Calumet, March 7

Finish the cross-country ski season with freestyle and/or classic races through the woods. Choose from a 10K, 25K and 50K and enjoy a free celebratory pasty after the competition (906/369-2460).

CLARE IRISH FESTIVAL

Clare, March 13–15

Feast on corned beef and sip green beer while watching a clogging troupe perform at this event honoring the Emerald Isle (989/386-2442).

CELTICFEST Port Huron, March 14

The Irish revelry starts three days early with a lively parade with pipe bands, floats, Irish flags and plenty of green hair under leprechaun hats. Keep the merriment going with an evening pub crawl; buses are available (800/852-4242).

KLONDIKE CHALLENGE

Oscoda, March 28–29

Canoe racing season opens in the icy waters of Van Ertan Creek. The hour-long competition starts at 1 p.m. when 50-plus pairs and 20 individuals begin the course (989/820-5196).

APRIL

NATIONAL TROUT FESTIVAL

Kalkaska, April 22–26

Reel in a good time when trout season opens with children- and adult-fishing contests, Taste of Trout, a parade and rodeo (231/384-1509).

MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

Shepherd, April 23–26

The town produces its own syrup, which fuels the flavorful festival. Try the Sugar Bush's syrup at pancake- and-sausage breakfasts throughout the weekend. Parades, a tractor pull and classic-car show complete the sweet weekend (989/828-5422).

BLOSSOMTIME FESTIVAL

Benton Harbor and St. Joseph,

April 26–May 2

A Grand Floral Parade and other perennial favorites like the Blessing of the Blossoms bring more than 250,000 visitors to the state's oldest and largest multicomunity festival (269/982-8016).

MAY

TULIP TIME Holland, May 2–9

The Netherlands' famous flowers line 6-mile Tulip Lane, signaling the celebration of all things Dutch. Marktplaats sell traditional foods and crafts while a white-gloved inspector checks the streets before wooden-shoe-wearing scrubbers clean for three parades (800/822-2770).

NATIONAL MOREL MUSHROOM FESTIVAL

Boyne City, May 14–17

Gather flavorful morels during Friday's guided hunt, or get competitive for Saturday's contest. Enjoy the savory fungi in tapas-style samplings from a dozen local restaurants at Taste of Morel (231/582-6222).

EAST LANSING ART FESTIVAL

East Lansing, May 16–17

The college town's annual exhibition and marketplace bring together more than 200 emerging and established artists. Musical acts perform, and a food court offers diverse options (517/319-6804).

NATIVE AMERICAN FESTIVAL

St. Ignace, May 23

Drumming, dancing, music and food honor the Anishinabe people and Native Americans. These and other cultural demonstrations take place on the Museum of Ojibwa Culture grounds (906/643-9161).

ALMA HIGHLAND FESTIVAL AND GAMES

Alma, May 23–24

Highland dance competitions, hammer throws and caber tosses attract more than 40 clans to Scottish heavyweight athletic events. Those not competing enjoy border collie exhibitions, pipe-band championships, and a parade of pipers and drummers (989/463-8979).



SPRING
EVENTS



(From top) The 17-foot National Trout Memorial in Kalkaska honors the state fish. Tropical butterflies flit at Butterflies are Blooming. Holland's Windmill Island blooms with tulips.



SPRING
SPRING

Calendar



(From top) Cherries galore at Traverse City's National Cherry Festival. Tour an asparagus farm during the National Asparagus Festival in Oceana County. Lilacs bloom on Mackinac Island.



SPRING SPRING



FORT MICHILIMACKINAC REENACTMENT PAGEANT

Mackinaw City, May 23–25

Spend the weekend watching actors re-create a 1763 Native American attack on Fort Michilimackinac, a French fur-trading post. On Saturday, the cast joins military units, floats and the Scottville Clown Band for Michigan's largest Memorial Day parade (231/436-5574).

CHEVROLET DETROIT BELLE ISLE GRAND PRIX

Detroit, May 29–31

Belle Isle Park packs tons of action into a quartet of competitions, including Verizon IndyCar Series' Dual in Detroit presented by Quicken Loans. A fan zone and prerace events build excitement (866/464-7749).

JUNE

MACKINAC ISLAND LILAC FESTIVAL

Mackinac Island, June 5–14

Thousands of lilacs perfume the island. Take a tour of the fragrant flora, and see one of the longest-running horse-hitch parades (906/847-3783).

JACKSON COUNTY ROSE PARADE AND PICNIC IN THE PARK Jackson, June 7

After the almost 2-mile parade, food vendors, classic cars and kids' tents fill Ella Sharp Park for all-day fun (517/764-4440).

FRANKENMUTH BAVARIAN FESTIVAL

Frankenmuth, June 11–14

Steins of beer, traditional foods and authentically clad bands entice visitors to Michigan's oldest and largest German gala. Youngsters march in Kinder Tag's parade before spectators crowd to see Sunday's Parade (877/879-8919).

WATERFRONT FILM FESTIVAL

South Haven, June 11–14

Actors, directors and producers come to the beachtown for panel discussions and screenings of more than 70 independent films. Opening night includes an outdoor premiere on the lakefront, live music and plenty of star power (269/767-8765).

CEREAL CITY FESTIVAL

Battle Creek, June 12–13

See Tony the Tiger, Toucan Sam and other cereal characters parade through town on Friday, then join them the next morning for a free bowl of cereal at the world's longest breakfast table (269/420-4031).

THE FLAG DAY WEEKEND AND PARADE Three Oaks, June 12–14

Honor the American flag at the world's largest Flag Day Parade, featuring more than 100 units, veterans and service members. A pet parade and Art in the Park add to the festival (269/612-0215).

NATIONAL ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL

Oceana County, June 12–14

Veggie-lovers pay homage to the healthy spear at a farm tour and a food show. Other festivities include a parade, arts-and-crafts fair and music (231/861-8110).

LELAND WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL Leland, June 13

Look for big white tents on Lake Michigan's shore to find award-winning regional wines and fresh eats from area restaurants. Locavores graze and sip as bands play in the beachfront park (877/535-2631).

FREE FISHING WEEKEND

Statewide, June 13–14

Everyone is welcome, no license necessary. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources sponsors the



PHOTOGRAPHS: (CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT) KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI/REDUX, JOHNNY QUIRIN, BOB STEFKO, ANDY LYONS

Come for the festivities, food, fireworks and fun. Check michigan.org for details when planning your warm-weather getaway.

free weekend to promote awareness of the state's water resources and fishing opportunities (517/284-6057).

NASCAR SPRINT CUP SERIES QUICKEN LOANS 400

Brooklyn, June 14

Before NASCAR's best compete on the sport's fastest track, the future of Sprint Cup racing takes to Michigan International Speedway's 2-mile oval for the Xfinity Series (800/354-1010).

PINE MOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL Dickinson, Houghton and Marquette counties, mid-June–mid-July

More than 20 performances bring classical pieces, opera and the Bergonzi String Quartet to the Upper Peninsula. Free concerts let mini Mozarts learn more about the music (906/482-1542).

DETROIT RIVER DAYS

Detroit, June 19–21

Tall ships, riverboat tours, musical acts, sand sculptures and Detroit River ArtScape, a popular competition showcasing massive works of art, draw more than 100,000 visitors (313/566-8200).

ANTIQUES ON THE BAY

St. Ignace, June 20

Original, unmodified classic cars—all 25 years or older—line downtown's waterfront. Vehicle owners share their automobiles' history before the rally on Mackinac Bridge at this free, family-friendly event (906/643-8087).

ST. MARYS RIVER CRUISE

DeTour Village, June 21

Invite dad to a Father's Day cruise aboard a 65-foot double-decker boat where he can enjoy breakfast and lunch while sailing through the Soo Locks and around the DeTour Reef Lighthouse (906/297-6051).

FORD FIREWORKS AND OFFICIAL ROOFTOP PARTY

Detroit, June 22

One of the largest international fireworks shows—presented by Ford Motor Company—wows more than 1 million spectators with a 30-minute display. The fund-raiser Rooftop Party at Miller Parking Garage guarantees prime viewing spots (313/923-7400).

ST. IGNACE CAR SHOW

St. Ignace, June 25–27

Friday night's Memory Lane Parade gets nostalgic with St. Ignace Fire Department's 1929 Model A Ford. On Saturday, hundreds of classic and antique cars, hot rods, pickups and custom automobiles line State Street during the 40th anniversary of the car show (906/643-8087).

MICHIGAN CHALLENGE

BALLOONFEST Howell, June 26–28

Mass launches of more than 40 hot-air balloons and choreographed stunt-kite routines dazzle spectators. A balloon glow and skydivers performing with pyrotechnics light up the night sky (517/546-3920).

ART ON THE BEACH

Oscoda, June 27–28

Fine art, photographs, crafts and handcrafted toys (think extreme squirt guns and marshmallow shooters) are on display by 125 juried artisans (800/235-4625).

JULY

BATTLE CREEK FIELD OF FLIGHT AIR SHOW AND BALLOON

FESTIVAL Battle Creek, July 1–5

Early-morning and evening hot-air balloon launches draw crowds. During the day, the air-show action picks up the pace with acrobatic maneuvers and precision flights. On Friday, fireworks burst (269/962-0592).



(From top) Lake Bluff Bird Sanctuary in Manistee preserves giant trees, including Michigan's largest giant sequoia. Paddling the Au Sable River. More than 1,000 artists show at the Ann Arbor Art Fair.



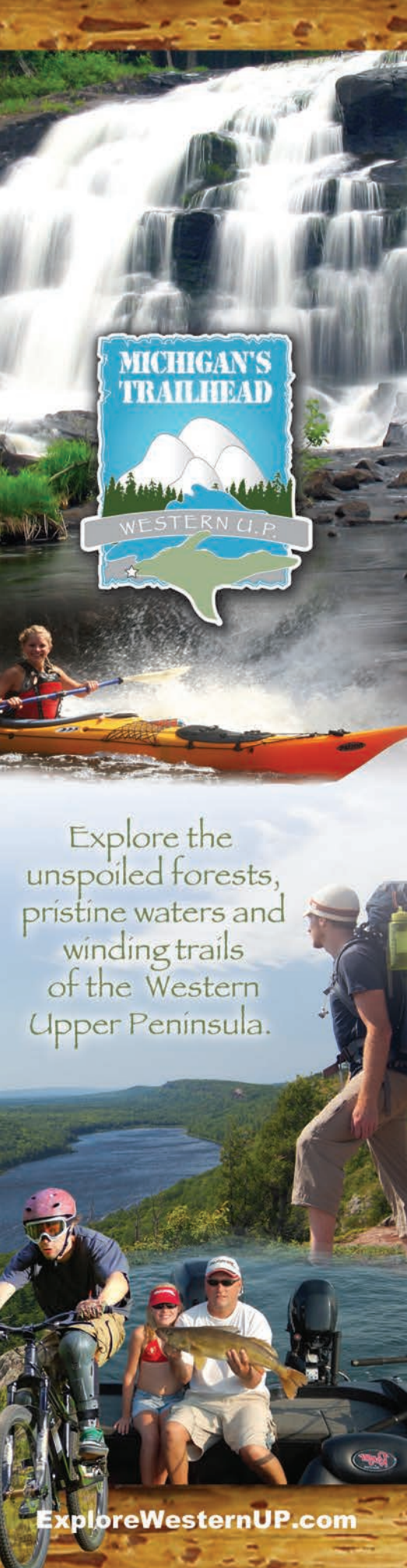
SUMMER



Children muster at Colonial Michilimackinac in Mackinaw City.



SUMMER
EVENTS



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winding trails
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Calendar

MANISTEE NATIONAL FOREST

FESTIVAL Manistee, July 2–5

Join tens of thousands of festivalgoers for guided tours and sunset hikes through the timber. Head into town for a parade, carnival and car show (231/723-2575).

LUDINGTON AREA JAYCEES FREEDOM FESTIVAL

Ludington, July 3–4

On Saturday afternoon, more than 30,000 people turn out for Independence Day's Grand Parade, a 140-year-old tradition. Ludington Avenue swells with bands, floats, the Scottville Clown Band and dignitaries celebrating the United States and its veterans (231/843-4663).

NATIONAL CHERRY FESTIVAL

Traverse City, July 4–11

Cherry farm tours, pit-spit contests and the Cherry Royale Parade are a few of the 150-plus events in the "Cherry Capital of the World." Enjoy the tangy fruit along with live music and a fireworks finale over Lake Michigan (800/968-3380).

ALPENFEST Gaylord, July 14–18

Have a cup of joe at the "World's Largest Coffee Break," then look for authentic dirndls, Alpine vests and felt hats in Alpenstrasse, the open-air market. Yodeling contests and alpenhorns bring the sounds of the Alps to Michigan (800/345-8621).

ANN ARBOR ART FAIR

Ann Arbor, July 15–18

Four juried art fairs come together as one on downtown streets and the University of Michigan's campus. More than 500,000 visitors browse works by 1,000-plus artists, watch artist demonstrations, listen to live music and nosh on fresh eats (800/888-9487).

NATIONAL BABY FOOD FESTIVAL

Fremont, July 15–18

Gerber baby food's birthplace hosts baby crawl and baby photo contests, frog-jumping contests and bed races. Kids decorate bikes for Wednesday's parade, and adults ride tricycles in the "Baby Food Capital of the World" (231/924-0770).

HOT AIR JUBILEE

Jackson, July 17–19

Mass hot-air balloon launches take place at dawn and dusk in Ella Sharp

Park. Classic cars, antique tractors and inflatable games cover the area during daylight. After dark, tethered balloons glow as musicians play (517/782-1515).

BELL'S BEER BAYVIEW

MACKINAC RACE Port Huron and Mackinac Island, July 18

More than 200 sailboats begin the world's second-largest freshwater race at 10 a.m. Arrive early for carnival fun and concerts at the kick-off point in Port Huron (313/822-1853).

ST. IGNACE FISH FEAST

St. Ignace, July 18

The self-proclaimed Home of the Great Lakes Fish Fry brings delicacies from local restaurants, live music and beverages to the marina pier. Kids join the fun at a trout fishing pond. Fireworks over the bay promise a show for all (800/338-6660).

SUNRISE SIDE WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL Harrisville, July 18

Local vintners, brewers and chefs serve their finest under the big top on Lake Huron's shore. Regional artists display their work for patrons sipping and munching on northeast Michigan's best (989/724-5107).

QUAKE ON THE LAKE

Pontiac Lake, July 18–19

Pontiac Lake trembles as boats speed around the country's fastest course. Powerboats, inboards and Grand Prixes race around the 1-mile oval (248/568-2925).





(Clockwise, from opposite top) Hot-air balloon preflight. The Michigan International Speedway closes its NASCAR Sprint Cup series with the Pure Michigan 400. Fill up on berries at the National Blueberry Festival in South Haven.

CHARLEVOIX VENETIAN FESTIVAL Charlevoix, July 18–25

Boats bedecked in electric lights take center stage in the second Saturday night's parade on Round Lake. Sailing, an on-the-water party and Venetian games (such as croquet, swimming and foot races) round out the bash (231/547-3872).

LITTLE TRAVERSE YACHT CLUB ANNUAL UGOTTA REGATTA Harbor Springs and Petoskey, July 24–26

One of the nation's oldest regattas brings sailboats from across the country to northwest Michigan. See all the excitement from viewing points in Harbor Springs and Petoskey's downtowns and waterfronts (231/526-7919).

SAGINAW CHIPPEWA ANNUAL TRIBAL POWWOW

Mount Pleasant, July 24–26

More than 400 dancers and drum groups perform traditional songs and dances at Michigan's largest powwow. Authentic foods, crafts and ceremonial attire honor and illustrate Native American culture and heritage (989/775-4000).

AUSABLE RIVER CANOE MARATHON

Grayling and Oscoda, July 25–26

At 9 p.m. in Grayling, paddlers portaging canoes sprint to begin this 120-mile professional canoe race. Follow the competitors as they paddle to Oscoda (989/820-5196).

MAKER FAIRE DETROIT Dearborn, July 25–26

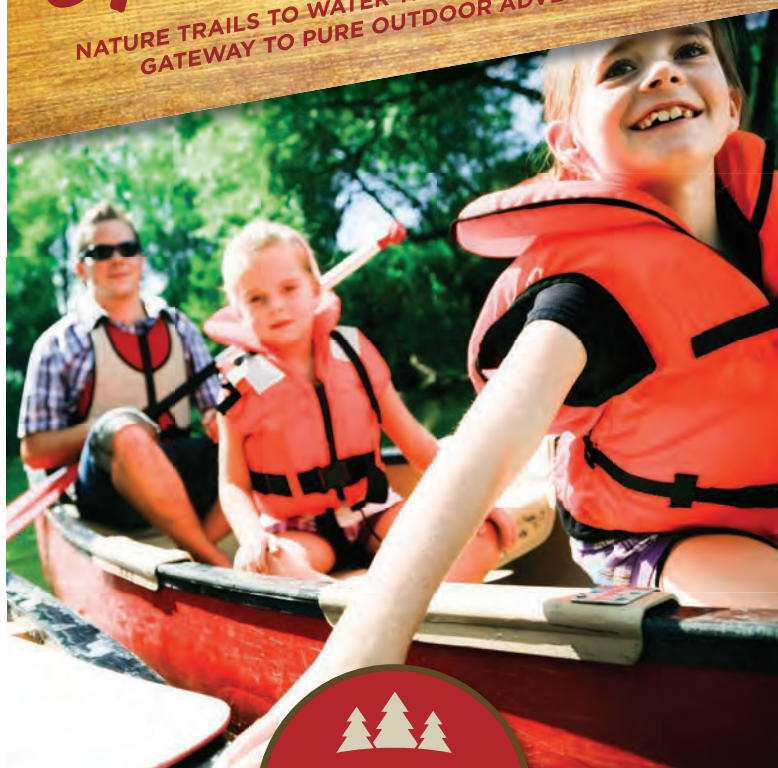
Flame shooters, robots, solar-powered mechanical sculptures and other works from more than 400 developers encourage amateur inventors to create their own innovations. This family-friendly event extols technology, artistry, engineering and unconventional ingenuity (800/835-5237).

CRUZ'IN CLASSIC CAR SHOW Montague, July 31

Vintage vehicles—all pre-1975—cruise the 1-mile route from Whitehall to Montague during Friday night's parade. Afterward, chat with the owners of these muscle cars, Corvettes and other restored classics in downtown. Groove to the sounds of classic vinyl (231/893-1155).



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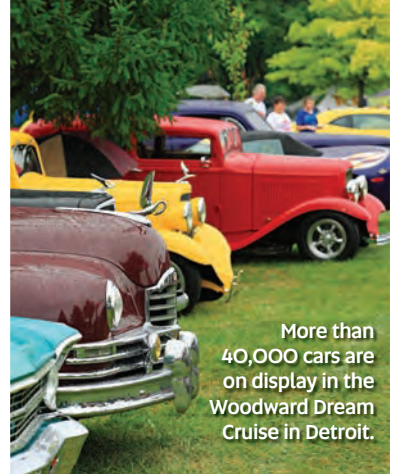
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Calendar



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AUGUST

WATERFRONT ARTS FESTIVAL

Escanaba, August 1

Watch artist demonstrations and peruse a young artists' market at this juried festival. The Escanaba City Band and a barbershop quartet join the event for all-day entertainment (906/786-3833).

NAUTICAL CITY FESTIVAL

Rogers City, August 4–9

A juried arts-and-crafts show, antique car show, and German and Polish dinners anchor this seafaring festival. Small sailors can celebrate the Great Lakes with amusement rides and a kids' parade (989/734-2535).

ABBOTT'S MAGIC GET-

TOGETHER Colon, August 5–8

The "Magic Capital of the World" puts a spell on visitors with sleight-of-hand shows and performances from acclaimed magicians. Learn the art of illusion from magic dealers selling tricks (269/432-3235).

NATIONAL BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

South Haven, August 6–9

Dig in to pies, jams and fresh-picked fruit in the Huron Street Pavilion, then cheer on the children's pie-eating contests. Riverfront fun includes sand sculpting and daily musical acts (800/764-2836).

RIVER RAISIN JAZZ FESTIVAL

Monroe, August 6–9

Free concerts attract music-lovers to the historic River Raisin battlefield park. In town, local and regional acts perform at the fine arts fair, a marketplace of close to 60 artists (800/252-3011).

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LES CHENEAX ISLANDS ANTIQUE WOODEN BOAT SHOW AND FESTIVAL OF ARTS

Hessel, August 8

Classic and restored watercraft dock in Hessel's harbor while 70 juried artisans present their works in the Festival of Arts. Sailboats, cruisers, canoes and more vie for the top spot in their categories (906/484-2821).

WOODWARD DREAM CRUISE

Detroit, August 15

Join 1.5 million spectators watching 40,000 classic cars cruise through the world's largest one-day automotive event. Bring a lawn chair and take a seat along the 16-mile route from Ferndale north to Pontiac on historical Woodward Avenue (248/269-4354).

GRANDJAZZFEST

Grand Rapids, August 15-16

Internationally known and up-and-coming musicians come together for two days of performances in West Michigan's only free jazz festival. The concerts attract 10,000 visitors to downtown's Rosa Parks Circle (616/443-4647).

NASCAR SPRINT CUP SERIES PURE MICHIGAN 400

Brooklyn, August 16

Sprint Cup closes the season at Michigan International Speedway. Favorites such as Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jeff Gordon join 40 other drivers racing 200 laps on NASCAR's fastest 2-mile track. The fun starts early at the campgrounds (800/354-1010).

UPPER PENINSULA STATE FAIR

Escanaba, August 17-23

Fair food, agricultural shows and history exhibits—they're all part of the 87-year-old summertime tradition. Sample ice cream made at UP dairies, tour the Miracle of Life Educational Pavilion, and visit the Steam and Gas Engine Village (906/786-4011).

WILD BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

Paradise, August 21-23

Harvesttime brings bushels of blueberries; find them in pies, buckles and muffins at the bake sale and brunch. Fill up on the fruit before horse-drawn wagon rides, an arts-and-crafts show with street performers, and kids' pie-eating contests (906/492-3219).



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BENZIE COUNTY 2015 ANNUAL EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Winterfest

MARCH

Spring Fling

MAY

Michigan Beer & Brat Festival

North Mitten Half Marathon & 10K Race

JUNE

Bike Benzie Fondo & Tour

Frankfort Art & Craft Fair

Michigan PGA Women's Open Pro Am

Michigan PGA Women's Open

Battle at the Betsie Fishing Tournament

JULY

4th of July Celebrations

Fire Cracker Race

Beulah Art Fair

Port City Run

Port City Art & Craft Fair

AUGUST

Crystal Lake Team Marathon

Frankfort Art Fair

Collector Car Show

Benzie Fishing Frenzy

National Coho Salmon Festival

SEPTEMBER

Taste of Benzie

OCTOBER

Benzie County Fall Festival
(Weekends in October)

Betsie Valley Run

Frankfort Beer Week

Peak 2 Peak Mountain Bike Classic

Frankfort Film Festival

NOVEMBER

Holly Berry Art & Craft Fair

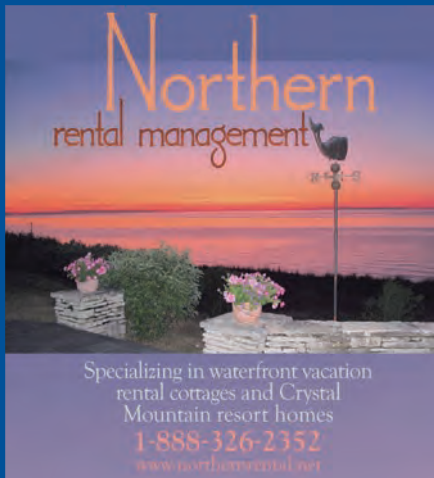
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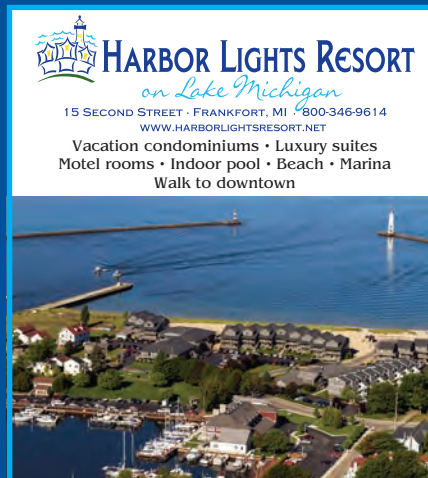
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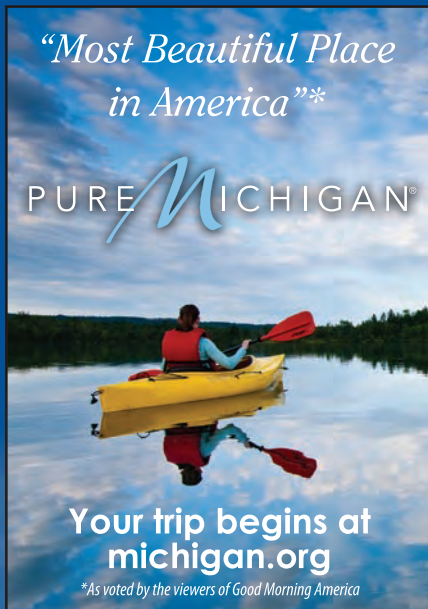
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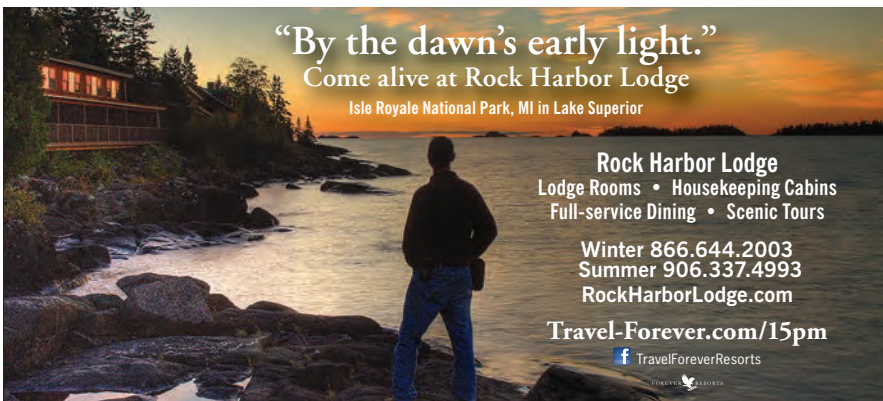
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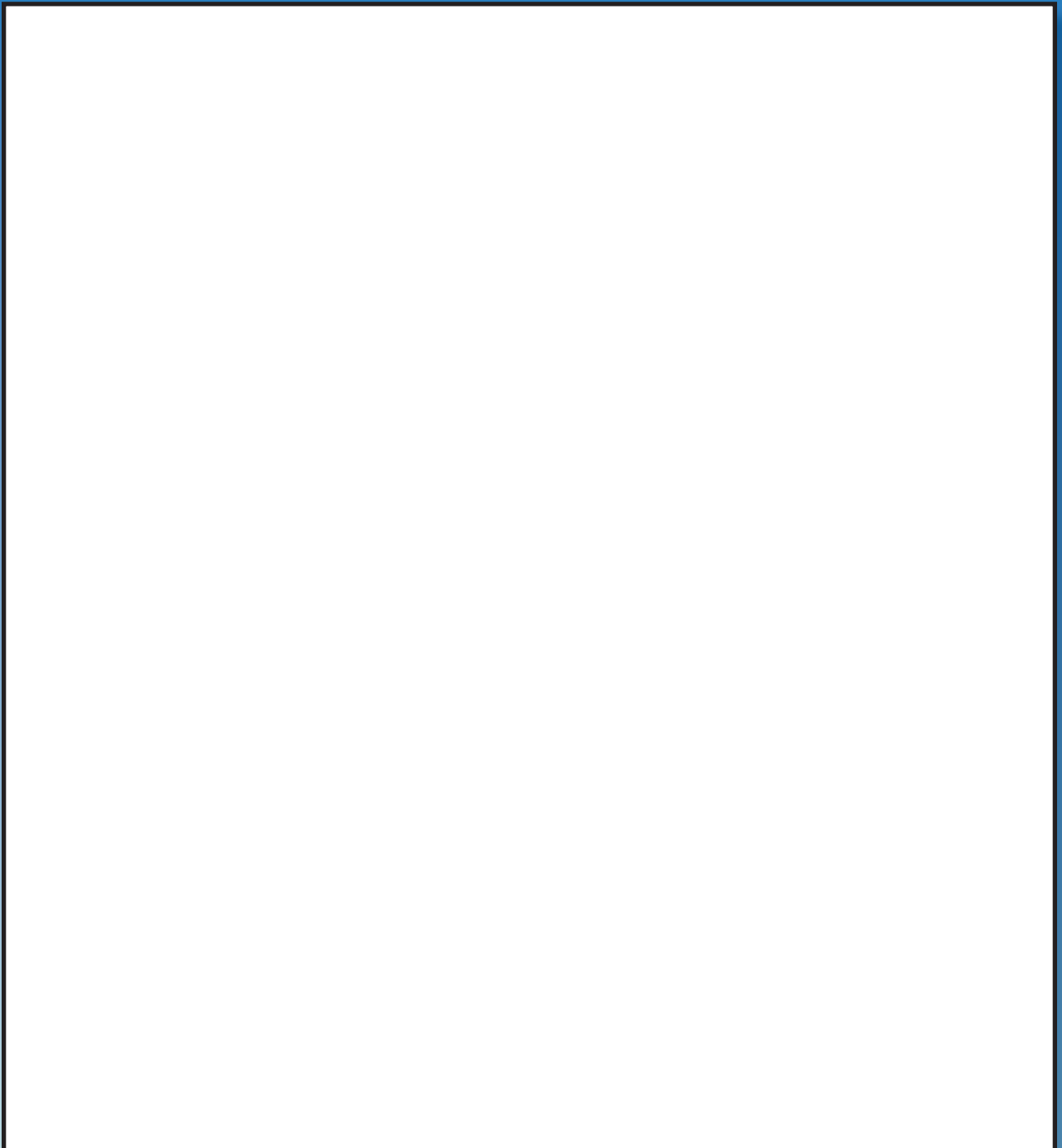
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Mackinac Island	Mackinac Island	(906) 847-3328				•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
McLain	Hancock M-203	(906) 482-0278	92	•	CT	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Muskallonge Lake	Newberry CR-407	(906) 658-3338	159	•	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Palms Book	Manistique M-149	(906) 341-2355				•		•	•				•			
Porcupine Mtns. Wilderness	Ontonagon M-107	(906) 885-5275	225	R	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Straits	St. Ignace I-75	(906) 643-8620	276	•	C	•		•	•				•			
Tahquamenon Falls	Paradise M-123	(906) 492-3415	296	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Twin Lakes	Toivola M-26	(906) 288-3321	60	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Van Riper	Champion US-41	(906) 339-4461	187	R	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Wagner Falls	Munising M-94	(906) 341-2355			Scenic Site								•			
Wells	Cedar River M-35	(906) 863-9747	153	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Northwestern																
Fisherman's Island	Charlevoix US-31	(231) 547-6641	80	R	T	•						•	•		•	
Hart-Montague Trail	Hart and Montague	(231) 869-2051				•	•	Bicycling				•	•			
Interlochen	Interlochen M-137	(231) 276-9511	446	R	CT	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Leelanau	Northport CR-629	(231) 386-5422	52	R	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
*Ludington	Ludington M-116	(231) 843-2423	373	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
*Mears	Pentwater BUS-31	(231) 869-2051	175	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Mitchell	Cadillac M-115	(231) 775-7911	221	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Orchard Beach	Manistee M-110	(231) 723-7422	160	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Petoskey	Petoskey M-119	(231) 347-2311	178	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Silver Lake	Mears US-31	(231) 873-3083	200	•	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Traverse City	Traverse City US-31	(231) 922-5270	348	•	C	•		•	•		•	•	•			

State parks and camping information

State Park	Location	Phone Number	Campsites	Modern/ Semi-modern	Cabin/ Tent	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Beach Area	Boat Launch	Swimming Designated	Fishing	Hiking	Horse Trails	Hunting	Visitors Center
Northwestern																
White Pine Trail	Grand Rapids and Cadillac	(231) 775-7911	Bicycling													
Wilderness	Carp Lake	(231) 436-5381	250	•	CT	•		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Wilson	Harrison US-27	(989) 539-3021	158	•	CT	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				
Young	Boyer City Road	(231) 582-7523	240	•	C	•		•		•	•	•	•			
Northeastern																
Aloha	Cheboygan M-212	(231) 625-2522	283	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•				
Bay City	Bay City M-247	(989) 684-3020	190	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
Burt Lake	Indian River I-75	(231) 238-9392	305	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Cheboygan	Cheboygan US-23	(231) 627-2811	72	•	CT	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Clear Lake	Atlanta M-33	(989) 785-4388	177	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Harrisville	Harrisville US-23	(989) 724-5126	195	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Hartwick Pines	Grayling M-93	(989) 348-7068	100	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•
Hoeft	Rogers City US-23	(989) 734-2543	144	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Michilimackinac	Mackinaw City	(231) 436-4100				•			Historic Site	•	•	•	•			•
Negwegon	Black River	(989) 724-5126	4										•		•	
North Higgins Lake	Roscommon US-27	(989) 821-6125	174	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Onaway	Onaway M-211	(989) 733-8279	82	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Osego Lake	Gaylord I-75	(989) 732-5485	155	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Port Crescent	Port Austin M-25	(989) 738-8663	142	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Rifle River	Lupton M-33	(989) 473-2258	174	R	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Sanilac Petroglyphs	Germania Road	(989) 856-4411				Historic Site										
Sleeper	Caseville M-25	(989) 856-4411	226	•	CT	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
South Higgins Lake	Roscommon US-27	(989) 821-6374	400	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Tawas Point	East Tawas US-23	(989) 362-5041	193	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Thompson's Harbor	Rogers City US-23	(231) 734-2543										•	•		•	
Southwestern																
Duck Lake	Muskegon M-20	(231) 744-3480				•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•	
Fort Custer	Augusta M-96	(269) 731-4200	219	•	C	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•	
*Grand Haven	Grand Haven US-31	(616) 847-1309	174	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Grand Mere	Stevensville I-94	(269) 426-4013				•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•	
Hoffmaster	Muskegon US-31	(231) 798-3711	297	R	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•
Holland	Holland US-31	(616) 399-9390	311	•	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Ionia	Ionia M-66	(616) 527-3750	149	•	C	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•	
Kal-Haven Trail	Kalamazoo and South Haven	(269) 674-8011	8		T	•	Bicycling						•		•	
Muskegon	North Muskegon	(231) 744-3480	244	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Newaygo	Newaygo M-37	(231) 856-4452	99	R	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Saugatuck Dunes	Saugatuck	(269) 637-2788				•	•		•							
Van Buren	South Haven I-196	(269) 637-2788	220	•	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Warren Dunes	Sawyer I-94	(269) 426-4013	211	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Warren Woods	Three Oaks Road	(269) 426-4013				•	Natural Area						•			
Yankee Springs	Middleville M-179	(269) 795-9081	200	R	C	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•	
Southeastern																
Algonac	Marine City M-29	(810) 765-5605	296	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Bald Mountain	Lake Orion M-24	(248) 693-6767		R	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Belle Isle Park	Detroit	(313) 628-2081				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Brighton	Howell I-96	(810) 229-6566	218	R	CT	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Cambridge Junction	Brooklyn M-50	(517) 467-4401				•	Historic Site									•
Dodge #4	Waterford	(248) 682-7323				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Hayes	Onsted US-12	(517) 467-7401	185	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Highland	White Lake	(248) 889-3750	25	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Holly	Holly I-75	(248) 634-8811	159	R	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Island Lake	Brighton I-96	(810) 229-7067		R	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Lake Hudson	Clayton M-156	(517) 445-2265	50	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Lakelands Trail	Pinckney	(734) 426-4913				•	Bicycling						•		•	
Lakeport	Lakeport M-25	(810) 327-6224	250	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			
Maybury	Northville I-96	(248) 349-8390				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Metamora-Hadley	Metamora M-24	(810) 797-4439	214	•	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Ortonville	Ortonville M-15	(810) 797-4439	25	R	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Pinckney	Pinckney US-23	(734) 426-4913	221	R	CT	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Pontiac Lake	Waterford	(248) 666-1020	176	•	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Proud Lake	Milford	(248) 685-2433	130	•	CT	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•	
Seven Lakes	Holly US-23	(248) 634-7271	70	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Sleepy Hollow	Laingsburg US-27	(517) 651-6217	181	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Sterling	Monroe I-75, Exit 15	(734) 289-2715	256	•	T	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Waterloo	Chelsea I-94	(734) 475-8307	355	R	C	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	
Wetzel	Lenox Township	(810) 765-5605		R		•	Open Space					•	•		•	

Michigan Convention & Visitors Bureaus and Regional Tourism Associations

For more great ideas and places to go, please contact the Convention & Visitors Bureau representing the area you'd like to visit. They can help you plan a wonderful vacation!



Upper Peninsula Organizations

Baraga County Convention & Visitors Bureau

(906) 524-7444 or (800) 743-4908
www.baragacountytourism.org

Bays de Noc Convention & Visitors Bureau

(906) 789-7862 or (800) 533-4386
www.visitescanaba.com

Drummond Island Tourism Association

(906) 493-5245 or (800) 737-8666
www.drummondislandchamber.com

Iron County Lodging Council

www.ironcountylodging.com

Keweenaw Convention & Visitors Bureau

(906) 337-4579 or (800) 338-7982
www.keweenaw.info

Les Cheneaux Islands Area Tourist Association

(888) 364-7526 or (906) 484-3935
www.lescheneaux.org

Mackinac Island Tourism

(906) 847-3783 or (800) 454-5227
www.mackinacisland.org

Manistique Lakes Area Tourism Bureau

(800) 860-3819 or (906) 587-3700
www.curtismi.com

Manistique Tourism Council

(800) 342-4282 or (906) 341-5010
www.visitmanistique.com

Marquette County Convention & Visitor Bureau

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www.travelmarquettetmichigan.com

Munising Visitors Bureau

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www.munising.org

Newberry Area Tourism Association

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www.newberrytourism.com

Paradise Area Tourism Council

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www.paradisemi.org

Porcupine Mountains Ontonagon Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

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www.porcupinemountains.com

Sault Ste. Marie Convention & Visitors Bureau

(906) 632-3366 or (800) 647-2858
www.saultstemarie.com

St. Ignace Visitors Bureau

(906) 643-6950 or (800) 338-6660
www.stignace.com

Tourism Association of the Dickinson County Area

(800) 236-2447
www.ironmountain.org

Upper Peninsula Travel & Recreation Association

(906) 774-5480 or (800) 562-7134
www.uptravel.com

Western Upper Peninsula Convention & Visitor Bureau

(906) 932-4850 or (800) 522-5657
www.explorewesternup.com

Lower Peninsula Organizations

Allegan County Tourist Council

(888) 425-5342 or (269) 686-9088
www.visitallegancounty.com

Alpena Convention & Visitors Bureau

(989) 354-4181 or (800) 425-7362
www.alpenacvb.com

Ann Arbor Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

(734) 995-7281 or (800) 888-9487
www.visitannarbor.org

Battle Creek/Calhoun County Visitors Bureau

(269) 962-2240 or (800) 397-2240
www.battlecreekvisitors.org



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Bay County Convention & Visitors Bureau

(800) 444-9979
www.gogreat.com

Benzie County Visitors Bureau

(231) 882-5801 or (800) 882-5801
www.visitbenzie.com

Blue Water Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

(810) 987-8687 or (800) 852-4242
www.bluewater.org

Cadillac Area Visitors Bureau

(231) 775-0657 or (800) 225-2537
www.cadillacmichigan.com

Visit Charlevoix

(231) 547-2101 or (800) 367-8557
www.visitcharlevoix.com

Cheboygan Area Visitors Bureau

(800) 968-3302 or (231) 627-7183
www.cheboygan.com

Clare County Convention & Visitors Bureau

(800) 715-3550
www.clarecounty.net

Coldwater Country Conference & Visitors Bureau

(517) 278-0241 or (800) 968-9333
www.discover-michigan.com

Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau

(313) 202-1800 or (800) 338-7648
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Flint and Genesee Convention and Visitors Bureau

(855) 983-5468
www.flintandgenesee.org

Four Flags Area Council on Tourism

(269) 684-7444
www.fourflagsarea.org

Frankenmuth Convention & Visitors Bureau

(989) 652-6106 or (800) 386-8696
www.frankenmuth.org

Garland Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

(989) 786-2211 or (877) 442-7526
www.garlandusa.com

Gaylord Area Convention & Tourism Bureau

(989) 732-4000 or (800) 345-8621
www.gaylordmichigan.net

Grand Haven Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

(800) 968-0889 or (616) 842-4499
www.visitgrandhaven.com

Grayling Visitors Bureau

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www.grayling-mi.com

Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau

(800) 444-9979
www.gogreat.com

Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau

(517) 487-6800 or (888) 252-6746
www.lansing.org

Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce

(269) 469-5409
www.harborcountry.org

Holland Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

(800) 506-1299 or (616) 394-0000
www.holland.org

Houghton Lake Area Tourism and Convention Bureau

(989) 422-2002 or (800) 676-5330
www.visitoughtonlake.com

Huron County Visitors Bureau

(989) 269-6431 or (800) 358-4862
www.huroncounty.com

Indian River Tourist Bureau

(231) 238-9325
www.irtourism.com

Lenawee County Conference & Visitors Bureau

(517) 263-7747 or (800) 536-2933
www.visitlenawee.com

Livingston County Convention & Visitors Bureau

(517) 548-1795 or (800) 686-8474
www.lccvb.org

Ludington Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

(231) 845-5430 or (800) 542-4600
www.pureludington.com

Mackinaw Area Visitors Bureau

(231) 436-5664 or (800) 666-0160
www.mackinawcity.com

Manistee County Visitors Bureau

(231) 398-9355 or (877) 626-4783
www.visitmanisteecounty.com

Mecosta County Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

(231) 796-7640 or (888) 229-4386
www.bigrapids.org

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Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau

(800) 252-3011
www.monroeinfo.com

Mt. Pleasant Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

(989) 772-4433 or (888) 772-2007
www.mountpleasantwow.com

Muskegon County Convention & Visitors Bureau

(231) 724-3100 or (800) 250-9283
www.visitmuskegon.org

Newaygo County Convention & Visitors Bureau

(231) 652-9298 or (877) 500-2570
www.newaygocountytourism.com

Oscoda Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

(989) 739-0900 or (877) 867-2632
www.oscoda.com

Petoskey Area Visitors Bureau

(231) 348-2755 or (800) 845-2828
www.PetoskeyArea.com

River Country Tourism Council

(800) 447-2821
www.rivercountry.com

Saginaw County Convention & Visitors Bureau

(800) 444-9979
www.gogreat.com

Sanilac Tourism Association

(810) 648-5550
www.sanilaccounty.org

Saugatuck-Douglas Convention & Visitors Bureau

(269) 857-1701
www.saugatuck.com

Shiawassee County Convention & Visitors Bureau

(989) 723-1199
www.shiawassee.org

Silver Lake Sand Dunes-Hart Visitors Bureau

(231) 873-3982 or (800) 611-0453
www.thinkdunes.com

Sleeping Bear Dunes Visitors Bureau

(888) 334-8499
www.sleepingbeardunes.com

South Haven/Van Buren County Convention & Visitors Bureau

(269) 637-5252
www.southhaven.org

Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council

(269) 925-6301
www.swmichigan.org

Tawas Bay Tourist & Convention Bureau

(877) 868-2927 or (989) 362-8643
www.tawasbay.com

Thumb Area Tourism Council, Inc.

(810) 569-6856
www.thumbtourism.org

Traverse City Tourism

(231) 947-1120 or (800) 872-8377
www.traversacity.com

West Branch Visitors Bureau

(989) 345-2821 or (800) 755-9091
www.visitwestbranch.com

West Michigan Tourist Association

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www.wmta.org

White Lake Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau

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