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YOUR EPIC
2025

Metro Parent

FAMILY BUCKET LIST

Plan an unforgettable year with Metro Detroit kids



●
**New Family
Attractions
Opening Soon**

●
**Score Big on
Sports Family Fun**

●
**Family Foodie
Adventures
Not to Miss**



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Beau with his mom, Ellie
Pediatric patient

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STAFF

CEO & PUBLISHER:

Alexis Bourkoulas

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CONTENT AND
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT:

David Arkin

FRACTIONAL CMO:

John Griffin

Content

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER:

Katina Beniaris

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Nikki Roberts

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR:

Kari Zaffarano

SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER:

Lindsey Lawson

CONTENT MARKETING MANAGER:

Kim Kovelie

SENIOR EDITOR:

Claire Charlton

DIGITAL CONTENT STRATEGIST:

Alicia Aguirre

CONTRIBUTOR:

Tara Jones

Sales / Administrative

SALES DIRECTOR: **Michele Potts**

SENIOR MARKETING STRATEGISTS:

Dawn Ferencak, Linda Holland

BUSINESS MANAGER: **Amelia Naz**

CLIENT SUCCESS PROJECT MANAGER

Carlos Figuera

DIGITAL SPECIALIST: **Esmael Taib**

We Want to Hear from you!

GENERAL QUESTIONS

info@metroparent.com

STORY IDEAS AND COMMENTS

editor@metroparent.com

DISTRIBUTION REQUESTS

distribution@metroparent.com

ADVERTISE WITH US

advertise@metroparent.com

280 N. Old Woodward Ave.

Suite 100

Birmingham, MI 48009

248-398-3400

MetroParent.com



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WHAT'S ONE THING ON YOUR 2025 BUCKET LIST?



KATIE JONES,

 [@michiganmomwithkids](https://www.instagram.com/michiganmomwithkids)

"I'm most excited to get downtown to see Michigan Central Station! We haven't been able to make it when it's open yet but are hoping to in this season for Winter at the Station. "

"Katie, creator of Michigan with Kids, inspires families to explore Michigan's beauty while sharing kid-friendly adventures."

OVER-THE-TOP Desserts

BY NIKKI ROBERTS

When your sweet tooth is calling and you want something extra special, look no further than these unique desserts in metro Detroit.



House of Chimney Cakes
Loaded cake?
Yes, please!



Choco Mania Cafe Sterling Heights

Choco Mania Cafe serves a global array of sweets, including French crepes, European pastries, specialty sundaes, and customizable rolled ice cream treats.



Donut Bar + Coffee

Southfield

Choose from a variety of donuts, including gluten-free bumpy cake, Snickers, Oreo, and the fan-favorite Fruity Pebbles donut.

House of Chimney Cakes

Dearborn

Chimney cakes come in classic flavors like cinnamon sugar or loaded options like coconut, Oreo, and Fruity Pebbles, with customizable fillings, toppings, and ice cream.

JoJo's Shake BAR

Detroit

These outrageous milkshakes are topped with cookie crumbles, cotton candy, marshmallows, and feature special seasonal flavors.

La Gelati

Various locations in metro Detroit

This sweet shop's "dessert sushi" features mini cinnamon rolls with frosting and Nutella, along with smoothies, soft-serve, sundaes, and crepes.

Mochinut Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor, Troy, Shelby Township

Choose from over 20 flavors of mochi doughnuts, including churro, milk pebble, and black sesame, or try mochinut-balls in options like crème brûlée, coffee, and matcha.

Street Sweets

Sterling Heights

This dessert shop specializes in small-batch, handcrafted treats, featuring liquid nitrogen ice cream, dessert pizza, waffle pops, and must-try baklava with gluten-free options available.

Cinnaholic

Ann Arbor

This bakery offers 100% vegan treats, including customizable cinnamon rolls, cookies, brownies, edible cookie dough, and over 20 unique frosted rolls like Cookie Monster, Campfire S'mores, and Caramel Apple Pie.



Family Foodie Adventures Your Taste Buds Will Love

BY NIKKI ROBERTS

The next time your tummies are rumbling, follow this metro Detroit foodie guide for a mouthwatering crash course to some of the city's best dishes.

Coney dog

Try a Detroit coney dog at Lafayette Coney Island topped with chili, onions and mustard, and a Faygo on the side.

Shawarma

Indulge in the chicken shawarma sandwich from Al-Ameer Restaurant for perfectly seasoned, roasted shawarma served with sides like fries or hummus.

Detroit square-cut pizza

Order the Octopie from Green Lantern Pizza for 8 crispy Detroit-style squares that deliver unmatched crunch and your favorite toppings.

Better Made Potato Chips

Grab a bag of Better Made Potato Chips, Detroit's favorite for nearly 100 years, with flavors from plain to spicy.



Pączki

Get your Paczki Day treat from Donut Cutter—delicious Polish donuts filled with cream or fruit, best enjoyed on Fat Tuesday.

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*Based on the 2019 DRI for potassium developed by NASEM.
Approved by the Michigan Dairy Market Program Committee.



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KID-FRIENDLY

THINGS TO DO AROUND METRO DETROIT IN 2025

BY NIKKI ROBERTS

On your next family day out, use this list of 25 kid-friendly things to do in metro Detroit to check off iconic bucket list items or discover a new-to-you hidden gem.

1 Explore Eastern Market. Browse local vendors and purchase healthy food and farm-fresh goodies, all while enjoying live music and other free family programming.

2 See Detroit's iconic **Fisher Building**, a historic landmark with stunning architecture, offering public access to its lobby and shops and guided tours on Saturdays.

3 Discover Detroit's history at **The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation**, featuring the Rosa Parks bus, Kennedy Limousine, antique cars and rotating exhibits.



4 Greenfield Village
Photo By Superdawg Drive-In

4 Step into the past at **Greenfield Village**, an outdoor experience with nearly 100 historic buildings, seven districts to explore, and rides in a real Model T.

5 Get funky at the Motown Museum, housed in the original recording studio, where artifacts and memorabilia bring Hitsville, USA, to life.

6 Visit the **Detroit Institute of Arts**, home to over 65,000 works and named the nation's top museum, with stunning art and great views from Café DIA.

7 Get your game on by catching a Tigers, Red Wings, Pistons, or Lions game, with plenty of minor league action to enjoy as well!

8 Enjoy riverfront views, public art, fun playgrounds and peaceful parks along the **Detroit Riverfront**.

9 Stroll or cycle the **Dequindre Cut Greenway**, a two-mile urban path with outdoor stages, plazas, and the unique Dequindre Cut Freight Yard bar.



7 Photo By Steven Kriemadis

18 Photo By Blake Farms

10 Campus Martius Park, named USA Today's Top Public Square, offers year-round family-friendly events and activities in the heart of downtown Detroit.

11 Belle Isle State Park is home to a beach, an aquarium, a nature center, a conservatory, a maritime museum, a giant slide and much more.

12 Enjoy endless outdoor adventures at the **Huron-Clinton Metroparks**, offering 13 parks with playgrounds, trails, fishing, ice skating, camping and more.

13 Experience the Great Indoors at the Outdoor Adventure Center, where all the outdoor fun comes inside, with archery, a fishing simulator, nature exhibits and an indoor waterfall!

14 Explore your family's wild side at the **Detroit Zoo** in Royal Oak.

15 Have an under the sea adventure at **SEA LIFE Michigan Aquarium**.



16 Discover a world of reptiles at **The Reptarium**, where visitors can meet snakes, lizards, and tortoises while overcoming fears and learning about these fascinating creatures.

17 Canterbury Village offers year-round family fun with dinosaur strolls, holiday events, charming shops, restaurants, and picturesque grounds perfect for a day out.

18 **Blake Farms** is the perfect seasonal destination, hosting outdoor festivals like lavender and sunflower celebrations, Cider Dayze, and pumpkin patches year-round.

19 Attend a family-friendly **summer festival** and enjoy live music, vendors, food, kids activities and more.

20 Build a brick-tastic creation at **Legoland Discovery Center** and enjoy Lego-themed movies, rides and activities.

New Family Attractions Coming in 2025

BY KARI ZAFFARANO

It can be difficult to decide which upcoming attractions are worth the hype and which ones your family is better off skipping. Here are the ones we're most excited for!

Racing Day at Huntington Place

Opening Jan. 17, 2025

Detroit

The Detroit Auto Show debuts indoor tracks for the 2025 Grand Prix, featuring stunts, racing innovation and interactions with drivers.

Dinoland Ann Arbor

Opening 2025

Ann Arbor

Dinoland opens in Washtenaw County in 2025, offering kids ages 12 and under zip lines, a glow slide, tunnels, LEGO zone and more!



Slick City at Troy Gymnastics

Opening Late Fall 2025

Troy

Slick City, opening fall 2025 near TG3, offers a water-free park for all ages with parties, events and team outings.

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Program Administrator, Michigan Department of Treasury.

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Score Big on Detroit Sports Family Fun

BY NIKKI ROBERTS

Detroit sports fans know game day is about more than cheering on our favorite teams. Next time you visit, check these exciting game day activities off your family's bucket list.



Chant "JARED GOFF"

In honor of the Detroit Lions' beloved, two-time Pro Bowler quarterback Jared Goff, Detroit sports fans everywhere have resorted to chanting "JAR-ED-GOFF" at every sporting event.

Pride Plaza

Photo Credit Detroit Lions

Ford Field

Photo Credit Detroit Lions





Catch a thrilling half-time show at a Detroit Pistons game

The Pistons are known for their show-stopping half-time shows, from incredible performances by the dance team to jaw-dropping stunts by acrobatic dunkers!



See an octopus on the ice at a Detroit Red Wings game

While we don't encourage you to partake in this tradition yourself, the Legend of the Octopus is a quirky Red Wings tradition that entails throwing a dead octopus onto the ice after a win.



Ride the tiger carousel at a Detroit Tigers game

Take a spin on an all-tiger carousel. The carousel at Big Cat Court features thirty hand-painted tigers. Rides are just \$2 per person, and free for kids 14 and under on Sundays.



Attend a theme game at a minor league baseball park

There are four minor league teams in metro Detroit, and even more minor league ballparks worth the drive! For an unforgettable game day experience, grab tickets to a fun themed game.



Visit Pride Plaza before a Detroit Lions game

Fuel up for the game at Pride Plaza with food trucks and grown up beverages, and enjoy football-themed games and activations, photo stations, a drumline performance and more.



Detroit Pistons
Photo by Detroit Pistons



Detroit Tigers
Photo by Steven Kriemadis



Pride Plaza
Photo by Detroit Lions

EVENTS:

Metro Detroit Family Events to Check Out in 2025

BY KARI ZAFFARANO

There are so many great family-friendly events happening in 2025 – some are even new events! Whether you're looking for something free or cheap to do that won't break the bank, something educational, or even just a fun festival to attend, we've got you covered!



Photos by
Big Bounce of America

The Big Bounce America

May 17-25, 2025
Fraser

Enjoy 16,000 square feet of fun in the world's largest bounce house with slides, confetti blasts, basketball, climbing towers and more.



Blake's New Bavarian Festival

Jan. 18, 2025
Armada

Blake's brings Germany to Michigan with Bavarian food, drinks, music, contests, games and more in a lively celebration.

Disney On Ice presents Let's Dance!

Feb. 13-16, 2025
Detroit

Sing Disney tunes with Mickey, Minnie and characters from *Frozen 2*, *Moana* and more, plus skating, costumes, effects and acrobatics.



Photo by
Brick Fest Live

Brick Fest Live

March 1-2, 2025 | Novi

This LEGO event includes life-size models, a brick pit, glow zone, graffiti wall, special guests and a Guinness World Record mosaic.



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Family Road Trips for Every Season

Zehnder's Splash Village Hotel & Waterpark
 Photos by Frankenmuth Convention & Visitors Bureau

BY NIKKI ROBERTS

Detroit is only a drive away from plenty of places that make for the perfect weekend, packed with kid-friendly activities and exciting experiences for the entire family.



Winter Getaways

Frankenmuth

1.5 hours from Detroit

Frankenmuth, Michigan's Little Bavaria, offers German charm, holiday fun, Zehnder's Splash Village and Bronner's, the world's largest Christmas store.

Bronners Christmas Wonderland

Photos by Frankenmuth Convention & Visitors Bureau



Boyne Falls

Less than 4 hours from Detroit

Boyne Falls offers skiing, snowboarding and tubing at Boyne Mountain, plus Avalanche Bay water park, a spa and SkyBridge Michigan's light display.

Holland, Michigan

3 hours from Detroit

Holland showcases Dutch culture with Windmill Island Gardens, Holland Museum and the Tulip Time Festival (May 2–11, 2025), featuring millions of tulips.



Summer Getaways

Spring Getaways



Sandusky, Ohio

2 hours from Detroit

Sandusky, Ohio, offers indoor water parks and arcades for rainy days, plus outdoor ropes courses and Cedar Point's new Siren's Curse coaster.

Put-in-Bay, Ohio

2.5 hours from Detroit

Put-in-Bay offers golf cart rides, charming shops, waterfront views, Perry's Cave Family Fun Center and relaxing at DeRivera Park.

Saugatuck

3 hours from Detroit

Saugatuck offers Oval Beach, boat rentals, sand dune rides, live shows, dining and shopping for the perfect lake town getaway.



Fall Getaways

Shipshewana, Indiana

3 hours from Detroit

Shipshewana offers Amish charm with buggy rides, shops, pretzels, farm tours, museums and live shows at the Blue Gate Theatre.



Shipshewana
Photo by Kari Zaffarano

Silver Lake Sand Dunes

3.5 hours from Detroit

Silver Lake Sand Dunes offers fall foliage, Hart Montague Trail views, dune rides, pumpkin picking, Lewis Adventure Farm and a fall color map.

3 Wacky Sites to See In Metro Detroit

BY KARI ZAFFARANO

Looking to take the kids on a kooky adventure this year? Michigan's roads are dotted with all kinds of oddities and hidden treasures that kids will get a kick out of seeing.

1 Bronner's Christmas Wonderland Frankenmuth

This 96,000-square-foot Christmas shop delights year-round with lights, decorations, gifts and outdoor displays like a 17-foot Santa and penguins.

2 Hamtramck Disneyland Hamtramck

View Dmytro Szylak's folk art yard from the alley between Sobieski and Klinger. Contact caretakers for closer access and be courteous.

3 Heidelberg Project Detroit

Visit the Heidelberg Project, open daily 8 a.m.-7 p.m., where Tyree Guyton turned abandoned homes, broken cars and trash into art.



1 Bronners Photo credit Kari Zaffarano



2 Hamtramck Disneyland
Photos by Chris Schneider



3 HeidelbergProject
Photo credit Jason Freeman

4 steps to give baby a safe sleep routine

With a little practice, your baby can get into a sleep routine. That helps them know when it's time to get some zzzs, helps them sleep safely—and means peace of mind for you.

1

Bath



2

Feed



3

Read &
rock



4

To bed
on back



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BUCKET LIST GOALS FOR 2025

Ready to hit the road? From snowy escapes to city adventures, the “Ultimate Family Road Trip Guide” by Metro Parent and Southeast Michigan Ford Dealers has all the tips you need for an unforgettable family getaway.

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