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Pond Hill Farm,  
Harbor Springs

## DIGITAL EDITION

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

## ON THE COVER

M-22

Photographer:  
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and Port



 MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

# on YOUR MARQ



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# WOODS AND WATERS



## ALL THE FALL FEELS

To borrow from the American poet Carl Sandburg, fall comes on little cat feet. It sneaks in, silently *painting the countryside*, then moves on. Maximize this brief yet beautiful season in Michigan, where the *air and leaves* are crisp and the *waterways and colors* are captivating. Take a drive, go on a hike or boat ride, or just bask in the glory of a *perfect day*. You might feel something profound. Nostalgia? Peace? You'll at least wish the moment could last.



# FIND YOUR TRAIL *in* MARQUETTE

Nature is never more than a short hike or bike ride away in Marquette County. Choose the activity and level of difficulty that best fits your abilities and set out to explore the environs—including dozens of stunning waterfalls—of the UP's largest city.

  
Sugarloaf  
Mountain

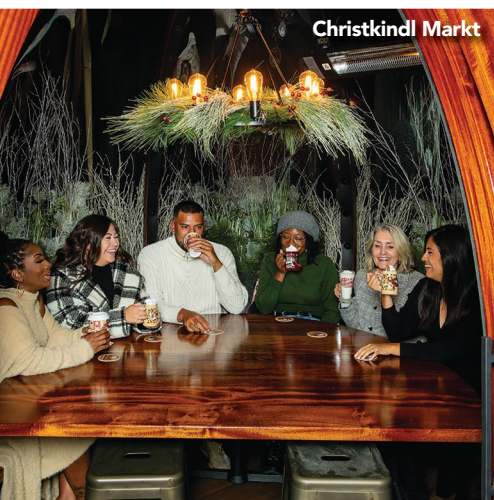




# DREAM GRAND AND GO

Michigan Oasis by Tom Gifford, ArtPrize 2024

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## ArtPrize

Sept. 18 - Oct. 4, 2025

## Christkindl Markt

Nov. 19 - Dec. 23, 2025

## World of Winter

Jan. 9 - March 1, 2026



# Nature's Tumbles

*Waterfalls, one of nature's most beloved wonders, reign in Marquette County, home to more than 75 named falls. Venture away from Lake Superior to take in the captivating cascades that hide between the trees and off the beaten path.*

**EASY** The family- and pet-friendly **Wright Street Falls** access is a 10-minute drive from downtown Marquette. Two short trails both lead to the rapids tumbling over volcanic rock in the Dead River. The slightly more challenging BLP Rocks trail promises a more complete view.

**MODERATE** Plan for nearly 3 miles on foot round-trip to witness 20-foot-tall **Morgan Falls**. The wooded hike follows a dirt road that's closed to motorized

vehicles, except for snowmobiles. A remote adventure to **Yellow Dog Falls** starts with a rugged approach road. After parking where Yellow Dog River crosses the road, hike less than a mile downstream to the main attraction, plus smaller cascades below.

**ADVANCED** Finding the trailhead to **Pinnacle Falls** is half the challenge on the isolated back roads southwest of Big Bay. A 1.5-mile round-trip hike includes some steep climbs to the impressive waterfall and swirling pools below the namesake rocky pinnacle. Endurance junkies love **Little Garlic Falls**, touting a nearly 8-mile round-trip hike.

**FROM TOP**  
Hogback Mountain;  
Sugarloaf Mountain;  
Yellow Dog Falls



## Nature's Walking Paths

*A network of hiking trails leads to panoramic vistas, some with a watery horizon and rugged forest.*

**EASY** In the city, Tourist Park's wooded campground abuts the 3-mile **North Country Trail** and **NTN**. Trek east to Lake Superior or west along the Dead River to the North Trails of the NTN, connecting miles of marked trails. Farther north and minutes from Big Bay, the short ADA-accessible loop at **Thomas Rock Scenic Overlook** features a stunning horizon while catering to all, even leashed dogs.

**MODERATE** Less than a mile from bottom to top sounds easy enough at **Sugarloaf Mountain**. But you may break a sweat on the 300-plus stairsteps to the highest outlook with views of Lake Superior. A 1.6-mile section of the inter-state **North Country Trail** connects Wetmore Landing to Little Presque Isle Point, passing rocky beaches and cliffs.

**ADVANCED** After braving twisty trails, swampy areas and a steep rock face, hikers on **Hogback Mountain** claim a picturesque payoff: miles-long views of the city and Lake Superior.



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## STAY AND DINE

Preserving the natural world is a priority at **Bodega**, where the sauces, breads and even bar infusions are made from scratch, and food waste gets composted. **The Delft Bistro** pairs world flavors, like lamb vindaloo, with local ingredients inside a 100-year-old reclaimed theater. Farmhouse ales and barrel-aged beer shine at the family-owned **Barrel and Beam**, now with the delicious addition of Northwoods Test Kitchen deli on-site.

The aptly named **Landmark Inn** building has hosted downtown guests since 1930, including many historical figures. Tastefully renovated boutique rooms and suites capitalize on timeless views of Lake Superior and Main Street charm beneath the sixth-floor Crow's Nest bar.



**FROM TOP**  
Iron Ore  
Heritage Trail;  
The Delft  
Bistro

**Traverse crests and valleys, perfect for pedalers from newbie to pro.**

**EASY** Saddle up on a road bike, electric bike or other ride of choice for the multiuse **Iron Ore Heritage Trail**. It touts 47 miles, dreamy expanses of Lake Superior and nine trailheads linking multiple towns from downtown Marquette.

**MODERATE** The newly rebranded **NTN** played a key role in putting Marquette on the international map for mountain biking. Weave along the Dead River in the north section with 30 miles of singletrack, or follow 45 miles in the south section to waterfalls and more technical purpose-built flow trails.

**ADVANCED** Volunteers hand-cleared more than 75 miles that make up the **RAMBA** (Range Area Mountain Bike Association) trail system. Blood-pumping black and double black diamond stretches pack steep elevation in the Iron Range. Those who navigate the dense forest and rocky terrain will also find mining sites along the way.

# Nature's Biking Paths



## BIKE RENTALS

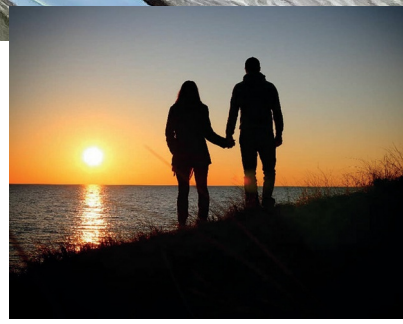
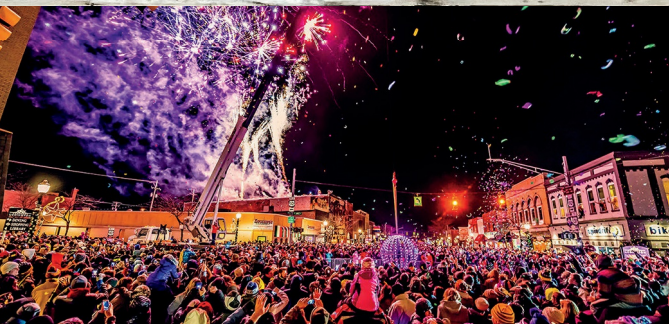
Do you need a hybrid, e-bike or full-suspension ride? Outfitters such as Lakeshore Bike and MQT Bike Rental rent gear for the day or a week. You'll also find a dependable selection in Negaunee at Love and Bicycles.



# TAKE IN THE CHANGE

Embrace the beauty of Ludington as this charming lakeside community transforms into a picturesque playground during the Fall and Winter months. As a haven for relaxation and adventure, Ludington offers a unique blend of natural splendor and festive charm. From the vibrant hues of autumn leaves to the serene whites of winter snow, there's always a reason to explore. Traverse scenic trails through dunes and lush forests, engage in delightful seasonal events, and unwind in our cozy accommodations. Whether you're seeking a peaceful autumn retreat or a snowy escape, Ludington invites you to experience the magic of the changing seasons in Pure Ludington!

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# THE *Legend* LIVES ON

Half a century later, the story of Michigan's most famous shipwreck still resonates. As a somber milestone approaches, visit sites near where the *Edmund Fitzgerald* sank.

## MUSICAL LEGACY

Gordon Lightfoot's haunting 1976 hit, "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald," tells the tale of Lake Superior's notorious November gales and the ship's fateful last voyage.



  
Great Lakes  
Shipwreck  
Museum, Paradise

November 10, 2025, marks the 50th anniversary since the freighter *Edmund Fitzgerald* sank during a storm on Lake Superior, killing all 29 of its crew. Remember the tragedy in Whitefish Point, 17 miles from the vessel's final resting place off Whitefish Bay. At the **Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum** in Paradise, an *Edmund Fitzgerald* exhibit includes the ship's recovered 200-pound bronze bell. You can also watch a 14-minute *Fitzgerald* documentary in the restored **1923 U.S. Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat House** and tour the adjacent lighthouse. The museum closes in late October, but hosts a private ceremony for family members only (viewable via live stream) November 10 to commemorate the sinking.

STORY: GARY THOMPSON. PHOTOGRAPHS: (ARCHIVES) COURTESY OF THE GREAT LAKES SHIPWRECK MUSEUM, (MUSEUM) JASON LINDSEY



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## MORE SHIPWRECK SITES

### GREAT LAKES MARITIME HERITAGE CENTER *Alpena*

Part of **Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary**, the center sits along Lake Huron's Shipwreck Alley, a stretch where 100-plus vessels have been found. See wreck artifacts and explore a full-size replica schooner. **Alpena Shipwreck Tours** offers two-hour cruises (until mid-October) aboard a glass-bottom boat for underwater peeks at actual wrecks. Or paddle the bay with help from

**Alpena Kayak Tours.** Their boat takes you to an off-shore launching point, where you'll hop in a tandem kayak to ply the waters—no experience necessary. And for safety's sake, the boat follows you.

### 40 MILE POINT LIGHTHOUSE *near Rogers City*

Walk along the beach to see what's left of the wooden steamer *Joseph S. Fay*, swept to shore in 1905 by violent winds and waves. The ship broke up on a sandbar. Part of her side rests on the beach, held together by metal rods and spikes.

**SEARCH FOR SHIPWRECKS** *Michigan's Underwater Preserves protects 13 sunken ships, some in as few as 5 feet of water, throughout lakes Huron, Superior and Michigan.*

PHOTOGRAPHS: (HERITAGE CENTER) SARA WRIGHT, (LIGHTHOUSE) BRIAN CONFER

**📍**  
**FROM TOP**  
Great Lakes  
Maritime  
Heritage Center,  
Alpena;  
40 Mile Point  
Lighthouse,  
near Rogers City





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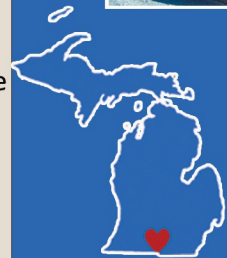
unforgettable adventures  
unforgettable memories

Discover year-round adventures in **Michigan's Coldwater Country**, where relaxation meets excitement! Situated along the historic US-12 Heritage Trail, the area offers more than 100 lakes, including two chains of lakes and a waterway trail, perfect for fishing or a fall color tour from the water. Experience the past with a ride aboard the 110-year-old Little River Railroad steam engine train or while exploring Victorian downtowns and countless antique shops. Learn the tricks of the trade in the Magic Capital of the World. Enjoy a performance at the historic Tibbits Opera House or a double-feature at the nostalgic Capri Drive-In. With annual festivals and events, every season is an opportunity to create new memories in Coldwater Country.



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## WEEKEND GETAWAY? LANSING'S MY CHOICE

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**FROM LEFT**  
Grayling;  
Au Sable River,  
Grayling (4)

# HUNTING *and* FISHING GUIDE

Abundant public hunting grounds and freshwater resources draw hunters and anglers to the Great Lakes State. Start with these essentials as you plan your next excursion.

STORY: KRISTIN HAGENSON PHOTOGRAPHS: NATE LUKE





### FREE FISHING WEEKEND

Twice a year, everyone can fish without a licence (February 21–22 and June 13–14, 2026), though all other regulations apply.

## Hunting

**More than 10 million acres of thoughtfully managed public land, including 100-plus wildlife management areas, make Michigan one of the most desirable states for hunting. And more than 90 percent of state parks and recreation areas are open for fall and winter hunting. For specific details on regulations, seasons, zones and more, visit [michigan.gov/hunting](http://michigan.gov/hunting)**

### WHITE-TAILED DEER *Seasons: fall and winter*

**Prime Locations** Huron-Manistee National Forest near Houghton Lake, the Thumb region, southern Lower Peninsula along the border, and the UP's Hiawatha National Forest

*Take part in Michigan's deer camp tradition and spend time in nature with friends and family at a cabin or campsite for hunting season.*

### WOODCOCK *Season: fall*

**Prime Locations** State game areas, such as Allegan, Gratiot-Saginaw and Muskegon, plus the western UP

*Michigan ranks first in the U.S. for harvesting woodcock.*

### RUFFED GROUSE *Seasons: fall and winter*

**Prime Locations** Manistee, Cadillac, Huron-Manistee National Forest near Houghton Lake, and the UP's Ottawa National Forest

*The Michigan DNR manages Grouse Enhanced Management Sites (GEMS), which offer walking trails and aspen stands to hunters.*

### PHEASANT

***Seasons: fall and winter***

#### Prime Locations

Pheasants are released at 13 state game areas, including Pointe Mouillee, Cass City and St. Johns.

*Michigan partners with landowners who agree to allow hunting on their property, part of the Hunting Access Program (HAP).*

### HUNTING LICENSES

Anyone born after January 1, 1960, must complete and pass an approved hunter education course in order to obtain a hunting license.

## Fishing

**Michigan touches four of the five Great Lakes, plus has more than 11,000 inland lakes and thousands of miles of rivers and streams open to licensed anglers looking to hook their next trophy fish. From mid-September through October, salmon, walleye and bass are biting. Colder months bring brown trout and steelhead. The UP's Little Bay de Noc is popular for ice fishing (walleye, perch and northern pike) due to its prolonged season. The protected bay's water tends to freeze early and stay frozen longer. See Michigan Fishing Regulations for exceptions to seasons and waters listed here. Learn more at [michigan.gov/fishing](http://michigan.gov/fishing)**

### WALLEYE

***Season ends March 15***

**Prime Locations** Lake Erie, Detroit and St. Clair rivers (year-round), and the UP's Little Bay de Noc

*These selective biters will put up a fight, making them fun to catch and delicious to eat.*

### PERCH

***Season: year-round***

**Prime Locations** Saginaw Bay, Suttons Bay, and lakes near Alpena

*These school fish like the weeds and rocks, and rank as one of the state's most-caught game fish.*

### SALMON

***Season: year-round, most waters***

**Prime Locations** Rivers such as the Au Sable, Pere Marquette, Manistee, Muskegon, St. Joseph, and Boardman-Ottaway

*September and October are prime months due to spawning and migration.*

### BASS

***Season ends December 31, 2025***

**Prime Locations** Inland lakes in the Kalamazoo area, Lake St. Clair, and the Au Sable and Manistee rivers

*Spirited fighters, bass will challenge anglers.*

### FISHING LICENSES

Fishing licenses are required ages 17 and older.



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# CITIES AND CULTURE



📍  
Michigan  
State University,  
East Lansing



📍  
The District  
Detroit

## GOLDEN DAYS

Fall in Michigan exemplifies what poet John Keats called the “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness.”

Shrinking days *bring more*, not less. More *quiet* moments in Mackinac Island, Charlevoix and Saugatuck. More *flavors* from apples, cider, wine, beer and farm-to-table cuisine. More *festive* crowds, like tailgaters in Detroit, Ann Arbor and East Lansing, or Oktoberfest fans in Frankenmuth. And more *color everywhere*.



# SEASON *Finale*

Fall in Michigan is gloriously fleeting—as winter wrestles summer into submission, a few precious weeks remain. Here are 10 ways to make the most of this beautiful, bountiful moment.

## **SWEET TREAT**

Grand Traverse Pie Company uses Northern Michigan apples in its seasonal Pure Michigan Maple-Glazed Apple Pie (11 locations in the Lower Peninsula).



## **1. SIP THE CIDER**

Cider pressed on-site impresses visitors at **Plymouth Orchards and Cider Mill** in Plymouth. It's blended with at least five different Michigan apple varieties. **Vander Mill** in Grand Rapids crafts a variety of artisanal hard ciders—modern, botanical, fruit and heirloom. Sample a flight in their taproom.

## **2. PICK A FLAVOR**

At **Knaebe's Apple Farm and Ciderworks** in Rogers City, harvest your own pumpkins and apples, including Jonathan, Gala and Empire. The U-pick apple orchards at **Friske Farm Market** in Ellsworth beckon with Evercrisp, Fuji, Granny Smith and more. **Crane Orchards** in Fennville grows varieties like McIntosh, Honeycrisp and Northern Spy.







#### FROM LEFT

Crane Orchards, Fennville; Bavarian Belle Riverboat, Frankenmuth; Spartan Stadium, East Lansing

### 3. TAILGATE WITH THE TEAM

Join University of Michigan Wolverines fans near **Michigan Stadium** (aka the Big House) in Ann Arbor, and gather with Michigan State Spartans supporters around **Spartan Stadium** in East Lansing. The NFL's Detroit Lions host a free tailgate party outside **Ford Field**.

### 4. WALK IN THE WOODS

Follow either of two short trails through the trees at **Grand Mere State Park** in Stevensville to reach sand dunes and the Lake Michigan shore. The 11-mile **Manistee River Trail** passes hardwoods atop river bluffs in Manistee. A highlight: crossing a wooden suspension footbridge.

### 5. PEDAL AND PADDLE

Bicyclists ride the rails at **Kal-Haven Trail State Park**, a nearly 34-mile former railroad route linking Kalamazoo and South Haven. In the UP town of Hessel, **Woods and Waters** offers guided kayak, canoe and SUP tours of Lake Huron's Les Cheneaux Islands.

### 6. TAKE AUTUMN DRIVES

When leaves fall, so do golf course rates. Find colors and deals at **Treetops Resort** in Gaylord (holes six and 15 on the Jones Masterpiece course are especially resplendent in autumn) and **Gull Lake View Golf Resort** in Augusta. (Hues imbue the Stoatin Brae, Stonehedge North and Stonehedge South courses.)

### 7. CRUISE FOR COLOR

Leaf-peep from fresh perspectives, like aboard the **Bavarian Belle Riverboat** in Frankenmuth. The paddle-wheeler carries passengers on one-hour trips (until late October). Or hop on the Huckleberry Ghost Train at **Crossroads Village** in Flint for a 40-minute ride into the countryside behind a steam locomotive.

### 8. WING IT

It's the season to watch migrating flyers. **Whitefish Point Bird Observatory** in Paradise is a birder's paradise—thousands of birds soar past. **Peninsula Point**, on Stonington Peninsula near Escanaba, attracts monarch butterflies headed to Mexico. In early fall, see them flit en masse along the shore.

### 9. SCARE UP FUN

Shop and dine at **The Village at Grand Traverse Commons** in Traverse City, then take an eerie tour of the site, once an asylum. Michigan's first state prison, in Jackson, morphed into **Armory Arts Village**. Learn about the site's history and architecture with Jackson Historic Prison Tours.

### 10. SEEK AERIAL THRILLS

**Copper Peak** in Ironwood dares you to reach the top of the world's largest artificial ski jump via a chairlift, 18-story elevator ride and an eight-story climb. In Boyne Falls, test your nerve on **SkyBridge Michigan**, the world's longest timber-tower suspension bridge.





# ONE MORE *for* THE ROAD

Summer's end does not have to mean vacation's end. In fact, as crowds disperse after Labor Day, these popular Michigan towns get a little more quiet—and a lot more colorful.



## FARM FRESH

Saugatuck sits along Michigan's Fruit Belt, which stretches the length of the Lower Peninsula. Taste autumn's bounty at Pennyroyal Cafe and Provisions, a farm-to-table restaurant that grows much of its own produce.



## HISTORIC HAPPENINGS

Follow the sound of cannon fire to Fort Mackinac, where costumed interpreters roam the grounds. It's one of several Mackinac State Historic Park sites, such as the Biddle House, within Mackinac Island State Park, which covers 83 percent of the island.



## STONE SECRETS

Earl Young used stones he found in Lake Michigan to build his whimsical houses. In town, rock hounds can find Charlevoix and Petoskey stones at Michigan Beach Park and Mt. McSaubia Recreation Area.



## FROM TOP

Mackinac Island;  
Pennyroyal Cafe and  
Provisions, Saugatuck;  
Earl Young-designed  
home, Charlevoix

## MACKINAC ISLAND

The weather usually stays warm enough after Labor Day for lounging in a cabana beside **Grand Hotel's** pool or riding a horse-drawn carriage between the resort's two 9-hole golf courses. To see more of the car-free island, rent a bike and pedal the 8.2-mile perimeter. On the water's edge, just past pup-friendly **Mission Point Resort**, look for a stairway leading to Arch Rock. Learn all about the formation at the new **Milliken Nature Center**.

## SAUGATUCK

A canopy of crimson and gold shelters hikers on the forested Beach Trail to the shoreline at Saugatuck Dunes State Park. If Lake Michigan is too cool to dip your toes in, swim in the heated pool at **Old Pike Cottages** (open through October 31), or guests can use a complimentary kayak at **Lake Shore Resort**. Fuel up for shopping with blueberry maple syrup-doused baked French toast at **Lady Bird's** brunch. The downtown district overflows with artists. Pop into dozens of galleries and chat with the artists during the **Art Coast of Michigan Fall Gallery Stroll** (October 10–11).

## CHARLEVOIX

Fantastical elements permeate this lakeside town, thanks in part to architect Earl Young, who built 26 homes fit for a hobbit out of stones. (See them on a Mushroom House tour.) Young incorporated a meteorite into **Stafford's Weathervane Restaurant's** stone fireplace. It's a snug dinner spot after sifting through ephemera at **True North Interior Design and Antiques**. More magic winds through the **Castle Farms'** gardens. Michigan honey and maple syrup at **Harwood Gold Store and Cafe** make a sweet souvenir.



# LIFE IS GOOD

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# FOLLOW YOU



Frederik Meijer  
Gardens and  
Sculpture Park,  
Grand Rapids



Autumn offers abundant vistas and  
venues for weekend visitors to drink in the scenery.  
Toast at adults-only or family-friendly  
destinations—or climb above the tree line.

**WRITER** BRIANNE SANCHEZ

PHOTOGRAPHS: (NINA AKAMU, THE AMERICAN HORSE, 1999, GIFT OF FRED AND LENA MEIJER. © 2007 DAVINCI DISCOVERY CENTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY) JOHN NOLTNER, (VINEYARD) AARON PETERSON



# R PASSION

## WINE ENTHUSIASTS

*Old Mission and Leelanau peninsulas are the perfect pairing for adults seeking to relax, refresh and refill glasses on a romantic rendezvous or a girls' getaway.*

More than 50 wineries along the Traverse Wine Coast benefit from a microclimate influenced by the Great Lakes. Regional growers like **Brys Estate** and **Chateau Chantal** celebrate beautifully balanced varieties and also offer on-vineyard accommodations. After an evening of tastings, wake up to a gourmet breakfast at the **Inn at Black Star Farms** or stay for live music and events at **Rove Winery at the Gallagher Estate**. Eateries like **Martha's Leelanau Table**; **Farm Club**; and **9 Bean Rows**, a bakery, cafe and farm, collaborate with local wineries and producers. Choose a chauffeur and take a scenic drive along M-22 and Old Mission Peninsula to hit multiple spots. Or pedal through orchards and vineyards on the leisurely **Leelanau Wine Trail Bike Tour**, which stops at up to seven wineries on a route tailored to your tastes. Visit Leland's historic Fishtown's shanties and shops or set sail with **Traverse Tall Ship Company** to round out the experience.



Chateau Chantal,  
Traverse City



## THRILL SEEKERS

*Go deep into Michigan's copper mining history and take leaf-peeping to new heights on the Keweenaw Peninsula: by seaplane, chairlift, cog tram or car.*

For vibrant fall color, seek out a bird's-eye view in Houghton and Keweenaw counties. Snaking 1,320 feet above sea level, the scenic 9-mile Brockway Mountain Drive delivers panoramic perspectives. Even the bites come at heights. Observatory Lounge on the seventh floor of downtown Houghton's **Hampton Inn and Suites** overlooks Portage Waterway. Get an aerial perspective on **Isle Royale Seaplanes'** fall color tour of the peninsula. Or take the chairlift to the top of **Mount Bohemia**, where visitors can follow a cliff trail to take in Lac La Belle and Lake Superior. After an epic hike, pick up wood-fired pizza and relax in the Mount Bohemia Nordic Spa. Down on solid ground, **Fitzgerald's Hotel and Restaurant** in Eagle River is known for its smokehouse barbecue and whiskey. **The Vault Hotel**, a former bank, and **Laurium Manor Inn**, built by a wealthy copper mine owner, both pay homage to the region's copper boom. Tours and a haunted mine event at **Quincy Mine** give visitors the chance to delve into the industry's history.







PHOTOGRAPH BY (MINE) BOB STECKO. (WATER PARK) JILL RICHARDS



Zehnder's  
Splash Village,  
Frankenmuth

## CREWS WITH KIDS

*Kid-friendly attractions abound in Frankenmuth, a European-inspired community known for its full festival calendar, splashy water parks, riverfront shopping district and all-you-can-eat chicken dinners.*

Michigan's Little Bavaria welcomes visitors of all ages to take part in traditions and themed fun. Board the **Bavarian Belle Riverboat** near the landmark Holz-Brücke Covered Bridge for a narrated, hour-long tour. Then, walk past the glockenspiel at the **Bavarian Inn**. Its remodeled **Bavarian Blast** indoor water park is now the state's biggest. (Grown-ups will appreciate the swim-up bar after challenging kiddos to rounds of indoor mini golf or laser tag.) **Zehnder's Splash Village** also has a hotel and arcade. **Zehnder's of Frankenmuth** and the **Bavarian Inn Restaurant** both serve famously satisfying fried chicken dinners. In warm Oktoberfest weather, seek out a patio at **Prost! Wine Bar and Charcuterie** or **Frankenmuth Brewery**, Michigan's oldest microbrewery. Wander **Frankenmuth Corn Maze** at Weiss Centennial Farm or **Bronner's Christmas Wonderland**, a year-round Christmas shop. Tots love the petting barn and picking pumpkins at **Grandpa Tiny's Farm**, and daredevils age 7 and up enjoy zipping through the forest at **Frankenmuth Aerial Park**.



## ARTISAN BEER AFICIONADOS

*Craft beer and culture converge when Grand Rapids hosts ArtPrize, an international competition that turns breweries and other establishments into art venues.*

Grand Rapids' impressive concentration of 40-plus craft breweries, cideries, distilleries and meaderies makes for a wide-ranging bar crawl. Download the Beer City Brewsader app to navigate the scene, then drink up to earn swag. Order the Black Squirrel peat-smoked porter at **Harmony Brewing Company**. Pair a pint with pizza at the vintage baseball-theme **Mitten Brewing Company**. Quaff a seasonal at **Vivant Brewery and Spirits**, an eco-friendly spot located inside a refurbished historic funeral home.

Curating a trip to coincide with ArtPrize (September 18–October 4) brings bonuses as businesses, public places and downtown hotels, such as **Amway Grand Plaza**, **CityFlatsHotel** and **JW Marriott Grand Rapids**, become art venues. Follow the Beer City Ale Trail and book a tour at **Founders Brewing Company**, one of Michigan's largest. Walk through **Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park**, then fuel up at **Brass Ring Brewing** with a traditional cask ale and English pub-style comfort food.



Vivant Brewery  
and Spirits,  
Grand Rapids

PHOTOGRAPHS: (BEER) JASON LINDSEY, (COAST) AARON PETERSON





Miners Castle,  
Pictured Rocks  
National  
Lakeshore,  
Munising



#### NATURE-LOVERS

*Fill a scrapbook with moments from Munising to Grand Marais, cruising close to the cliffs and pausing to admire waterfalls at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.*

Stay within walking distance from Lake Superior's outdoor recreation at Munising's **Roam Inn**, an 18-room boutique hotel that offers sweeping views of Munising Bay and hearty meals at on-site **Tracey's** restaurant. **Comfort Inn and Suites Munising-Lakefront** is also within walking distance of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Hiking, mountain biking, birding and natural landmarks, such as **Munising Falls** and **Miners Castle**, make the picturesque Upper Peninsula a major draw. Take a day trip to Grand Island, accessible via passenger ferry or private boat. On **Pictured Rocks Cruises**, see segments of the Hiawatha National Forest in autumnal splendor and watch Spray Falls from the water. The **Log Slide Overlook** provides stunning views of the **Grand Sable Dunes**, Lake Superior and the **Au Sable Light Station** in the distance. Back in Munising, grab an Italian panini from **Driftwood Deli** to eat on their patio attached to **ByGeorge Brewing Company**. Quick, casual **Eh! Burger** also serves chicken sandwiches and wings; it's conveniently located near boat tours.



# Autumn C

Take the scenic route through fall. These four drives come with towns to explore, roadside stops, epic views and side trips worth the detour.

WRITER  
BERIT THORKELSON





# Color Ahead

PHOTOGRAPH: STAFFBOARD AND PORT

CE  
37  
RE



Good Hart  
General Store,  
Good Hart







## TRAVERSE THE TUNNEL OF TREES

Harbor Springs to Cross Village, 20 miles

*Leafy branches with color-tinged leaves line this twisting, narrow band of road that hugs Lake Michigan as it winds through small towns reminiscent of storybook scenes.*

**The Highlands** in Harbor Springs makes the perfect getaway base, with scenic fall-color chairlift rides and a short hike to North Peak for views of the Mackinac Bridge on the horizon, before setting out on your scenic drive. Pull off at **Pond Hill Farm**, where you can smash, launch, bowl or select a pumpkin at the Fall Fest every weekend. Open since 1934, the **Good Hart General Store** offers one-stop shopping with gourmet goods and gifts, grocery items, and a deli and bakery. In Cross Village, **Legs Inn**, a seasonal log-and-stone restaurant (closes October 19), looks as if it were plucked from a child's imagination, with stove legs protruding from the roof and fantasy creatures carved into the interior furniture. The fall season draws a crowd, but a patio table overlooking a lake and house-made Polish dishes (cabbage rolls, kielbasa, sauerkraut and pierogies) merit the wait time. Back in Harbor Springs, end the evening with s'mores around a bonfire or a dip in the outdoor heated pool.

## WORTH THE DETOUR

Headlands International Dark Sky Park sits at the Tip of the Mitt west of Mackinaw City. Spread out a blanket and scan the sky for shooting stars.



## SALUTE THE SUNRISE SIDE

Port Huron to Bay City, 154 miles

*Michiganders love to demonstrate town locations using the palm of their right hand to represent the Lower Peninsula. This scenic drive traces the Thumb beginning at the base where the St. Clair River flows into Lake Huron.*

In Port Huron, you'll find **Fort Gratiot Light Station**, the state's oldest, with tower climbs and guided tours. Watch massive freighters pass under the Blue Water Bridge next to the **Thomas Edison Depot Museum** inside the Fort Gratiot train depot, where Edison worked as a newspaper reporter. The eco-chic **CityFlatsHotel** was formerly a bank in the 1900s. Boutiques and one-of-a-kind shops fill picturesque downtown Lexington. North of Port Sanilac, there's a secret beach at **4 Mile Scenic Turnout**, with more sand, seagulls and songbirds at Port Crescent and Bay City state parks. Rent gear from **Port Austin Kayak** and paddle to one of the state's most unique rock formations, Turnip Rock.

## WORTH THE DETOUR

North of Bay City, the lake-hugging road becomes Heritage Route US-23. At Oscoda, follow the 22-mile River Road National Scenic Byway along the famed Au Sable River, with overlooks, trails and Lumberman's Monument Visitor Center.



## CRUISE ALONG THE COAST

St. Ignace to Rapid River, 124 miles

*From the base of the Mackinac Bridge across the lower section of the Upper Peninsula, a portion of the Top of the Lake Scenic Byway runs along Lake Michigan before reaching the Hiawatha National Forest.*

**The Boardwalk Hotel** is a stunning three-story building on the main thoroughfare in downtown St. Ignace. It has easy access to restaurants, shops and cultural attractions, such as the **Museum of Ojibwa Culture**. As you drive west, the road splits a tapestry of fall color to the north and sandy dunes to the south. Trek to the beach (230-plus steps) at the **Cut River Bridge**, or soak up the vibe at the roadside park. In Naubinway, **Moofinfries** covers the basics with

burgers, Great Lakes whitefish, fresh-cut fries and ice cream on the menu. At Manistique, the red **East Breakwater Light** marks the road's brief reunion with Lake Michigan. Down the highway in Thompson, US-2 tucks into the million-acre **Hiawatha National Forest**, where you'll find UP solitude at its finest.

## WORTH THE DETOUR

Watch trout dart in emerald waters from a hand-cranked raft at Kitch-iti-kipi, aka The Big Spring, where the water stays a constant 45 degrees at Palms Book State Park near Manistique. Continue south to the Garden Peninsula to see an 1800s iron processing community-turned-ghost town at Fayette Historic State Park.



## HONE IN ON HERITAGE

New Buffalo to Detroit, 209 miles

*A former Native American trail skirts the southern border before cutting through the rolling Irish Hills and automotive legacy towns of Ypsilanti, Dearborn and Detroit.*

U-pick pumpkins, parks and a plethora of shops, restaurants, wineries and distilleries pave the way from the Lake Michigan town of New Buffalo to charming Three Oaks. In Three Oaks, **Journeyman Distillery** is housed in a former corset factory. Climb aboard a steam locomotive train at the **Little River Railroad** in Coldwater, also home to the 1882 **Tibbits Opera House**. Michigan's auto heritage comes into focus as you near Detroit. Admire a futuristic DeLorean and other vintage experimental gems at the Ypsilanti **Automotive Heritage Museum**. At **The Henry Ford** in Dearborn, time travel through transportation history with a Model T ride in **Greenfield Village**, witness the final assembly of an F-150 at the **Ford Rouge Factory Tour**, and see the 1865 Roper Steam Carriage (the oldest surviving American car) at **Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation**.



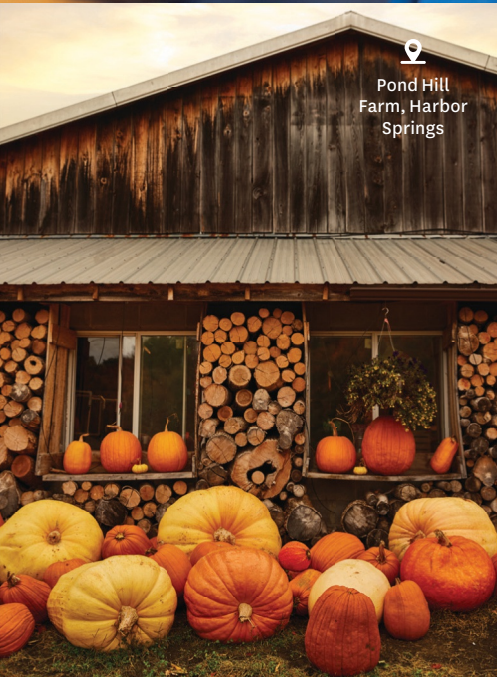


📍  
Journeyman  
Distillery,  
Three Oaks



**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

The twisty Tunnel of Trees has more than 130 turns, including Devil's Elbow, which is rumored to be haunted, and Horseshoe Bend, a notably sharp bend in the road.



📍  
Pond Hill  
Farm, Harbor  
Springs



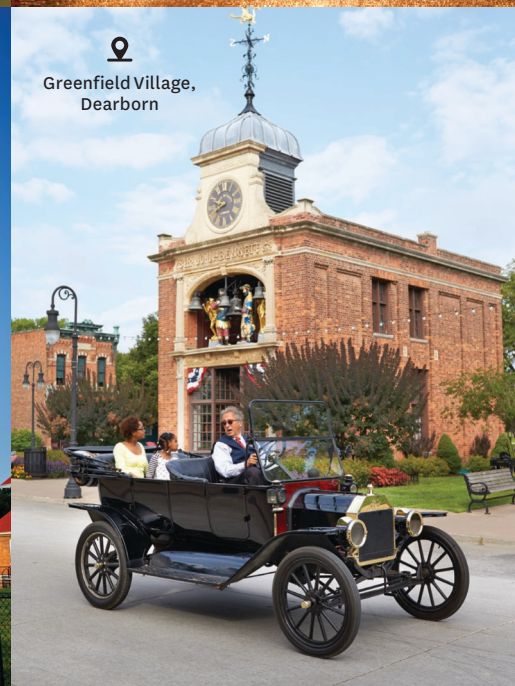
📍  
Museum of  
Ojibwa Culture,  
St. Ignace



📍  
Hiawatha  
National Forest,  
Thompson

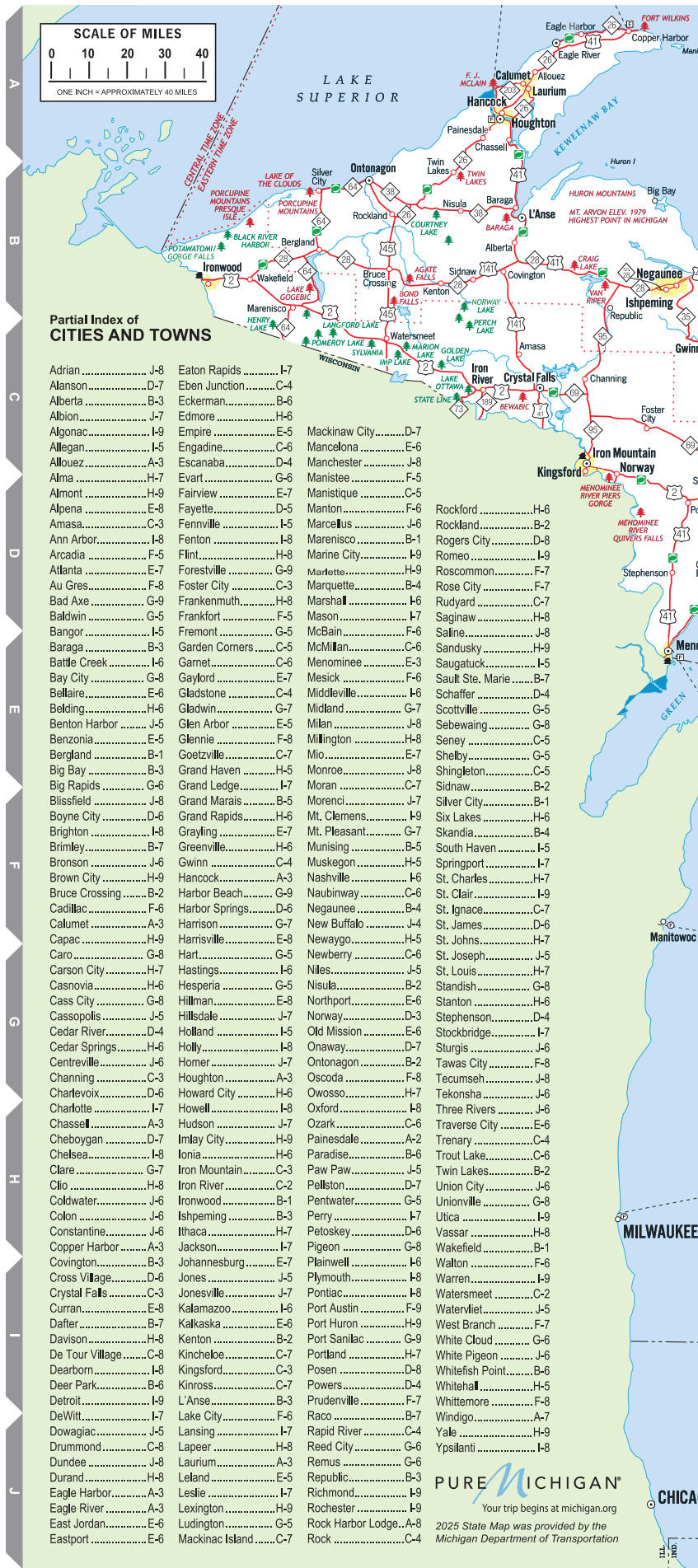


📍  
Fort Gratiot Light  
Station,  
Port Huron

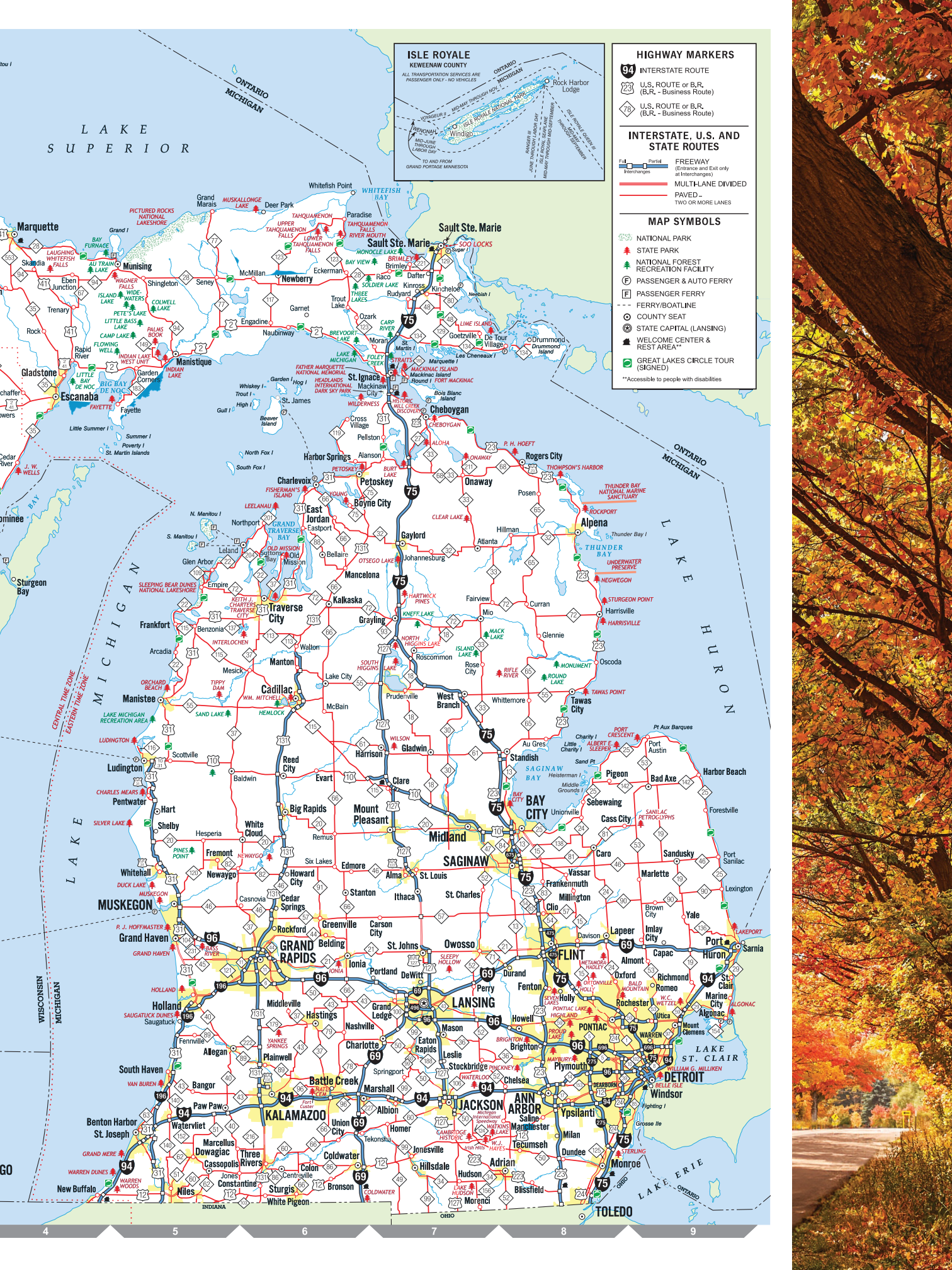


📍  
Greenfield Village,  
Dearborn









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

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- State Park
- National Forest Recreation Facility
- Passenger & Auto Ferry
- Passenger Ferry
- Ferry/Boatline
- County Seat
- State Capital (Lansing)
- Welcome Center & Rest Area\*\*
- Great Lakes Circle Tour (Signed)

\*\* Accessible to people with disabilities

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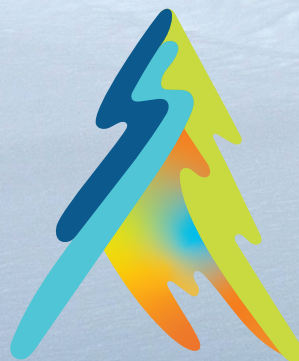


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Marie**  
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WINTER 2025

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Sturgeon River  
Paddlesports,  
Wolverine  
Photographer:  
Courtney Kent

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

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**25 ON THE SLOPES**  
Michigan dominates winter with high elevations and more than 40 ski areas.



Treetops Resort,  
Gaylord





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# WOODS AND WATERS



📍  
Forbush Corner,  
Frederic



📍  
Sturgeon River,  
Wolverine

## COLD PLAY

Viva la vida! Winter in Michigan is the season to live your best life—especially outdoors. Hit the powder on

*skis, fat bikes, snowmobiles and dogsleds.* Raft an icy river, paddling through  
*tunnels of trees* blanketed in white. Hike to frozen waterfalls, see the northern lights and lie back  
for a thrilling luge run. Or go for a horseback ride, perhaps *stepping by woods* on a snowy evening,  
à la the famous words written by Robert Frost, first poet-in-residence at the University of Michigan.



# SNOW *on* THE GO

Walking in a winter wonderland is only the start. You can bike, paddle, snowmobile and more. Just don't forget to pause and admire the forest blanketed under a layer of snow.



## SNO-GO SKI BIKE

Carve wide turns down powder-covered slopes on a nonmotorized Sno-Go bike, a ski-bicycle hybrid new to the **Porcupine Mountains Winter Sports Complex** in the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park in Ontonagon. Steer the handlebars to navigate through tree-lined paths and the park's 20 downhill runs, both set on the shore of Lake Superior.



## SKIJORING

Rent a harness at Marquette's **NTN Forestville Trailhead Chalet** to try skijoring, where dogs help pull cross-country skiers over the snow. Revel in onlooker's jealous stares as you and your four-legged friend work together on the uphill. Book a stay at Keweenaw Mountain Lodge in Copper Harbor and explore an additional 10 kilometers of terrain with your pup.

## FAT BIKE

Mountain biking doesn't end when snow falls; instead bike tires get wider. Cruise around smooth turns on the Pines and Cedars trails, two easy paths on the north side of Marquette's **NTN**. Those ready for a challenge can torch their muscles climbing snow-covered sand dunes at the **Silver Lake State Park ORV Area** and then whooshing down the other side.

## SNOWMOBILE

Trails beget trails near Cadillac, and local dealers, like **K and R Outfitters**, provide guided snowmobile tours. The 92-mile-long **Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park** plunges south and intersects with the **Pere Marquette Rail Trail**. Pause at the Muskegon River bridge crossing to watch for birds of prey diving after food. Or zoom west to the **Huron-Manistee National Forests**, a network of 600 trails zigzagging through pines.

## WINTER RAFTING

Flowing water rarely freezes, so bundle up for a float down the Sturgeon or Pine rivers, guided by outfitters such as **Sturgeon River Paddlesports** in Wolverine, **Big Bear Adventures** in Indian River, and **Pine River Paddlesports** in Wellston. Paddle through a tunnel of cedars sagging under the weight of ice and snow as animals sip at the river's edge. Add a hike on the Silver Creek Pathway to your Pine River exploration.



Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, Copper Harbor



near Cadillac

**DID YOU KNOW?** On average, 200 inches of powder fall annually in Houghton, making it the snowiest city in Michigan. Take advantage of the abundant white stuff at Nara Nature Park's sledding hill and the 50-plus miles of snowshoe-friendly paths shared between the wildlife area and the nearby Michigan Tech trail system.



**THE SKINNY ON**

# CROSS-COUNTRY

*Skiing*

Nordic skiing expert Mariah Frye welcomes visitors to Cross Country Ski Headquarters. Her family-owned outfitter on Higgins Lake near Roscommon offers specialty resources and a community atmosphere.



 Cross Country Ski Headquarters, Roscommon

**KICK AND GLIDE  
NEARBY**

Near Grayling, **Mason Tract Pathway** is among Frye's favorite classic skiing spots. Watch for icy conditions on the wild, 8-mile stretch along the Au Sable River. **Hanson Hills** features loops of various lengths on rolling terrain. Gentle hills, groomed for both classic- and skate-style, help skiers maintain momentum. At **Hartwick Pines State Park**, the 3-mile Aspen loop is beginner-friendly and maintained through part of an old-growth forest. In Frederic, **Forbush Corner** features state-of-the-art snowmaking for a longer season.



 Forbush Corner, Frederic

**A** winter destination beloved by generations,

**Cross Country Ski Headquarters** started as a mom-and-pop shop in 1974. Today's visitors can gear up, take lessons, traverse 11 miles of groomed trails, then enjoy live music, bonfires and locally sourced meals from Anavery Fine Foods at **Stone Turtle Day Lodge and Cafe**. "Almost everyone can have a good time on cross-country skis," says second-generation proprietor Mariah Frye.

Gliding joyfully starts with choosing gear and trails that fit your style and skills. The classic style uses a parallel motion similar to running, whereas skate skiing involves side-to-side, V-shape mechanics on shorter skis. Both encourage balance, coordination and fitness. Wear breathable, lightweight layers with a water-resistant shell to stay cozy even if you fall.

"You can self-pace," Frye says. "The kids can churn and burn, and whoever wants to shuffle along can enjoy the scenery."

Saturdays throughout winter, Cross Country Ski Headquarters hosts a free group lesson. Private instruction and clinics also attract elite athletes. Frye suggests novices follow established tracks toward Trapper's Cabin, a warm-up spot less than a mile from the trailhead.



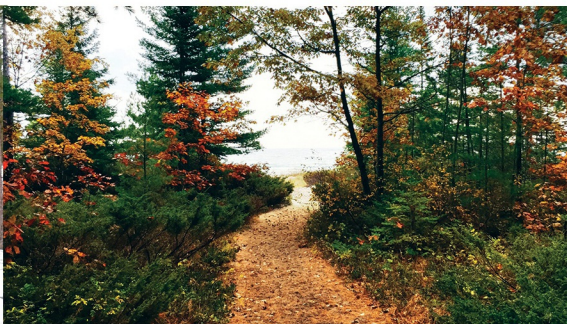


## #LightTherapy

Daybreak welcomes the sun, and evening brings out the moon and stars; the Alpena area is centrally located to 3 State of Michigan Dark Sky Preserve Parks, inspiring stargazers through all 4 seasons.

## Sanc'tu·ar'y (sangk-chōō-er-ee) n., pl - ies

1. A sacred place; 2. An escape from the stress of everyday life; 3. Where one leaves their cares behind to relax, restore, and rejuvenate. **4. Alpena, Michigan**



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Tina Gartley





# CITIES AND CULTURE



Traverse  
City



The Counting  
Room,  
Houghton

## BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG FLAVORS

With apologies to Shakespeare, now is the winter of your *contentment*—that is, if you spend part of it in Michigan. When you're not hitting the slopes, hit the towns for shopping, dining and nightlife. See cities large and small *glow* with the aura of *holiday lights*. Treat yourself to a stay at sophisticated urban lodgings, including hotels with *casino games* and *soothing spas*. And indulge at speakeasy-style bars inspired by the cocktails and clandestine vibe of the Prohibition era.



# SPARKLE *and* GLOW

Expect megawatt fun at holiday light shows, including a laser-splayed shipping dock and a twinkling botanic garden.



**FROM TOP**  
Holiday Nights in  
Greenfield Village,  
Dearborn;  
Christmas Holiday  
Magic at Crossroads  
Village, Flint

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY MAGIC AT CROSSROADS VILLAGE *Flint*

The caboose of the 1800s Huckleberry Railroad catches eyes at this outdoor historic museum. Take a ride to see twinkling lights or walk through the village and perhaps meet Santa himself.

## HOLIDAY NIGHTS IN GREENFIELD VILLAGE *Dearborn*

A living-history museum creates Christmas magic complete with brass band performances and holiday dinners at mid-1800s-era Eagle Tavern. “It’s Charles Dickens meets *It’s a Wonderful Life*,” says Jim Johnson, site director.

## NITE LITES *Brooklyn*

Steer through the same course as NASCAR pros while eyeing themed displays at Michigan International Speedway. On a winding 6-mile stretch, you’ll pass through illuminated tunnels and spot animated reindeer and elves. The most surprising spectacle? Lit-up dinosaurs.

## ENLIGHTEN AT FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS AND SCULPTURE PARK *Grand Rapids*

Lights synchronized to music make a show of art installations by the likes of Alexander Liberman and Auguste Rodin. After marveling at the conservatory display, venture outside to stroll the grounds and finish with a hot cocoa around the firepit.

## HOLIDAY LASERS ON THE ORE DOCK *Marquette*

Imagine a kaleidoscope as wide as the sky. The eye candy is projected from lasers at what was once one of the nation’s largest iron ore shipping ports. Watch from Lower Harbor Park, where you’ll be dazzled by light reflecting off Lake Superior.



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# Rejuvenation JACKPOT

Your Lucky 7s can come with a side of soothing at casinos that feature on-site spas. For those who like to blend wellness with their gaming fun, these spots are sure winners.

## **GUN LAKE CASINO RESORT** *Wayland*

The state-of-the-art poker room is the place to be for betting. Meanwhile, serenity comes knocking at MnoYé Spa. Dip into the vitality pool and unwind with a signature facial and massage. New this year, swim in one of two pools under a glass atrium at tropical Wawyé Oasis.

## **ISLAND RESORT CASINO** *Harris*

An interactive slot-finder map guides you to your favorite levers. When you need to hit the off switch, Drift Spa has nature-based regimens. Try the Signature Sweetgrass facial or body treatment.

## **LITTLE RIVER CASINO RESORT** *Manistee*

Mind-body payoff is promised at Nectar Spa and Salon with a new dry salt room. Take a few deep breaths in the steam room and sauna before heading to the gaming floor, where you can up the ante at a blackjack or Texas Hold 'Em table.

## **MOTORCITY CASINO HOTEL** *Detroit*

Power through 2,500 slots. For your hard work, let the specialists at D.Tour Spa give you a pat on the back—or try a Pink Cadillac Body Wrap or an Ocean Dew Remineralizing Anti-Stress Body Wrap.

## **SOARING EAGLE CASINO AND RESORT** *Mount Pleasant*

It's bingo time. Progressive jackpots add thrills to the game, as does the chance to reward yourself with steak from Ruth's Chris, attached to the hotel. For a break in the action, try a reflexology treatment with hot stones at the spa.

**FROM LEFT**  
Island  
Resort Casino,  
Harris;  
MotorCity  
Casino Hotel,  
Detroit

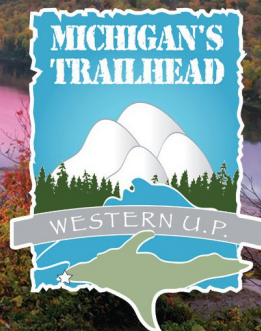
STORY: KELLY AIGLON. PHOTOGRAPHS: (ISLAND RESORT) COURTESY OF ISLAND RESORT CASINO, (MOTORCITY) COURTESY OF MOTORCITY CASINO HOTEL





# MICHIGAN'S TRAILS START HERE

Western Upper Peninsula Visitors Bureau  
Bessemer | Wakefield | Marenisco | Bergland | Watersmeet



[ExploreWesternUP.com](http://ExploreWesternUP.com)



# SECRET *Service*

Speak softly and carry a big swizzle stick at speakeasy bars that draw inspiration from the classic cocktails and cloak of secrecy associated with Prohibition.

*When Prohibition outlawed alcohol sales from 1920 to 1933, bars went undercover. Speakeasies (so-named because you talked quietly about them) served on the sly to people who found the right door and said the right words to get in. Today, many perfectly legal Michigan bars cultivate a moody and secretive speakeasy vibe.*

## **THE COUNTING ROOM** *Houghton*

This hideout is safely deposited in the basement of The Vault Hotel, which occupies the 1887 Houghton National Bank building.

**Access** There's no secret password, but this spot is for hotel guests and members only—no exceptions.

**Signature cocktail**  
Lemon Drop

## **IDC (I DON'T CARE)** *Grand Rapids*

The covered, year-round balcony bar at the Amway Grand Plaza hotel offers indoor and outdoor seating, plus great downtown views.

**Access** Sign up on their website to get the entry code for the door keypad.

**Signature cocktail**  
Donnas Kiss

## **THE X** *Flint*

Enjoy an air of sophistication and glamour downtown: dim lights, striking wall art, R&B tunes and comfy seating.

**Access** Look for the red neon X, ring the doorbell, go upstairs and find a matching X on a James Bond-esque bookcase. Voilà!

**Signature cocktail**  
Fairy Soirée (garnished with an edible paper butterfly)

## **MORE** **SPEAKEASIES**

### **2FOG'S PUB, HOWELL**

Started by "two friendly old guys," the basement bar features an alley entrance and a cocktail menu that honors Prohibition-era figures.

### **BAD LUCK BAR, DETROIT**

Experimental cocktails meet chemistry at this back-alley bar. If the door is locked, call the posted number.

### **JOHNNY'S SPEAKEASY, ROYAL OAK**

When you're craving a potent potable, this underground haven is, well, Johnny-on-the-spot. The 'Old Smokey' Old-Fashioned is a favorite.

### **THE LAST WORD, ANN ARBOR**

This place is named for a cocktail made famously by the Detroit Athletic Club around 1920.

### **LOW BAR, TRAVERSE CITY**

Underneath 7 Monks Taproom, sip modern takes on classic concoctions powered by 70-plus whiskeys.



 The Counting Room, Houghton



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# FOLLOW YOU



📍  
Keweenaw  
Mountain Lodge,  
Copper Harbor

Layer up for an icy expedition or ease into the hushed hygge of a cabin surrounded by snow with weekend itineraries that maximize short days.

WRITER BRIANNE SANCHEZ

PHOTOGRAPHS: (LODGE) FELICIA FULLWOOD, (DOGS) AARON PETERSON





# R PASSION

## DOG-LOVERS

*Treat your canine companion to the powdery pathways of the eastern Upper Peninsula, or meet teams of sled dogs eager to pull through wintry woods.*

McMillan is home to **Nature's Kennel Sled Dog Adventures**, a destination that puts you in the driver's seat. Learn to mush (or merrily ride along) as thick-coated Alaskan huskies with names like Mac, Roni and Cheese show their strength on snowy paths. Owner Tasha Stielstra's 130 animals are friendly ambassadors for the ancient sport. "What sets us apart is that this is a place for dog-lovers to experience working dogs doing the work they love," she says. The established outfitter runs an adoption program for retired sled dogs, but she asks participants not to bring their own pets on-site. Find a Fido-friendly hotel like **Adoba** in Naubinway, instead. Here, **Moofinfries** is a local favorite for burgers, fried fish and ice cream. Leashed dogs are welcome on the **Tahquamenon Falls State Park** trails near Paradise and at **Muskallonge Lake State Park** (except during the Tahquamenon Country Sled Dog Race) in Newberry.



Nature's Kennel  
Sled Dog  
Adventures,  
McMillan





## EXPLORERS

*Join ice climbers and snowmobilers who converge on Munising, a must-visit for its frozen waterfalls and abundant annual snowfall, which can exceed 200 inches.*

Sturdy curtains of ice beckon from the porous sandstone cliffs at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. December through March, all park roads except Sand Point Road turn into snowmobile trails. In February, a global community of climbers gathers here for **Michigan Ice Fest**, which turns Lake Superior's frosty shoreline into a hot spot. The celebration includes classes, competitions—and a speed-dating component. Newbie? Guided ice climbing trips help beginners sample the sport. Even bystanders may want ice cleats to navigate the 0.5-mile road to The Dryer Hose, a classic climb. Refuel at **Tracey's** restaurant inside **Roam Inn**, a boutique hotel on Munising Bay. Or stay at the **Holiday Inn Express Lakeview** and find local flavor at eateries like **Falling Rock Cafe and Bookstore** and the vegetarian-friendly **Driftwood Deli**, which neighbors **ByGeorge Brewing Company**. Toast to a successful excursion (or love match!) with Snow Pants Romance, a Belgian Witbier.

  
Pictured Rocks  
National  
Lakeshore,  
Munising

PHOTOGRAPHS: (ICE CLIMBING) AARON PETERSON, (LODGE) FELICIA FULLWOOD



## NIGHT OWLS

*When you take a cue from nocturnal creatures, winter is a hoot. Head to the Keweenaw, a spot where the sky puts on an unforgettable show.*

Copper Harbor's natural wonders shine long after sunset, thanks to **Keweenaw Dark Sky Park**. Whether the moon is full or merely a sliver, this spot is internationally recognized for its stargazing potential. Guests at **Keweenaw Mountain Lodge** can borrow a telescope from the Outdoor Activity Center to get a closer look at constellations. Gazing from atop Brockway Mountain and the shores of Lake Superior, the aurora borealis is often visible here between October and April. Occasional on-site workshops help shutterbugs capture the beauty of the northern lights on camera. Moonlit snowshoe hikes are also popular, as is cross-country skiing on 10 kilometers of groomed trails that run past the historic Keweenaw Mountain Lodge. The privately owned Works Progress Administration-era wilderness resort includes dining options like Little Cabin Cafe and the Tasting Post, which offers private dinners. Their multicourse prix fixe meals rely on simple, quality ingredients prepared by a globally influenced kitchen team.



Keweenaw  
Mountain Lodge,  
Copper Harbor





A child wearing a red helmet and a black suit is sliding down a narrow, icy track. Two other children, one in a blue helmet and one in a white helmet, are standing on the side of the track, watching the child slide. The track is made of ice and is bordered by wooden walls. The background shows a snowy landscape with trees and a wooden structure.

## THRILL SEEKERS

*Whoosh down an Olympic luge track, plus ski, skate and snowshoe in Muskegon, where adaptive options help adventurers of all abilities feel a rush.*

Snag a multiactivity pass to **Muskegon Luge Adventure Sports Park** and spend the weekend in a lakeside town known for its beginner-friendly Olympic natural ice track and adaptable outdoor activities. Warm up by the bonfire after luge lessons or hours spent traversing the groomed ski trails and scenic snowshoe paths. People with disabilities can also borrow an all-terrain track chair at nearby Muskegon State Park. Capable of handling snowy terrain, it invites everyone to enjoy exploring Michigan's winter trails. Then, hit the hot tub at **Shoreline Inn**, Muskegon's downtown waterfront hotel. Or relax in a room that showcases the small city's skyline at **Delta Hotels Muskegon by Marriott**. To tickle taste buds, start with sips and shareables at the **Unruly Brewing Company** taproom. For dinner, order a fresh catch from **The Lake House Waterfront Grille**, where the dress code is casual but the menu is elevated. Going with a group? Request a reservation and end the night at **Hearthstone Bistro** with their dark chocolate pie in a chocolate almond crust.



Muskegon Luge  
Adventure Sports Park,  
Muskegon





Tawas Point  
State Park,  
East Tawas

## CHIONOPHILES

*Those who love cold weather and snow can find plenty of it along Lake Huron's coastline, where polar plunges and ice fishing promise frozen fun.*

Sometimes called the Cape Cod of the Midwest, **Tawas Point State Park's** stunning sunrises are as alluring in snowy months as in summer. Book a stay in one of two colorful mini cabins or lake-view camper cabins to bask in the tranquility of the off-season. The first full weekend in February, things get livelier as East Tawas holds Perchville USA. The annual multiday celebration includes ATV barrel races, an ice fishing tournament, fish fry, "chilly" cook-off and polar bear plunge. Need gear for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing at the nearly 30-mile Corsair Trail or Sandy Hook Nature Trail? **Nordic Sport** is a one-stop shop with friendly, knowledgeable staff. Warm up with hand-tossed pies at **G's Pizzeria** or libations at the **Boathouse Beer Company and Boozery**, which also serves food and cocktails. **Social Oak Chophouse and Wine Bar** is another place to thaw out over an upscale meal in a snug atmosphere.



# TWO SEASONS ENDLESS ADVENTURES



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ON THE

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Paired with the Great Lakes, Michigan's steepest terrain can get more than a dozen feet of snow—making these spots a playground for you to carve through the powder.

WRITER TREE MEINCH



Mount Bohemia Ski  
Resort and Nordic  
Spa, Lac La Belle



# FULL-SERVICE RESORTS

## THE HIGHLANDS AT HARBOR SPRINGS

One day barely scratches the snowy surface with three terrain parks, 50-plus runs, a zipline and other outdoor attractions. You can book a luxurious hotel room or condo with a full kitchen near the slopes. Between downhill turns, warm up with heated seats on the new Camelot 6 bubble chairlift, touted as the fastest lift in the Midwest.

## BOYNE MOUNTAIN RESORT, BOYNE FALLS

String together morning powder runs, an afternoon spa treatment and a few waterslide drops—all before dinner. The sprawling property claims one of Michigan's largest indoor water parks and SkyBridge Michigan, the world's longest timber-towered suspension bridge. Even dining feels novel when you book a heated transparent igloo at The Back Forty Biergarten.

## CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN, THOMPSONVILLE

The resort village looks like a scene from a Hallmark movie with twinkling lights, snow-capped bungalows, and inviting restaurants and lounges overlooking ski slopes. The full-scale resort has 59 downhill runs, cross-country ski trails, an award-winning spa, and an on-site art park (Michigan Legacy Art Park) for hikers and snowshoers to explore. Rent a fat-tire bike and pedal to nearby Iron Fish Distillery, Michigan's first farm-based distillery.

## TREETOPS RESORT, GAYLORD

Think of it as a winter base camp in a snowy wonderland. If the 27 downhill runs plus three terrain parks aren't your pace, try snowshoeing, Nordic skiing or a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Spin out on the extreme tubing park's snowy bowl as your tube descends 400 feet while dropping 80 vertical feet. A magic carpet brings tubers back to the top.

## SCHUSS MOUNTAIN AT SHANTY CREEK, BELLAIRE

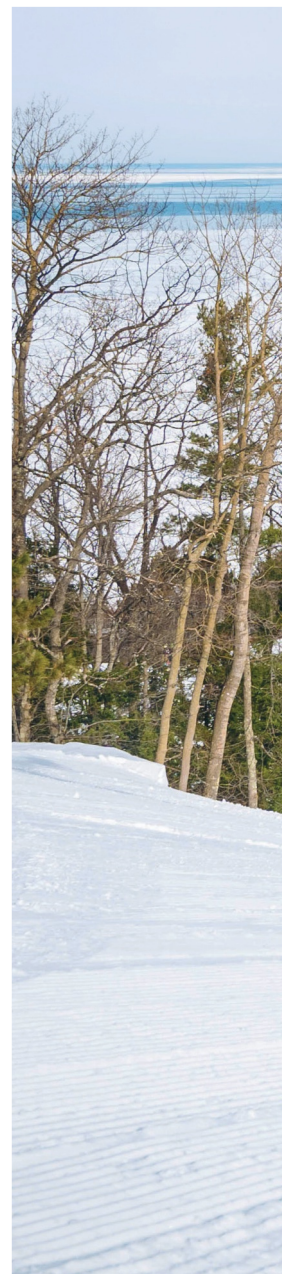
Customized ski-and-stay packages are a game changer at this winter dreamland with nearly 300 lodging options. Add some discounted lift tickets or dining tickets while booking for members of your party, according to their taste. On the weekend, sign up for a scenic snow-glide tour pulled by a monster snowmobile to see the sprawling property.

## THE HOMESTEAD, GLEN ARBOR

Surrounded by Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, the views from the top show off Glen Lake, Lake Michigan and the namesake dunes. Limited ticket sales make for small crowds and wide-open trails for guests on the slopes. Local ingredients shine at each dining spot, and firepits abound across the property to comfort the body and soul.



**CLOCKWISE  
FROM BELOW**  
Boyne Mountain  
Resort,  
Boyne Falls;  
The Homestead,  
Glen Arbor;  
Crystal Mountain,  
Thompsonville;  
Treetops Resort,  
Gaylord



## BORN TO SHRED

Snowboarding began in Muskegon when Sherman Popper invented the snurfer in 1965.





PHOTOGRAPHS: TRAVEL MICHIGAN, (BOYNE MOUNTAIN RESORT) NATE LUKE, (TREETOPS RESORT) COURTNEY KENT





## MOUNTAIN LODGES AND CABINS

### OTSEGO RESORT, GAYLORD

This Sturgeon River Valley property adds new glades each year for tree skiers capitalizing on snowbelt precipitation. It feels like a best-kept secret when you warm up with a cocoa or cup of chili beside one of the River Cabin's firepits on the backside of the ski hills. Choose between chalets, town houses, hotel rooms, lofts and upscale suites.

### 📍 CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT

Mount Bohemia  
Ski Resort and  
Nordic Spa,  
LacLaBelle (2);  
Otsego Resort,  
Gaylord; Big  
Powderhorn  
Mountain Resort,  
Bessemer





PHOTOGRAPHS: (MOUNT BOHEMIA) RYAN DONNELL, (OTSEGO) COURTNEY KENT, (BIG POWDERHORN) FELICIA FULLWOOD

### PINE MOUNTAIN SKI AND GOLF RESORT, IRON MOUNTAIN

You may recognize the Pine Mountain Ski Jump, known as one of the world's best ski-jumping hills and hosting competitions since 1939. A web of groomed trails and runs for all skill levels complement the 176-foot-tall artificial jump. Take it all in with a ski-in, ski-out room, cabin or condo based on your unique needs—some sleep six or more people.

### BIG POWDERHORN MOUNTAIN RESORT, BESSEMER

Check into a condo or a ski-in, ski-out chalet to beat the morning line at the chairlift. Outside your cozy accommodations, the Gogebic Range of Michigan boasts more than 17 feet of average snowfall. There's even a Bavarian-style ski village, a full-service bar and grill, and a grab-and-go cafeteria-style restaurant to complete the package.



### CABERFAE PEAKS, CADILLAC

Claim discounted lift tickets when you book one of 39 rooms in the Mackenzie Lodge at the base of the slopes. There's also an outdoor heated pool, a hot tub and a firepit to help you defrost after a day of downhill delights.

### SKI BRULE, IRON RIVER

Many of the overnight chalets feature a private hot tub and wood-burning fireplace. The historic mid-mountain Homestead Lodge hosts regular live music and a beloved barbecue dinner every Saturday—only eclipsed by the weekly Friday fish fry in the Brule Saloon.

### MOUNT BOHEMIA SKI RESORT AND NORDIC SPA, LAC LA BELLE

This backcountry paradise caters to advanced skiers with a vertical drop of 900 feet, the highest in the Midwest. Back at base camp, rejuvenate the body and mind with a Scandinavian-inspired spa experience, including a eucalyptus steam cabin, a cold plunge pool and even a Himalayan salt sauna at the Nordic Spa. Spend the night in a cabin or yurt.

### SNOWRIVER MOUNTAIN RESORT, WAKEFIELD

Powder-lovers flock to these peaks for snow and picturesque tree glades. The resort spans two mountains, Black River Basin and Jackson Creek, and as of two years ago, touts the only high-speed, six-person chairlift in the Upper Peninsula.



# SKI HILLS

*Shred for the day or a weekend. These beloved ski destinations pack snowy terrain for every skill level.*

## NUB'S NOB, HARBOR SPRINGS

RUNS 53

CHAIRLIFTS 8

VERTICAL DROP 427 FEET

The beginner area is free of charge and includes one run, one lift and The Big Time Conveyor.

## MARQUETTE MOUNTAIN, MARQUETTE

RUNS 29

CHAIRLIFTS 3

VERTICAL DROP 540 FEET

Advanced and expert terrain make up more than half of the trails, with eight double black diamond runs.

## MONT RIPLEY, HANCOCK

RUNS 25

CHAIRLIFTS 3

VERTICAL DROP 440 FEET

This is the oldest ski area in Michigan, operated by Michigan Technological University in the state's snowiest city.

## PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STATE PARK, ONTONAGON

RUNS 20

CHAIRLIFTS 3

VERTICAL DROP 670 FEET

Rent a Sno-Go bike to experience the exhilarating combination of skiing and biking through powder and groomed trails.

## MT. HOLLY, HOLLY

RUNS 19

CHAIRLIFTS 7

VERTICAL DROP 350 FEET

Ride the new Lightning Express chairlift.

## CANNONSBURG, BELMONT

RUNS 21

CHAIRLIFTS 3

VERTICAL DROP 250 FEET

A magic carpet whisks sledders up the hill after a tube ride at the state's largest tubing facility.

## BITTERSWEET, OTSEGO

RUNS 20

CHAIRLIFTS 6

VERTICAL DROP 350 FEET

Tuesdays draw a crowd for the Bell's Brewing Adult Race League, with weekly prizes and swag for participants.



Marquette Mountain, Marquette







**THE PORKIES**

Weekend  
adventurers love  
the variety of ski  
runs, including  
backcountry, glades  
and a terrain park.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (MARQUETTE) AARON PETERSON,  
(PORKIES) FELICIA FULLWOOD

**ALPINE VALLEY,  
WHITE LAKE**

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| <u>RUNS</u>          | <u>15</u>       |
| <u>CHAIRLIFTS</u>    | <u>5</u>        |
| <u>VERTICAL DROP</u> | <u>300 FEET</u> |

Listen to live music at the Hornets Nest Lounge. (Check the events calendar for details.)

**MT. BRIGHTON,  
BRIGHTON**

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| <u>RUNS</u>          | <u>24</u>       |
| <u>CHAIRLIFTS</u>    | <u>5</u>        |
| <u>VERTICAL DROP</u> | <u>230 FEET</u> |

The resort has committed to zero net emissions and zero waste to landfills by 2030 as part of its Vail Resorts Epic Promise.

**PINE KNOB SKI AND  
SNOWBOARD RESORT,  
CLARKSTON**

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| <u>RUNS</u>          | <u>14</u>       |
| <u>CHAIRLIFTS</u>    | <u>5</u>        |
| <u>VERTICAL DROP</u> | <u>302 FEET</u> |

Each season, the ski and snowboard school hosts multiday terrain park camps and race camps.