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FALL 2026 TRAVEL GUIDE

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CONTENTS



ON OUR COVER

Sugarloaf Mountain,
Marquette
Photographer:
Aaron Peterson

WOODS & WATERS

- 4 SPORTING LIFE
- 8 MILES AND MIST

CITIES & CULTURE

- 14 CRUISING
THROUGH
CAR CULTURE
- 18 THE REST IS
HISTORY

24

AUTUMN STARTS NOW

Explore some of the
state's best places
to find fall color.

30

WHERE THE ROAD MEETS THE SHORE

Fall foliage pops
along these coastal
scenic drives.



MEMORIES

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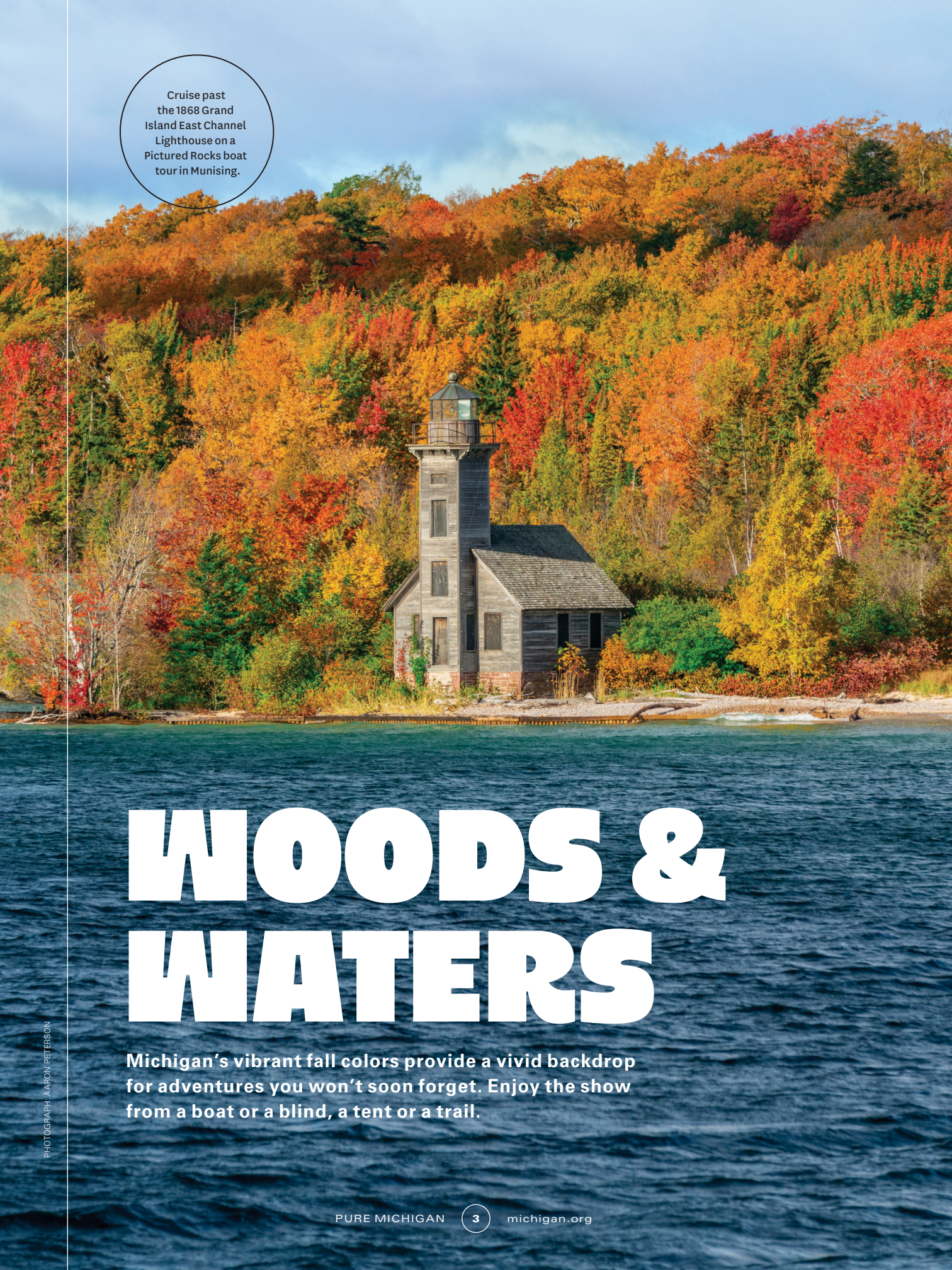
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Cruise past
the 1868 Grand
Island East Channel
Lighthouse on a
Pictured Rocks boat
tour in Munising.

WOODS & WATERS

Michigan's vibrant fall colors provide a vivid backdrop for adventures you won't soon forget. Enjoy the show from a boat or a blind, a tent or a trail.

PHOTOGRAPH: AARON PETERSON



LEFT
Big Manistee River

BELOW
*Lake Michigan,
near Grand Haven*

Colorful shorelines and active fish make fall one of Michigan's most rewarding seasons to get on the water.



IN SEASON

SPORTING LIFE

Come autumn, Michigan swaps greens for earthier hues. Exploring this version of the landscape requires a trade from you, too—ditch your shorts and tees for a sweater and jacket and get to frolicking.

FISHING

Many fish alter their habits in fall, creating enticing challenges for anglers who monitor migration patterns. Seek out a Michigan Department of Natural Resources specialist for intel.

Sunlight sparkles off a spinner as you reel it slowly back to the Little Manistee River's shore. Suddenly, an angry coho salmon darts out from a log jam and bites the flashy lure. "It's very visual," Scott Heintzelman says of the ensuing battle. "They chase the lure right up to the end of the rod. You can see the whole attack happening in slow motion." As the Central Lake Michigan Unit manager

of Michigan DNR's Fisheries Division and an avid fisherman, Heintzelman has pursued plenty of the state's water dwellers. Autumn adds a fun wrinkle to the sport—it's when many fish, including the coho, spawn in the rivers. Other species forgo Lake Michigan's blue depths and swim closer to shore as water temperatures drop. Anglers casting from the beach will fight steelhead or brown trout, which leap into the air once they've been hooked. "They are some of the more exciting species that you will catch in the Great Lakes," Heintzelman says.

FREE FISHING WEEKENDS

Twice a year, the Michigan DNR waives all fishing license fees for residents and out-of-state visitors, although standard fishing regulations, such as bag limits and size restrictions, still apply. Winter (February 20–21) and Summer (June 12–13).



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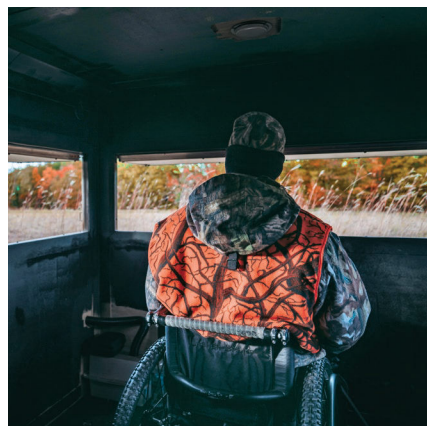
906.632.3366

HUNTING

This time-honored tradition plunges visitors into the rhythms of Michigan in the fall, when wildlife enters a flurry of activity preparing for hibernation.

Autumnal foliage disguising a hunting blind shifts in the wind, its vibrations mixing with the squeaks of a duck whistle and near-tangible anticipation. Such is the scene at Fennville Farm Unit, a 4,100-acre preserve that's one of

seven managed waterfowl hunting destinations that offer drawings for free hunting seasonal permits known as Wetland Wonders in the Lower Peninsula. In the UP, trek along hunting paths in regions like the Ottawa National Forest, which allows both bow and rifle hunting, patiently waiting for abundant white-tailed deer and grouse to reveal themselves. Those with reduced mobility hunker down in an accessible blind in Hartwick Pines State Park about 75 minutes east of Traverse City or in Holly Recreation Area outside metro Detroit.



Lace up your boots and head to the accessible Lake of the Clouds Overlook. For peak color, visit in late September and early October.

CAMPING

Temperatures may turn crisp when autumn arrives in Michigan, but unzipping your tent to foliage painted with ochre and copper makes donning a few extra layers worth it.

Campgrounds remain open year-round in many of the state's recreational areas, like Bay City State Park, where its 2,000 acres of

forests, prairies, and marshlands are a veritable magnet for migrating birds. In the UP's Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, emerge from your firewood-heated yurt for a morning hike to Lake of the Clouds Scenic Overlook. There, EnChroma-enabled viewers give guests who have red-green color blindness the opportunity to see the changing colors of the forest more clearly.



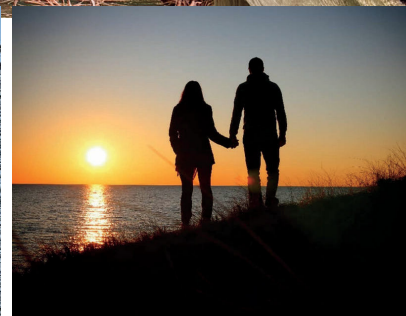
TOP
Waterloo State
Recreation Area,
Chelsea

BOTTOM
Lake of the Clouds
Scenic Overlook,
Porcupine Mountains
Wilderness State Park

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!

PURELUDINGTON.COM



ON THE TRAIL

MILES AND MIST

Autumn colors and cooler days beckon Michigan travelers out of the state's many swimming holes and onto its trails. Hikers, cyclists, and waterfall chasers of all levels can find a journey to undertake.



WATERFALL WAY-FINDING

EASY

TAHQUAMENON FALLS STATE PARK PARADISE

Park manager Kevin Dennis says the recent addition of a 1,100-foot accessible boardwalk means visitors can see the 200-foot-wide Upper Falls from the viewing platform. Don't ignore the cliffs around the falls. "Water seeps out of the rock, and it'll be blue and green and make really cool ice formations in the winter," Dennis says.

ADVENTUROUS

MORGAN FALLS MARQUETTE

Leashed dogs love to explore as much as their human companions, especially when the murmur of rushing water grows to a howl as you stroll down Marquette Mountain Road. (The 3-mile route is closed to motorized traffic.) Wood stairs and a steep decline lead to 20-foot-tall Morgan Falls, its cascading waters plunging into a pond.

CHALLENGING

BLACK RIVER WATERFALLS TRAIL NEAR IRONWOOD

Foaming whitewater dances through Ottawa National Forest, forming five distinct waterfall destinations (from Lake Superior: Rainbow, Sandstone, Gorge, Potawatomi, and Great Conglomerate falls). The total waterfall-to-waterfall section along the North Country Trail is an 8.5-mile round-trip trek. Different trails lead to each—the longest is a 0.75-mile stretch to Great Conglomerate Falls, a cascading duo separated by rock. Some waterfall platforms and trails may be closed while major repairs and improvements happen along the Black River Waterfalls Trail.



TOP
Ocqueoc Falls,
near Rogers City

BOTTOM
Tahquamenon
Falls, near
Paradise



One of the largest
waterfalls east
of the Mississippi,
Tahquamenon also has
Lower Falls, 4 miles
downstream.

DID YOU KNOW?

Of Michigan's 300 named waterfalls, several are highly accessible, including the United States' first universally accessible waterfall: Ocqueoc Falls in the Lower Peninsula, near Rogers City.

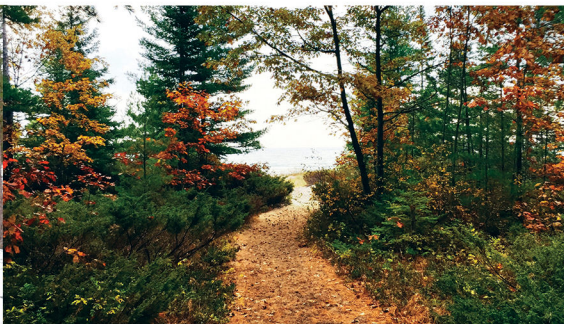


#LightTherapy

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-chōo-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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STEP INTO NATURE

EASY

STURGEON RIVER PRESERVE VANDERBILT

Crimson leaves flutter to the ground as families roam along the preserve's boardwalk or one of two trails curving through the maples. Headwaters Land Conservancy owns the land, and Deputy Director Dianne Farner says adventuring doesn't stop come winter. "We'll actually light up that smaller trail for people to snowshoe at night," she says.

ADVENTUROUS

JORDAN RIVER PATHWAY ELMIRA

Set aside at least two days to backpack the 18.8-mile loop through this protected forest. Start by gazing down from Deadman's Hill onto the tapestry of treetops. Then, trek directly into the kaleidoscope to observe beavers on the shorelines. Leave time for a detour to the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery.



CHALLENGING

GREENSTONE RIDGE TRAIL ISLE ROYALE

Board a seaplane or ferry to reach Isle Royale National Park (closes October 31 for the season), the site of the 40-plus-mile Greenstone Ridge Trail. During the multiday backpacking adventure, weave between birch trees, witness moose sip water, and watch the sun slip behind the horizon from Mount Desor, the park's highest point.

CLOCKWISE
FROM TOP

Kal-Haven Trail, South Haven; Ludington State Park; Greenstone Ridge Trail, Isle Royale

PATHS FOR PEDALERS

EASY

KAL-HAVEN TRAIL KALAMAZOO TO SOUTH HAVEN

The 34-mile trail is relatively flat terrain. Along the way, spot the Kibbie ghost town, one of 31 points of interest marked by informational panels between towns. When winter arrives, opt for a fat-tire bike to grip the surface and potentially avoid excessive sliding.

ADVENTUROUS

LITTLE TRAVERSE WHEELWAY CHARLEVOIX TO HARBOR SPRINGS

The nonprofit Top of Michigan Trails Council oversees the Wheelway. Spokesperson Eric Cox suggests choosing which part of the 26-mile paved path to explore based on your desired experience. A lakeside breeze tickles grinning faces on the Little Traverse Bay stretch, and ornate homes practically pose in Harbor Springs. Or detour into Petoskey State Park to see the sun glinting off sugar-sand dunes: "If you ride your bike in there, you get in for free," Cox says.

CHALLENGING

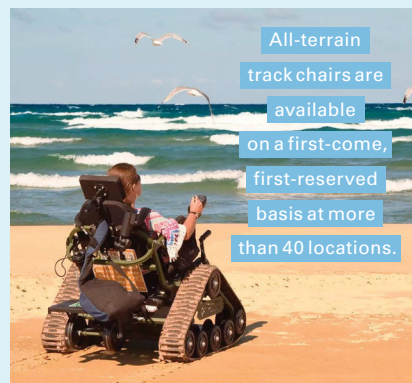
GRAND ISLAND NATIONAL RECREATION AREA MUNISING

Pedal hard to keep bike wheels churning through sand and gravel or to the top of 150-foot cliffs overlooking Lake Superior, both challenges you'll face on the 20-mile loop. Either bring your own wheels (no e-bikes allowed) or rent a mountain bike from Grand Island Ferry Service, the same company that carries visitors from Munising to this sparsely populated island with a few private residences.



ACCESSIBLE TRAILS

Michigan's Department of Natural Resources continues to make the outdoors more accessible with track chairs (available first-come, first reserved), color-blind scenic viewers, ADA campsites, and more. Along Lake Erie in Monroe, Sterling State Park recently paved 2.95-mile Marsh Trail and 1-mile River Raisin Heritage Trail, both flat surfaces. Other projects include Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail's 22 mostly paved miles through Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Stone remains of a potato barn grace the 17-mile Leelanau Trail that starts in Traverse City, and a pale yellow abandoned bed-and-breakfast stands along the 2.5-mile Harrisville Heritage Route Trail, both paved. Stony Creek Metropark pairs a 6.1-mile, paved Hike-Bike Trail with all-terrain beach wheelchair rentals, and several Michigan-run beaches, like the one in Ludington State Park, rent track chairs.



All-terrain
track chairs are
available
on a first-come,
first-reserved
basis at more
than 40 locations.



When your business is in Michigan, **our business is you.**

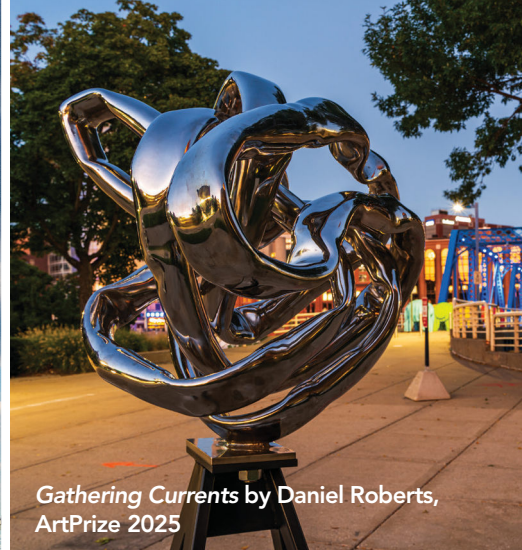
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Gathering Currents by Daniel Roberts,
ArtPrize 2025

ArtPrize

Sep 17 - Oct 3

**Christkindl
Markt**

Nov 18 - Dec 24

**World of
Winter**

Jan 8 - Feb 28, 2027

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Kinetic Perspective by
Juan Fuentes Studio,
World of Winter 2025

CITIES & CULTURE

Gather and Grace stocks fashionable finds for your home and body in Houghton on the Keweenaw Peninsula.

In Michigan's towns, drive down memory lane, experience the past, and indulge like there's no tomorrow.



The Gilmore Car Museum hosts seasonal events, such as Wednesday Night Cruise-Ins (through October 14).

CRUISING THROUGH CAR CULTURE

Michigan and automaking were just meant for each other. Together, sparks ignited—literally. Experience their 100-plus-year legacy through museums, milestones, and music.



FORD PIQUETTE AVENUE PLANT MUSEUM DETROIT

This 1904 Victorian brick building gave birth to Henry Ford's Model T car. Today, it houses a rebuilt version of Ford's secret experimental room, bays showing how early models were put together at individual stations (before the moving assembly line launched at the Highland Park plant), and more than 65 rare vehicles. "The Model T was the iPhone of its day," says Jill Woodward, museum president and CEO. "This unprecedented car sparked a worldwide revolution in human mobility that influenced manufacturing, transportation, and urban planning—but also social and cultural trends." The museum has welcomed visitors from 77 countries, including Mongolia, Madagascar, and Uruguay—wherever the ubiquitous car was sold. "By the early 1920s," Woodward says, "every other car on the planet was a Model T."

GILMORE CAR MUSEUM HICKORY CORNERS

You'll be back in driver's ed when you arrange to go for a spin in a Ford Model T from the museum's vintage fleet with a ride-along instructor (May through September). The *Defined by Design* exhibit (through March 2027) features experimental dream cars from GM's 1950s Motorama shows. "In a small town like Hickory Corners, the automobile completely changed daily life," says Nick LaCasse, the museum's executive director. "Cars brought city conveniences to rural families and reshaped what everyday life looked like."

PHOTOGRAPHS: (CAR) CHARLES WHITMAN, (FACTORY) BRAD ZIEGLER

THE ODOMETER OF HISTORY

A high-horsepower mix of entrepreneurial spirit and manufacturing know-how drive Michigan to the lead in the worldwide automotive race as evidenced by these motoring milestones.

1886	Ransom E. Olds receives his first patent for a gasoline-powered car.	1914	The first Dodge car is assembled at a plant in Hamtramck.
1896	Henry Ford builds his first automobile, the Quadricycle, and test-drives it on Detroit's Grand River Avenue.	1925	Walter Chrysler reorganizes the Maxwell Motor Company as the Chrysler Corporation.
1897	Ransom E. Olds establishes the Olds Motor Vehicle Company in Lansing.	1929	GM becomes the top U.S. automaker and becomes the world's largest in 1931.
1901	Olds introduces the Curved-Dash Oldsmobile, considered the first mass-produced automobile.	1942	World War II brings a halt to civilian auto production. Michigan plants shift to manufacturing military equipment. Symbolized by "Rosie the Riveter," millions of women go to work in the factories.
1903	Ford Motor Company is incorporated in Detroit and takes its first order for a Model A.	1961	GM installs its first robotic arm in a factory; the technology soon spreads to Michigan.
1907	Andersen Carriage Company debuts the Detroit Electric, one of the first electric vehicles.	1964	Henry Ford II unveils the Ford Mustang at the World's Fair in New York.
1908	Ford produces its first Model T; William Durant incorporates General Motors.	2010	Production begins on the first-generation Chevy Volt, a pioneering hybrid electric vehicle.
1913	Ford installs the first moving assembly line at its Highland Park plant, cutting Model T production time from 12.5 hours per car to 93 minutes.	2015	Ford tests its first fully autonomous vehicle (AV)—no human driver or passenger.

FROM LEFT
Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Corners; Ford Rouge Factory, Dearborn

THE HENRY FORD, GREENFIELD VILLAGE, AND FORD ROUGE FACTORY TOUR DEARBORN

Gear up for a three-cylinder joyride through automotive innovation and evolution. Inside The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, discover iconic vehicles like JFK's 1961 Lincoln Continental limo, Rosa Parks' historic bus, a 1965 Mustang, and the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile. At outdoor Greenfield Village, walk through the home where Henry Ford was born and a replica of his first workshop. You can even take a test-ride in an authentic restored Model T. On the Ford Rouge Factory Tour,

watch from an elevated walkway as today's F-150 pickups are assembled on a working line, then view the complex from the factory's living roof and observation deck.

R.E. OLDS TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM LANSING

More than 80 vehicles from 1886 to 2004 help celebrate the legacy of Ransom E. Olds, a Lansing inventor and entrepreneur who founded two local automobile companies: Olds Motor Works and REO Motor Car Company. See an REO Speedwagon, ancestor of today's pickup trucks—and namesake of a classic rock band.



TODAY AND BEYOND

Michigan's culture-changing automotive history continues to be written, with familiar names adding fresh chapters—and new players making their marks.

After 140 years of industry change and innovation, Michigan is still the center of the automotive universe. The traditional Big Three automakers—General Motors, Ford, and Stellantis (formerly Chrysler)—all maintain headquarters, design centers, and manufacturing plants in Southeast Michigan. GM is still based in Detroit. The company produces gas-powered trucks in Flint, next-gen V-8 engines in Saginaw, and Cadillac luxury electric SUVs in Detroit. Ford Motor Company recently opened a new world headquarters in Dearborn, having moved from its longtime home, The Glass House. The company is overhauling its product line, focusing more on hybrids and Extended-Range Electric Vehicles (EREVs).



The Detroit Auto Show (January 12–24) continues its more than century-old tradition of showcasing the latest automotive innovations, including model reveals.



SLOAN MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY FLINT

The Durant Vehicle Gallery showcases classic rides and concept cars, like the 2006 Saab Aero-X. Similar to a fighter jet, the Aero-X has no doors; the top section of the car tilts forward for entry. There's a distracted driving simulator too. The museum's oldest models are parked in the History Gallery, including a 1904 Buick Model B and a 1902 Flint Roadster made by the Flint Automobile Company.

YPSILANTI AUTOMOTIVE HERITAGE MUSEUM YPSILANTI

Check out historic Kaiser-Frazer and Chevy Corvair vehicles made at the town's Willow Run Assembly Plant, plus learn about Ypsilanti's connections to automotive pioneer Preston Tucker and innovations like GM's Hydra-Matic transmission. The site includes a Hudson museum—see the original 1952 Fabulous Hudson Hornet that once dominated NASCAR racing.





**CLOCKWISE
FROM TOP**

*Sloan Museum
of Discovery,
Flint; Ypsilanti
Automotive
Heritage Museum,
Ypsilanti; Detroit
Auto Show,
Huntington Place,
Detroit (2)*



**AUTO
HISTORY
BUFFS**

In Ypsilanti, the former Hudson dealership now pays homage to autos like the Chevrolet Corvair and Kaiser-Frazer, each with ties to its hometown at the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum.

CRUISIN' SEASON

Lively parades and shows of classic cars and trucks, plus a can't-miss speedway spectacle make these automotive events worth the drive.

**September 11–12
FALL CLASSIC
ESCANABA**

The Escanaba Motor Speedway closes out the season with King of the Hill and Practice (Friday) and Fall Classic Night (Saturday). Gates open at 5 p.m., and races start at 6 p.m.

**September 12–13
OLD CAR FESTIVAL
DEARBORN**

America's longest-running antique car show features hundreds of vehicles from 1890 to 1932 at Greenfield Village. Dancing to a ragtime band follows the Gaslight Parade of Cars.

**September 18–19
FORD MODEL A DAYS
HICKORY CORNERS**

Model A car owners and aficionados gather at Gilmore Car Museum for a swap meet and seminars.

**September 18–19
RICHARD CRANE MEMORIAL TRUCK SHOW
ST. IGNACE**

Saturday's Parade of Lights across the Mackinac Bridge caps off the 30th annual event. Live music wafts through downtown as spectators peruse 200 working and nonworking trucks.

CAR-TUNE CHARACTERS

The classic autos—and car culture—associated with Michigan have inspired many storied musical performers and songs. Here's a sampling of favorites.

**MUSTANG SALLY
WILSON PICKETT**

1966 Pickett's version of the now-classic R&B song helped popularize Ford's then-new Mustang, especially the 1965 model. When you listen, all you want to do is ride around.

**ONE PIECE AT
A TIME
JOHNNY CASH**

1976 In Cash's last No. 1, a GM assembly-line worker builds a Cadillac from parts snuck out over the years. A custom mismatched Caddy promoted the song.

**MAKIN'
THUNDERBIRDS
BOB SEGER AND THE
SILVER BULLET BAND**

1982 Rock legend Seger, born in Detroit's Henry Ford Hospital, salutes assembly-line workers. His father was at one time a medical technician at Ford.

**FREEWAY OF LOVE
ARETHA FRANKLIN**

1985 Take a metaphorical ride in a pink Cadillac with the Queen of Soul, who grew up in Detroit. More than 100 pink Cadillacs joined her 2018 funeral procession.



The Vault's
red-brownish facade
comes from
locally sourced
sandstone.

STORIED STAYS

THE REST IS HISTORY

Book an overnight stay right out of a history book. If the walls in these hotels could talk, they'd regale you with tales of bygone eras.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

The Counting Room; The Vault Hotel; Camp Coffee Company (all in Houghton)

BANK

Invest your money in a high-interest stay at a former financial institution whose value has appreciated.

THE VAULT HOTEL HOUGHTON

YEAR BUILT 1887

ORIGINAL DESIGN Houghton National Bank, the town's first stone-and-masonry structure.

CHECK IN The bank's original "super vault" inspired the interior, which incorporates salvaged teller windows, bank boxes, and hardware. Each level's rooms playfully cater to a different wealth persona: Old Money, New Money, and Found Money. The first-floor Vault Chamber

room is built around the super vault's steel railroad beams, fortified concrete, and 2-ton door.

CHECK OUT The Counting Room (The Vault's basement speakeasy), nearby Camp Coffee Company, and women's fashion boutique and home decor Grace and Gather. (Both are just a few doors from the hotel.)

SIGNIFICANCE "In hospitality, the next generation of travelers wants unique, curated experiences," says hotel co-owner Jen Julien. "We've been showing that through projects, like The Vault Hotel's reuse of a historic bank building, we can activate the stories of the past, open the vaults, and breathe new life inside of them."

CHECKERED PAST

Some lodgings renovate a building's interiors and exteriors, and reinvent the business.

EXPLORE: MARQUETTE HISTORIC DISTRICT

MARQUETTE

YEAR BUILT 1891

ORIGINAL DESIGN Unknown; but during Prohibition, the building housed a restaurant and reportedly a speakeasy. Later, it cleaned up its act as a laundry.

CHECK IN The 13-room hotel offers upscale accommodations near the UP town's Lake Superior-based adventures. The decor blends vintage grand with modern sleek. Stays include a Continental breakfast and evening drinks on a deck. Borrow an e-bike or cruiser bike to go exploring.

CHECK OUT The Vierling Restaurant and Marquette Harbor Brewery (with Lake Superior whitefish), Marquette City Multi-Use Path (a 19-mile trail with 7 miles of lakeshore).





WEEKEND GETAWAY? LANSING'S MY CHOICE

Plan a getaway to Lansing, Michigan and experience a season filled with pumpkin patches and cider sipping, Spartan football and tailgating. Delight your senses with experiences that only fall in Lansing can offer. Choose Lansing and plan on something Greater.

Choose 
LANSING
Plan On Something **Greater**
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— VISIT —
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SWMICHIGAN.ORG

Front row to fall colors.

Wander scenic country roads and paddle quiet waterways at their seasonal best. Gather crisp apples, pumpkins and handmade pies from local farms and markets. Sip craft wines, beers, ciders and spirits. Then stay for a Lake Michigan sunset. Autumn is waiting.



Some Shinola rooms
and suites feature
Atelier windows with
downtown views.

MANUFACTURING

Industrial-strength lodgings transform historically hardworking spaces into relaxing places to spend time off the clock.

THE MILL AT ZEHNDER PARK FRANKENMUTH

YEARS BUILT 1848
(original); 1984 (replica)

ORIGINAL DESIGN Brothers Johann George and Johann Mathias Hubinger built their German-style flour mill along the Cass River.

CHECK IN Each of the four recently opened suites is inspired by a local milestone year—1845, the year Frankenmuth was founded; 1848, the year the original flour mill was founded; 1856, the year the Exchange Hotel opened; and 1929, the year Zehnder's of Frankenmuth opened. All offer spacious living areas, fireplaces, exposed beams, and floor-to-ceiling windows framing Cass River views. Private balconies put you even closer to the water. Common areas integrate historical mill artifacts, like a huge vintage flour sifter.

CHECK OUT On Main Street, build your own meat-and-cheese board at Prost! Wine Bar and Charcuterie, and shop for sheep-to-sleep organic bedding at Frankenmuth Woolen Mill's on-site store.

SHINOLA HOTEL DETROIT

YEARS BUILT 1915 and 1936

ORIGINAL DESIGN The main structure was built by the T.B. Rayl Company, a hardware and sporting goods retailer. The adjacent Singer Building, owned by the famed sewing machine company, opened in 1936.

CHECK IN Billed as Detroit's living room, the 129-room boutique hotel on downtown's Woodward Avenue reflects the same commitment to craft and quality as its namesake luxury watch and leather goods brand.

CHECK OUT San Morello restaurant (house-made pasta and wood-fired



DETAILS MATTER

Expect thoughtfully curated amenities from local makers, custom fixtures and furniture, plus exclusive Shinola items—you can even borrow a premium timepiece.

pizza), Evening Bar (a speakeasy tucked beyond the lobby), and the Shinola Hotel Store are all on-site.

SIGNIFICANCE "Adaptive reuse is fundamental to sustainable urban growth, allowing cities to evolve while preserving their identity," says James Witherspoon, senior vice president of architecture and design at Bedrock Detroit, the hotel's owner. The original craftsmanship, materials, and proportions informed the vision and narrative of the hotel, he adds. "The quality and authenticity of that era still define Detroit today."

MARITIME

Bordered by four of the five Great Lakes, Michigan has many stays awash in shore lore.

BIG BAY POINT LIGHTHOUSE BED AND BREAKFAST BIG BAY

YEAR BUILT 1896

ORIGINAL DESIGN The 64-foot brick lighthouse tower and two-story keeper's quarters were built on a cliff overlooking Lake Superior.

CHECK IN Five guest rooms with private baths and showers are named to honor past lightkeepers



**CLOCKWISE
FROM TOP**
*Shinola Hotel,
Detroit;
San Morello,
Detroit;
Big Bay Point
Lighthouse
Bed and
Breakfast,
Big Bay*



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PRIVATE HOME

What could be a better place for your home away from home than someone's former home?

ROOM INN MUNISING

YEAR BUILT 1886

ORIGINAL DESIGN Lumber baron George Burtis built a bachelor pad near his sawmill during the UP's logging heyday.

CHECK IN Choose from 18 boutique rooms (nine guest rooms and nine suites), close to Munising Bay. Three of the upper-level rooms have balconies overlooking the water. The Lumber Baron Suite features elevated sleeping quarters, a separate step-down living room, and two balconies. Striking rustic wood trim, abundant natural light, and nature photography strengthen outdoor connections throughout.

CHECK OUT On-site Tracey's restaurant offers creative cocktails and refined cuisine in a relaxed setting (open through October 30). Downtown, Falling Rock Cafe and Bookstore is known for their grilled cheese sandwich. (Add the pesto.)

LAURIUM MANOR INN LAURIUM

YEAR BUILT 1908

ORIGINAL DESIGN Copper mining magnate Thomas Hoatson built a 45-room, 13,000-square-foot mansion on the Keweenaw Peninsula for his wife and six children.

CHECK IN The 10 guest rooms all come with private baths. Several suites feature whirlpools and fireplaces. Marvel at the home's stained-glass windows, hand-carved oak staircase, dome-ceiling music parlor, third-floor ballroom, and dining room with gilded, embossed leather wallcoverings. Savor a from-scratch breakfast buffet and relax on the 100-foot-long tiled porch.

CHECK OUT Calumet Art Center (in the historic Big Green Church), Copper World (Copper Country gifts and souvenirs), and Keweenaw Coffee Works (micro roastery and breakfast spot).

PUBLIC SERVICE

A legacy of civil service lends nobility to former city buildings that now serve guests.

DETROIT FOUNDATION HOTEL DETROIT

YEAR BUILT 1929

ORIGINAL DESIGN Architect Hans Gehrke created a five-story, brick-and-limestone neoclassical building for the city's fire department headquarters.

CHECK IN The 100 guest rooms and suites tell Detroit stories through exposed brick walls, locally reclaimed wood headboards, and original architectural details layered with curated local art. Comfy furnishings coax you to settle in, city views celebrate downtown, and fine bath products pamper you along with a plush robe.

CHECK OUT On-site Apparatus Room restaurant (in the old fire truck garage), the Detroit Riverwalk (an almost 5-mile route), and the Guardian Building (a landmark skyscraper; the gift shop rocks).

SIGNIFICANCE "Modern structures tend to look and feel computerized," says Sulaiman Shabazz, the hotel's director of lifestyle. "The architects that built the Detroit Foundation Hotel understood that functionality



**CLOCKWISE
FROM BOTTOM**
Room Inn,
Munising;
Apparatus
Room, Detroit
Foundation
Hotel; Saint
John's Resort,
Plymouth

and form must dance together, and in our property's case, to literally save lives." As people clamor for more organic connections, Shabazz says, "Adaptive reuse revives a distinct era of ergonomic builds."

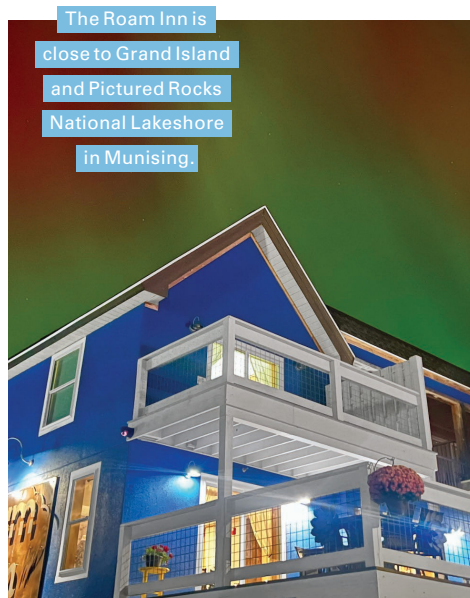
THE LIBRARY HISTORIC HOTEL ST. JOSEPH

YEAR BUILT 1904

ORIGINAL DESIGN Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie donated \$13,000 to help the growing town of St. Joseph build a library.

CHECK IN Six guest rooms beckon from behind a scholarly exterior made of red bricks and white columns. The largest suite, the Reading Room, surrounds you with original bookcases and views from a panoramic window. Lake breezes freshen a rooftop deck, while the Archive Lounge basement speakeasy refreshes in a different way.

CHECK OUT Box Factory for the Arts (three floors of art galleries, studios, and workshop space) and Krasl Art Center (striking sculptures inside and out, including a Chihuly chandelier).





STATELY STAYS In 1924, Albert Schuler bought the Royal Hotel and Restaurant in Marshall and renamed it Schuler's, and in 1928, he remodeled the restaurant. Today, the third floor is once again the Royal Hotel, featuring five guest rooms.

SPIRITUAL

Sojourn in a reflective, meditative mood when you take sanctuary at a former sacred space.

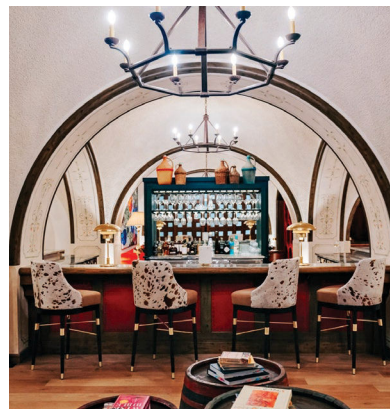
SAINT JOHN'S RESORT PLYMOUTH

YEAR BUILT 1948

ORIGINAL DESIGN The Romanesque building was established as St. John's Provincial Seminary by Cardinal Edward Mooney of Detroit.

CHECK IN You won't live like a monk here—spacious rooms and suites come with pillow-top mattresses, Egyptian cotton bedding, and Molton Brown toiletries. Some suites feature private balconies and luxe baths with soaking tubs and rain showers. Relax at the whirlpool tub and indoor pool, which includes a small lazy river and waterfall.

CHECK OUT Indulge on-site at The Wine Grotto (underground wine bar), Five Steakhouse (led by a James Beard-nominated chef), and The Cardinal golf course (open until late fall).



STEP INTO A WORLD OF COLOR

Across 158 acres, Chihuly's vibrant sculptures unfold among gardens, water and sky—revealing moments of beauty around every turn. Located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, journey through outdoor and indoor exhibitions that explore more than 40 years of iconic work by international artist, Dale Chihuly.

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MeijerGardens.org/Chihuly

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MAY 2 – NOVEMBER 1



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AUTUMN STARTS NOW

FROM LAKEFRONT TRAILS TO ORCHARD ROWS TO VINTAGE RAILWAYS, MICHIGAN TRANSFORMS INTO A SERIES OF DAZZLING BACKDROPS. TAKE A TRIP THROUGH A KALEIDOSCOPE OF FALL COLORS.

by Kelly Aiglen

Where will it take you?



 M-119, between
Harbor Springs and
Cross Village

Did You Know?

Cool nights and sunny days trigger sugar buildup in leaves, producing deeper reds, purples, and scarlets. The sharper the contrast, the brighter the color.

ALONG THE SHORE

Bluffs, dunes, and inland ridgelines are framed in peak color.

At Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park in Ontonagon, the Escarpment Trail runs high above Lake Superior. The overlooks open to miles of hardwood forest, with leaves cascading into a landscape of color. Maples notably deepen into burnished golden and red against the lake's cool blue. Along the Lower Peninsula's Lake Michigan shore in Mears, see fall from a different vantage: the saddle. At Silver Lake State Park, equestrians can ride the Lake Michigan shore during a horseback riding season (November 1–30; reservations required). And in Port Austin, Port Crescent State Park makes for a glorious overnight. Book a geodesic dome or camper cabin and watch the sun drop low and slow over Lake Huron—a picture-perfect golden hour.

UP IN THE AIR

Get a new view of hues from bridges, lifts, and lookout towers.

Shift your perspective at SkyBridge Michigan at the top of Boyne Mountain in Boyne Falls. The 1,200-foot-long suspension bridge hangs just high enough to turn the forest into a sweep of reds and goldens, stitched together across the valley. In Port Huron, climb 94 steps to the top of the 1829 Fort Gratiot Light Station for a view of freighters on Lake Huron. (Guided tours are open on

weekends.) In the western Upper Peninsula, Copper Peak pushes the perspective further. Climb to an observation deck atop one of the world's largest ski-flying hills and take in views of three states, Canada, and Lake Superior. Back in the Lower Peninsula, your front-row ticket to fall color can be from a ski lift. Venues like Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville carry riders over remarkable canopies in northern Michigan. For a more adventurous autumn display, ride the Crystal Coaster, the state's only alpine slide with dual tracks.

IN THE FIELD

Orchards and vineyards turn pastoral settings into fall playgrounds.

Pull off the road where the signs start promising apple picking and soak up the scenery. At Crane Orchards in Fennville, cider presses hum in the background, doughnuts are served piping hot, and rows of apple trees show off ripe fruit, especially in September when U-pick season hits its stride. Up north on the Old Mission Peninsula, Chateau Chantal sets its vineyard between East and West Grand Traverse Bay, so every pour of crisp Riesling comes with a view. For family fun, visit Knaebe's Mmmunchy Krunchy Apple Farm in Rogers City. Kids trundle through the orchard on a barrel train, cider slushies melt fast in hand, and the doughnut-filled bakery cases are reason enough to circle back before you leave.





PHOTOGRAPHS: (1) STARBOARD AND PORT; (2) NEIL WEAVER, (3) AARON PETERSON, (4) BOB STEFKO, (5) ACKERMAN AND GRUBER

ON THE WATER

Go for the cliffs, currents, and color in full turn.

Before the season closes, get out on the water, where the scene on land looks almost painterly. In the Upper Peninsula, start with Pictured Rocks Cruises on the national lakeshore in Munising. Catamarans run along sandstone cliffs streaked in iron-red, copper, and mossy green, the mineral bands made more vivid against the backdrop, with waterfalls provoking a welcome mist. On the Lower Peninsula in Frankenmuth, the *Bavarian Belle* Riverboat traces a slower loop down the Cass River, passing under a covered bridge, timbered storefronts, and early-turning trees.



THIS SPREAD
1 SkyBridge
 Michigan, Boyne
 Falls **2** Porcupine
 Mountains
 Wilderness State
 Park, Ontonagon
3 Knaebe's
 Mmmunchy
 Krunchy Apple
 Farm, Rogers
 City **4** Bavarian
 Belle Riverboat,
 Frankenmuth
5 Crane Orchards,
 Fennville





Peak Color

While weather dependent, fall color first starts to peak in mid-September in the western Upper Peninsula, peaking in early October across northern Michigan, and reaching southern regions by mid-October.



THIS SPREAD

- 1** Granor Farm, Three Oaks
- 2** Covered Drive, Stanton Township
- 3** Steam Railroading Institute, Owosso
- 4** Vivant Brewery and Spirits, Grand Rapids
- 5** M-119, between Harbor Springs and Cross Village



4

IN THE SPIRIT

The season shows up on the menu at distilleries, breweries, and farms.

Reap the fall harvest, sip by sip. At Granor Farm in Three Oaks, what's grown on-site moves directly into both the kitchen and the distillery. "Everything we make starts here," Culinary Director Abra Berens says. "The wheat, the botanicals... it's literally the farm in your glass." The result shows up in unique ways, like gin with a green, vegetal edge; and bourbon with a round, slightly sweet finish from heirloom corn. At The Village at Grand Traverse Commons in Traverse City, former hospital buildings now house wine bars, bakeries, and specialty shops. In Grand Rapids, Vivant Brewery and Spirits pours European-style beers in a restored chapel setting—with arched ceilings, stained glass, and long tables.

ON THE TRACKS

Old rail lines, restored engines, and a slower way lead you through the season.

At Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad in Flint, a restored 19th-century steam locomotive circles Mott Lake, passing through Crossroads Village, a living-history museum. Conductors in period costume move through vintage cars, and

the narrow-gauge railroad—rare now—adds an air of authenticity. "Halloween is big here—families plan around it, and kids come dressed in costumes for the Ghosts and Goodies event," Operations Manager Scott Burnett says. In Owosso, the Steam Railroading Institute runs full-scale excursions behind the massive *Pere Marquette 1225*, one of the largest operating steam locomotives in the country. And in Clinton, the Southern Michigan Railroad Society runs heritage trains along 13 miles of preserved track, cutting through farmland and forests full of red and yellow leaves.

THROUGH THE TREES

The scenic route has never looked more breathtaking.

Take the long way on purpose. M-119, aka the Tunnel of Trees, winds north from Harbor Springs to Cross Village, narrowing into a canopy of maple, oak, and beech that arches overhead. On one side, Lake Michigan flashes in and out of view, providing sudden, bright blue breaks between the trunks. Near Manistee, a shorter stretch along M-55 delivers a different kind of payoff—oak, maple, and pine trees—before the road drops you at the Lake Michigan shoreline. In the Keweenaw Peninsula, Stanton Township's Covered Drive trades pavement for packed dirt, running for several miles through thick woods. The quiet and steady stretch of road keeps the blaze of color close at hand.



PHOTOGRAPHS: (1) COURTESY OF GRANOR FARM, (2) BETTY IMAGES/BOB PAOS/ART, (3) PURE MICHIGAN, (4) JASON LINDSEY, (5) STARBOARD AND PORT



5

An aerial photograph of a serene lake shoreline during autumn. The water is calm, reflecting the soft light of the sky. A narrow, sandy beach curves along the shore, bordered by a dense forest of trees with vibrant orange, yellow, and green foliage. A few small buildings and parked cars are visible near the water's edge. The overall mood is peaceful and scenic.

where the road meets the shore

BY ANDREA MINARCEK JESSUP



THESE MICHIGAN
SPINS ON THE CLASSIC
LEAF-PEEPING DRIVES
INCLUDE PANORAMAS OF THE
GREAT LAKES, PIT STOPS AT
FRIENDLY BEACH TOWNS, AND
LIGHTHOUSES GALORE.



MILES: 116

M-22

MANISTEE ↔ TRAVERSE CITY

“Fall along the M-22 is something I look forward to every year,” says Sammie Lukaskiewicz, executive director of Manistee County Tourism. “The colors are incredible, but it’s the little stops along the way that make it special.” In Arcadia, Lukaskiewicz recommends **Bowens Creek** for coffee and crepes and **Arcadia Ice House** for ice cream. Farther north, the autumn red and oranges of the M-22’s hardwood forests pop against the warm brown sand of **Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore** and Lake Michigan’s blues beyond. The drive loops past apple orchards and wineries along the **Leelanau Peninsula** before ending in the foodie haven of Traverse City.

MORE TOP SPOTS

Savor some shoreline solitude:
Peterson Beach, Northport

Climb 122 stairs for memorable views:
Arcadia Lookout, Arcadia

MILES: 21

Red Arrow Highway

NEW BUFFALO ↔ STEVENSVILLE

Michigan’s 1,152-mile network of scenic byways begins just north of the state’s southern border. In New Buffalo, veer off of humdrum Interstate-94 and hop on the two-lane Red Arrow Highway. The area evokes a cosmopolitan flavor with an array of upscale eateries, such as **Susan’s** in Sawyer and New Buffalo’s **PostBoy**, a James Beard semifinalist for Best Chef: Great Lakes. Stop for chic shops, including **Goods and Heroes** in Three Oaks and **Sojourn** in Sawyer. You’ll pass the marshlands of **Galien River County Park**, which you can explore by canoe or boardwalk trails, and trace Lake Michigan beaches, including the sandy, 260-foot-high slopes of **Warren Dunes State Park**.

MORE TOP SPOTS

Tread a catwalk between lighthouses:
St. Joseph North Pier Inner and Outer Lights

Hike between wineries: The 3.5-mile
Mt. Tabor Trail between Round Barn in
Baroda and Tabor Hill in Buchanan

MILES: 200

Sunrise Coast

STANDISH ↔ MACKINAW CITY

Early risers are rewarded along US-23 with daybreak splendor over Lake Huron. The pine-and-cedar-border shore at **Harrisville State Park**, sandy **Starlite Beach** in Alpena, and **Lake Huron Pier** near **Oscoda Beach** are particularly scenic spots to greet the morning. The Sunrise Coast has plenty for history buffs, too, including more than a dozen 19th- and early 20th-century lighthouses, plus **Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary**, which protects more than 100 shipwrecks off of Michigan’s Lake Huron coast, and its visitors center in Alpena. The drive ends at the northern tip of the Lower Peninsula. Detour to the rocky beach by the 1889 **Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse** for postcard-worthy pics with the Mackinac Bridge in the background.

MORE TOP SPOTS

Discover Michigan’s maritime past: Old and New Presque Isle lighthouses, Presque Isle
See the Lower Peninsula’s largest falls (universally accessible): Ocqueoc Falls, near Rogers City

FROM LEFT: FISHTOWN, LELAND; GALIEN RIVER COUNTY PARK, NEW BUFFALO; OLD MACKINAC POINT LIGHTHOUSE, MACKINAW CITY; OVAL BEACH, SAUGATUCK; BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN DRIVE, KEWEENAW PENINSULA



MILES: 60

Blue Star Memorial Highway (US-31)

BENTON HARBOR ↔ HOLLAND

Cool temperatures make autumn perhaps the best months to tackle hikes up and down Lake Michigan's sand dunes, including those in South Haven's **Van Buren State Park** and **Saugatuck Dunes State Park** between Saugatuck and Holland. Afterward, you can take a late-season dip in the lake. The sugar-fine sand of Saugatuck's **Oval Beach** makes it a good starting point. "The water's a little friendlier in early fall—it's had all summer to warm up," says Matt Helmus, general manager of Holland's **Windmill Island Gardens**. Famous for its spring tulips, the gardens continue to bloom through early autumn with perennials and annuals. "You can see a bigger variety of flowers here come fall," Helmus says.

MORE TOP SPOTS

Take a spin on a hand-carved horse: Silver Beach Carousel in St. Joseph

Pair elevated pub grub with a craft beer or cocktail: New Holland Brewing in Holland

MILES: 9

Brockway Mountain Drive

EAGLE HARBOR ↔ COPPER HARBOR

This short stretch of Keweenaw Peninsula pavement is big on towering views. It's the highest drive above sea level between the Rockies and Alleghenies, topping out at 720 feet above Lake Superior. Starting in Eagle Harbor, you'll pass **Silver River Falls** before turning off of quiet, two-lane M-26 onto even quieter Brockway Mountain Drive. The roller-coaster road is paved but steep, so take it slowly and budget plenty of time for scenic pull-offs. The surrounding hardwood and northern conifer forests are packed with hiking and mountain biking trails, and in fall, you'll feel like you're looking down on a vibrant quilt of reds, oranges, and greens.

MORE TOP SPOTS

Ponder the sunset from a hawk's perspective: Brockway Mountain Overlook

Dine on Lake Superior: Fitzgerald's Hotel and Restaurant, Eagle Harbor

PHOTOGRAPHS: (FISHTOWN) RYAN DONNELL, (GALIEN RIVER) JASON LINDSEY, (LIGHTHOUSE) JOHN NOLTNER, (TRAIL) SAUGATUCK DOUGLAS AREA CVB, (BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN DRIVE) BOB STEKFO

MILES: 300

US-2

ST. IGNACE ↔ IRONWOOD

Start your Upper Peninsula trip by stepping into the past at St. Ignace's **Museum of Ojibwa Culture**, a National Historic Landmark that re-creates Native American and French missionary life in the 1670s. When you're ready to hit the road, pick up some classic UP provisions at family-run **Lehto's Pasties** for a picnic at nearby **Sand Dunes Beach**. The route runs directly beside Lake Michigan to the cantilevered **Cut River Bridge**, which arches some 150 feet above a limestone gorge before heading inland. Protected hardwood forests blanket the rest of the drive, so watch for deer, bald eagles, sandhill cranes, and secluded waterfalls.

MORE TOP SPOTS

See the springs from a raft with a viewing port: Kitchi-iti-kipi ("The Big Spring") of Palms Book State Park near Manistique
Pick up a wool-flannel cap or other cozy souvenirs: Stormy Kromer in Ironwood

MILES: 21

Tunnel of Trees (M-119)

HARBOR SPRINGS ↔ CROSS VILLAGE

Between Little Traverse and Sturgeon bays, a narrow stretch of M-119 snakes along high bluffs above the waterfront, covered by a leafy canopy of hardwoods. The vacation-town vibes of Harbor Springs feel a world away just a few miles north at family-owned **Pond Hill Farm**, where you'll find hayrides, hot cider, doughnuts, and live music during their fall harvest events. Farther on, tiny Good Hart doesn't have a stoplight, but its quaint **Good Hart General Store** beckons many to stop for homemade goodies. Authentic Polish pierogi and cabbage rolls await in Cross Village at the iconic **Legs Inn**, an eye-catching natural stone-and-timber lodge near the drive's end (open through October 26).

MORE TOP SPOTS

Enjoy fresh-baked treats: Tom's Mom's Cookies in Harbor Springs
Sip curated cocktails: Fireplace Lounge in the Otis Harbor Springs hotel

MICHIGAN'S 22 SCENIC
BYWAYS ARE A STELLAR
INTRODUCTION TO THE
NATION'S LONGEST
FRESHWATER COASTLINE,
STRETCHING MORE THAN
3,200 MILES. YOU'LL
EXPERIENCE SHORELINE
SPLENDOR, ALONG WITH
FORESTS, FRIENDLY
SMALL TOWNS, AND
HISTORICAL SITES WHILE
YOU GLIMPSE INTO THE
STATE'S MARITIME, PIONEER,
AND MINING PAST.



FROM LEFT: MUSEUM OF OJIBWA CULTURE, ST. IGNACE; PALMS BOOK STATE PARK, MANISTIQUE; POND HILL FARM, HARBOR SPRINGS



Pond Hill Farm
Livestock Barn

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CONTENTS



ON OUR COVER

Treetops Resort,
Gaylord
Photographer:
Courtney Kent

WOODS & WATERS

6 SUPERIOR SNOW

CITIES & CULTURE

12 FULL HOUSE

**14 BRIGHT LIGHTS,
BIG CITIES**

16

WINTER STARTS NOW

Find your winter
playground among frozen
trails, starlit skies, and
steam-filled escapes.

22

CHECK-IN CHILL

Design a snow-
centric getaway
that hits every box.



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WOODS & WATERS



Guests at Keweenaw
Mountain Lodge
can snowshoe (bring your
own or borrow a
pair) on property trails.



Snow days were magical during childhood. A powdery playground outside brought with it the thrill of unexpected freedom. Relive those carefree times in Michigan by making any winter day a snow day.

WINTER CIRCUIT

SUPERIOR SNOW

Wintery fun accumulates in the Keweenaw Peninsula, with black diamond backcountry runs, Nordic spa circuits, and star-filled skies.



BOTH IMAGES
*Mount Bohemia,
Mohawk*

At the far northern edge of Michigan, where the land narrows to a rugged peninsula and disappears into Lake Superior, winter settles in and stays awhile. Snow arrives early and piles high, regularly topping 300 inches a season. “Winter isn’t something to get through ... it’s what brings people here,” says Lonie Gliberman, owner of Mount Bohemia Nordic Spa in Mohawk.

WHAT TO SEE AND DO

The slopes are a good place to start your personal winter revival. Mount Bohemia relies on natural snowfall to blanket steep, tree-lined terrain with the highest vertical drop in the Midwest. Most trails are black diamonds, cutting through glades along an ancient volcanic ridge. At the base, the Nordic Spa shifts the pace with saunas, steam rooms, a cold plunge, and a heated outdoor pool overlooking the mountain.

Winter stretches out in every direction on the Keweenaw Peninsula. Snowshoe or cross-country ski more than 30 kilometers of wooded loops at Swedetown Trails in Calumet. For lift-served skiing with canal views, Mont Ripley in Hancock overlooks the Keweenaw Waterway. Trade

Guests enjoy the heated outdoor pool (94 degrees), a social hub at Mount Bohemia.



 MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

on YOUR MARQ



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RIGHT (2)
Observatory Lounge, Houghton

BOTTOM LEFT
Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, Copper Harbor



Savor dinner and drinks with views of the Portage Canal from the seventh-floor Observatory Lounge.



skis for throttle with snowmobiles; the region maintains more than 230 miles of groomed trails and offers rentals throughout.

Watch dogs paw their way to a win at the CopperDog sled dog races (multiple races and race lengths) that kick off the end of February/early March under the lights in downtown Calumet. The Calumet Theatre, a 1900 opera house built during the copper boom, still hosts concerts, film screenings, and touring performances beneath its original plasterwork and balconies. Next door, Schute's 1890 Saloon, the state's longest-operating bar, feels unchanged in the best way with worn wood, low light, and a welcoming crowd.

Follow the whizzing pucks at a Michigan Tech Huskies hockey game in Houghton, a town cited to be the birthplace of professional hockey, then wander the downtown shops offering outfitter gear and small-batch culinary treats.

FLY FROM CHICAGO

Flights from O'Hare International Airport can take passengers directly to Houghton in about 90 minutes. Just remember that you're switching time zones, from Central to Eastern.

WHERE TO STAY

In Copper Harbor, Keweenaw Mountain Lodge doubles as an International Dark Sky Park, where clear nights reveal a sky brimming with stars—and, occasionally, the northern lights. Or check into Calumet's Laurium Manor Inn, a restored 1908 mansion with a hand-carved wood staircase and a slower pace. In Houghton, The Vault Hotel blends modern rooms with a historical bank setting, while its basement speakeasy, The Counting Room, draws you in with glowing fixtures and well-made cocktails.

JIBBA JABBA RAIL JAM

Pro snowboarders and spectators fill Houghton's downtown (February 14).

WHERE TO EAT

The Ambassador Restaurant is a Houghton institution, known for thin-crust pizza and pasta served in a historical building with stained glass. For something more tucked away, The Den Restaurant offers a nice variety of dishes, while the Observatory Lounge pairs a full menu and drinks with wide views over the Portage Canal.

In Mohawk, Slim's Cafe delivers exactly what you want: awesome cinnamon rolls, burgers, sandwiches, and hot coffee until 2 p.m. And in Eagle River, Fitzgerald's Restaurant brings a slightly more polished vibe with lake vistas and seafood specialties, like walleye cake and grilled whitefish.



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PHOTOGRAPH: AARON PETERSON

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fine-dining restaurant
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BAY MILLS RESORT AND CASINO BRIMLEY

Stay up later than you intended? Soothe tired eyes with a facial at Najji Kii Spa, which translates to "beautiful you," the wellness center's guiding principal.

FIREKEEPERS CASINO HOTEL BATTLE CREEK

At this luxury eight-story hotel, relax at the indoor pool and dine at one of their six restaurants before seeing a top-name performer like The All-American Rejects (November 7).

FOUR WINDS CASINO RESORT NEW BUFFALO

At the Silver Creek Event Center, see professionals, such as The Temptations and the Four Tops, put on a show (October 9). Or belt out a tune yourself during karaoke at Kankakee Grille.

GUN LAKE CASINO RESORT WAYLAND

Named after the Pottawatomi word for "living well," the casino's MnoYé Spa delivers at the tranquility pool—with a saltwater whirlpool tub fit with hydrotherapy benches.

TOP

*FireKeepers
Casino Hotel,
Battle Creek*

BOTTOM

*Bourbons 72,
Turtle Creek
Casino and Hotel,
Williamsburg*

ISLAND RESORT AND CASINO HARRIS

After grooving all evening in the 1,315-seat Island Showroom or Club Four One nightclub, start your day finding your center in Drift Spa's float therapy tank.

LITTLE RIVER CASINO RESORT MANISTEE

The resort weaves in calm moments around the bustle of the renovated gaming floor. Reflect near the winter garden's indoor waterfalls or soothe airways in The Spa at Little River's salt chamber.

SOARING EAGLE CASINO AND RESORT MT. PLEASANT

Steak knives glide through tender ribeye served sizzling on a hot plate at Ruth's Chris Steak House, one of several dining options around the gaming floor.

TURTLE CREEK CASINO AND HOTEL WILLIAMSBURG

A bourbon flight kicks off meals at Bourbons 72, the casino's steakhouse. The spirit also makes its way into the blue cheese butter and the chocolate mousse's caramel.

ALL IN FOR *A Playful Winter Paradise!*



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NIGHT MOVES

BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITIES

As the days grow shorter, Michigan's Upper and Lower peninsulas' biggest cities shine with delights best enjoyed after dark.




Campus
Martius,
Detroit

Christmas lights glow next to The Rink at Campus Martius, a family-friendly ice-skating venue open into the evening.



DETROIT

An action-packed evening in Motown can include family-friendly holiday fun, buzzing casinos, and sophisticated speakeasies.

Lace up and hit the ice rink for a spin beneath the towering, illuminated Christmas tree that anchors downtown's Campus Martius every holiday season. Browse for gifts in the surrounding pop-up shops before tucking in for a wood-fired steak and truffle fries at nearby Parc. Sing along at Sid Gold's Request Room, where a pianist accompanies the karaoke. Or seek out vintage-decorated Saksey's or a quieter cocktail lounge, such as the wood-paneled Aladdin Sane. Test your luck amid the neon of Hollywood Casino Greektown, MGM Grand Detroit, or MotorCity Casino—all open 24/7. Wind down with a nightcap in the speakeasy-style Evening Bar, accessible through the redbrick pedestrian Parker's Alley behind the boutique Shinola Hotel.

MARQUETTE

The college town perhaps best known as an outdoor adventure hub has a dazzling nightlife scene too.

The Landmark Inn has been a downtown mainstay for more than a hundred years, with notable guests, including Amelia Earhart and the Rolling Stones. These days, sip a cocktail and look out over Lake Superior from the sixth-floor Crow's Nest before retiring to your guest room, many of which boast fireplaces and claw-foot soaking tubs. Back at lake level, sample local whitefish at Iron Bay Restaurant and Drinkery, catch live music at Ore Dock Brewing Co., or marvel at Lasers on the Ore Dock—a free laser light show on the north side. For a natural counterpart, drive to roadside turnouts along M-28 (10–15 miles east) to stargaze and maybe spot the northern lights.

FROM TOP
Sid Gold's Request Room, Detroit; Crow's Nest, Landmark Inn, Marquette; The Aladdin Sane, Detroit; Presque Isle Park, Marquette



DID YOU KNOW? Stargaze anytime of year, but the peak months to see the northern lights are October, November, and April on cloudless nights.



WINTER STARTS NOW

FROZEN TRAILS, STARLIT SKIES, AND STEAM-FILLED ESCAPES. THIS IS HOW MICHIGAN TRANSFORMS IN WINTER, INVITING YOU TO EMBRACE THE COLD AND REDISCOVER A SEASON WORTH CELEBRATING.

by Tree Meinch



 Treetops Resort, Gaylord

Find your frosty playground!

PHOTOGRAPH: COURTNEY KENT PHOTOGRAPHY



THIS SPREAD
1 *Holland Ice Park*
2 *Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Munising* **3** *Sturgeon River Paddlesports, Wolverine* **4** *Porcupine Mountains Winter Sports Complex, Ontonagon* **5** *Nature's Kennel, McMillan*

THROUGH THE WOODS

Snow-draped forests come alive with motion from snowmobiles, sleds, skis, and crunching boots.

In Michigan's winter forests, movement feels deliberate and exhilarating. Get your motor running in Gaylord, the snowmobiling hub where riders can branch out and traverse more than 500 miles of groomed trails throughout Northern Michigan. Stop in quaint towns for fuel, food and fun and take in the views of snow-covered lakes and forests. Dogsledding delivers a rush that quickly softens into rhythm and endurance at Nature's Kennel Sled Dog Adventures in McMillan. "It's thrilling as the dogs take off," owner Tasha Stielstra says, "then it's very calming as they settle into a comfortable pace." Guests can interact with eager Alaskan huskies to mush their own teams through otherwise inaccessible terrain. Near Grayling, Hartwick Pines State Park invites slower exploration on snowshoes beneath towering old-growth trees.

FROSTY FUN

On this terrain, frozen landscapes turn playful with gliding blades, dropping lines, and festivals lighting up the outdoors.

Ice serves as both stage and playground across the state. In Holland, the outdoor Ice Park in the heart of downtown draws skaters into synchronized movement, adjacent to artisan shops, galleries, and glowing lights. Farther north in the UP near Escanaba, you can explore



fishing shanties that dot the frozen surface of Lake Michigan's bays. Here, patience meets tradition. Michigan Ice Fest (February 10–14) in Munising transforms Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore into a vertical arena for climbers scaling frozen waterfalls. Whether you're lacing up skates, drilling through ice, or watching seasoned climbers ascend shimmering formations, winter invites collaborators to strap on gear and interact with the glasslike surface.

ON THE WATER

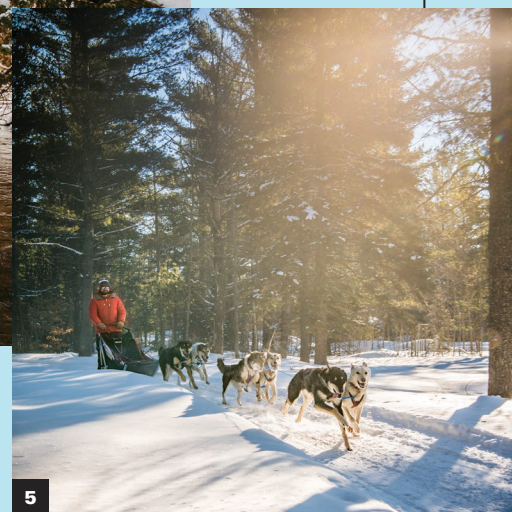
After the leaves fall, these rivers and restless lakes prove water-centric escapades don't end when summer fades.

Winter reshapes Michigan's waterways into something sculptural, quieter, and novel. "The coldest trips are always the prettiest," Jamie Jacklitch with Sturgeon River Paddlesports says. "Steam will rise off of the water and coat all of the weeds, sticks, and branches with frost." Jacklitch guides rafting trips near Wolverine as a brisk ride past snowy banks and icy bends. Nearby in East Jordan, Jordan Valley Outfitters also leads snowy paddling excursions that trade crowds for tranquility. And on Lake Michigan near Glen Arbor, surfers chase swells while bundled in wet suits. All these elements cater to a different kind of immersion that's less about warmth and more about unforgettable encounters. "People say, *That sounds awesome!* Others will say, *You are crazy!* Both are correct," Jacklitch says.





PHOTOGRAPHS: (1, 3) COURTNEY KENT PHOTOGRAPHY, (2) PURE MICHIGAN
(4) FELICIA FULLWOOD, (5) AARON PETERSON



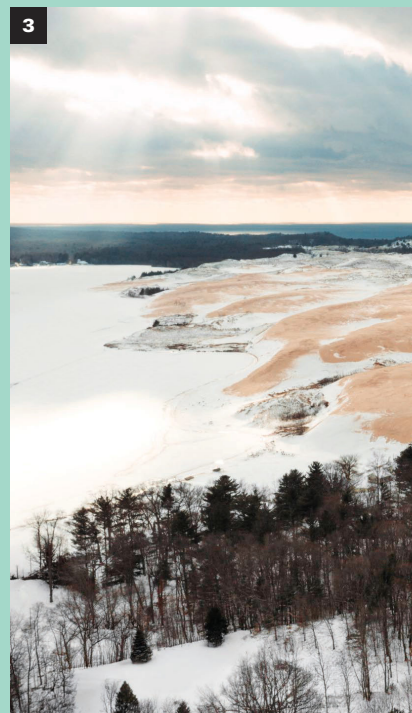
One-Stop Wonders

Settle in. Some all-in-one hubs invite you to stack one memorable moment on another without the need to relocate.

Consider these two spots the state's concentrated winter play destinations. The Muskegon Luge Adventure Sports Park mixes ice-skating, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and a thrilling luge track. The luge experience, one of the few of its kind in the Midwest, also includes an adaptive luge program. In the Upper Peninsula, Porcupine Mountains Winter Sports Complex ("the Porkies") delivers downhill skiing across 20 runs alongside snowboarding, fat-tire biking, snowshoeing, and Nordic trails. The beauty of these hubs is removing the guesswork and splurging on a sample platter of pursuits in a single visit. It's efficient, yes—but also a reminder of just how many ways you can commemorate the season.

Free Winter Weekends

Michigan offers two chances each winter to try something new for free. During Free Snowmobiling Weekend, permits and registration are waived for trail riding two days in January, making it easy to get acquainted with the sport and its safety basics. Free Fishing Weekend follows in mid-February, when no license is required for wetting a line. Both events create an invitation to step outside, try the unfamiliar, and maybe find a new cold-weather obsession.





4

ALONG THE SHORE

The character of wind-swept shorelines shifts after December, when terrain, cliffs, and vineyards meet snow and silence.

Along Michigan's coastlines, cold-weather elements join forces to form sculptural creations. At Silver Lake Sand Dunes in Mears, you can pedal fat-tire bikes through the snow-packed terrain. Trace the rolling contours between groves of trees and the frozen lake. In Munising, hikers access sections of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, where cliffs rise stark and brilliant against Lake Superior's icy rim. Farther south on Old Mission Peninsula, the season softens into something more social. Events like Snowshoe Wine and Brew at Brys Estate pair crisp air with outdoor firepits and pours that warm the soul (Sundays, January 3–March 7). Embrace equal parts motion and pause.

IN THE DARK

Discover a different kind of nightlife, where darkness becomes an invitation to celestial awe and solitude.

Early sunsets open the door to experiences many people overlook. At Headlands International Dark Sky Park near Mackinaw City, minimal light pollution reveals a natural dome

dense with starry constellations—and occasionally, the aurora borealis. Winter 2026–2027 is supposed to bring a surge in northern lights activity. In Ludington State Park, lantern-lit snowshoe hikes cast a warm glow across quiet trails (select Saturdays, December to March). Meanwhile, Treetops Resort in Gaylord hosts “blackout tubing” events that send riders careening down the slopes with lights, music, and belly laughs. Here, darkness reshapes fun into something unforgettable.

IN THE WATER PARK

When temperatures drop, these indoor havens lure you with a warm-weather reset and reprieve.

There's no better time to take a deep breath and plunge into a little taste of summer bliss indoors. You can book a day pass or overnight room at Avalanche Bay Waterpark in Boyne Falls for slides twisting beneath timberlook beams and a surf simulator churning out year-round waves. A glass roof at Zehnder's Splash Village in Frankenmuth adds precious sunshine to your warm retreat. Also in Frankenmuth, the newly expanded Bavarian Blast boasts the state's biggest indoor water park and family fun center with 16 new slides. And family-friendly Soaring Eagle Waterpark in Mt. Pleasant mixes things up with DJs and themed events inspiring your waterslide drops and thrills.

Cool Campouts

Winter camping aficionados snuggle up at the Fort Custer Equestrian Campground near Battle Creek—and cheer for sled dogs bounding along the area's snow-covered trails—or dream of whizzing down the Olympic winter luge at Muskegon Luge Adventure Sports Park. Stay in a tent, yurt, or cabin in the nearby Muskegon State Park.



THIS SPREAD

- 1 Zehnder's Splash Village, Frankenmuth
- 2 Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Munising
- 3 Silver Lake Sand Dunes, Mears
- 4 Headlands International Dark Sky Park, Mackinaw City
- 5 Brys Estate, Old Mission Peninsula



5



CHECK-IN *CHILL*

BY BRIANNE SANCHEZ

With fresh powder in the forecast, lock in your lift tickets and lodging today. Design a snow-centric getaway that checks every box:

- ☐ **THRILLING TERRAIN**
- ☐ **SLOPESIDE SERVICE**
- ☐ **APRÈS-SKI AMENITIES**
- ☒ **ALL THE ABOVE**

PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTNEY KENT PHOTOGRAPHY



✓
OTSEGO RESORT'S
LODGE INCLUDES
A RETAIL SHOP AND THE
DUCK BLIND GRILLE.

CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN,
THOMPSONVILLE



BOYNE MOUNTAIN,
BOYNE FALLS



✓
WARM UP AT THE
BASE OF THE
MOUNTAIN EXPRESS
LIFT AT
BOYNE MOUNTAIN.



SKI RESORTS

Ski-in, ski-out convenience; sauna sessions; vertical drop; or Superior views? Maximize active time on the mountain with stay-and-play packages and season passes.

LOWER PENINSULA

Boyne Mountain Resort, Boyne Falls

Named among *Midwest Living's* best Midwest ski destinations, this expansive resort blends downhill delights and seasonal activities. Winter tubing, MoonBike Tours, SkyBridge hikes, horseback riding, and an indoor water park represent the tip of the iceberg. Cap your stay clinking cocktails at Iglu Boyne Mountain, carved entirely from snow and ice.

Caberfae Peaks, *Cadillac*
Budget-conscious skiers who picnic at Skyview Lodge will find ample reason to sleep

over. Guests at the 42-room Mackenzie Lodge enjoy special lift-ticket pricing, plus the option to hop between the outdoor heated pool, hot tub, and firepit after conquering each peak or looping Nordic ski trails.

Crystal Mountain, Thompsonville

Celebrations marking the resort's 70th ski season will bring extra festivities to this full-service Betsie County destination. Fill bonus days snowshoeing through Michigan Legacy Art Park or cross-country skiing groomed trails. Inside, you can take a swing at the golf simulator or relax at the spa. After sunset, catch a horse-drawn surrey ride through the storybook Crystal Village.

"Crystal's all about community connection," says Brittney Primeau, Crystal Mountain's director of communications.

"We partner with Northern Michigan Adaptive Sports several times a year and can accommodate those who bring their own adaptive skiing and snowboarding equipment. Our lift operators and snow sports staff are trained to help everyone.

"Ski the backside of the mountain, where it's more protected from the elements and conditions are typically prime," Primeau says. "Whether you're an expert on skis or a snowboard or new to snow sports, we have 59 downhill slopes with a variety of terrain that can cater to any skill level."

The Highlands, Harbor Springs

Warm Belgian waffles, made fresh slopeside, inspire sticky smiles from skiers seeking a sugar rush. Snag one before hopping on the heated seats of the Camelot 6 chairlift. Numerous dining options within this four-season resort fuel adventures across 50-plus runs,

three terrain parks, and miles of Nordic trails. On select dates, night skiing rules.

The Homestead, Glen Arbor

Prefer to luxuriate during a snowy stay along Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore? This Leelanau Peninsula resort's historic inn features a fireplace in every room. Vacation homes and villas also dot the 500-acre property, where winter sports engage active guests and day visitors. Melt into a massage after hitting the slopes.

Otsego Resort, Gaylord

Once a private alpine retreat, this top-down resort sends skiers schussing into the tranquil Sturgeon River Valley. Refuel and warm up around the River Cabin's copper-hood indoor firepit. Or hang tight on the three-lane tubing hill. Guest accommodations span classic lodge rooms, chalets, and upscale suites.



Shanty Creek Resort, *Bellaire*

Situated amid one of the Lower Peninsula's prolific snow belts, Schuss Mountain sees spectacular winter conditions. Play your way on a guided, scenic Snow Glide Tour around the property. There's also alpine tubing, snowshoeing, 25 kilometers of track-set trails, and downhill runs. Sunday afternoons, combine a full-access lift ticket, equipment rental, and station-by-station lesson for a low flat rate.

Michigan Snowsports Industries Association (MSIA) Executive Director Mike Panich encourages visitors to act like a local by embracing night-skiing culture: "Across the state, any area that offers night skiing is always a really cool environment."

Treetops Resort, *Gaylord*
Families adore this up north environment, where skiing and snowboarding are just the start. Extreme tubing sends thrill seekers who are over 42 inches tall on adrenaline-fueled excitement. Glide onto the rink with complimentary skate rentals, then clock indoor time at the spa, pool, or arcade. Gaylord-area snowmobile and winter river rafting expeditions thrill too.

UPPER PENINSULA

Big Powderhorn Mountain Resort, *Bessemer*
Often called the Ski Capital of the Midwest, Big Powderhorn Mountain Resort beckons travelers along US-2 with a landmark roadside skier statue. Reserve a ski-in, ski-out chalet or trailside day-use wine hut to maximize time on the mountain with friends. Each rustic shelter includes a charcoal grill, a pre-lit woodstove, and wraparound seating. BYO food, fun, and games.

Mount Bohemia, Nordic Spa, and Voodoo Mountain, *Copper Harbor*

This extreme resort brings Rocky Mountain highs to the Keweenaw Peninsula, with 90-plus gnarly, expert-level runs and advanced-intermediate cat skiing that skirts Lake Superior. Aqua Log Cabins on Lac La Belle intersect trail routes. Stays include free access to the Nordic Spa. Hit the hot springs mineral pool, sauna, rain cave, and cold plunge.

Pine Mountain Ski and Golf Resort, *Iron Mountain*

Ski heritage looms large at this renovated resort. The 176-foot Pine Mountain Ski Jump was completed in 1938 and still hosts premier international events. You needn't be an aspiring Olympian to enjoy the 35-run slope or the lodge's Sitzmark Bar, hot tub, and sauna.

Ski Brule, *Iron River*

Test your limits at three terrain parks or settle into scenic cruising at this Northwoods multisport resort. Hot tubs and saunas at spacious overnight chalets thaw toes. A Kid's Center has activities to keep little ones entertained. Saturdays, a bonfire and marshmallow roast precede a sleigh ride to the hearty Homestead Lodge barbecue dinner.

Snowriver Mountain Resort, *Wakefield*

Lodging options at this dual-mountain, ski-down resort put guests in close proximity to legendary powder. Access wooded trails straight from the Voyageur condos and return for a fast lap on the six-person, high-speed chairlift. Switch things up with shuttle service between Jackson Creek Summit and adjoining Black River Basin.

SKI HILLS

Don't sleep on these day-trip downhill destinations and night-skiing spots with high-speed chairlifts, deep glades, and unique celebrations.

LOWER PENINSULA

Mt. Brighton, *Brighton*

Daily evening lift-ticket rates and the most active terrain (130 acres) within an hour of Detroit make the case for metro skiers and snowboarders to linger until "last chair." Part of Vail Resorts' network, guests who hold an app-based Epic Pass gain instant mobile lift tickets, discounts, and more.

Mt. Holly Ski Resort, *Holly*

Recognized for educating thousands of skiers and snowboarders during each season's snow school, this area also knows how to party. Night skiing sometimes extends to 10 p.m., and Southeastern Michigan's only high-speed chairlifts help pack in more runs. Drink specials and live music in the Lift Lounge amp up après-ski.

Nub's Nob, *Harbor Springs*

This family-owned three-peak area operates with a goal to grow the downhill community. They keep the 275,000-square-foot beginner zone free, provide space for brown baggers' slow cookers, and tune equipment. Wind down with drinks in the lodge's heated winter garden.

UPPER PENINSULA

Marquette Mountain, *Marquette*

Yoopers embrace the rugged, authentic nature here as a venue to show off expert skills on steep pitches and technical terrain. Newcomers enjoy epic views of Lake Superior from the lifts. Noteworthy nearby attractions include Ishpeming's U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame Museum and the Upper Peninsula Luge Club in Negaunee.

Pine Mountain Ski and Golf Resort, *Iron Mountain*

Jump into an affordable group lesson to get moving. The slopes cater to skiers of all levels with well-groomed trails, snowboarding options,

and tubing. The UP's only ski-in, ski-out resort, Pine Mountain offers cozy cabins adjacent to the longest lift. Relax in the indoor pool, hot tub, or sauna.

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, *Ontonagon*

Up for no-frills downhills? The Porcupine Mountains Winter Sports Complex, located just inside the state park entrance, frames spectacular Lake Superior views. An annual "Porkies" Snowburst Winter Carnival (scheduled for February 20, 2027) awards winners in cardboard-sled racing categories and features a youth treasure hunt and lantern-lit hike.

Michigan ranks second among states for its number of U.S. ski destinations (44). In January, participating areas offer beginner discounts for Discover Michigan Skiing Month via goskimichigan.com.



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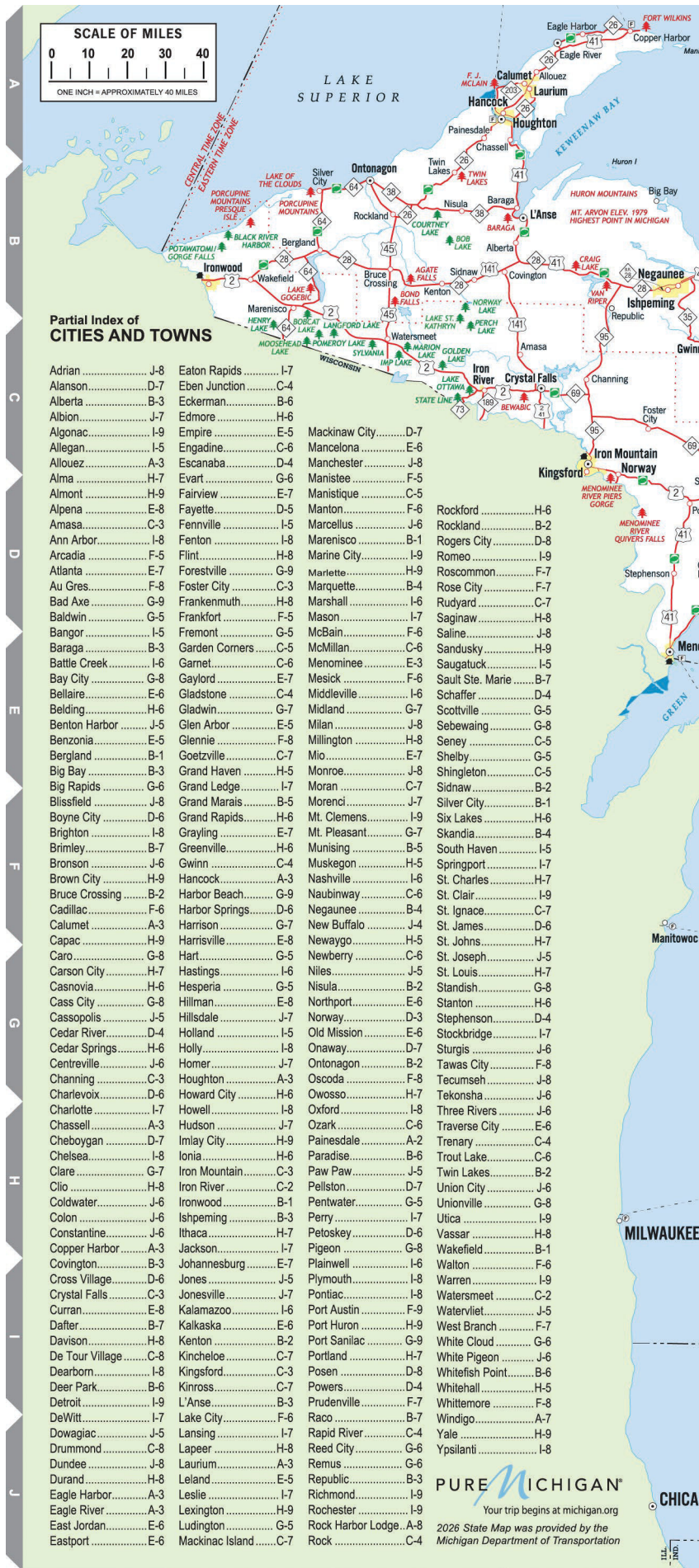
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