PURE MICHIGAN®

2019
TRAVEL GUIDE
SPRING/SUMMER

HIDDEN
BEACHES &
TRAVERSE city

WIDE OPEN
SPACES
It's where everything comes together. Where secluded shorelines roll into lush green vineyards waiting to be savored. And wherever you wander, you know you're in a pretty great place.
TraverseCity.com

WELCOME TO michigan!

Dear Traveler:

With 3,200 miles of freshwater shoreline, more than 18 million acres of forested lands, 36,000 miles of flowing streams, and more than 11,000 lakes for every type of escape possible, Michigan is a warm-weather paradise.

Outdoor adventure abounds here. Explore two magnificent National Lakeshores, more than 100 state parks, and towering lighthouses. Explore our freshwater beaches, which invite swimmers, boaters and anglers to experience the greatest parts of the Great Lakes. Hike or bike an extensive trails network, or tee off on a championship golf course.

Be sure to visit exciting cities across the state, offering trendy nightlife and some of the best wineries, craft breweries and culinary adventures you'll find anywhere. Families enjoy museums, unique festivals, diverse cultural experiences and kid-friendly attractions.

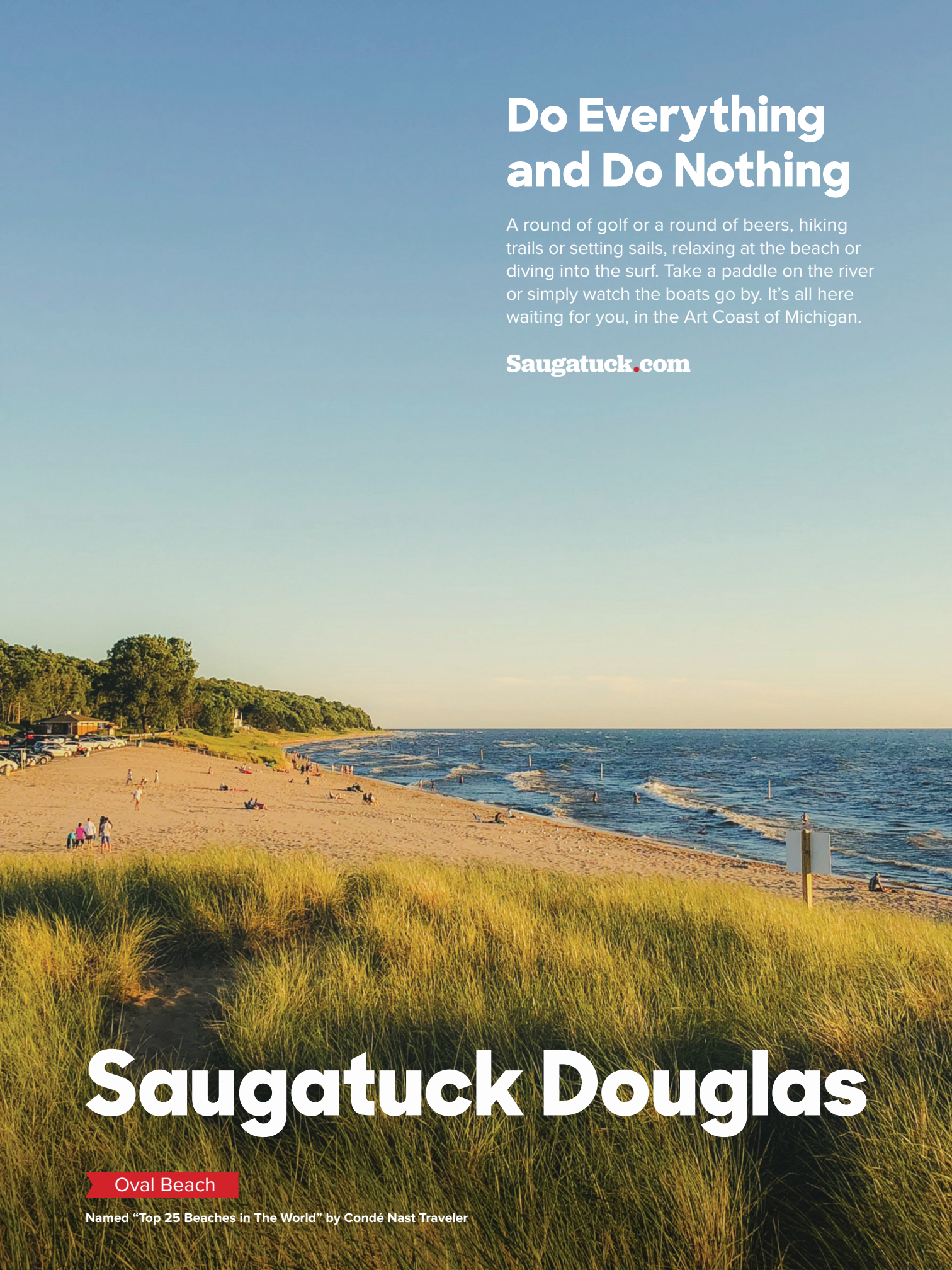
Whether you seek the tranquility of our beaches or the hum of our urban communities, plan your getaway with the new **2019 Pure Michigan Spring/Summer Travel Guide.**

On behalf of the people of the State of Michigan, we invite you to make memories that will last a lifetime here in the Great Lakes State.

Sincerely,

GRETCHEN WHITMER
Governor

GARLIN GILCHRIST II
Lt. Governor



Do Everything and Do Nothing

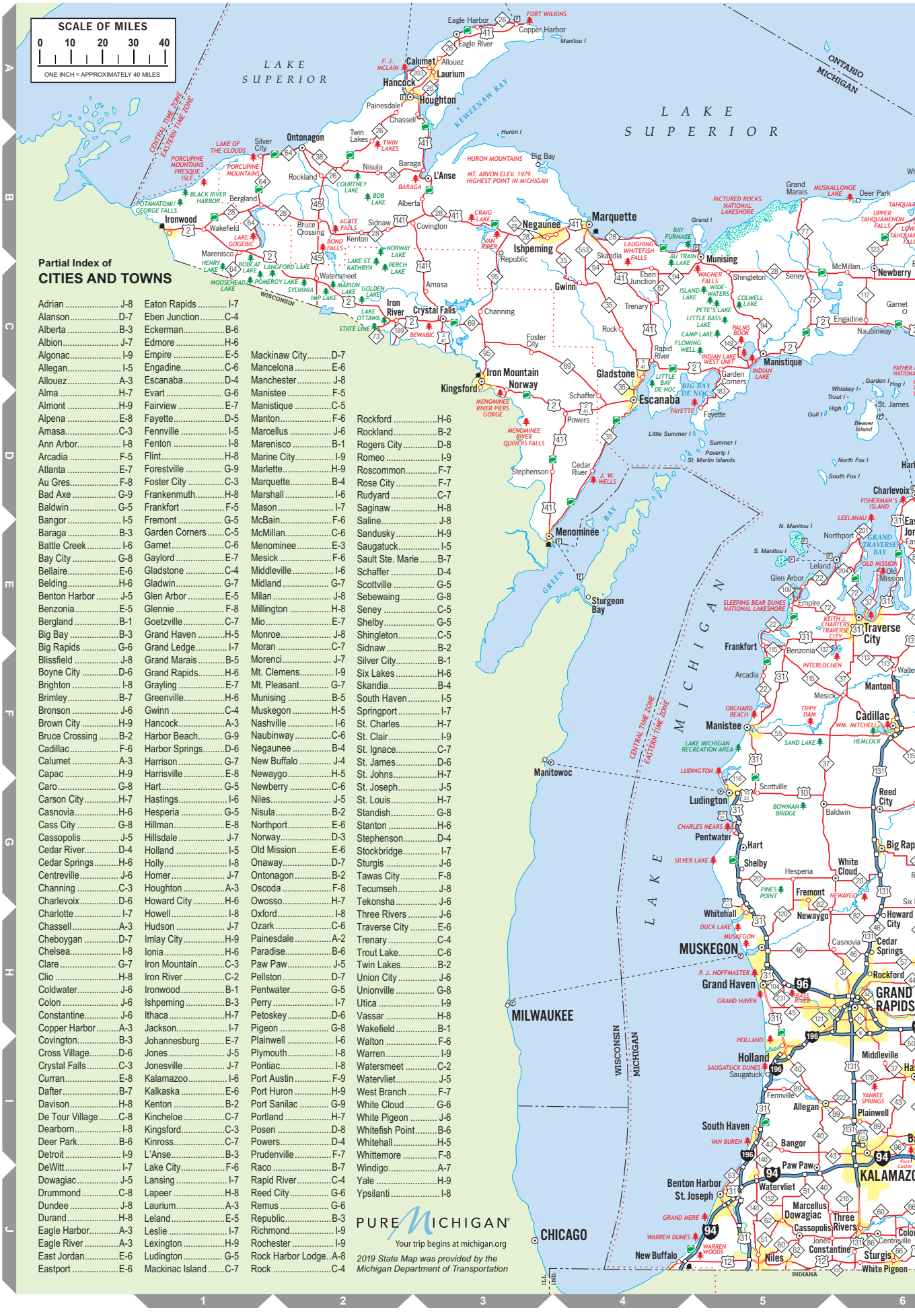
A round of golf or a round of beers, hiking trails or setting sails, relaxing at the beach or diving into the surf. Take a paddle on the river or simply watch the boats go by. It's all here waiting for you, in the Art Coast of Michigan.

Saugatuck.com

Saugatuck Douglas

Oval Beach

Named "Top 25 Beaches in The World" by Condé Nast Traveler



Partial Index of CITIES AND TOWNS

Adrian J-8
Alanson D-7
Alberta B-3
Albion J-7
Algonac I-9
Allegan I-5
Allouez A-3
Alma H-7
Almont H-9
Alpena E-8
Amasa C-3
Ann Arbor I-8
Arcadia F-5
Atlanta E-7
Au Gres F-8
Bad Axe G-9
Baldwin G-5
Bangor I-5
Baraga B-3
Battle Creek I-6
Bay City G-8
Bellaire E-6
Belding H-6
Benton Harbor J-5
Benzonia E-5
Bergland B-1
Big Bay B-3
Big Rapids G-6
Blissfield J-8
Boyne City D-6
Brighton I-8
Brimley B-7
Bronson J-6
Brown City H-9
Bruce Crossing B-2
Cadillac F-6
Calumet A-3
Capac H-9
Caro G-8
Carson City H-7
Casnovia H-6
Cass City G-8
Cassopolis J-5
Cedar River D-4
Cedar Springs H-6
Centreville J-6
Channing C-3
Charlevoix D-6
Charlotte I-7
Chassell A-3
Cheboygan D-7
Chelsea I-8
Clare G-7
Clio H-8
Coldwater J-6
Colon J-6
Constantine J-6
Copper Harbor A-3
Covington B-3
Cross Village D-6
Crystal Falls C-3
Curran E-8
Dafter B-7
Davison H-8
De Tour Village C-8
Dearborn I-8
Deer Park B-6
Detroit I-9
DeWitt I-7
Dowagiac J-5
Drummond C-8
Dundee J-8
Durand H-8
Eagle Harbor A-3
Eagle River A-3
East Jordan E-6
Eastport E-6
Eaton Rapids I-7
Eben Junction C-4
Eckerman B-6
Edmore H-6
Empire E-5
Engadine C-6
Escanaba D-4
Evart G-6
Fairview E-7
Fayette D-5
Fennville I-5
Fenton I-8
Flint H-8
Forestville G-9
Foster City C-3
Frankenmuth H-8
Frankfort F-5
Fremont G-5
Garden Corners C-5
Garnet C-6
Gaylord E-7
Gladstone C-4
Gladwin G-7
Glen Arbor E-5
Glennie F-8
Goetzville C-7
Grand Haven H-5
Grand Ledge I-7
Grand Marais B-5
Grand Rapids H-6
Grayling E-7
Greenville H-6
Gwinn C-4
Hancock A-3
Harbor Beach G-9
Harbor Springs D-6
Harrison G-7
Harrisville E-8
Hart G-5
Hastings I-6
Hesperia G-5
Hillman E-8
Hillsdale J-7
Holland I-5
Holly I-8
Homer J-7
Houghton A-3
Howard City H-6
Howell I-8
Hudson J-7
Imlay City H-9
Ionia H-6
Iron Mountain C-3
Iron River C-2
Ironwood B-1
Ishpeming B-3
Ithaca H-7
Jackson I-7
Johannesburg E-7
Jones J-5
Jonesville J-7
Kalamazoo I-6
Kalkaska E-6
Kenton B-2
Kincheloe C-7
Kingsford C-3
Kinross C-7
L'Anse B-3
Lake City F-6
Lansing I-7
Lapeer H-8
Laurium A-3
Leland E-5
Leslie I-7
Lexington H-9
Ludington G-5
Mackinac Island C-7
Mackinaw City D-7
Mancelona E-6
Manchester J-8
Manistee F-5
Manistique C-5
Manton F-6
Marcellus J-6
Marenisco B-1
Marine City I-9
Marlette H-9
Marquette B-4
Marshall I-6
Mason I-7
McBain F-6
McMillan C-6
Menominee E-3
Mesick F-6
Middleville I-6
Midland G-7
Milan J-8
Millington H-8
Mio E-7
Monroe J-8
Moran C-7
Morenci J-7
Mt. Clemens I-9
Mt. Pleasant G-7
Munising B-5
Muskegon H-5
Nashville I-6
Naubinway C-6
Negaunee B-4
New Buffalo J-4
Newaygo H-5
Newberry C-6
Niles J-5
Nisula B-2
Northport E-6
Norway D-3
Old Mission E-6
Onaway D-7
Ontonagon B-2
Oscoda F-8
Owosso H-7
Oxford I-8
Ozark C-6
Painesdale A-2
Paradise B-6
Paw Paw J-5
Pellston D-7
Pentwater G-5
Perry I-7
Petoskey D-6
Pigeon G-8
Plainwell I-6
Plymouth I-8
Pontiac I-8
Port Austin F-9
Port Huron H-9
Port Sanilac G-9
Portland H-7
Posen D-8
Powers D-4
Prudenville F-7
Raco B-7
Rapid River C-4
Reed City G-6
Remus G-6
Republic B-3
Richmond I-9
Rochester I-9
Rock Harbor Lodge A-8
Rock C-4
Rockford H-6
Rockland B-2
Rogers City D-8
Romeo I-9
Roscommon F-7
Rose City F-7
Rudyard C-7
Saginaw H-8
Saline J-8
Sandusky H-9
Saugatuck I-5
Sault Ste. Marie B-7
Schaffer D-4
Scottville G-5
Sebewaing G-8
Seney C-5
Shelby G-5
Shingleton C-5
Sidnaw B-2
Silver City B-1
Six Lakes H-6
Skandia B-4
South Haven I-5
Springport I-7
St. Charles H-7
St. Clair I-9
St. Ignace C-7
St. James D-6
St. Johns H-7
St. Joseph J-5
St. Louis H-7
Standish G-8
Stanton H-6
Stephenson D-4
Stockbridge I-7
Sturgis J-6
Tawas City F-8
Tecumseh J-8
Tekonsha J-6
Three Rivers J-6
Traverse City E-6
Trenary C-4
Trout Lake C-6
Twin Lakes B-2
Union City J-6
Unionville G-8
Utica I-9
Vassar H-8
Wakefield B-1
Walton F-6
Warren I-9
Watersmeet C-2
Watervliet J-5
West Branch F-7
White Cloud G-6
White Pigeon J-6
Whitefish Point B-6
Whitehall H-5
Whittemore F-8
Windigo A-7
Yale H-9
Ypsilanti I-8

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A B C D E F G H I J

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ONTARIO
MICHIGAN
Rock Harbor Lodge
MID-MAY THROUGH NOV. 1
VOYAGEUR II
ST. ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK
WENONAH
Windigo
MID-JUNE THROUGH LABOR DAY
TO AND FROM GRAND PORTAGE MINNESOTA
RANGER III
JUNE THROUGH LABOR DAY
ISLE ROYALE QUEEN IV
MID-MAY THROUGH MID-OCTOBER
ISLE ROYALE QUEEN III
MID-JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER
HIGHWAY MARKERS
94 INTERSTATE ROUTE
23 U.S. ROUTE or B.R. (B.R. - Business Route)
78 U.S. ROUTE or B.R. (B.R. - Business Route)
INTERSTATE, U.S. AND STATE ROUTES
Full Interchanges
Partial
FREEWAY (Entrance and Exit only at Interchanges)
MULTI-LANE DIVIDED
PAVED – TWO OR MORE LANES
MAP SYMBOLS
NATIONAL PARK
STATE PARK
NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION FACILITY
PASSENGER & AUTO FERRY
PASSENGER FERRY
FERRY/BOATLINE
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Ozark
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De Tour Village
Drummond
Drummond Island
Neebish I
LIME ISLAND
Les Cheneaux I
St. Martin I
Marquette I
MACKINAC ISLAND
Mackinac Island
Round I
FORT MACKINAC
St. Ignace
Mackinaw City
Bois Blanc Island
Cheboyganv
Cross Village
Pellston
Alanson
Petoskey
Onaway
Rogers City
THOMPSON'S HARBOR
THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ROCKPORT
Alpena
Thunder Bay I
THUNDER BAY
UNDERWATER PRESERVE
NEGWEGON
STURGEON POINT
HARRISVILLE
Harrisville
Posen
Hillman
Atlanta
Gaylord
Johannesburg
Bellaire
Boyne City
Mancelona
Kalkaska
Grayling
Fairview
Mio
Curran
Glennie
Roscommon
Rose City
Oscoda
MONUMENT
ROUND LAKE
TAWAS POINT
Tawas City
Whittemore
Prudenville
West Branch
Lake City
McBain
Harrison
Gladwin
Au Gres
Standish
SAGINAW BAY
Pt Aux Barques
PORT CRESCENT
Port Austin
Pigeon
Bad Axe
Harbor Beach
Sand Pt
Heisterman I
Middle Grounds I
Sebewaing
Unionville
BAY CITY
Cass City
SANILAC PETROGLYPHS
Forestville
Clare
Mount Pleasant
Midland
SAGINAW
Caro
Sandusky
Port Sanilac
Edmore
Alma
St. Louis
Vassar
Marlette
Lexington
Stanton
Ithaca
St. Charles
Frankenmuth
Millington
Clio
Brown City
Yale
Greenville
Carson City
Belding
St. Johns
Owosso
Davison
Lapeer
Imlay City
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LAKEPORT
Sarnia
FLINT
Almont
Capac
Ionia
Portland
DeWitt
Durand
Perry
Fenton
Holly
Oxford
Richmond
Romeo
St. Clair
Marine City
Algonac
Rochester
Utica
Mount Clemens
LANSING
Grand Ledge
Nashville
Howell
PONTIAC
WARREN
Mason
Eaton Rapids
Brighton
Charlotte
Leslie
Stockbridge
Plymouth
DETROIT
Springport
Chelsea
DEARBORN
Windsor
Marshall
Albion
JACKSON
ANN ARBOR
Ypsilanti
Union City
Homer
Saline
Manchester
Milan
Tecumseh
Dundee
Monroe
Coldwater
Tekonsha
Jonesville
Hillsdale
Adrian
Hudson
Blissfield
Bronson
Morenci
TOLEDO
LAKE HURON
LAKE ST. CLAIR
LAKE ERIE
ONTARIO
MICHIGAN
OHIO

contents

/PureMichigan /PureMichigan /PureMichigan /PureMichigan /PureMichigan

EXPLORE

12 LIGHTHOUSES
16 LELAND'S FISHTOWN
18 CRAFT BEER AND SPIRIT TRENDS
22 Q&A: BRUCE CAMPBELL
26 UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
32 FLY FISHING
36 ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL
38 TINY TOWNS
42 CHERRY SEASON
44 MACKINAC ISLAND
46 OUTDOORS UP NORTH
48 CASINO ATTRACTIONS

MAKE PLANS

87 FESTIVALS AND EVENTS
106 STATE PARKS AND TRAILS
108 WEEKEND POWWOW

EDITORIAL CONTENT DIRECTOR Trevor Meers
CREATIVE DIRECTOR Kylee Krizmanic
DEPUTY EDITOR, CUSTOM MEDIA Mary Beaumont
EDITOR, CUSTOM MEDIA Kristin Bienert
ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTOR Allison Zelle
CONTRIBUTING ART DIRECTOR Nick Crow
SENIOR STAFF WRITER Gary Thompson
CONTRIBUTING COPY EDITOR Diane Penningroth
CONTRIBUTORS Cindy Cates, Bri Harding, Jess Hoffert, Christine Hoskin, Lauren Kassien, Brooke Shunatona, Stephanie Simmons, Bernadette Sukley, Sandy Zeles
PUBLISHER Melissa Luebbe
NATIONAL TRAVEL MANAGER Katy Hildman
ADVERTISING SALES Richard Konopaske (269) 965-3134

FEATURES

50 **IT'S A SHORE THING**
The coasts of lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron offer unique experiences.

60 **GO TO THE DARK SIDE**
See a light show of stars from seven designated dark sky parks in Michigan.

62 **SUMMER IN THE CITIES**
Eight areas deliver urban arts and culture, cuisine, and recreation.

68 **A MILLION ACRES OF ADVENTURE**
Explore the treasures of the Huron-Manistee National Forests.

76 **DESIGNER GREENS**
Play courses from top architects and some of the biggest names in golf.

82 **EVERYBODY READY?**
Plan an afternoon, a day or weekend family trip at these three hot spots.

ON THE COVER
Saugatuck, Michigan
Photographer: Ryan Donnell

DIGITAL EDITION
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PHOTOGRAPHS: (ZIP) JASON LINDSEY, (BRIDGE) RYAN DONNELL, (SAND) JOHN NOLTNER, (WATER) AARON PETERSON

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Tulips and tamales. Sand dunes and sculptures. Urban excitement and homespun simplicity. This is Holland. A sophisticated city wrapped up in small-town charm. We hope you enjoy our little corner of West Michigan as much as we enjoy sharing it with you.

DUTCH TREATS

The deBoers have been crafting incredible artisan breads, buttery pastries, and delicious cookies in Holland since immigrating from Kollum, Nederland, in 1956. Now run by fourth-generation bakers, deBoer Bakkerij & Dutch Brothers Restaurant's time-tested craftsmanship and commitment to quality truly make them a "taste of the old country."

MARVEL AT THE MILL

Tour the DeZwaan windmill, a 260-year-old authentic working Dutch windmill, and learn how the Dutch-certified miller grinds locally grown winter wheat into flour and corn into meal (available for purchase).

FLOWER POWER

Celebrate the city's rich Dutch heritage and more than 6 million tulips during Holland's 90th Annual Tulip Time Festival (May 4-12, 2019). Parades, klompen dancers, and headline entertainment round out the event.

HIT THE BEACH

Whether you spread a blanket on the sand and read a book, join in a game of beach volleyball, take a barefoot stroll at water's edge, picnic with friends under a canopied pavilion, or build a castle in the sand, Holland has a wonderful selection of beaches from which to choose, each with its own unique personality.

REVEL IN RETAIL

You'll love exploring Holland's award-winning downtown of beautifully restored Victorian-era buildings. Here you'll find upscale fashion and trendy togs, children's wear, home décor and furniture, books, jewelry, one-of-a-kind gifts, international fair-trade items, brewpubs, cafés, and eateries.

TAKE A HIKE

Holland has over 1800 acres of parks for hiking, cycling, picnicking, and playing. With over 150 miles of paved bike paths, 8 miles of mountain biking and hiking at Riley Trails, and over ⅓-mile of beautiful sandy beach at Holland State Park, there is truly something for everyone.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!

"AMERICA'S PRETTIEST TOWNS"
Forbes Magazine

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explore

SMALL TOWNS

CRAFT BEER

HISTORIC SHOPPING

MACKINAC ISLAND

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

FLY FISHING

ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL

PHOTOGRAPH: AARON PETERSON

JAMSEN'S FISH MARKET AND BAKERY, COPPER HARBOR

Grab a cheddar-bacon-and-chive scone, a turnover with wild Keweenaw berries, or a doughnut from Jamsen's, which overlooks Lake Superior.

P.12 TALK ABOUT A ROOM WITH A VIEW: BOOK A STAY AT A MICHIGAN LIGHTHOUSE.

P.42 CHEFS SHARE THEIR FAVORITE USES FOR THE STATE'S SIGNATURE SUMMER FRUIT.

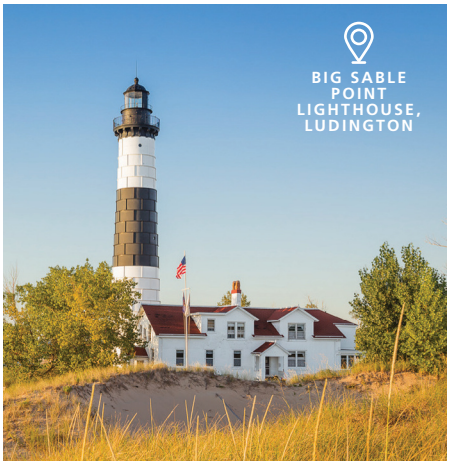
P.46 HIKE, BIKE AND PADDLE ON AN UP-NORTH ADVENTURE.

shedding light

Experience lighthouse life during a visit to almost any of Michigan's 129 historic beacons. (Some even let you live like a keeper with an overnight stay!)

NEW PRESQUE ISLE LIGHTHOUSE, PRESQUE ISLE

TAWAS POINT LIGHTHOUSE, EAST TAWAS



BIG SABLE POINT LIGHTHOUSE, LUDINGTON

DID YOU KNOW? You'll find more lighthouses here than in any other state.

TOWER-TOP TOURS

Most lighthouses offer public tours, and some invite visitors onto the parapet, the platform that wraps around the lantern room. For visitors willing to spiral up stairs and squeeze through a narrow hatch, panoramic views serve as a reward. Check out:

LAKE HURON

Tawas Point Lighthouse, East Tawas
The 45-minute guided tour includes climbs for sweeping looks at Tawas Bay.

New Presque Isle Lighthouse, Presque Isle
See islands and freighter traffic from the top of this 113-foot tower north of Alpena.

LAKE MICHIGAN

Big Sable Point Lighthouse, Ludington
Trek 1.5 miles through the state park to climb 130 steps and emerge onto one of the state's tallest beacons for views of the dunes.

Sand Point Lighthouse, Escanaba
At the top of the white tower, watch for a green buoy marking the wreckage of the steamer *Nahant*, now a popular dive site.

Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Mackinaw City
On the Straits of Mackinac, where lakes Huron and Michigan meet, see nearby Mackinac Bridge from this 1889 light.

STORY: KRISTIN BIENERT. PHOTOGRAPHS: ANDY WAKEMAN, (BIG SABLE) BOB STEFKO

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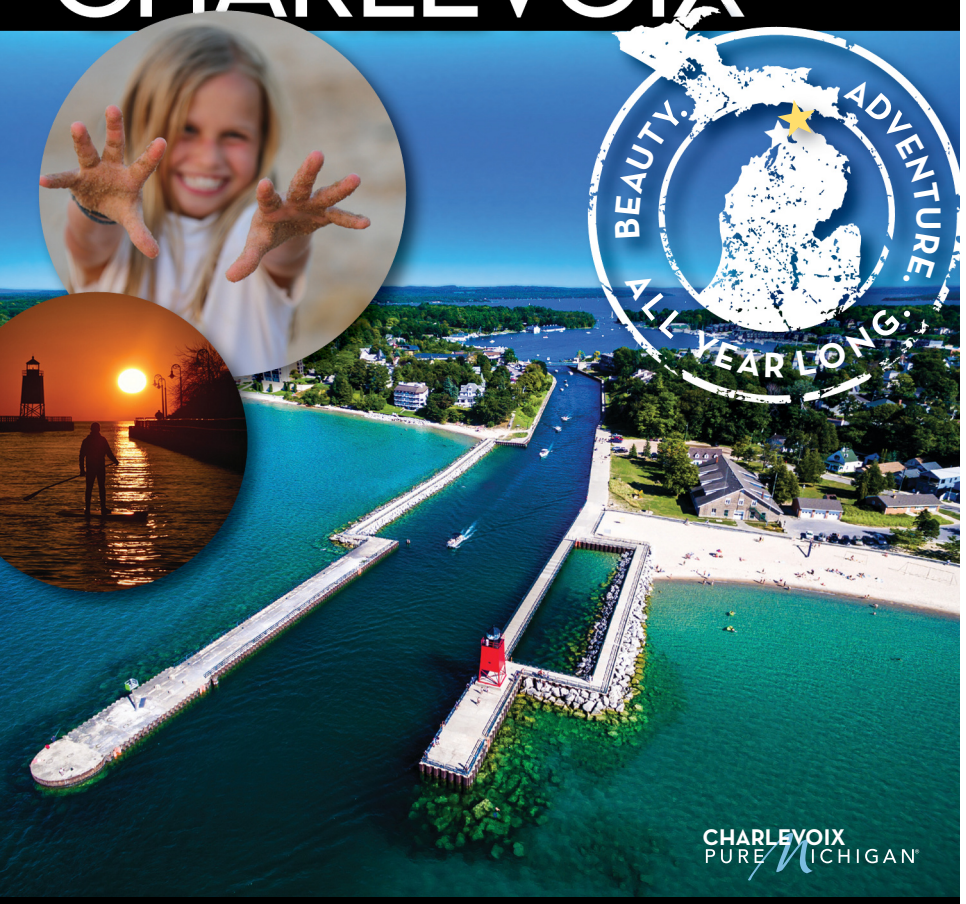

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LAKE SUPERIOR

Marquette Harbor Lighthouse, Marquette
This historic, bright red light guards a rocky bluff.

Crisp Point Lighthouse, Newberry
Take an 18-mile dirt-road drive to see this still-active light on a deserted sandy beach.

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS PROGRAM

Guests greet visitors, provide tours and perform light duties—in exchange for room and board—as part of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association's Volunteer Keepers Program. Each lighthouse charges fees for applications ($30) and the program ($200 and up). Sessions run from a few days to up to two weeks. About 20 lighthouses participate, including:

MISSION POINT LIGHTHOUSE, OLD MISSION POINT

Participants staff the gift shop and collect fees for self-guided tours. It's a much different kind of work from that of the original keepers, who hauled pails of oil to fuel the lamp amplified by the Fresnel lens. Perks include free wine tasting and unlimited views of rolling vineyards.

DETOUR REEF LIGHT, DETOUR

Ride a ferry to this remote lighthouse between the Upper Peninsula and Drummond Island. Keepers greet visitors, provide information, and perform light cleaning and maintenance.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (MARQUETTE) AARON PETERSON, (WHITEFISH POINT) JASON LINDSEY

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OVERNIGHT

A few Upper Peninsula lighthouses operate as inns or bed-and-breakfasts. For overnights, check into:

Big Bay Point Lighthouse, Big Bay
On a rocky cliff midway between the Keweenaw Peninsula and Marquette, this 1896 light now houses seven guest rooms. Follow trails through 6 acres of woods or settle in front of the living room fireplace with a book from the lighthouse's library.

Jacobsville Lighthouse Inn, Jacobsville
The three-room inn occupies the eastern shore of the Keweenaw Peninsula. Overnight guests climb the 50-foot tower for views of Lake Superior and the Keweenaw Bay.

Sand Hills Lighthouse Inn, Ahmeek
The state's northernmost lighthouse B&B sits high on the Keweenaw Peninsula. Guests at the eight-room inn enjoy 3,000 feet of private shoreline and climbs to the top of the 90-foot tower. Some rooms come with a decorative fireplace, balcony and whirlpool tub.

Whitefish Point Light Station, Paradise
The Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum campus includes five theme rooms inside the U.S. Coast Guard Crews Quarters. The surrounding waters, known as the Graveyard of Ships, hold many shipwrecks, including the famed *Edmund Fitzgerald*.

shanty chic

Tread the creaking walkways of **Leland's Fishtown,** where historic fishing shacks now house tiny waterfront shops on Lake Michigan's shore. It's just one stop on the famed M-22 loop, which traces a confetti of wineries, trails and towns on the Leelanau Peninsula.

At Leland Gal, say hi to owner Maggie Revel Mielczarek, a third-generation Leland artist.

DECOR

At **Leland Gal,** a painter takes her work from canvas to fabric, her brightly colored repeating patterns adorning a growing array of products. Take home throw pillows, handbags, dog beds, leggings and more, printed with patterns that include boats, fish, flowers or glinting water.

SWEETS

Neat shelves of jelly beans and gummy candies line the walls of **Dam Candy Store,** where you can scoop a personalized mix of treats. Don't miss a house-made waffle cone stuffed with richly fudged Michigan Pot Hole ice cream, from Detroit-area Ashby's Sterling Ice Cream.

ART

Dozens of designs grace **Spørck Tileart's** hand-carved ceramic tiles, which the proprietor crafts in his Leelanau Peninsula studio. Take home one as a vacation memento, or order a set to install at home. Decor finds include lake-hued glass fishnet floats encased in knotted rope.

LUNCH

Village Cheese Shanty builds sandwiches on pita, baguette or pretzel bread. For hyper-local flavor, try the Leelanau, stacked with roast beef, veggies and Leelanau Cheese peppercorn fromage blanc, made on the peninsula. Shop the displays of local products, including cherry jam.

HATS

Score a new topper at **Diversions Leland,** which hawks hundreds of hats and caps from makers like Panama Jack, Parkhurst, Stetson and Michigan's Stormy Kromer. Also find T-shirts and souvenirs stamped with the Fishtown logo, plus jewelry, toys and gifts.

STORY: MARY BEAUMONT. PHOTOGRAPHS: MARTY BALDWIN, (WATER) TONY DEMIN

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THE creative spirit

Take a tasting tour to discover how Michigan's craft brewers and distillers are showcasing six tasty trends.

CRAFT BEER

TREND: BARREL-AGED BEER

Former bourbon barrels are an increasingly popular vehicle for aging beer. The result? Slow sippers with alcohol content as high as 10–14 percent. New Holland Brewing Company's Dragon's Milk has become its No. 1 brand. It takes about 12 days for the beer to extract flavor from the oak barrel before being bottled.

WHAT Dragon's Milk

WHERE New Holland Brewing Company in Holland, Grand Rapids and Battle Creek

TREND: SOUR BEER

Intentionally introducing wild yeast during open-top fermentation and the barrel-aging process creates beer with a sour, acidic or tart taste. Embrace the funk and try Bam Bière, a farmhouse ale with hints of citrus. Credit goes to Jolly Pumpkin for being the nation's first all-sour oak brewery.

WHAT Bam Bière

WHERE Jolly Pumpkin in Ann Arbor, Dexter, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Royal Oak and Traverse City

TREND: SPECIALTY INGREDIENTS

Capitalizing on Michigan's agricultural diversity, fruits, vegetables and maple syrup amp up the flavor profile of innovative craft beers. Other ingredients now guest-starring in brews include locally roasted coffee (Roaster Jack Coffee Co.), lavender and peppermint (Light of Day Organics), and tart cherry juice (King's Orchards). Right Brain Brewery ranks among the state's creative leaders. Its brewers draw inspiration from amazing culinary experiences and from its staff of inspired brewers and servers.

WHAT Cherry Pie Whole, Thai Peanut Brown Ale

WHERE Right Brain Brewery, Traverse City

TREND: HOMEGROWN HOPS

Outside of the Pacific Northwest, Michigan ranks first for hop crops with about 45 farms growing 15 to 20 varieties. In Traverse City, Mike Moran of MI Local Hops sells about 30 percent of his crop to in-state brewers, including Brewery Vivant. It uses four hops (three native to Michigan) to create Hop Field Farmhouse IPA with fruity flavors similar to pineapple and pear.

WHAT Hop Field Farmhouse IPA

WHERE Brewery Vivant, Grand Rapids

STORY: KRISTIN BIENERT WITH DIANNA STAMPFLER. PHOTOGRAPHS: BLAINE MOATS

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

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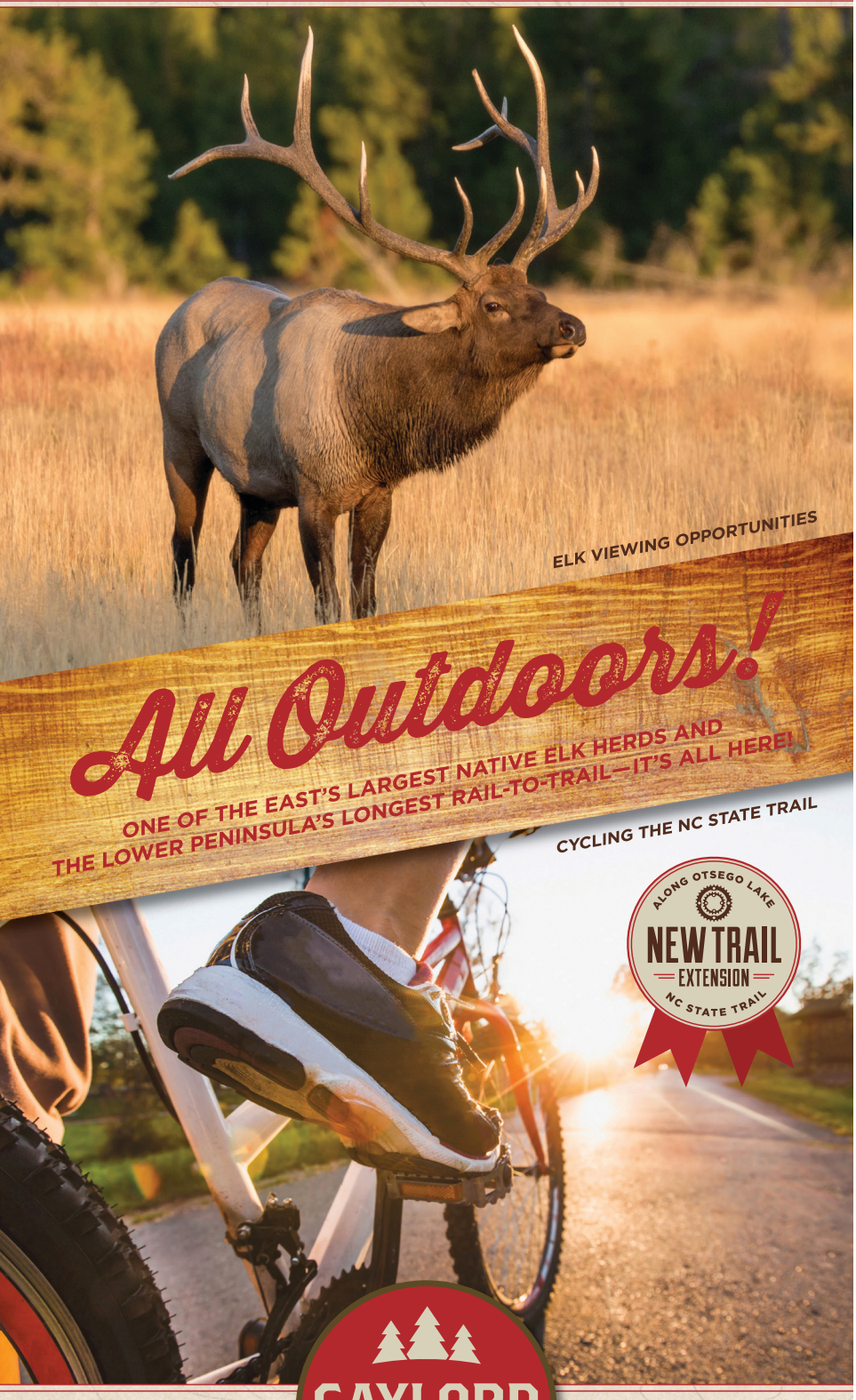

CRAFT DISTILLERS

TREND: 100% MICHIGAN

More than 200 pounds of wild juniper berries hand-harvested on Beaver Island make up Long Road Distillers' Michigin. The remaining botanicals come from small farms and fields around the state, including fennel and lemon verbena (Visser Farms, Zeeland), lemon balm (Creation Farm, Beulah), mint (Ham Family Farm, Allendale) and galena hops (Michigan Hop Alliance, Northport).

WHAT Michigin

WHERE Long Road Distillers, Grand Rapids

go!

LIVE MUSIC
Singer-songwriter (and Midland resident) Brett Mitchell in concert, Iron Fish Distillery, Thompsonville
April 5

TREND: SUSTAINABLE SPIRITS
Iron Fish Distillery holds the title as Michigan's first full-line (rum, whiskey, vodka, gin) farm distillery. Daily tours highlight every step of the soil-to-spirit process from growing and harvesting to milling, fermenting, distilling, bottling and tasting. The 1800s farm grows the Jupiter wheat and rye found in its spirits. Seasonal fruits and herbs and natural sweeteners like maple syrup and honey come from local orchards and farms.
WHAT Michigan Woodland Gin
WHERE Iron Fish Distillery, Thompsonville

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EVIL GENIUS bruce campbell

The actor's G-rated childhood in suburban Detroit somehow led to him starring in the bloody good TV series *Ash vs Evil Dead.*

ASH VS EVIL DEAD

AS A MICHIGAN KID, Bruce Campbell built forts, fished in ponds, delivered newspapers on skates and roamed the backyards and woods of his neighborhood. As an adult, his Michigan-set *Evil Dead* franchise is just like that—at least the woods part. Except that the Michigan forests of the *Evil Dead* universe have been teeming with monsters that have needed some serious slaying for nearly 40 years now.

Bruce and some boyhood pals—including producer Rob Tapert and writer-producer Sam Raimi, who went on to direct the Tobey Maguire *Spider-Man* films—created the comically violent franchise, starting with a short film in the late 1970s. *Evil Dead* lives on, most recently with a three-season Starz series that saw Bruce's character, Ash Williams, taking on evil forces using familiar weapons: a chain saw and shotgun (or "boomstick," as Ash says).

For now, Bruce has put down the boomstick to talk Michigan.

Q Describe 1970s Sam Raimi.

A I first saw Sam in junior high. He was a weird bird—dressed like Sherlock Holmes, playing with dolls in the hallway. I remember just walking *around* him. We finally really met in high school in radio speech class. We did the morning announcements together. Our teacher also directed all the plays, so that's how we got into theater. Then we started making a bunch of Super-8 movies in my neighborhood.

Q Where did your obsession with blood and gore come from?

A We were never obsessed! We were fans of *The Three Stooges.* We knew that if we were going to make a movie and take money from investors, we'd have to make a horror film. They were a very tried-and-true genre that didn't cost much. Sam embraced that and concocted this crazy story about the "book of the dead." Our thought was: Just don't let it look like every other movie out there.

INTERVIEW: CLAIRE CONNORS. PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF STARZ ENTERTAINMENT

Photo by Michelle and Chris Gerard

"Detroit Is America's Next Great Beer City." – *Food & Wine*

Detroit is home to almost 20 independent breweries and taprooms. Eastern Market Brewing Co. in historic Eastern Market uses local ingredients to provide visitors a refreshing place to gather and lift a mug. Detroit Brew Co., near Ford Field, Comerica Park and the Detroit Opera House, gives game and theater goers a roomy, unpretentious place to sit and sip. Founders Detroit taproom brings its national reputation downtown, serving both favorites and Motown-only offerings. Along with multiple award-winning distilleries, supreme dining and diverse activities, Detroit is the consummate place to do it all. Detroit. It's GO time.

visit**detroit**.com

STATE OF SUSPENSE

In honor of Bruce, dream up your own horror flick at these Michigan haunt spots.

THE WHITNEY, DETROIT

Lumber baron David Whitney Jr. lived only six years in his 19th-century granite Midtown mansion, but some say he still visits as a disembodied voice and shadowy apparition. Keep alert as you dine in the mansion's elegant restaurant or visit the third-floor Ghostbar to enjoy The Witching Hour cocktail or a Ghost of the Whitney ale.

+

STATE PRISONS, JACKSON

Even daytime tours might give you goose bumps. Jackson Historic Prison Tours, led by a prison historian, takes you through a castle-like building that was the state's first prison. And at Cell Block 7, a museum built into a retired portion of an operational prison, step inside cells in the looming five-story block and check out artifacts, including prisoner crafts, shivs and other paraphernalia.

+

LIGHTHOUSES, PRESQUE ISLE

North of Alpena, lights anchor edges of a land mass that juts into Lake Huron. On the north end, screams of a former keeper's isolated wife are said to still echo in the night at the New Presque Isle Light. To the south, it's said that a former caretaker haunts the Old Presque Isle Light, built in 1840 and among the state's oldest.

Q How connected did you stay to Michigan after you moved to Hollywood?

A It was in '86 or '87 that we finally relocated because we wanted to be closer to the business. But we made our second film, *Crimewave,* in Detroit, and edited *Evil Dead II* there, too. We had an office in Ferndale, which has a plaque on the building now. It's a historical landmark. Of course, Ferndale is now fashionable. It used to be delis and record shops; now it's all glam and glitz. It's where I used to get flattop haircuts. Now I can't afford to park there.

Q Where else do you like to go when you're in Michigan?

A There are lots of cool things happening in Detroit—in Corktown and Greektown. If you go up north, travel along the Inland Waterway, which is a 40-mile chain of rivers and lakes that people can boat on. Michigan has more than 3,000 miles of coastline, so I would also drive along the edge of the state's coastline. Near the tip of Lake Michigan is Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Basically, these dunes come crashing down into the lake. It's incredibly dramatic. If you're a bike enthusiast, they've converted the old rail lines into bike paths, and you can ride from town to town.

Q What do you think makes Michiganders special?

A I have a theory. I call it "the spores." In Hollywood, the spores get in your brain. You start to act like a different person and pretend you're not from the Midwest. You change your name and your history when you're out there. But the cold climate in Michigan kills those spores, allowing you to think clearly for longer periods of time.

Q Do you ever work Michigan references into *Ash vs Evil Dead?*

A Yes! There's a scene where I hold out my hand because I want to know, "Where are you from?" And if you hold up your right hand, there's Michigan.

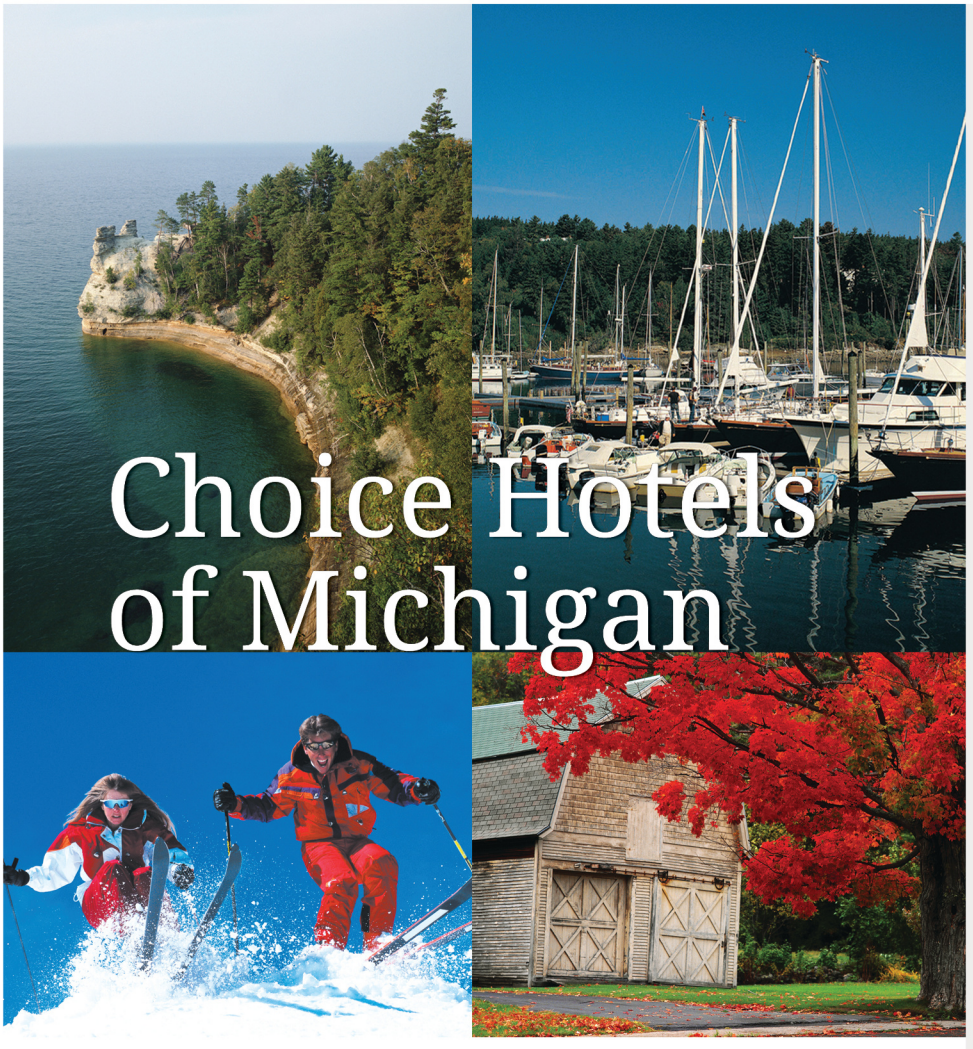
OTHER MICHIGAN CAMEOS IN THE *EVIL DEAD* SERIES

A 1973 OLDSMOBILE DELTA 88
Sam's dad's car makes an appearance in almost all of Sam's films, including his *Spider-Man* trilogy.

FAYGO
It's a pop made in Detroit since 1907.

MICHIGAN STATE POLICE CARS
The blue-and-yellow cop cars with a big red cherry on top arrive on the scenes of crimes.

PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY OF STARZ ENTERTAINMENT



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CHARLES H. WRIGHT MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY, DETROIT

path TO freedom

Memorials, exhibits and immersive experiences bring to life Michigan's role in aiding escaped slaves along the Underground Railroad.

DETROIT

To an escaped slave, Detroit represented the threshold of freedom: just a river crossing away from safety. The city marks its role with the RiverWalk's ***Gateway to Freedom,*** a bronze memorial depicting slaves and African American Underground Railroad conductor George DeBaptiste, pointing toward Canada.

The **First Congregational Church of Detroit's** Underground Railroad Living Museum offers the Flight to Freedom tour. A 90-minute reenactment treats visitors as "cargo" or "packages," code names used on the Underground Railroad.

At the **Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History,** the *And Still We Rise: Our Journey Through African American History and Culture* exhibit includes galleries focused on the Underground Railroad. Visitors enter the 22-gallery exhibit in Africa, then continue across the Atlantic Ocean as they "experience" a slave ship through a replica of the tight quarters with life-size figures in chains. The story continues with the lucky few who fled via the Underground Railroad. The exhibit carries into the present with stories of everyday African American men and women who have helped shape today's Detroit.

STORY: MEGY KARDES. PHOTOGRAPH: EE BERGER

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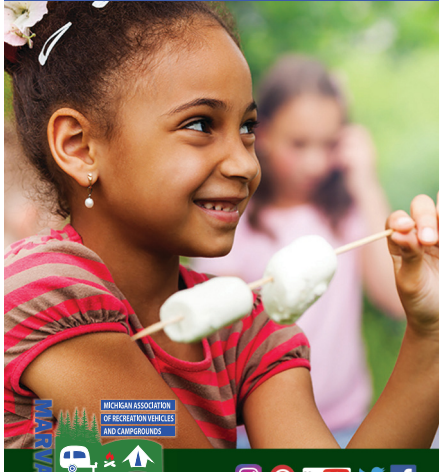

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BATTLE CREEK

In **Kellogg House Park,** a 28-foot-long bronze sculpture of abolitionist Harriet Tubman and other conductors, such as Erastus and Sarah Hussey, honors the fugitives who fled north to freedom and those who aided them. Less than a mile from the downtown sculpture is the **Sojourner Truth monument.** The African American abolitionist and women's rights activist lived her last 26 years in Battle Creek and is buried nearby at Oak Hill Cemetery.

ANN ARBOR

The **Journey to Freedom** docent-guided bus tours—associated with the African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County—take guests to Underground Railroad landmarks throughout Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and Pittsfield Township. Stops include historic sites connected with the Underground Railroad, such as the Brown AME Chapel and the Harwood Cemetery.

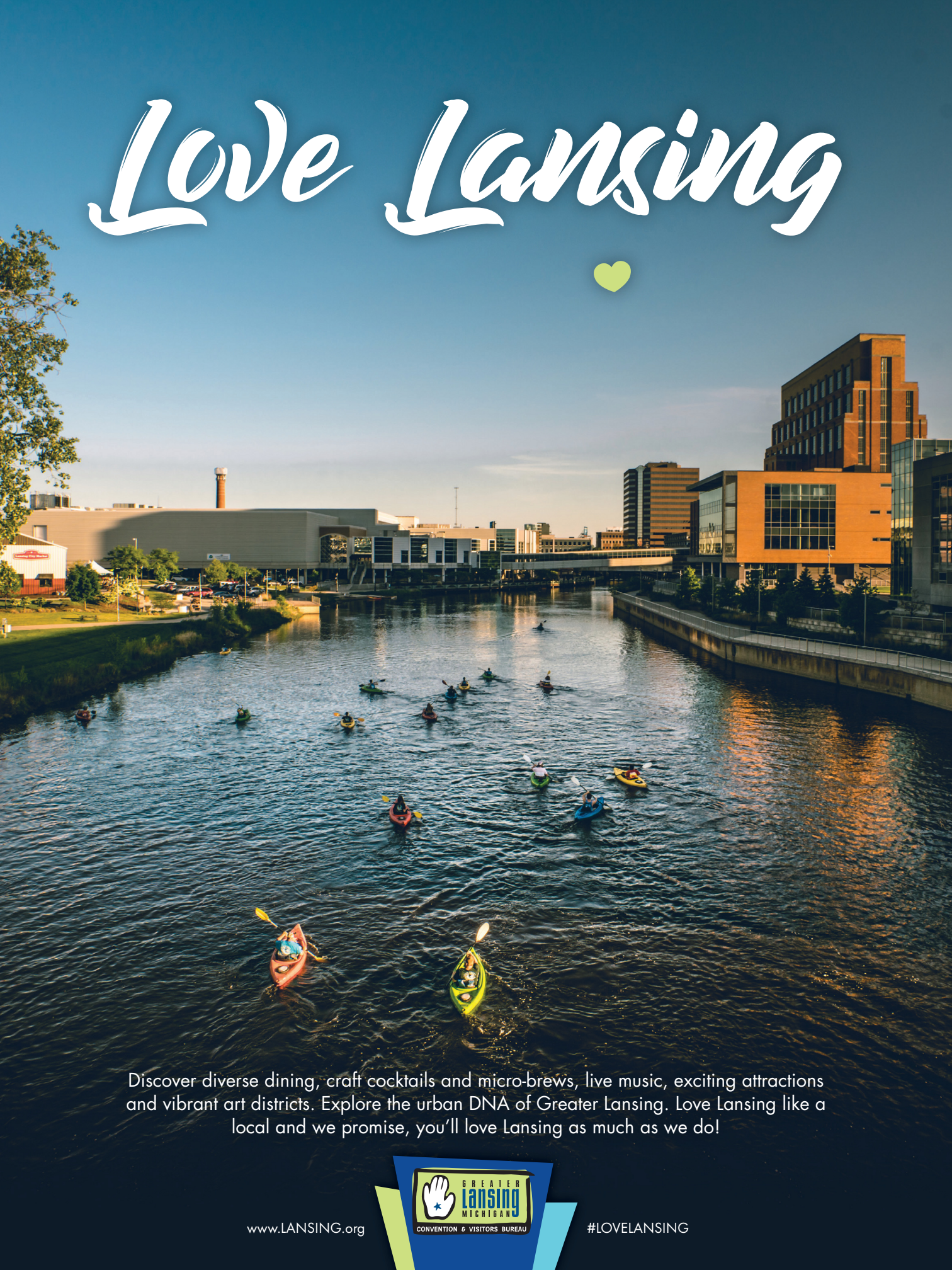
JACKSON

A **self-guided walking tour** in and around downtown features stops at five landmarks that promoted and assisted in antislavery efforts and the Underground Railroad. Visit Jackson's train station, which transported fugitives. Two Underground Railroad agents who founded the city's first newspaper often wrote controversial antislavery editorials; a plaque marks the spot in **Bucky Harris Park** where the newspaper's building stood.

SCHOOLCRAFT

When the Underground Railroad traveled through this town south of Kalamazoo, a doctor opened his home for 20 years to provide food, shelter and medical assistance to 1,000–1,500 escaping slaves. Tour guides share details about one of the state's most active Underground Railroad families. See the **Dr. Nathan Thomas House** during Schoolcraft's **Annual Independence Day Celebration** (July 4) and by appointment.

PHOTOGRAPH: BOB STEFKO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Tall Ship Celebration, Bay City

FIND A GUIDE

Guides like Brian Pitser (right) and others offer carp fishing charters in Great Lakes bays. Hot spots include Grand Traverse Bay and Saginaw Bay.

DID YOU KNOW?

Carp are wily, alert and easily spooked. So minimize movements, avoid casting shadows on the water and don't wear bright colors that make you stand out.

carp ON the fly

Northern Lake Michigan anglers know a secret: The lowly carp presents one of the biggest thrills you'll ever catch on a fly rod.

BRIAN PITSER STANDS in his 18-foot jon boat near the shore of East Grand Traverse Bay on a June day, watching a 20-pound golden-hue carp ease closer. His client casts the fly ahead of the hefty fish and lets it sink to the sand. As the carp approaches, he starts a twitching retrieve. The fly imitates a crayfish, leggy and lifelike—a lure that should be irresistible. But the carp wants no part of it. It drifts away.

"The more I learn about these fish, the less I know," Brian says, shaking his head. "They are smart." Not only smart, but wary. Sensitive, too. They can hear a human voice 100 feet away. And they learn. You won't catch the same carp twice.

Brian, who owns The Northern Angler fly fishing shop in Traverse City, has been working a fly rod for more than 40 years. Since 1996, he's guided for trout and fishes for steelhead, bonefish, tarpon—all the esteemed game fish—from Alaska to Belize. He admires the carp, a species often considered "trash fish." Europeans brought carp to North America in the 19th century, and the fish have been a nuisance ever since, known for rooting around the bottom of shallow waters. While many Europeans revere the fish, U.S. anglers tend to overlook carp.

In recent years, however, fly anglers have discovered a new appreciation for carp, especially in northern Lake Michigan. From late May to early July, carp weighing 10 to 30 pounds migrate from deep water to the shallows to spawn and feed. For those few weeks,

STORY: JERRY DENNIS. PHOTOGRAPHS: TODD ZAWISTOWSKI

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DID YOU KNOW?

The carp run usually hits in late May or early June. It pays to stay flexible with travel plans and keep in touch with the locals. When they say they're seeing fish, head for the lake.

stealthy anglers wade the shore hunting for pods of carp. Catching one on light tackle like a fly rod puts you on the business end of one of the great fishing fights on inland waters.

The fish gravitate to the "flats" around Grand Traverse Bay and Beaver Island, waters among America's most scenic. Many anglers have noted how the clear water and blond sand appear Caribbean-like, and that carp behave much like bonefish, the prize game fish of Caribbean flats. Thus their nickname: "golden bones."

This particular morning starts with few fish visible, so Brian starts the outboard, skimming the bay to a place that looks like others they've tried. But not to Brian. That's why it helps to hire someone familiar with Grand Traverse's 132 miles of shoreline. He leads his client out into knee-high water, scanning for fish. The water is calmer here, making every pebble visible. A hundred yards out, the sandy bottom drops off into watery depths, the open lake spreading in a sparkling blue plane to the horizon. As dozens of carp swim around, it's time for more casts and slow retrieves. There's a sudden, powerful pull, and a fish surges. It peels 70 feet of line off the reel in three seconds. This carp weighs about 12 pounds, smaller than average. The 20-pounders will take 100 feet or more of line before you can turn them. Eventually, Brian nets the fish, then kneels in the water to cradle it. Its overlapping scales, the size of half-dollars, gleam like polished brass. The eyes are oddly doglike. He releases the fish and watches it swim off.

"Trash fish!" Brian says, grinning. "I don't think so."

CARP SMART

KEEP IT LEGAL

Most people may not think of carp as game fish, but the state does, so you need a license. The season goes year-round.

GEAR UP

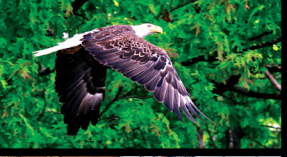
Carp often top 10 pounds (state record: 61.5 pounds), so a typical trout rod probably won't do. Ask your guide for tips.

PLAY THE RUN

When big ones run with the hook, you need the right gear: a reel that holds 150 yards of 10-pound line and lets you quickly adjust drag.

CATCH & RELEASE

Farm-raised carp can be tasty, but bottom-feeders caught wild are not safe to eat, even in clear Lake Michigan. Reel them in, then let them go.



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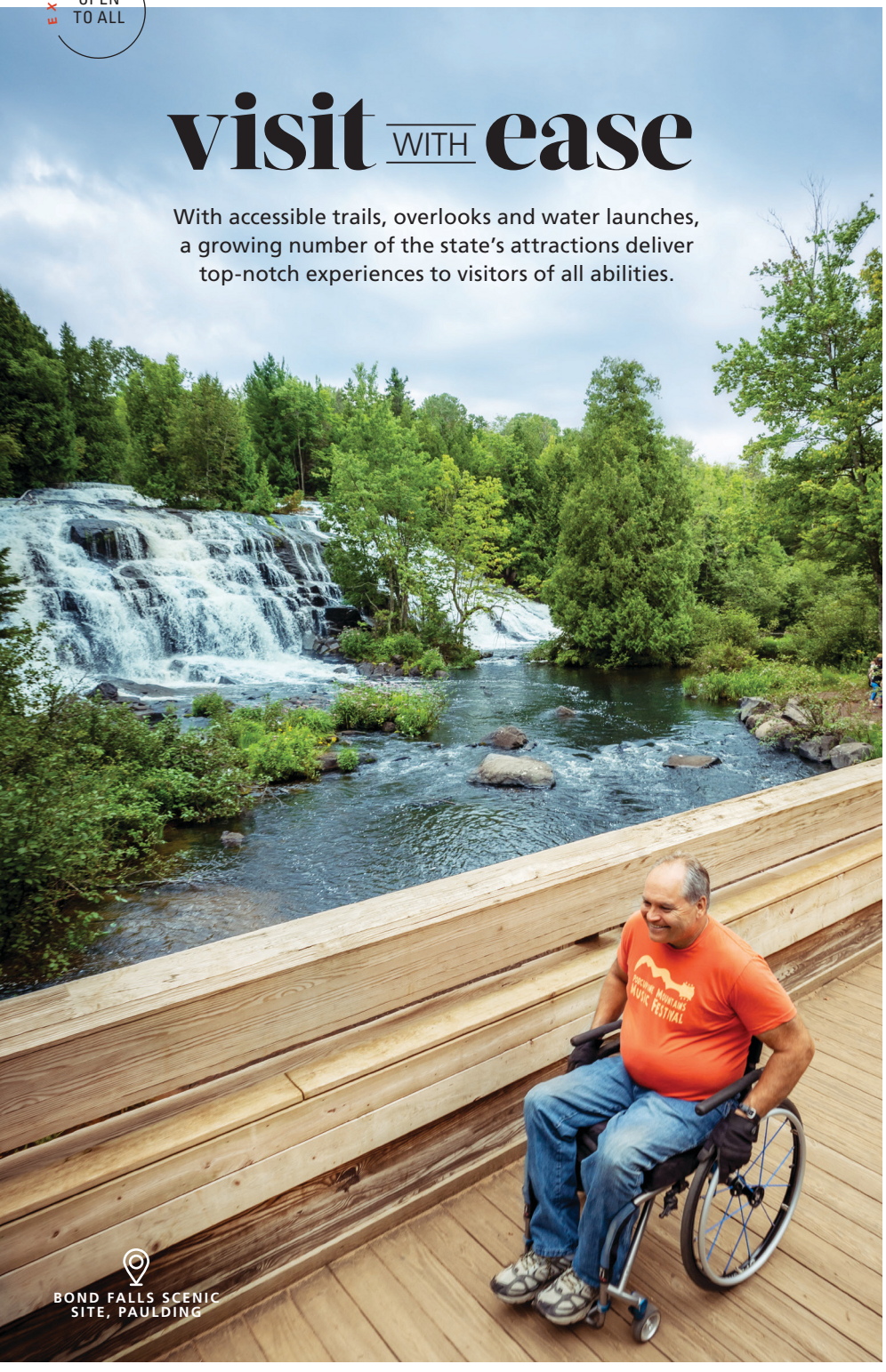

BOND FALLS SCENIC SITE, PAULDING

BOND FALLS SCENIC SITE, PAULDING

A fully accessible 600-foot boardwalk offers six viewing locations of the cascade, created as the middle branch of the Ontonagon River tumbles over rock formations.

FOR-MAR NATURE PRESERVE AND ARBORETUM, BURTON

A wheelchair-accessible tree house—built by Pete Nelson of *Treehouse Masters* fame—stars at the 383-acre preserve. Paved paths also connect the visitors center to a pond and pavilion.

ISLAND LOOP ROUTE NATIONAL WATER TRAIL, PORT HURON

The 10-mile route, which slices through town and skirts the Canadian border, offers ADA-approved ramp launches at three spots. Rent at Great Lakes Paddle Sports.

OVERLOOK TRAIL AT ARCADIA DUNES, NEAR ARCADIA

The sunset over Lake Michigan marks the end of a half-mile wood-planked trail leading to a vantage point (with overlook seating) above the sandy dunes.

WHITING FOREST OF DOW GARDENS, MIDLAND

Ramps give way to the country's longest canopy walk. The quarter-mile path soars four stories above the forest floor and offers pond and orchard views.

STORY: MARY BEAUMONT. PHOTOGRAPH: AARON PETERSON

OUTINGS YOUR WAY

At the **Detroit Institute of Arts,** visitors can take in one of the country's largest collections with tours and maps that include assistive listening devices, large-print text, American Sign Language and verbal interpretations.

During the fall, the museum offers a Minds on Art program, where anyone living with Alzheimer's disease or dementia (along with a companion) can observe and discuss art—and do art projects—in a safe environment.

Once a month, Lansing's **Potter Park Zoo** Falconers program welcomes children and adults with special needs to experience sensory-friendly and hands-on activities, such as meeting animals and using microscopes.

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Population: 108

From its one-time mineral rush to today's adrenaline rush, the Upper Peninsula's northernmost point always delivers.

Gear up at Keweenaw Adventure Company, where guides send advanced mountain bikers to the top of Brockway Mountain, topping out 720 feet above Lake Superior. Power down trails recognized by IMBA (International Mountain Bicycling Association) as Epic rides. Casual adventurers can set out on a sunset paddle around the rocky point featuring Copper Harbor Lighthouse. At Fort Wilkins Historic State Park, see an 1844 fort where costumed interpreters bring the past to life. Pick thimbleberries like residents did 175 years ago, or enjoy them folded inside a puff pastry at Jamsen's Fish Market and Bakery, or in dinner dishes at Harbor Haus.

STORY: KIM SCHNEIDER. PHOTOGRAPH: BOB STEFKO

Photo credit: ©Mary Aten

MICHIGAN BEACHTOWNS

beachtowns.org

St. Joseph • swmichigan.org
South Haven • southhaven.org
Saugatuck-Douglas • saugatuck.com
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NORTHPORT

Population: 526

Follow M-22 along the little finger of the Mitten for notable beaches and possible glimpses of the northern lights.

Signs banning cell phones welcome visitors at Dead People's Stuff Antiques, a whimsical collection of antiques and found-object art next to a string of high-end galleries. No need for apps here, anyway. Locals who gather over cinnamon twists at Barb's Bakery steer out-of-towners to the best rock hounding and northern lights beach (Peterson Park) and cove of soft sand (Cathead Bay). Climb the restored lighthouse tower at Leelanau State Park, then head back for an open-air dinner at the Garage Bar and Grill, or relax on the covered outdoor patio at The Mitten Brewing Company with any of the 14 pours on tap.

SAUGATUCK

Population: 925

Artists convene at this open-minded town known for nature's artwork—dunes and sugar-sand beaches along Lake Michigan.

With 30-plus galleries, the town's a natural for its moniker, The Art Coast. The Art Institute of Chicago runs the waterfront Ox-Bow School of Art and its day and weekend workshops. Sample your way through food art, such as the fruit-based products at American Spoon; the soul food of a James Beard Award semifinalist at The Southerner; or iced coffee at Uncommon Coffee Roasters. Head to dune-lined Oval Beach (deemed one of the 25 best shorelines in the world) in an especially cool way: The hand-crank Saugatuck Chain Ferry for pedestrians and cyclists costs just $1.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (HALL) RYAN DONNELL, (DOWNTOWN) EE BERGER

DRUMMOND ISLAND

Population: 1,060

Rugged and remote, Drummond perches between Michigan and Ontario, drawing off-the-beaten-path explorers.

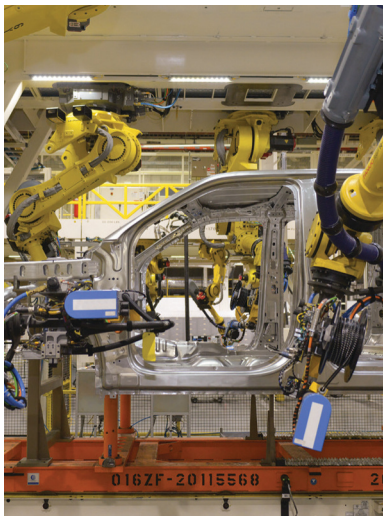
Catch the mile-long ferry across St. Marys River, then head into North Haven to rent a kayak. Browse gifts made from pudding stone, named because it resembles suet pudding with berries, before paddling along limestone cliffs and over Lake Huron wrecks visible 30 feet below. Get an ORV from Beaver's ATV Rentals to reach remote parts of the island, or make the easy drive to the Maxton Plains Preserve. There, Sandhill cranes gather and the rare prairie smoke flower renders the ground a wavy field of summer purple. Try the classic island dish, whitefish, at The Northwood; for an unusual overnight, book a B&B sail on the schooner *Huron Jewel*.

LEXINGTON

Population: 1,115

One of Lake Huron's southernmost towns delivers with vacation-worthy sand beaches, plus shopping, food and fun.

Penny candy never went out of vogue at The Lexington General Store, one highlight of a 3-block downtown of redbrick buildings accented by sea blue awnings. Pick up beach gear at Crazy Joe's or picnic fare at the Sweetwater Gourmet Deli and Bar. Settle in for dinner at newly reopened 1860 The Cadillac House before retiring to one of 12 guest rooms with in-room fridges, coffee makers and fluffy robes. The 295-seat Lexington Village Theatre runs a weekly lineup of tribute bands, comedians and blues acts. Catch live-music night, too, at the Lexington Brewing Company and Wine House, and bring a chair to Music in the Park on summer Fridays.



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Five noted chefs showcase the state's signature fruit, infusing dishes with the sweet-tart flavor of summer.

cherry ON top

AMERICAN SPOON, PETOSKEY

Every year, copper kettles cook down 60,000 pounds of tree-ripened Montmorency cherries from one Leelanau County farmer co-op. It all goes into handmade batches of Sour Cherry Preserves, Fruit Perfect Topping and other cherry products (like salsa). Culinary director **Chris Dettmer** slathers Sour Cherry Preserves on his PB&J, while the bright tartness and thinner texture of Fruit Perfect makes a wicked waffle garnish.

THE NEW YORK RESTAURANT, HARBOR SPRINGS

In cherry season, owner-chef **Matt Bugera** hits the local farmers market to load up on just-picked tarts from Guntzviller's Berry and Vegetable Farm. In the kitchen, cherries cook down with cane sugar and lemon before being blanketed with Crooked Tree Breadworks Addictive Granola (with dried cherries) and baked into the restaurant's signature Cherry Crisp.

GRANGE KITCHEN AND BAR, ANN ARBOR

The farm-to-table restaurant makes the most of a fleeting season by preserving local Montmorency cherries in aged brandy. After an extended booze bath, chef **Brandon Johns'** brandied sour cherries swizzle with bacon-infused bourbon, vermouth, bitters and Michigan maple syrup in the GKB Manhattan.

AMORE TRATTORIA ITALIANA, GRAND RAPIDS

Co-owner and chef **Jenna Arcidiacono,** West Michigan's pink-haired queen of Italian comfort food, reduces Michigan tart cherries with tomato and smoked paprika into a sweet and savory glaze for meatballs made with local lamb. Dried cherries mix with peppery-fresh arugula, goat cheese and honey vinaigrette in the Forte salad.

CHARTREUSE KITCHEN AND COCKTAILS, DETROIT

At the first sign of peak ripeness, South Haven's Seedling Farms shakes juicy tart cherries from their trees and trucks them to chef **Doug Hewitt** at Detroit's Chartreuse Kitchen and Cocktails. Behind the bar, fresh cherries infuse yellow chartreuse. In the kitchen, cherries are cooked with vinegar, sugar and mustard seeds into a tangy mostarda to accent the salty crunch of duck confit with barley risotto.

STORY: TIM TEBEAU. PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF CHEFS

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unpack THE mac

Carriage rides and the aroma of fudge entice visitors to idyllic **Mackinac Island.**

Darting across the Straits of Mackinac, high-speed ferries transport guests to the car-free island where Victorian cottages peek through evergreens. Step aboard a horse-drawn carriage tour to learn more about the island's history, or explore the 3.7-square-mile island from a bicycle seat—the near-flat perimeter makes for an easy ride. For bigger climbs and panoramic views, walk or ride up the hill from forts Holmes and Mackinac. It's an easy downhill back to downtown, where shops, boutique inns and restaurants line Main Street.

PADDLE TIME

Built in 1895, Round Island Lighthouse sits in the Straits of Mackinac. See the light via a kayak excursion with Great Turtle Kayak Tours.

The island by the numbers:

8.2 MILES AROUND
Loop the entire island on M-185, a state highway that's really just a paved bike trail hugging the rocky shore.

11 PLACES TO STAY
B&Bs, inns and hotels include the island's oldest, the 1852 Island House Hotel along the waterfront; the Grand Hotel, with its 600-foot-long front porch; and the casual yet elegant Mission Point Resort on the sunrise side.

13 FUDGE SHOPS
The aroma of chocolate wafts throughout downtown, where shops offer samples and sell slices as fudge-makers turn out batches on marble slabs.

20 MINUTES
Two ferry companies shuttle passengers on quick rides to and from the island. Depart from Mackinaw City or St. Ignace in the Upper Peninsula.

80 PERCENT
The majority of the island is a state park, Michigan's first.

1,489 BICYCLES
Two-wheel rentals outnumber horses three to one.

1780 ESTABLISHED
Historic Fort Mackinac hosts daily demonstrations as costumed interpreters reenact fort life.

STORY: KRISTIN BIENERT. PHOTOGRAPHS: (ISLAND) JOHN NOLTNER. (KAYAKERS) JASON LINDSEY

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take IT outside

With close to 100 inland lakes, a 62-mile rail-trail, more than a dozen golf courses and a state forest, **Gaylord** delivers more outdoor adventure than one weekend can contain.

Brew pubs, BBQ joints and family-owned eateries pack downtown Gaylord. All are perfect pre- and post-outing destinations for bicyclists accessing the soon-to-be-completed North Central State trailhead (opening fall 2019, next to Mary's Tavern). White Birch Outfitters and Sturgeon River Paddlesports assist with rentals. Water enthusiasts paddle the swift-moving Sturgeon, one of five nearby rivers, while 15 area golf courses challenge players of all skill levels.

WHERE TO PLAY

The eclectic shop **Old Spud Warehouse,** known for high-end furniture and kitschy souvenirs, sits two blocks off Main Street and the soon-to-open trailhead. Cyclists gather at **Snowbelt Brewing Company** before heading out on the **North Central State Trail,** a 62-mile trek to Mackinaw City with convenient trailheads along the way to break it into smaller jaunts. In Wolverine, grab a bite at **The Thirsty Sturgeon** before rafting the river on a guided trip with **Sturgeon River Paddlesports.** It's a short drive for golfers, who can choose from more than a dozen courses, including 18-hole The Classic or The Tribute, known for woods, water and wildlife at the once-private **Otsego Resort.**

Looking for something a little more wild? Head to the **Pigeon River Country State Forest** (20 miles northeast), where elk roam free; or **City Elk Park,** home to a herd of about 70 elk on the outskirts of Gaylord. Backpackers looking for an overnight hike set out on the **Jordan River Pathway.** The almost 20-mile loop includes the Pinney Bridge Campground. For a shorter trek, follow the 3-mile Deadman's Hill Loop, also the trailhead for the Jordan River Pathway.

WHERE TO STAY

Treetops Resort's well-known golf courses aren't its only offering. Guests rent bicycles and pedal routes around the property ranging from rugged (a steep descent through the forest) to intermediate (hilly gravel paths). Relax afterward at the in-house spa or indoor/outdoor pool. For dinner with a view, head to Hunter's Grille at the top of the slopes or the sports bar below. Seasonal fork-to-table dinners pair nearby breweries with local farmers.

THE IRON PIG SMOKEHOUSE

JORDAN RIVER PATHWAY

ALPINE TAVERN AND EATERY

WHERE TO EAT

Downtown Gaylord brims with dining options. Dine alfresco at **Alpine Tavern and Eatery** or **Snowbelt Brewing Company,** where you can sip a pint of fruity SummerFling. Next door, **Tap Room 32** caters to diverse tastes. Choose from apps, sides and salads before diving into burgers and steaks, pizza, and sushi. Across the street, **The Iron Pig Smokehouse** serves signature 'cue, tots, mac and more. Live music accompanies dining at the century-old **Sugar Bowl.** A few miles south of town, family-owned **Bennethum's Northern Inn** serves classic dishes like fish, steaks and chops, while a monthly themed menu takes advantage of seasonal offerings.

STORY: KRISTIN BIENERT. PHOTOGRAPHS: KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI/REDUX (HIKERS); JOHN NOLTNER

game changers

Dazzling table-game drama. Impressive wine lists. Spa treatments scented like magical meadows. The state's casinos deliver *all* the wins.

ALL THE SIZE

With 3,500 slot machines, more than 140 table games and a giant poker room, **MGM Grand Detroit** wins the state's size award—and that's just the gaming floor. Other resort attractions include Wolfgang Puck Steak; an immersive TopGolf Swing Suite experience; AXIS, a live-music lounge, plus a new-in-2018 daiquiri bar. Find Michigan's largest bingo hall at **Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort** in Mount Pleasant, offering paper and electronic bingo Wednesdays through Sundays.

ALL THE TECH

The first gaming attraction of its kind, **Greektown Casino's** Synergy Table Games area combines live dealers with electronic table games in Detroit. Try blackjack, roulette, craps and baccarat at your personal station, with live dealer and multiplayer options, including electronic messaging between gaming stations. With a massive video wall, a stadium setting and live DJs on weekend nights, the atmosphere feels like entering a video game.

ALL THE LUXE

At four-diamond **Four Winds Casino Hotel** in New Buffalo, take a break from the 2,500 slots and 50 table games at the outdoor pool, which features hot tubs, fire pits and poolside service. Upgrade to a suite for a jetted soaking tub with complimentary bath salts. Savor a 42-day dry-aged steak at Copper Rock Steakhouse, with a 400-variety wine list on a winning streak with the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence, eight years in a row.

ALL THE CHILL

Gamers at **Turtle Creek Casino and Hotel** in Williamsburg relax at sister property Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, overlooking Grand Traverse Bay. Try a Northern Nature body scrub crafted with wild sage and lavender harvested in Michigan, then sit back and sip a local Black Star Farms Chardonnay.

ALL THE TUNES

Sound Board, the performance venue at **MotorCity Casino Hotel** in Detroit, rocks concertgoers with an epic audio system in an intimate, stadium-style setting. Past performers have been as varied as Boyz II Men, Third Eye Blind and Gretchen Wilson. Besides bands, Sound Board events include comedy, fights and sports broadcast viewing parties. The Sleep with the Band package includes two show tickets and an overnight in four-diamond accommodations.

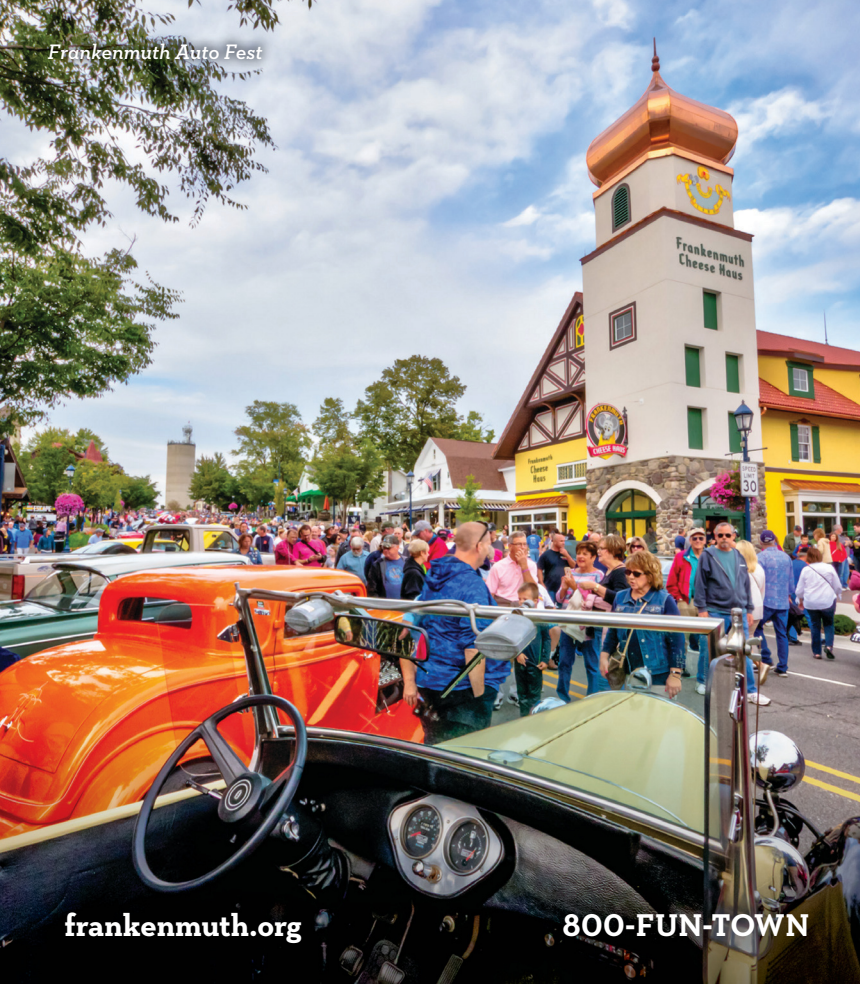
ALL THE DRIVES

Newly opened Sage Run Golf Club complements its sister course, Sweetgrass, at **Island Resort and Casino** in Harris. The Upper Peninsula's newest 18-hole course features a drumlin (a large ridge formed by glaciers) that runs through the course and provides plenty of elevation change. Sore muscles find relief at the Drift Spa. End the day at 5 Bridges Steak and Seafood House, named for the historic bridges on the Sweetgrass course.

GREEKTOWN CASINO, DETROIT

DID YOU KNOW? Michigan boasts 29 casinos with more than 30,000 slot machines, 750 tables and 130 live poker tables.

STORY: MARY BEAUMONT. PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY OF GREEKTOWN CASINO



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World Expo of Beer | May 17 & 18
Dog Bowl & Balloons Over Bavarian Inn | May 24 – 26
Frankenmuth Bavarian Festival | June 6 – 9
Keepsake Collection Arts & Craft Show | June 14 – 16, July 26 – 28, August 16 – 18, September 6 – 8 & 20 – 22
Volksläufe (The People's Race) | July 3 – 4
Frankenmudder | July 20
Cass River Colonial Encampment | July 20 – 21
Antique Fire Muster | July 27
Summer Music Fest | August 8 – 10 & 15 – 17
Frankenmuth Auto Fest | September 6 – 8
Frankenmuth Oktoberfest | September 19 – 22
Wein & Stein | October 3
Brückeläufe (The Bridge Race) | October 5
Michigan's Big Country Fest | October 18 – 19
Scarecrow Fest | October 19 – 20 & 26 – 27
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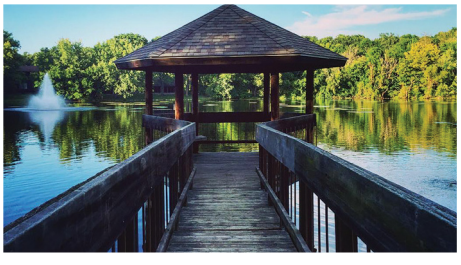

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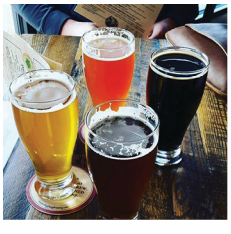


SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE, EMPIRE

WRITERS *TREVOR MEERS AND JESS HOFFERT*

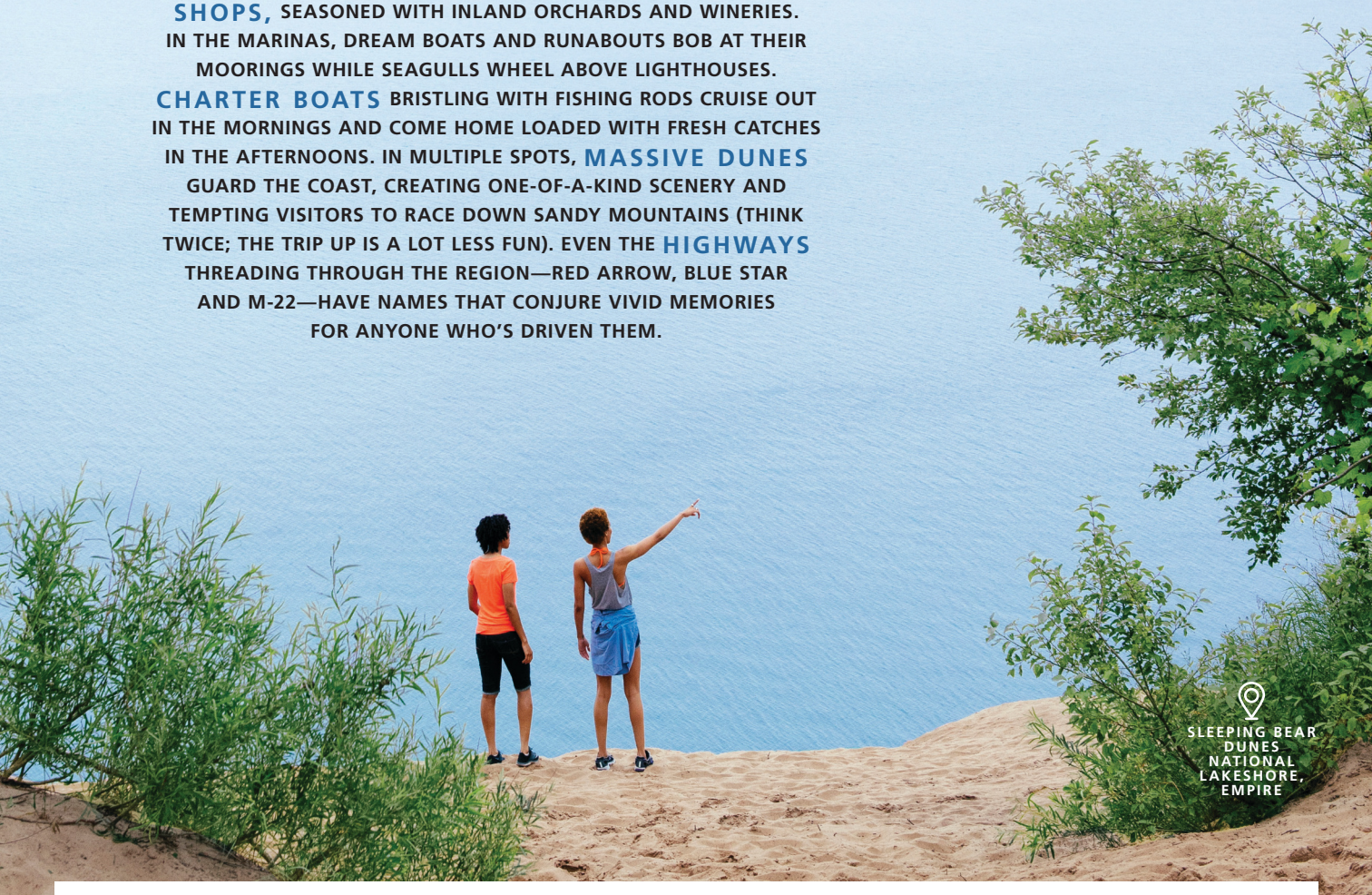
shore thing

IN MICHIGAN, YOU'RE NEVER MORE THAN 85 MILES FROM A GREAT LAKE. AND THE COASTS OF LAKES MICHIGAN, HURON OR SUPERIOR ALL OFFER EXPERIENCES UNIQUELY FLAVORED BY EACH LAKE'S PERSONALITY.

PHOTOGRAPH: TONY DEMIN

LAKE michigan

THIS IS THE MITTEN'S GLAMOUR SIDE, A LINE OF **PICTURESQUE SHORELINE TOWNS** STRUNG FROM THE SOUTHERN STATE LINE TO THE MACKINAC BRIDGE. A DRIVE NORTH BLURS INTO A PLEASANT RHYTHM OF **SANDY BEACHES** AND **ICE CREAM SHOPS,** SEASONED WITH INLAND ORCHARDS AND WINERIES. IN THE MARINAS, DREAM BOATS AND RUNABOUTS BOB AT THEIR MOORINGS WHILE SEAGULLS WHEEL ABOVE LIGHTHOUSES. **CHARTER BOATS** BRISTLING WITH FISHING RODS CRUISE OUT IN THE MORNINGS AND COME HOME LOADED WITH FRESH CATCHES IN THE AFTERNOONS. IN MULTIPLE SPOTS, **MASSIVE DUNES** GUARD THE COAST, CREATING ONE-OF-A-KIND SCENERY AND TEMPTING VISITORS TO RACE DOWN SANDY MOUNTAINS (THINK TWICE; THE TRIP UP IS A LOT LESS FUN). EVEN THE **HIGHWAYS** THREADING THROUGH THE REGION—RED ARROW, BLUE STAR AND M-22—HAVE NAMES THAT CONJURE VIVID MEMORIES FOR ANYONE WHO'S DRIVEN THEM.



SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE, EMPIRE

ON WATER LAKE MICHIGAN

CATCH A WAVE

Yes, you can surf the Great Lakes. It's more of a thing when winter brings big waves. But even during typical beach weather, **Sleeping Bear Surf and Kayak** provides lessons near the Empire lighthouse, a few miles south of **Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.** When Lake Michigan is at its calmest, your instructor will give your board a push and cheer when you pop up like you just carved a monster in January. Find calmer waters on rivers traversing the dunes. The **Honor Trading Post** gets you on the water via canoes, kayaks and tubes for a float down the slow-moving Lower Platte and the much faster Upper Platte. Your float ends inside Sleeping Bear, and the outfitter shuttles your vehicle for you. Or rent canoes and kayaks at **Crystal River Outfitters** in Glen Arbor for a two- to three-hour paddle on the Crystal River, which flows from Glen Lake to Lake Michigan.

DISCOVER BEACH TOWNS

The 400-mile shoreline from New Buffalo to Mackinaw City presents a variety of recreational activities. Three miles of white sandy beach line **Warren Dunes State Park.** For more of a challenge, tackle the dunes rising 260 feet above the lake. Follow the Red Arrow and Blue Star highways north to **Grand Haven State Park.** RVs and tent campers line the beach with volleyball courts, grills and fire pits. Seeking solitude? An undeveloped beachfront leads to the entrance of **Ludington State Park.** Within the park, paddle Lake Michigan or calmer Hamlin Lake. Away from the water, active travelers find 22 miles of hiking trails and 2 miles of biking trails.

ON WATER
KALAMAZOO RIVER

CRUISE THE RIVER Tours don't get much more mellow than slowly motoring around Saugatuck Harbor in one of 10 vintage boats available at Saugatuck's **Retro Boat Rentals.** The small fiberglass crafts come outfitted with electric motors, cute names like *Flo* and a Bluetooth boom box so you can dial in some period-appropriate Dean Martin on your trip.

ON LAND
SAND DUNES

KICK UP SOME SAND Buggies power their way to the crest of dunes and skid down the other side at **Silver Lake State Park** near Mears at the only Michigan state park to allow off-road vehicles. The park's 340 football fields' worth of sand attracts dune-riding daredevils. **Silver Lake Buggy Rentals** hooks you up with certain vehicles that can reach speeds of 45 mph. Novices prefer letting others do the driving of open-air trucks, which carry guests on a guided 40-minute roller-coaster-like ride along the lake—and briefly into the water—at **Mac Wood's Dune Rides.** There's also plenty to explore away from the hum of engines. Hike among swaths of sugar sand to reach **Little Sable Point Lighthouse** (worth the 130-step climb). Nearby Silver Lake delivers a refreshing dip.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (SLEEPING BEAR DUNES) EE BERGER, (BOATS) RYAN DONNELL, (DUNE RIDE) JOHN NOLTNER

LAKE huron

LAKE HURON IS THE **QUIETER** COUSIN TO LAKE MICHIGAN'S BUSTLING VACATION TOWNS. TOWNS STAND FARTHER APART ON THE MITTEN'S SUNRISE COAST, LEAVING ROOM FOR VISITORS TO NOTICE THE **WOODS** AND **WATER** AS THEY PASS ALONG THE TIP OF THE THUMB AND WIND THROUGH THE VAST **WETLANDS** RINGING SAGINAW BAY. HEADING NORTH, HIGHWAYS CUT THROUGH **FORESTS** AND ACROSS **RIVERS** FAMED FOR THE GROUSE, TROUT AND ENDANGERED WARBLERS THAT TAKE REFUGE HERE. HURON'S NORTHERN BEACHES TEND TOWARD THE **PEBBLY,** OFFERING SOMETHING OF A MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN LAKE MICHIGAN'S SAND AND SUPERIOR'S ROCK. ALONG THE WAY, LIGHTHOUSES SPEAK OF A DANGEROUS PAST, PRESERVED IN **CLEAR WATER** FOR DIVERS TO EXPLORE IN THE THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY AT ALPENA.

GREAT LAKES KITEBOARDING, EAST TAWAS

IN THE AIR

KITEBOARDING

DART ACROSS THE WAVES

At **Great Lakes Kiteboarding,** newbies start with two to two-and-a-half hours of trainer kite handling in East Tawas at **Tawas Point State Park beach,** then hit the waves with lessons to gain skills on the surf, letting their parachute-like kites do the work.

ON LAND

SCENIC DRIVE

TAKE THE SCENIC ROUTE

When it comes to sheer number of scene changes, **Heritage Route 23** is hard to top. The 200-mile route from Standish to Mackinaw City flows toward and away from the shoreline, snaking through dense forests, breezing by seven historic lighthouses and passing through 10 charming towns. Sure, you could drive the stretch in under four hours, but then you'd miss the greatest lesson this road can teach you: to slow down and enjoy the drive.

Kirtland's warblers and Great Lakes piping plovers draw flocks of visitors to the **Sunrise Coast Birding Trail,** following US-23 from Oscoda's legendary AuSable River to the Straits of Mackinac. Three wineries sit on the Heritage Route (with more inland). In Alpena, head to the tasting rooms at **Thunder Bay** and **Stoney Acres** wineries or choose from six locations including Au Gres and Harrisville at **Modern Craft Wine.**

ON WATER
LAKE HURON

DROP ANCHOR

Filling the space between the Thumb and the rest of the Mitten, Saginaw Bay and the Saginaw River are both easily accessible. The prestigious **Bay City Yacht Club** and two tall ships call these waters home. Join the **BaySail** crew in hoisting the sails of the ***Appledore IV,*** an 85-foot tall ship offering three-hour cruises along the Saginaw River from Bay City. Rehabbed historic districts offer stellar shopping and dining on both sides of the Saginaw River. Invite up to nine of your friends for a leisurely pontoon ride on the bay, courtesy of **Portside Pontoon Rentals** in Sand Point.

DIVE DEEP INTO HISTORY

Perhaps the last thing you'd want to do in a lake known for sinking more than 200 ships is to get in the water. Relax; the last wreck occurred ages ago. For an interactive history lesson on land, check out Alpena's **Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center,** starring a life-size tall ship caught in a simulated storm. The museum sits at the center of the **Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary,** known for its underwater relics. Score up-close views of the well-preserved shipwrecks on snorkel or scuba dives. Gear up at **Thunder Bay Scuba,** which offers helpful pointers, leads charter diving excursions and sells gear. If you prefer to stay dry, board ***Lady Michigan.*** During a two-hour tour, crew members share the fateful tales of shipwrecks, which are visible from the boat's top deck and glass bottom.

go!

Tall Ship Celebration, Bay City
JULY 18–21

Explore the decks of 10 majestic ships from around the world, all docked on the Saginaw River.

APPLEDORE IV, BAY CITY

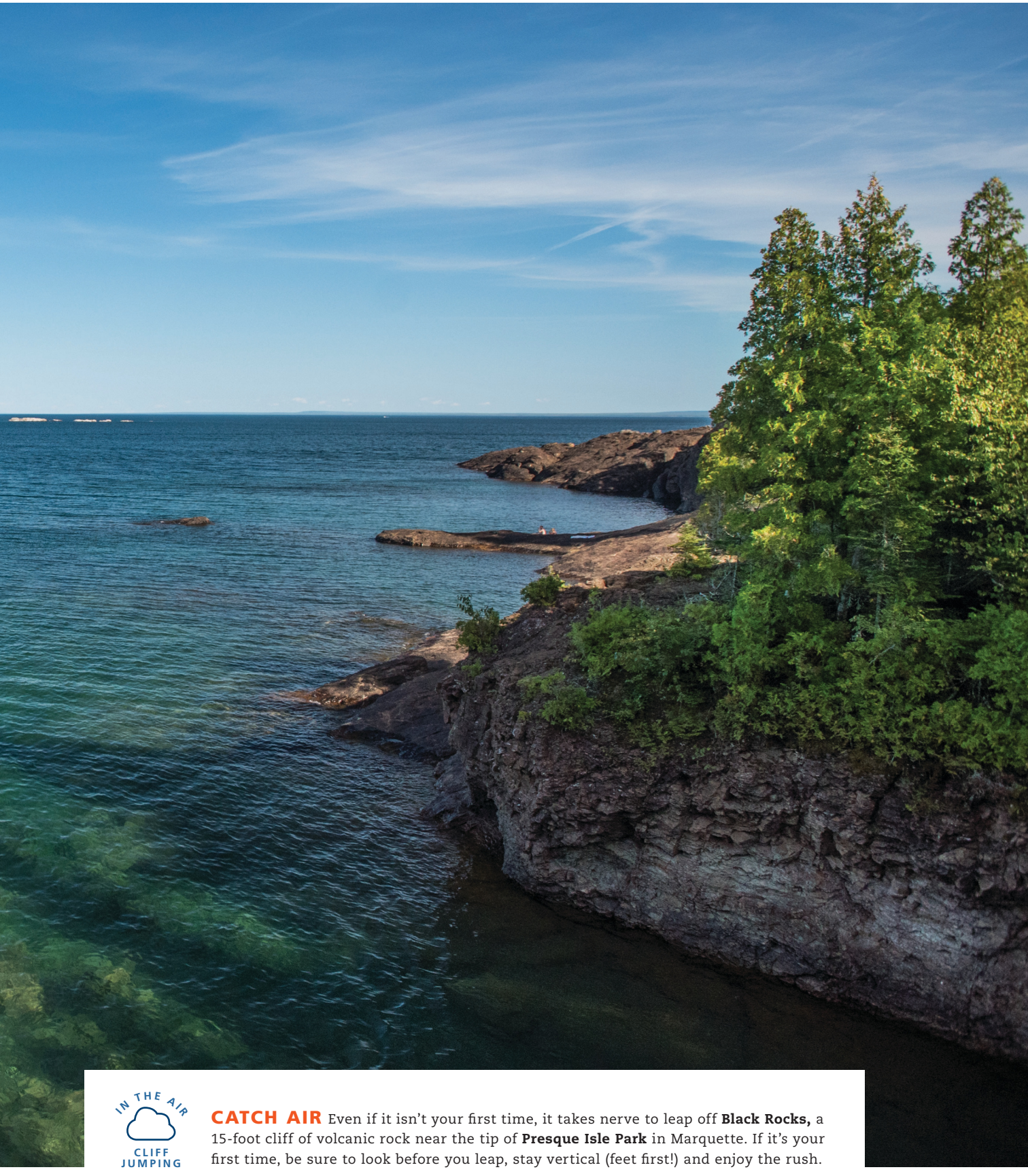
PHOTOGRAPHS: (KITEBOARDING) KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI/REDUX, (SAILBOAT) TODD ZAWISTOWSKI

LAKE *superior*

LAKE SUPERIOR IS JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER LAKE, ONLY MORE SO. IT'S BIGGER (THAN EVERY OTHER LAKE IN THE WORLD, IN FACT). IT'S COLDER. IT'S ROCKIER. AT TIMES, THE GREAT GITCHE GUMEE CAN BE AS INTIMIDATING AS ALL THAT SOUNDS, EXPLAINING LEGENDARY SHIPWRECKS LIKE THE *EDMUND FITZGERALD,* LOST JUST OFF EASTERN SUPERIOR'S WHITEFISH POINT. BUT FOR THOSE WHO MAKE THE TREK NORTH, LAKE SUPERIOR'S BOUNTIES ARE ON PAR WITH ITS SCALE. THIS IS THE MICHIGAN WHERE ROCK WALLS SOAR ABOVE KAYAKS, WATERFALLS THUNDER THROUGH FORESTS, AND TRAILS CARRY HIKERS AS FAR AS THEY CARE TO WANDER. AND WHILE NOT EVERYONE WILL WANT TO PLUNGE INTO SUPERIOR'S 50-DEGREE WATER IN MIDSUMMER, THE GREATEST LAKE IS CERTAINLY A PLACE THAT REWARDS THOSE WHO WANT TO GO BIG.

PRESQUE ISLE PARK, MARQUETTE

PHOTOGRAPH: AARON PETERSON



IN THE AIR
CLIFF JUMPING

CATCH AIR Even if it isn't your first time, it takes nerve to leap off **Black Rocks,** a 15-foot cliff of volcanic rock near the tip of **Presque Isle Park** in Marquette. If it's your first time, be sure to look before you leap, stay vertical (feet first!) and enjoy the rush.

ON WATER
LAKE SUPERIOR

SEE THE SIGHTS

Passengers aboard glass-bottom boat tours and kayakers sliding across the water have some of the best views of **Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore** and its mineral-streaked sandstone cliffs of green, blue, yellow and ochre. The 42-mile shoreline includes cliffs, caves and arches, plus sandy and rocky beaches like **Twelvemile** and **Chapel. Chapel Beach** sits on the **Chapel Loop Trail,** a popular 10.4-mile hike that skirts the cliff edges and two waterfalls. Dip your toes in the shallow bays at **Sand Point Beach** near Munising.

Guides with **Pictured Rocks Kayaking** lead paddlers under rocky overhangs, past waterfalls and along a 200-foot bluff. You'll get the same views on an excursion with **Pictured Rocks Cruises.** Passengers pass a highlight reel of landmarks, including **Miners Castle.**

HEAD NORTH

Jutting into Lake Superior, Keweenaw Peninsula's Copper Harbor claims the state's northernmost point. It's 80 miles from the **Portage Lake Lift Bridge** in Houghton. Most visitors follow US-41 north, but for up-close water views, detour at Eagle River and follow US-26 where the road hugs the dunes along Great Sand Bay.

Get on the water with **Keweenaw Adventure Company.** The Copper Harbor outfitter acts as the go-to outdoor company for the region. Guided tours range from a few-hour sunset paddle to multiday adventures. Regardless of your experience, the outfitter provides the lessons necessary for paddling Lake Superior's chilly waters. The less adventurous can see sunsets aboard the ***Isle Royale Queen IV*** (July and August) during a 90-minute tour.

ESREY PARK, KEWEENAW PENINSULA

PHOTOGRAPHS: (KAYAKERS) JOHN NOLTNER; (DOG) AARON PETERSON

LAKE OF THE CLOUDS, PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STATE PARK

go!

Grand Marais Music and Arts Festival, Grand Marais

MID-AUGUST

Rock to regional bands within walking distance of sandy shoreline at Woodland Park Campground.

ON LAND

MICHIGAN'S LARGEST STATE PARK

WANDER THE WILD

Rolling terrain spiked with pines gives the park its name, **Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.** But the added ingredients of tumbling rivers and mountaintop views give this western Upper Peninsula park unlimited "wow" moments. The Porkies cover 60,000 acres, making it easy to get lost in woodsy wonder for backcountry hikers and road-trippers alike.

Drive 10 miles from the visitors center to **Lake of the Clouds Overlook** for an accessible panorama of woods and water from hundreds of feet up. A 26-mile cruise along the southern perimeter allows for numerous photo ops of the 2,000-foot hills. Park the car and explore more than 90 miles of trails. The ridge-skimming **Escarpment Trail** provides a rugged 4-mile day hike, while the **Lake Superior Trail** skirts secluded beaches. (Look for deer and black-bear prints.)

WRITER *KRISTIN BIENERT*
PHOTOGRAPHER *KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI*

go to the DARK SIDE

EMBRACE THE NIGHT LIKE NEVER BEFORE AT SEVEN MICHIGAN DARK SKY PARKS, WHERE YOU CAN BE SURE THAT STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT IS THE *ONLY* LIGHT YOU'LL SEE TONIGHT.

Almost anywhere people live, light pollution limits the view of the night sky. In the suburbs, you might see just the brightest 10–20 percent of stars—on a good night.

"This doesn't mean it's a waste of time to stargaze in your backyard. Rather, it highlights the importance of dark sky parks and their ability to show us what we're missing," Marci Schmiege says. She's the Emmet County parks and rec director who oversees the Headlands International Dark Sky Park near Mackinaw City. One of seven areas the Michigan DNR has certified as a dark sky park, it's also the sixth certified international dark sky park in the United States and only the ninth in the world.

Open 24/7, the park houses a state-of-the-art observatory with research-quality telescopes and expert astronomers on staff every evening. In the summer, most visitors arrive around sunset (10 p.m.), but the best stargazing happens two hours after sunset when the sun's glow has fully faded.

According to amateur astronomer Rod Cortright, vice president of the Northern Michigan Astronomy Club: "On posted observation nights, telescopes are set up outside so visitors can see solar system objects such as planets, the moons of Jupiter and the rings on Saturn. Fainter, deep-sky objects including nebulas, star clusters and galaxies can be observed on nights without a bright moon."

If seeing the aurora borealis or a meteor shower makes your bucket list, the park has you covered. "The largest meteors—also known as shooting stars—can burn for several seconds, leaving trails of light behind them and lighting up the entire sky," Marci says. In early August, the Perseid meteor shower produces 60 to 70 per hour. The aurora borealis (or northern lights) typically appears as a green glow on the northern horizon, she adds. The best time to see this is in January or February, when the Earth is closest to the sun.

In addition to sky viewing, the park offers year-round programming. Check out the speaker series, yoga under the stars, and special classes and lectures on dark sky photography.

HEADLANDS INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY PARK, MACKINAW CITY

Three-quarters of the visitors to Headlands International Dark Sky Park will see the Milky Way galaxy for the first time. On-site research telescopes provide a view few amateurs ever see.

MICHIGAN'S DARK SKY PARKS

Headlands International Dark Sky Park, Mackinaw City

Lake Hudson Recreation Area, Clayton

Negwegon State Park, Harrisville

Port Crescent State Park, Port Austin

Rockport State Recreation Area, Alpena

Thompson's Harbor State Park, Rogers City

Wilderness State Park, Carp Lake

Eastern Market

Detroit City Distillery

ART AND ANIMALS. CULTURE AND CUISINE. RECREATION AND RESTORATION. **EIGHT MICHIGAN CITIES** DELIVER AN URBAN FLAVOR *ALL THEIR OWN.*

Summer in the Cities

STORY: KRISTIN BIENERT, TANYA EDWARDS, BETH PROBST, KIM RANEGAR, EMILY TENNYSON. PHOTOGRAPHS: KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI/REDUX, (DISTILLERY) EE BERGER

1 DETROIT

REMARKABLE RENAISSANCE
Drawing on their diversity, Detroit's 100-plus neighborhoods include a trio known for some of the city's best places to explore, drink and dine.

DOWNTOWN

+ *shop* +

North of the river, along Woodward Avenue, skyscrapers mingle with pop-up shops, high-end men's designer John Varvatos, and women's fashions from Bird Bee and Madewell.

+ *play* +

Wright and Company serves craft cocktails and small plates to an out-on-the-town crowd.

+ *stay* +

Boutique hotels such as Aloft Detroit, Detroit Foundation, Shinola and The Siren with its swanky lounge (the raging-pink Candy Bar) now occupy once-vacant buildings as downtown's landscape evolves into an ever-hotter locale.

MIDTOWN

+ *shop* +

Renowned museums like the Detroit Institute of Arts and Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History sit around the corner from the now sought-after neighborhood known as Midtown, north of I-75. Popular brands such as Seattle-based Filson and hometown Shinola—with its colorful watches and high-end bicycles—mix with local home and gift stores such as Nest and City Bird. Will Leather Goods duffel bags make perfect travel companions.

+ *play* +

Sip craft beers on the patio at Jolly Pumpkin or head across the street to Motor City Brewing Works. Selden Standard offers creative cocktails and plates to share.

+ *stay* +

The El Moore draws overnight guests to its balconies, offering sweeping city views.

EASTERN MARKET

+ *shop* +

The nation's oldest farmers market—and one of its largest—dominates with sheds full of farm-fresh produce at the Saturday Market (1.5 miles north of the GM Renaissance Center). Restaurants and retail stores line the perimeter.

+ *play* +

Detroit City Distillery and Eastern Market Brewing Company join long-standing, family-owned Vivio's. Fun-day starts here with bloody marys before you head to Bert's Marketplace for some of the best jazz and blues.

+ *stay* +

Home to General Motors, the 70-story Renaissance Center (the Ren Cen, to locals) houses the Detroit Marriott, overlooking the river.

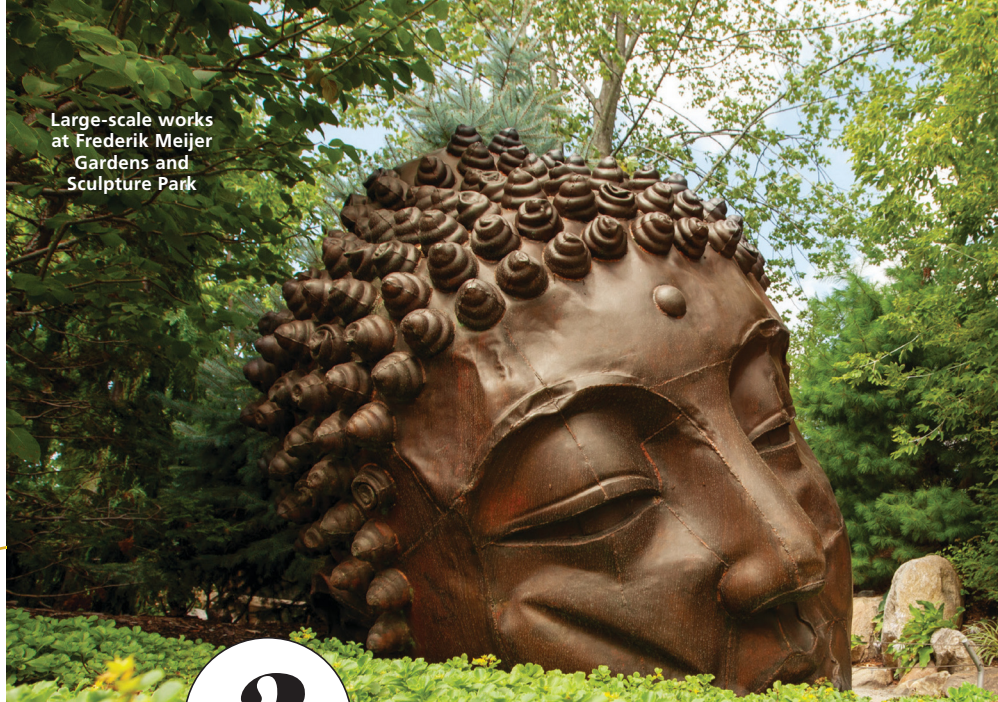
2

BAY CITY

WELCOMING WATERFRONT

Astride the Saginaw River, Bay City welcomes with a 20-plus-mile-long Riverwalk through the heart of town. Climb aboard the tall ship *Appledore IV* or V and set sail for Saginaw Bay, 5 miles downriver. Passengers hoist the sails of the 64- and 76-foot schooners while passing the permanently docked destroyer *USS Edison*, where you can take a guided tour or explore on your own. Kayakers and boaters pull up to waterfront bars and restaurants for spicy shrimp, lobster bites and fresh fish from the Great Lakes at Real Seafood Company. Dip your toes in the bay and play in the sand or splash park at Bay City State Park.

Tall ship *Appledore*



Large-scale works at Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park

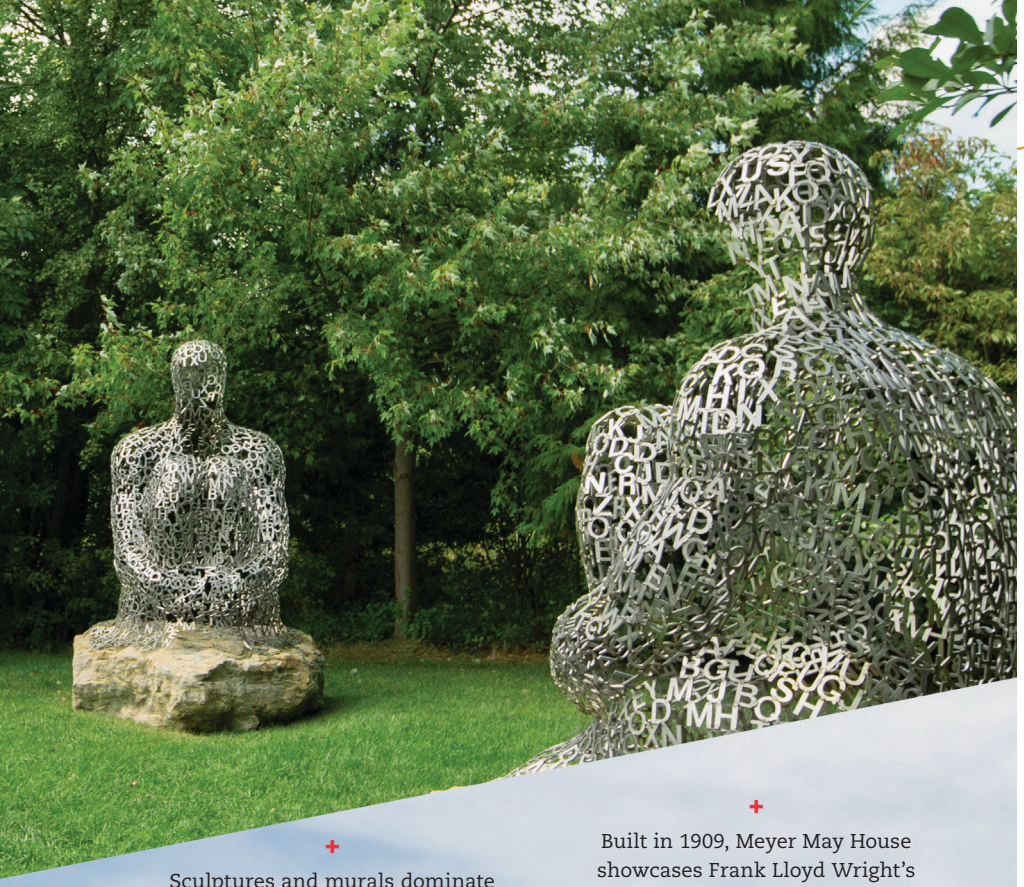
3

GRAND RAPIDS

INGENUITY IN THE CITY

Get a healthy dose of art and innovative architecture on the state's west side.

PHOTOGRAPHS: JOHN NOLTNER, (SAIL) TODD ZAWISTOWSKI



+

Sculptures and murals dominate downtown. Start at Vandenberg Plaza (locally known as Calder Plaza, with *La Grand Vitesse*, the city's bright red symbol). Then wander by the Grand Rapids Children's Museum with shimmering tiles adorning the exterior, and down Commerce for cartoon art splashed on the side of The Pyramid Scheme bar and music venue.

+

Paths loop through the 60-acre Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. Discover more than 50 works of outdoor art, plus four man-made waterfalls in the Japanese Gardens. Summer concerts bring singers like Joe Jackson, Jason Mraz and Gladys Knight to the amphitheater.

+

Built in 1909, Meyer May House showcases Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie-style design, bringing nature inside through southern-exposure windows, skylights and terraces. Tours take place Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

+

The Grand Rapids Art Museum sits in a prominent spot over Rosa Parks Circle, offering architectural weight to the city center and rotating exhibits alongside a permanent collection. The Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts features film, music, visual and performance arts.

4 LANSING

CAPITAL CULTURE ALONG THE RIVER

Minor league baseball scores fans in the heart of the capital city. Cheer on the Lugnuts at the Cooley Law School Stadium near the Michigan State Capitol, open daily for free tours. The 20-mile paved Lansing River Trail offers the best views of the sparkling Grand River. Impression 5 Science Center captivates with hands-on fun, such as paper airplane-building contests and a floor-to-ceiling interactive lights display. Clink and swizzle at American Fifth Spirits or the Lansing Brewing Company.

5

KALAMAZOO AND BATTLE CREEK

FAMILY FUN
Out-of-this-world explorations, exotic plants and animals capture children's attention.

+

See vintage aircraft and take a tour with a pilot at Air Zoo, an aviation and science center where visitors learn about sky stories from early flight to space exploration. More than a museum, hands-on attractions invite would-be pilots to grab the controls, jump like paratroopers and race hot-air balloons.

+

Get outdoors in the lush surrounds of the Kalamazoo Nature Center; its 14 trails are abundant with ponds and prairies. Alive with interactive exhibits, the Interpretive Center includes a three-story rainforest room that feels like the Amazon.

+

Board a safari to Wild Africa at Battle Creek's Binder Park Zoo, where a towering overlook puts you face to face with giraffes eager to eat from your hand. Three recently acquired lions share their neighborhood with an African painted dog. Find more than 50 species throughout the zoo.

Binder Park Zoo

Dead River Falls

6

MARQUETTE

WILDERNESS ADVENTURES

The Upper Peninsula's largest city provides urban amenities (brew pubs, boutiques and museums) with endless spots to explore both on and off the beaten path. A hike just outside of city limits at Sugarloaf Mountain ends with a bird's-eye view of old-growth forests, rocky ridgelines and Lake Superior. Immerse yourself in the region's mining history along the 47-mile Iron Ore Heritage Trail, which revels in the natural beauty between Republic and Chocolay. Or grab a map (paper works best since cell service is spotty) and set out to explore the web of rushing waters finding their way to Lake Superior. The county's 77 waterfalls range from 5 to 40 feet. Each one distinct, these rugged falls make for an outdoor seek-and-find adventure. Some are easy to spot, while others test your legs on a backwoods trek.

PHOTOGRAPHS: (ZOO) COURTESY OF BINDER PARK ZOO, (WATERFALL) AARON PETERSON, (FOOD) EE BERGER

7

ANN ARBOR

CAMPUS CUISINE

Talented chefs and global cuisine thrive in this Big Ten town, known for its burgers, bars and upscale dishes. Here's how to eat your way through a weekend.

Frita Batidos

FRIDAY

+ dinner +

Grab an outside picnic table at Frita Batidos for Cuban-inspired quick eats from *Top Chef* contestant Eve Aronoff. Pair a spicy chorizo cilantro burger with the Hibiscus Batido, a tropical milkshake.

SATURDAY

+ breakfast +

Try kale-and-almond breakfast bowls or a sheep's milk omelet at Sava's, a State Street staple. Afterward? A natural smoothie like the Broonana.

+ lunch +

Zingerman's Deli piles cured meats and hand-sliced cheese on house-baked sourdough at this Kerrytown landmark.

+ dinner +

Delicacies like ramp sausage and miso eggplant star on a changing, locally sourced menu at Spencer, offering communal tables and a no-reservations policy.

+ late night +

At Bløm Meadworks, yoga, games and dancing set the stage for house-brewed meads, with summery flavors like crisp rhubarb.

SUNDAY

+ brunch +

Visit James Beard Award-winner Alex Young's The Standard Bistro and Larder, a French spot where the alfresco brunch features galette waffles, steak frites and eggs, and blueberry crepes.

8

FLINT

CULTURAL CENTER

A 2-block stretch of stops melds arts, music and history.

FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

Dedicated to creation and exhibition, the museum's interactive new Contemporary Craft Wing houses a hot shop for glassblowing demonstrations as well as a Chihuly *Persian Chandelier.*

SLOAN MUSEUM

Born in Flint, General Motors showcases its history through vintage vehicles, neon signs and Big Three memorabilia.

APPLEWOOD

The historic residence of Flint mayor, philanthropist and auto pioneer Charles Stewart Mott, Applewood hosts seasonal house tours and strolls through its English gardens.

THE WHITING

Torn between *Rent* and Rachmaninoff? The 2,000-seat auditorium hosts Broadway hits like Monty Python's *Spamalot* (March 29–30) and *Jersey Boys* (May 14), plus classical ensembles such as Flint Symphony Orchestra concerts.

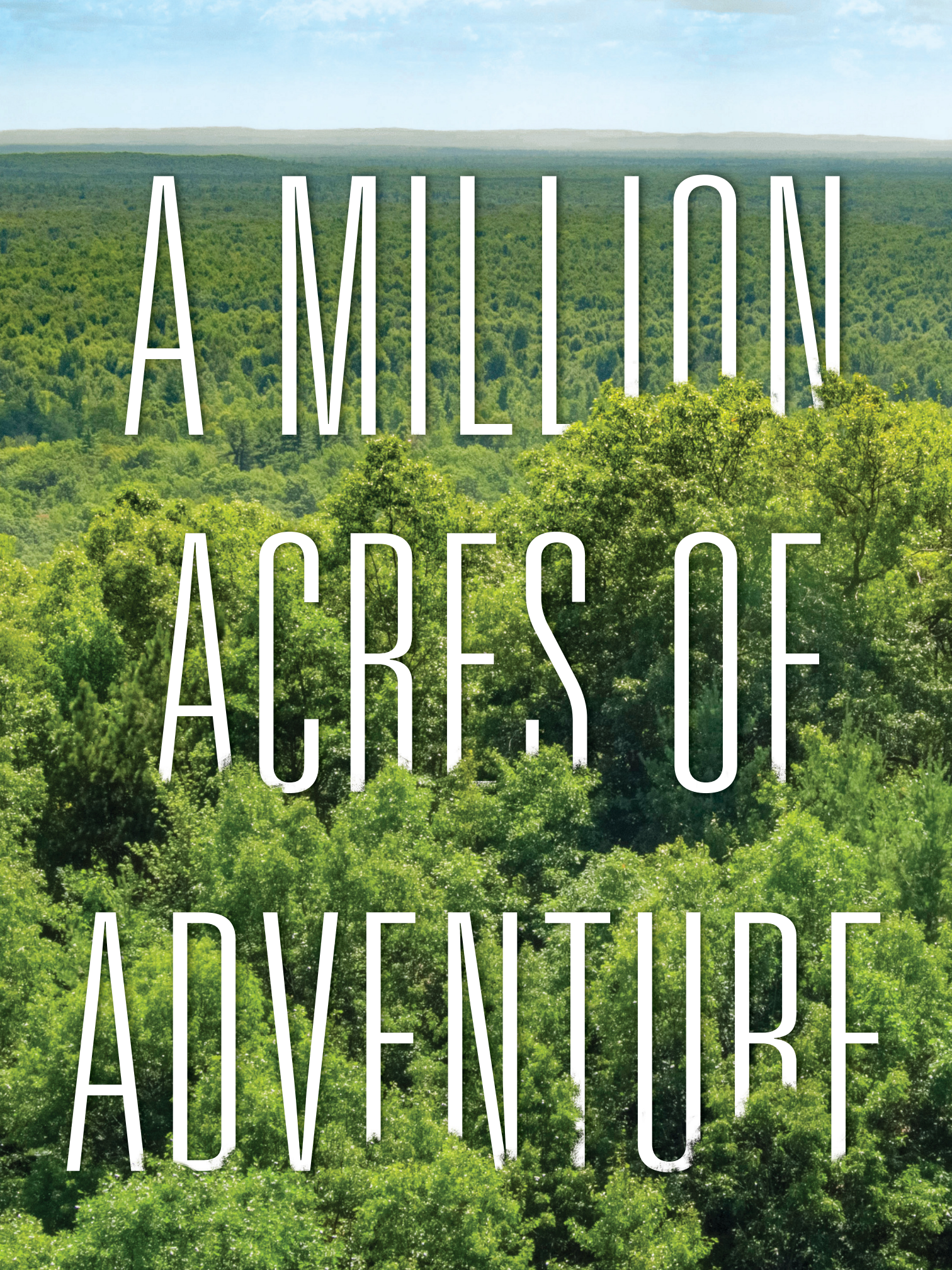
WORTH A DETOUR

THE CAPITOL THEATRE

Renovated and reopened after 20 years, the Renaissance-influenced theater in Flint features folk music, storytelling and one-act plays. Fiddler and step dancer Natalie MacMaster takes the stage March 8.

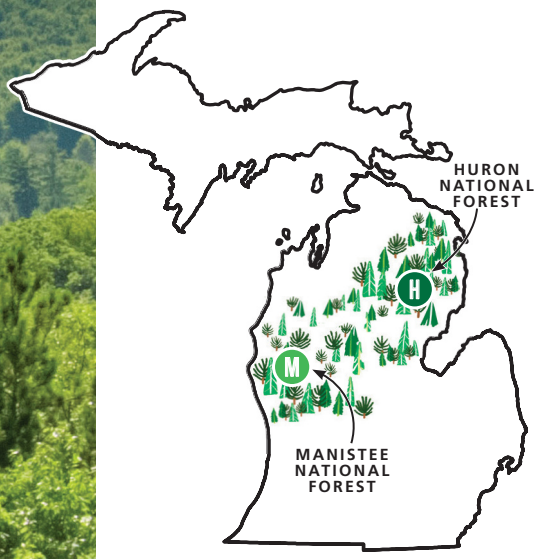
FLINT FARMERS' MARKET

Open year-round, the market's 60-plus vendors purvey delicacies like house-smoked Gouda, Vietnamese pho and meat cut on-site.


A MILLION
ACRES OF
ADVENTURE

WRITER *TINA LASSEN*
PHOTOGRAPHER *RYAN DONNELL*

THE VAST **HURON-MANISTEE NATIONAL FORESTS** STRETCH ACROSS THE LOWER PENINSULA. *HOW WILL YOU CHOOSE TO EXPLORE?*



Almost a century ago, the federal government took ownership of nearly a million acres of cutover timberland in Michigan's Mitten, creating the Huron and Manistee National Forests (which were combined in 1945). The move opened a vast patchwork of property to public use. In the decades since, untold visitors have discovered the treasures those forests hold: Thousands of lakes. Pristine rivers with prolific runs of native trout. Sandy beaches on lakes Huron and Michigan. A forest reborn, now with the addition of thousands of campsites and 330 miles of trails. And special surprises, too, like the thrill of spotting a rare tiny songbird and the chance to hike among the world's largest expanse of freshwater dunes.

BIG M TRAIL NETWORK, MANISTEE

PHOTOGRAPH: (BIRD) G. RONALD AUSTING/GETTY

TOURING ON TWO WHEELS

The 37-mile **Big M trail network** rises and dips through the Udell Hills east of Manistee. Novices test their skills on the inner loop that mostly follows two-track through a leafy canopy of hardwood forest. Riders looking for more challenge will find it on the outer loop, where sandy singletrack climbs pay off with hilltop views.

Within the **Big M,** riders create different loop combinations, and also access the multistate **North Country National Scenic Trail.** The linear route stretches from New York to North Dakota and cuts a 1,150-mile path across Michigan. Mountain bikers are welcome on a portion of the 121-mile stretch of the NCT beginning in Marilla and passing through the Manistee National Forest. Spin through hardwood, pine and birch forests, across multiple rivers and creeks and alongside lakes and ponds. (Check at the trailheads and on maps for information on allowed uses and parking fees.)

At **Hungerford Lake** west of Big Rapids, smooth singletrack with lots of short climbs and descents makes for a fun, flowy ride. Ten miles loop through oak and aspen among a larger equestrian trail network.

BIG M TRAIL NETWORK, MANISTEE

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER

BIRDSONG & THE SOUND OF SILENCE

Between Ludington and Manistee, the prevailing breeze off Lake Michigan shapes 3,450 acres of shifting sandy hills at **Nordhouse Dunes.** The reward for churning through the sand: an isolated stretch of beach, part of a federal wilderness area. Inland off M-37, pink lady's slipper and other native blooms thrive in the **Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary** north of White Cloud.

One of the state's most elusive native birds, the Kirtland's warbler, nests among stands of jack pine east of Grayling. The **Mio Ranger District Office** offers daily guided warbler tours starting at 7:30 a.m. from May 15–31, along with maps of the self-guided Jack Pine Wildlife Viewing Tour.

DID SOMEONE SAY ROAD TRIP?

The ever-changing forest unfurls through your windshield on scenic drives, with plenty of reasons to pull over and explore. The **River Road National Scenic Byway** follows the AuSable near Oscoda for 22 miles, winding along high sand banks and past the **Lumberman's Monument,** with grand views of water, woods and wetlands.

In Manistee County, the **Bridges and Dams route** includes stops at a railroad bridge that swings to make way for freighters, and the 245-foot-long "Little Mac" footbridge over the Manistee River.

FOLLOW THE TRAILS WHERE THEY LEAD

The aptly named **Highbanks River Trail** runs parallel to the lower AuSable River for 7 miles, winding through red pines and popping out at overlooks for views across the river valley. Dunes at the east end make a great picnic spot. Near Oscoda, the **Eagle Run Trail** adds a 7-mile trail system along the river.

Across the state near Mesick, the **Manistee River Trail** follows the east bank of the Manistee River, climbing up ridges, crossing bridges over creeks and descending through ferny glades.

Backpackers find plenty of room to roam in the nearly 10,000-acre **Hoist Lake foot travel area** west of Harrisville. Nineteen miles of trails notch through wooded hills and wetlands, with backcountry campsites scattered along shores of a half-dozen lakes.

Time and endurance are the only limits for a backcountry hiking and camping adventure along the **North Country Trail.** A 25-mile southbound hike from **Bowman Lake** hopscotches along several small lakes en route to White Cloud.

LAKE MICHIGAN
H+M
5
nationally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers
TRAVERSE CITY
GRAYLING
M
3,450
acres in the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area
US-131
H
400
known bird species, including the endangered Kirtland's warbler, which nests amongst the Huron National Forest's jack pine
US-31
NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL
HODENPYL DAM POND
EASTLAKE
MANISTEE
CADILLAC
US-127
NORDHOUSE DUNES
WELLSTON
US-115
LUDINGTON
BALDWIN
US-10
MANISTEE National Forest
BIG RAPIDS
US-31
WHITE CLOUD
MT. PLEASANT
M
538,756
acres in the Manistee National Forest, which is 40 miles by 70 miles
MUSKEGON

MICHIGAN NATIONAL FORESTS

The state is home to four national forests (Ottawa, Hiawatha, Huron and Manistee), but the Huron-Manistee are the only ones in the Lower Peninsula.

H

THE HURON

was named after an Iroquoian-speaking tribe of the region, the Huron. Jack pines dominate the forest.

M

THE MANISTEE

name comes from a Native American word meaning "the whispering through the pines." The forest is a mix of hardwoods and red pines.

RIDING THE CURRENTS

Those soothing Zen-like sound machines could've been inspired by the White River, gurgling softly on its serpentine route toward Lake Michigan. Slip a canoe into the waters of **Sischo Bayou** near Hesperia to float the White's designated "semi-primitive nonmotorized area" through undeveloped national forest of aspen, oak and pine.

It takes some deft paddling skills to navigate the swift water and occasional obstacles along the **Pine and Pere Marquette rivers** southwest of Cadillac. The effort pays off: Clear, cool waters support brown trout and salmon, and wildlife such as deer, otters and herons are common along its banks. Check in with the ranger station for regulations on float permits and fishing.

On its long run from north of Grayling to Lake Huron, the **AuSable River,** a designated national scenic river (from Mio to Alcona Pond), is a revered blue-ribbon trout stream and a popular tubing float. For peaceful paddling, it's tough to top the **South Branch,** flowing through the undeveloped **Mason Tract,** or the broad, mellow waters of the **lower AuSable** near Glennie.

WILDERNESS CANOE TRIP, MESICK

THE BOB OF THE LURE AND DRIFT OF THE FLY

H East of Grayling, the storied **AuSable** is a pilgrimage every fly angler must make. Try to trick the wily browns in the "Holy Waters," a 9-mile fly-only stretch of pristine river from **Burton's Landing** to **Wakeley Bridge.**

M Like the AuSable, the Manistee reigns as one of the finest trout streams east of the Mississippi. Spunky wild trout thrive in its cool, caramel waters. Along with trout in its upper reaches, the **Little Manistee** draws anglers for steelhead fishing in the broad waters below M-37.

PHOTOGRAPH: (FISHING) PER BREIEHAGEN

CAMPGROUNDS THAT'LL FLOAT YOUR BOAT

H+M The Huron-Manistee abounds with tucked-away lakeside campgrounds where you can make the most of water and woods. Set up camp alongside small and serene **Nichols Lake** or **Benton Lake** near White Cloud, or **Jewell Lake** near Barton City, each with a swimming beach, dock and boat launch.

M For access to bigger waters, the **Hemlock Campground** occupies a quiet shoreline on the southern arm of **Lake Mitchell,** a 6-square-mile lake near Cadillac with reliable fishing.

H Boaters can really get off the grid along the pools of the **lower AuSable**—like **Foote Pond** and **Cooke Pond**—where the national forest has established backcountry sites. They're difficult to reach by land but a cinch by water. (Reservations and permits required.)

NO. 12, THE LEGEND, SHANTY CREEK RESORTS

PHOTOGRAPH: BRIAN WALTERS

WRITER *GARY THOMPSON*

GENERENS

BRING YOUR A-GAME TO THESE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSES DESIGNED BY THE SPORT'S TOP ARCHITECTS, INCLUDING SOME OF THE BEST PLAYERS OF ALL TIME.

DESIGNER /
ARNOLD PALMER
Golf's first superstar in the TV era, "The King" drew an army of fans with charisma and hitch-up-your-pants aggressive play. He won seven majors, often dueling with a much-younger Jack Nicklaus.

COURSE /
THE LEGEND at Shanty Creek Resorts, Bellaire
Elevation changes keep you on your toes (or your heels), helping the ball carry on some holes and calling for an extra club on others. The signature par-5 No. 7 has water all along it, including two streams and a pond.

DESIGNER /
TOM FAZIO
No living designer has more courses on *Golf Digest's* and *Golfweek's* lists of America's best. *Golf Digest* stopped giving out its Best Modern Day Golf Course Architect award after Fazio won it three straight times.

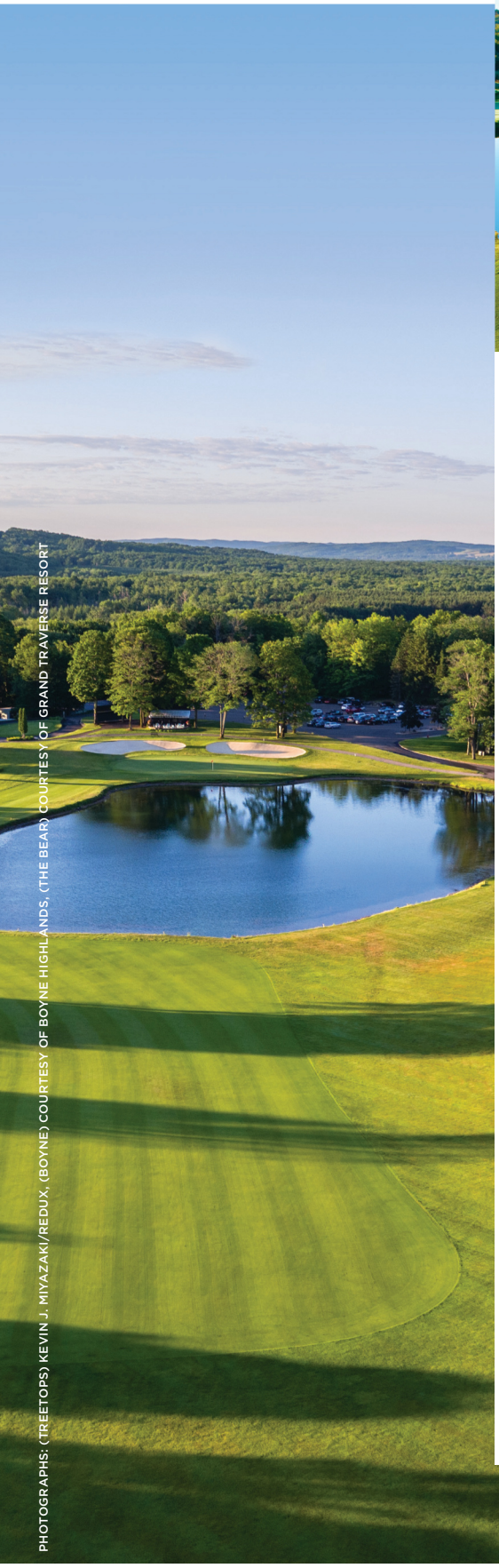
COURSE /
PREMIER at Treetops Resort, Gaylord
Fazio's only Michigan course wins raves for its downhill tee shots and sloping fairways that can steer shots out of trouble. But the rough is tough and the trees thick. No. 15 may be one of the best short par 4s in the world, with a tricky three-level green.

HOLE NO. 18, SIGNATURE, TREETOPS RESORT

DESIGNER /
RICK SMITH
The renowned golf instructor has worked with some of the top players on their swings, including Jack Nicklaus, Phil Mickelson and Greg Norman. He's designed several courses and also partners with Mickelson's firm.

COURSES /
SIGNATURE and TRADITION at Treetops Resort, Gaylord; ARCADIA BLUFFS, Arcadia
Signature, Smith's first 18-hole course, pairs forgiving fairways with firm greens. Even if you don't play from the back tees, check out the view from there on par-4 No. 3. Tradition provides a walkable links-style layout with no cart paths or water hazards but plenty of sand. Thick, high rough and tall swaths of native grasses urge you to keep it in the fairway. Even more links-like is Arcadia Bluffs—Lake Michigan does a spot-on impression of the North Sea. You can't ignore the lake views, but distracted driving leads to rugged rough and sod-wall bunkers. Par-5 No. 11 lends a world-class photo op.

HOLE NO. 18, THE HEATHER, BOYNE HIGHLANDS RESORT



PHOTOGRAPHS: (TREETOPS) KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI/REDUX, (BOYNE) COURTESY OF BOYNE HIGHLANDS, (THE BEAR) COURTESY OF GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT

HOLE NO. 9, THE BEAR, GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT

DESIGNER /
ROBERT TRENT JONES. SR.
Golf's most prolific designer built or reworked hundreds of courses around the world over seven decades. His response to complaints that a certain par 3 was unfair? He aced the hole.

COURSES /
MASTERPIECE at Treetops Resort, Gaylord; THE HEATHER at Boyne Highlands Resort, Harbor Springs
Masterpiece gave Treetops its name—Jones thought of it while standing on the super-elevated No. 6 tee. Beware the ball-eating gorge on No. 3. The Heather, designed in 1966 and Boyne's first course, hasn't lost its luster. Wetlands and blueberry bogs add to its beauty. Don't be fooled by No. 18's wide fairway—it narrows sharply as it skirts a pond.

DESIGNER /
JACK NICKLAUS
Considered by many as the greatest golfer of all time, the "Golden Bear" won 18 major championships as a pro. He's designed 300 courses around the world.

COURSE /
THE BEAR at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, Acme
As one of the toughest courses in the state, The Bear's reputation lives up to its name with tiered greens, deep rough and pot bunkers. Two holes really show their claws—par-3 No. 13, guarded closely by water and sand, and par-4 No. 18, a long finisher with an approach over a lake.

DESIGNER /
JERRY MATTHEWS
After taking over the course-design business started by his father, W. Bruce Matthews, Jerry made his mark in Michigan, creating almost all of his 80-plus courses there. He's known for a natural design approach—working with what the land gives.

COURSES /
THE JEWEL at Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island; NORWAY and SPRUCE at Evergreen Resort, Cadillac; BUCKS RUN Golf Club, Mount Pleasant
Matthews worked on both halves of 18-hole The Jewel, the only course that requires a horse-drawn carriage ride between the nines.

DESIGNER /

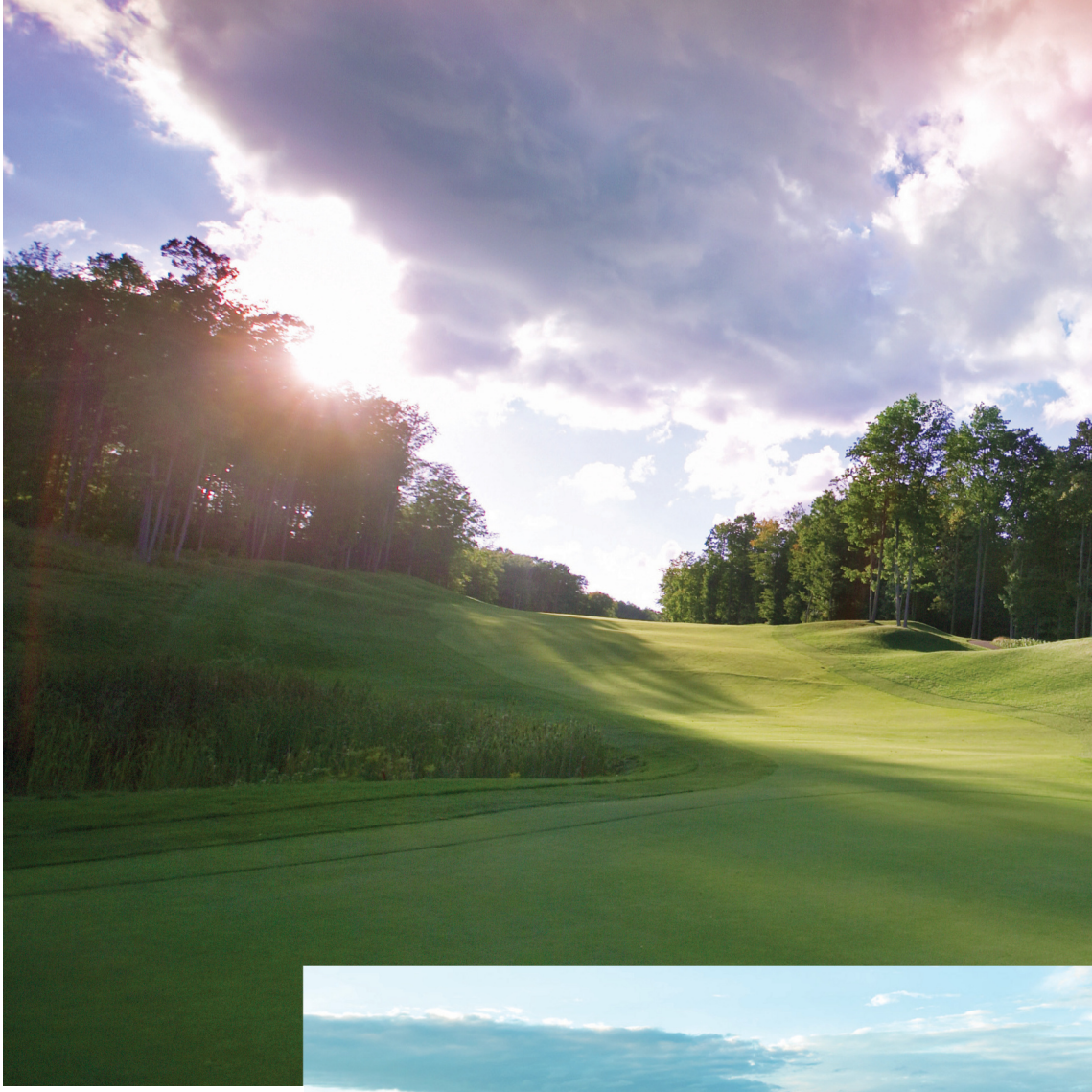
TOM WEISKOPF

With a sweet swing and sour temper, he won 16 tournaments and finished near the top in several majors. His biggest victory came at the 1973 British Open. *Golf World* magazine named him Golf Architect of the Year in 1996.

COURSES /

CEDAR RIVER at Shanty Creek Resorts, Bellaire; FOREST DUNES, Roscommon

Cedar River, Weiskopf's first Michigan course, features contoured fairways that follow the rolling terrain, with most greens large and receptive. Beginners and high handicappers should move up a tee, especially on the par 4s. Par-5 No. 18 is long but beautiful. Forest Dunes, on 500 acres surrounded by the Huron National Forest, winds through corridors of red and jack pines, with elaborate bunkering, scruffy underbrush and sandy waste areas forcing tough choices on every hole. No. 17, a Weiskopf trademark drivable par 4 (just 302 yards from the back tees), features native sand dunes framed by lush fescue grasses.



DESIGNER /

BILL NEWCOMB

A University of Michigan alum, Newcomb went on to play in the Masters before apprenticing with Pete Dye.

COURSE /

THE MONUMENT at Boyne Mountain Resort, Boyne Falls

Newcomb incorporated design touches from the likes of Alister Mackenzie (he designed Augusta National), Jones, Fazio and Dye, then dedicated each hole to a name in golf.

HOLE NO. 18, THE MONUMENT, BOYNE MOUNTAIN RESORT

HOLE NO. 18, CEDAR RIVER, SHANTY CREEK RESORTS

PHOTOGRAPHS: EVAN SCHILLER, (SHANTY) COURTESY OF SHANTY CREEK RESORTS

DESIGNER /
GARY PLAYER

The wiry South African typically wore black as he won nine majors and 163 tournaments worldwide over seven decades. With more than 200 courses around the world, his course-design business has gone as global as his playing career.

COURSE /
THE WOLVERINE at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, Acme

The links-style layout plays as two distinct nines. The front nine features lowland terrain, weaving existing wetlands into several holes. The back nine turns all highland, full of hardwoods, rolling hills and views of East Grand Traverse Bay. Recovery areas forgive shots that just miss the fairway or green, but if you're too wild, you'll find yourself stranded in high native grasses.

DESIGNER /
ARTHUR HILLS

With degrees from both Michigan State and the University of Michigan, Hills has designed more than 200 courses around the world and updated 150 more.

COURSES /
THE LINKS, THE QUARRY and THE PRESERVE at Bay Harbor Golf Club, Bay Harbor; CROOKED TREE GOLF CLUB, Petoskey

The Arthur Hills trio of 9-hole courses at Bay Harbor lets golfers pair any two into a split-personality round of 18. The Links is aptly named; Scottish-style holes follow the Lake Michigan shoreline. The Quarry wraps around an old shale quarry site. Play past 40-foot gorges, stone cliffs, natural ponds and a gentle waterfall. The Preserve offers a more classic northern setting—hardwoods, wildlife and lush greenery. At Crooked Tree, expect elevated tees, sloping fairways, tiered greens and great vistas, especially No. 8's blue backdrop of Lake Michigan.

WATCH IT HERE

MEIJER LPGA CLASSIC, BLYTHEFIELD COUNTRY CLUB, GRAND RAPIDS
June 11–16

THE SYMETRA TOUR (LPGA) SWEETGRASS GOLF CLUB, HARRIS
June 21–23 **&**
BATTLE CREEK COUNTRY CLUB, BATTLE CREEK
August 12–18

ROCKET MORTGAGE CLASSIC (PGA), DETROIT GOLF CLUB, DETROIT
June 24–30

THE DOW GREAT LAKES BAY INVITATIONAL (LPGA), MIDLAND COUNTRY CLUB, MIDLAND
July 15–20

THE ALLY CHALLENGE (PGA), WARWICK HILLS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, GRAND BLANC
September 13–15

HOLE NO. 15, CROOKED TREE GOLF CLUB

WRITER *MARY BEAUMONT*

EVERYBODY READY?

ASSEMBLE AN IDEAL ITINERARY FOR YOUR FAMILY—AN AFTERNOON, A DAY OR A FULL WEEKEND—AT THREE FUN-FOR-ALL SPOTS AROUND THE STATE.

Biking Mackinaw City near the Mackinac Bridge

GOT A FEW HOURS? > +

Step into Colonial Michilimackinac, a mainland 18th-century fort and fur-trading village, to explore buildings, encounter costumed interpreters and watch demonstrations, including a traditional afternoon tea or musket firing. Be sure to check out the active excavation site, where archaeologists unearth fort artifacts.

Then stop at Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse. Poke around the restored keeper's quarters. Visit the shipwreck exhibit and learn about lighthouse lenses and how sound signals kept ships safe on foggy nights. If you're up for climbing 51 narrow steps and shinnying up an 8-foot ladder through a hatch, you can take in the epic Straits of Mackinac views from the tower.

Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park

PHOTOGRAPHS: JOHN NOLTNER, (BRIDGE) AARON PETERSON

GOT ALL DAY? >> ++

Add a trip to Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park. At one of the oldest industrial sites on the upper Great Lakes, inhale the scent of freshly sawn wood as you watch harnessed creek water power an 18th-century sawmill. Three miles of trails weave through the surrounding woods; one loop skirts a beaver pond. The park's Adventure Tour takes daredevils over a forest canopy bridge, down a zipline and up a five-story climbing wall.

GOT ALL WEEKEND? >>> +++

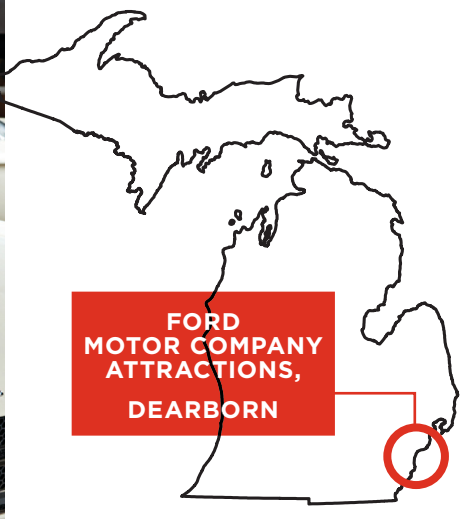
Spend a day exploring Mackinac Island, including the downtown shops, museums and more. Imagine life on a military base at Fort Mackinac, occupied first by British redcoats and later by American soldiers. Marvel at Arch Rock and other geologic formations at Mackinac Island State Park. Then tour the vehicle-free island in a horse-drawn carriage or on rental bikes. Mackinac Wheels offers tandems, kid tagalongs and child bike trailers, along with free helmets and bike baskets for toting your finds.

FIRED UP
Each morning, one person (13 and up) can pay $50 to help clean, load and fire the cannon at Fort Mackinac. *Reserve your spot at least three days in advance.*

OVERNIGHT
Kids under 12 eat free at Mackinac Island's lakefront Mission Point Resort, which also offers bike rentals, golf and croquet.

GRAB A BITE
Pancakes come stamped with a hand flashing the peace sign at The Chuckwagon of Mackinac Island. Kids love sitting at the diner's counter.

The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, Dearborn



Greenfield Village at The Henry Ford, Dearborn

GOT A FEW HOURS? > +

The Ford Rouge Factory Tour takes visitors through the automaker's history and above the assembly line of the company's most technologically advanced plant, which turns out the popular F-150 pickup truck. Catwalks offers bird's-eye views of the plant's floor; a multisensory film experience (think vibrating seats and gusting wind) gives a peek at engineering innovation.

Learn about the company's sustainable manufacturing efforts by checking out the building's solar-power equipment and its living roof. Planted with drought-resistant sedum, the roof collects and filters stormwater and also insulates the building. It's one of the largest roof projects of its type in the world.

GOT ALL DAY? >> ++

Your family's minds will be fully blown at the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation. Sit in the *actual bus* where Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat. Tour a futuristic aluminum home with a circular footprint—it looks like a spaceship. Wander rooms filled with cars that are sporty (a 1962 Mustang Roadster), elegant (a 1931 Bugatti Royale, one of only six ever made) and historic (the limousine convertible in which JFK was shot). Study a replica of the Wright brothers' original 1903 aircraft. And in an indoor rail yard, explore streetcars and trains, and climb into a massive steam locomotive.

GOT ALL WEEKEND? >>> +++

America's can-do spirit comes alive at Greenfield Village at The Henry Ford, where you can spend a day touring Thomas Edison's lab, seeing active farms worked with traditional equipment, riding in a Model T and roaming a historic Main Street. The village's calendar overflows with demonstrations and events, including old-time baseball, glassblowing, wool carding, silk spinning and printing with a press. Many events are free with village admission.

PHOTOGRAPHS: ANDREW MAGUIRE, (COASTER) COURTESY OF MICHIGAN'S ADVENTURE

go!

GET CURIOUS

Visit hands-on exhibits by tinkerers, inventors and designers at Maker Faire Detroit. *The event runs July 27–28 at The Henry Ford.*

OVERNIGHT

The Henry, a luxe Autograph Collection hotel known for its artwork, sits adjacent to Fairlane Town Center, a shopping mall. Or choose The Dearborn Inn, which features rooms within five replica Colonial homes of famous Americans.

GRAB A BITE

Schedule a hand wash before digging into towering burgers and overflowing shakes at auto-theme Ford's Garage—the tire-and-gas-pump sinks in the restrooms bring a smile.

GOT A FEW HOURS? > +

Lines are often short enough at the state's largest theme park that families can try out several coasters in a brief outing. Corkscrew's tight loops will leave you dizzy. Riders' feet swing free during the five inversions of Thunderhawk. Mad Mouse promises sharp turns and sudden drops. And the park's signature attraction, the wooden Shivering Timbers, reaches speeds of 65 mph during its half-mile-out, half-mile-back route (it's the fourth-longest wooden coaster in the world). If you're in a hurry, an available Fast Lane wristband means even shorter wait times.

GOT ALL DAY? >> ++

Add more thrills on RipCord, a soaring body-flight ride, and Adventure Falls, which ends with a splashing plunge. Bash your family (all in good fun) in bumper boats and bumper cars. Or ride Timbertown Railway through the woods at the back of the park. On Be-Bop Boulevard, drive an electric car along a scenic track modeled after the local Red Arrow and Blue Star highways.

GOT ALL WEEKEND? >>> +++

Get a day's worth of sunny, splashy fun at adjacent WildWater Adventure, Michigan's largest outdoor water park. The newly revamped Half-Pint Paradise has slides and pools for little ones, plus bubbling geysers and cute sea creatures perfect for play. In the Beach Party area, rollick with taller slides, spray guns, net bridges and a drenching bucket. Big kids can ride the major slides, including a swirling four-person thriller called Funnel of Fear.

LITTLES CAN ENJOY THE PARK, TOO

Kiddie rides include flying elephants and vrooming motorcycles. Feed llamas, a miniature donkey and other furry friends at Funland Farm petting area.

Corkscrew reaches speeds up to 45 mph.

OVERNIGHT

Stroll the on-site marina or dip in the indoor and outdoor pools (or the hot tub) at Shoreline Inn on Muskegon Lake. The on-site restaurant overlooks the water.

GRAB A BITE

Find a made-for-kids menu—including mini burgers and the 89-cent World's Smallest Sundae—at The Station Grill in Muskegon. The retro restaurant resembles its original business, a service station. Adults enjoy sandwiches, wings and Tex-Mex fare.

MADE IN THE SHADE

With loungers and table seating for up to eight, rentable cabanas at Michigan Adventure's water park give families a place to rendezvous and relax. *Book at least one day in advance.*

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MAKE IT A WEEKEND

SAULT STE. MARIE

Each year, thousands of shipping vessels, tugboats and barges travel to and from Michigan's oldest city via the Soo Locks, a link between Lake Superior and Lake Huron. Known for putting the Great Lakes on the map as a significant shipping connection, the mighty locks are honored each year on the **Soo Locks Opening Day (March 25).** Visitors kick off the start of shipping season with refreshments.

For an even better view, check out the Tower of History. At 210 feet above ground, its observation deck offers a 360-degree view of the locks, historic neighborhoods and the restored ship *Valley Camp* docked at the museum.

In this water town, fresh fish dominates restaurant menus. Lockview Restaurant serves Lake Superior whitefish layered on Reubens, stirred into chowder and baked with a side of coleslaw and French fries. Take dinner to go and pair it with one of eight seasonal brews from Soo Locks Brewing Company across the street.

Turn in for the night at the historical Ramada Plaza Ojibway. A block from the locks, the hotel has hosted the likes of President George H.W. Bush and legendary boxers Joe Louis and Jack Dempsey (906/632-3366).

MARCH

FRED AND DOROTHY FICHTER BUTTERFLIES ARE BLOOMING

GRAND RAPIDS, MARCH 1–APRIL 30

More than 7,000 butterflies flutter during the nation's largest temporary tropical butterfly exhibit at Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. In the Butterfly Bungalow, guests watch butterflies emerge from their chrysalides (888/957-1580).

GREAT BEAR CHASE

CALUMET, MARCH 9

The cross-country season comes to an epic close when skiers of all levels compete in freestyle and classic 10K, 25K or 50K races. Carb-load with a prerace pasta dinner and finish-line pasties (906/369-2460).

CLARE IRISH FESTIVAL

CLARE, MARCH 14–17

Green beer flows and costumed leprechauns dance to live tunes during this town's nod to its Irish roots. Visitors browse the crafts fair, watch the parade, compete in a family 5K and refuel with a corned beef dinner (989/386-2442).

MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

LANSING, MARCH 16

Visitors learn hands-on how sap is harvested and turned into Michigan's "liquid gold." The hard work pays off with an all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage breakfast (517/483-4224).

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

LUDINGTON, MARCH 16

A Kegs and Eggs Breakfast nourishes guests for activities, including the Irish Jig Run, downtown sidewalk sale, pub crawl and Shamrock Parade (231/845-6237).

APRIL

KLONDIKE CHALLENGE

OSCODA, APRIL 6–7

Before the ice thaws, brave competitors kick off the canoe racing season with a canoe and kayak race on Van Etten Creek. On land, runners participate the next day (April 7) in a family-friendly—pets included—Klondike Challenge 5K or 10K race (989/820-5196).

NATIONAL TROUT FESTIVAL

KALKASKA, APRIL 25–28

There's nothing fishy about this celebration that marks the beginning of trout season. Among a live animal exhibition and children's fishing contest, events include a classic car show, Grand Royale parade, concerts, fireworks and plenty of the day's catch served fresh (231/465-1395).

SHEPHERD MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL

SHEPHERD, APRIL 25–28

Experts tempt guests' taste buds by showing how maple syrup is made during guided tours of the Sugar Bush sap house. Free samples of maple-infused cookies, ice cream and candy—plus the annual pancake and sausage breakfast—satisfy sweets cravings (989/828-5422).

JEEP THE MAC

ST. IGNACE, APRIL 26–28

Jeep owners join the Friday afternoon parade across (and back) the Mackinac Bridge. Afterward, there's live music and beverages at Little Bear Arena, plus trail rides on Drummond Island Saturday and an Adventure Run on Sunday (906/643-6950).

MAY

WEST BRANCH BLUES AND BREWS FESTIVAL

WEST BRANCH, MAY 3–4

How do you make a night of live jazz and blues better? Pair it with pours of local brews. This year's lineup includes songwriter James Armstrong, The Kinsey Report and Chris Canas Band (989/345-3503).

BLOSSOMTIME FESTIVAL

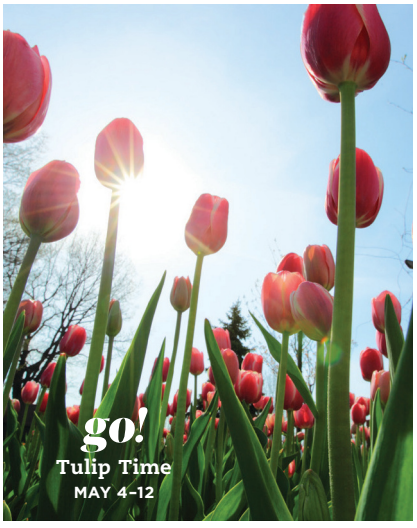
BENTON HARBOR AND ST. JOSEPH, MAY 3–5

The state's oldest multicommunity festival celebrates spring with two parades (including one where community members show off handmade floats), a Run for the Buds race and the elegant Miss Blossomtime Pageant (269/982-8016).

STORY: LAUREN KASSIEN. PHOTOGRAPH: AARON PETERSON

MAKE IT A WEEKEND

HOLLAND



Each May, more than 5 million tulips in every shade bloom throughout Holland's downtown, drawing nearly half a million visitors to America's Dutch Capital. Throughout **Tulip Time (May 4–12)**, Dutch-costumed locals narrate guided trolley tours of the flower-lined roads. More than 1,000 wooden-clogged performers dance in the streets, while traditional Dutch dishes are served inside the Dutch Marktplaats.

Eight miles west of downtown, Holland State Park is known for its sugar-sand beaches and best view of Big Red, the city's iconic lighthouse. A half-mile hike (including 239 stair steps) puts visitors at the top of Mount Pisgah Dune, nearly 150 feet above Lake Michigan. The climb pays off with an unobstructed vista of Lake Macatawa, Lake Michigan and the surrounding marinas.

Also on the water, Boatwerks Waterfront Restaurant serves fresh seafood dishes, including Marcona Almond Whitefish with roasted Brussels sprouts. Go for a late dinner on the patio to watch the sunset over Lake Macatawa (800/506-1299).

NATIONAL MOREL MUSHROOM FESTIVAL

BOYNE CITY, MAY 16–19

Experts train visitors on how to spot the elusive morel before leading a guided hunt through northern Michigan forests. Everyone wins when restaurants serve 'shroom-filled samples (231/582-6222).

BLOSSOM DAY

TRAVERSE CITY, MAY 18

Guests sample vintages from several wineries on the Old Mission Peninsula. Chefs offer seasonal food pairings, and winemakers participate in Q&As, plus give tours of the vineyards and fermentation facilities (800/969-4009).

EAST LANSING ART FESTIVAL

EAST LANSING, MAY 18–19

More than 180 artists showcase photography, drawings, woodwork, jewelry and more. Guests cast their votes in the People's Choice Award for a piece the city will purchase and display (517/319-6804).

NATIVE AMERICAN FESTIVAL

ST. IGNACE, MAY 25

Learn about black ash basket weaving, dream catchers, traditional medicines and quill baskets in the morning. In the afternoon, dancers perform a Grand Entry parade, and visitors experience Native American drumming, singing and dancing (906/643-9161).

ALMA HIGHLAND FESTIVAL AND GAMES

ALMA, MAY 25–26

Strongmen in kilts chuck 100-pound tree trunks and performers dance to bagpipe music during this Celtic-centered celebration. A Border Collie exhibit and drumming competition round out the events (989/463-8979).

FORT MICHILIMACKINAC REENACTMENT PAGEANT

MACKINAW CITY, MAY 25–27

Nearly 400 cast members in period attire reenact the 1763 Fort Michilimackinac battle of the French, British and Native Americans. Arrive early on Memorial Day to snag a front-row seat to the 18th-century-style parade and fireworks (231/436-5574).

CHEVROLET DETROIT GRAND PRIX

BELLE ISLE, MAY 31–JUNE 2

Elite drivers from multiple circuits go head-to-head on Belle Isle's 13-turn track. Between events, fans check out interactive displays on Detroit sports teams and play tailgating games (313/748-1800).

JEEP INVASION AND BLESSING OF THE DUNERS

SILVER LAKE, MAY 31–JUNE 2

After a local priest's blessing ceremony, drivers parade off-roading Jeeps throughout Silver Lake State Park. Meanwhile, visitors enjoy Michigan brews and bites from local restaurants. Live bands and an antique buggy show fill up the weekend (231/873-2247).

JUNE

JACKSON COUNTY ROSE PARADE

JACKSON, JUNE 1–2

For more than 60 years, the town dubbed The Rose City celebrates its claim to fame with a parade featuring more than 100 flowery floats. After the show, community members enjoy a BBQ picnic and the RoseBud pageants (517/764-4440).

BAVARIAN FESTIVAL

FRANKENMUTH, JUNE 6–9

There's more to "Little Bavaria" than beer and brats. (Although, there will be plenty of those to go around.) Visitors enjoy events such as polka dancing, a parade, kids' activities and Friday night street party with fireworks show (877/879-8919).

NATIONAL ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL

OCEANA COUNTY, JUNE 7–9

It's never been easier to get your greens than at this festival, which includes a farm tour, arts and crafts fair, Taste of Asparagus cook-off, Spear-It 5K and free children's shows (231/861-8110).

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHNNY QUIRIN

CEREALFEST

BATTLE CREEK, JUNE 8

The birthplace of the cereal industry invites visitors to dine at the world's longest breakfast table, where bottomless (and free!) bowls of cereal and milk abound. Iconic characters such as Tony the Tiger and Sugar Bear greet guests during the annual parade (269/788-1102).

MAYFLY MUSIC FESTIVAL

DUNDEE, JUNE 21–22

Kids enjoy games and activities while a crafts show runs and bands take the stage in Wolverine Park. Fireworks cap Friday evening (734/529-3466).

MARQUETTE TRAILS FESTIVAL

MARQUETTE, JUNE 21–23

Marquette Mountain is transformed from a skier's paradise to a mecca for mountain biking, hiking and running. After the races and awards ceremony, competitors bond over drinks and live music (269/330-4545).

RIVER DAYS

DETROIT, JUNE 21–23

Nothing says summer like a boardwalk carnival, riverboat tours, sand sculptures and a Jet Ski competition. More than 40 local and national musical acts add to the fun on Detroit's RiverWalk (313/566-8200).

ART ON THE BEACH

OSCODA, JUNE 22–23

Browse goods from more than 60 artists with booths set up in shady spots throughout Oscoda Beach Park. A pancake breakfast and the Oscoda Garden Club's live auction also take place along the shore of Lake Huron (989/739-7322).

ROOFTOP PARTY PRESENTED BY FORD MOTOR COMPANY

DETROIT, JUNE 24

A VIP ticket scores partygoers food, drinks, interactive games and a rooftop view of Detroit's annual fireworks show. Proceeds from ticket sales help fund year-round community events (313/432-7831).

ST. IGNACE CAR SHOW

ST. IGNACE, JUNE 26–30

Hundreds of antique and custom-made vehicles are on display during one of the country's largest all-make, all-model car shows. The autos cruise into town on Thursday night and stick around for the Saturday awards ceremony (906/643-6950).

ENGINEERS DAY

SAULT STE. MARIE, JUNE 28

It's the one day visitors can walk across Soo Locks walls. Tour the U.S. Coast Guard station and see a rescue demo (906/632-3366).

FRESH COAST PLEIN AIR

MARQUETTE, JUNE 28–29

Easels dot downtown and the Lake Superior shoreline during this outdoor painting competition. Viewers sneak peeks of artists in action as they craft scenes inspired by the Marquette landscape (906/228-7749).

MICHIGAN CHALLENGE BALLOONFEST

HOWELL, JUNE 28–30

Hot-air balloon pilots aim for targets, and skydivers soar through the clouds. Live music, fireworks, balloon glow and festival performers provide entertainment from the ground (517/546-3920).

NATIONAL CHERRY FESTIVAL

TRAVERSE CITY, JUNE 29–JULY 6

There's no shortage of sweets at this stone-fruit-theme festival. Purchase cherries mixed into brats and stuffed inside freshly baked pies at the farmers market. And don't miss the air show and grand parade (231/947-4230).

JULY

LUDINGTON AREA JAYCEES FREEDOM FESTIVAL

LUDINGTON, JULY 3–4

Floats, bands, politicians and the Scottville Clown Band make up the Grand Parade, a Michigan Fourth of July tradition since 1874. Kids decorate floats—and Fido—for the Children and Pet Parade before the fireworks show at Stearns Park Beach (231/843-4663).

BATTLE CREEK FIELD OF FLIGHT AIR SHOW AND BALLOON FESTIVAL

BATTLE CREEK, JULY 3–7

This four-day air show includes a Twilight/Night Air Show with PYRO (practice show on July 4, air show July 5–7). See fireworks shows on July 4 and July 6 (269/962-0592).

MANISTEE NATIONAL FOREST FESTIVAL

MANISTEE, JULY 4–7

For more than 80 years, tourists and people with ties to the community return for this annual festival featuring a Native American powwow and guided tours through the Manistee National Forest. Don't miss the arts and crafts, parade, fireworks, marketplace and carnival (231/723-2575).

CURTIS INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

CURTIS, JULY 7

The "Biggest Little Town Parade" honors America with floats, color guards, bands and patriotic pups. The Independence Day celebration continues with a crafts show, community barbecue and fireworks (906/586-3700).

GAYLORD ALPENFEST

GAYLORD, JULY 9–13

At this Swiss-theme festival, visitors munch on pierogi, potato pancakes and roasted nuts while browsing craft booths in the Alpenstrasse. Free entertainment nightly, plus a carnival, car show and Grand Parade, in which locals decorate Genevan-inspired floats (989/732-6333).

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MICHIGAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

JACKSON AND CANTON, JULY 11–AUGUST 18

This year's lineup includes the Bard's *King Lear* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, plus Edmond Rostand's 1897 biographical play *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Catch all three shows in Jackson's Baughman Theatre and Canton's Village Theatre at Cherry Hill (517/998-3673).

THE DOW GREAT LAKES BAY INVITATIONAL

MIDLAND, JULY 15–20

Fans watch as LPGA players compete for a $2 million prize at the Midland Country Club (616/340-3209).

NATIONAL BABY FOOD FESTIVAL

FREMONT, JULY 17–20

The self-claimed Baby Food Capital of the World hosts activities for the young at heart, including a baby-food eating contest, crib races and farmers market. Little visitors enjoy the crawling race, carnival rides and petting zoo (231/924-0770).

POLISH FESTIVAL

BRONSON, JULY 18–20

Listen to music in the park, savor pierogi and pancakes, and enjoy bingo, a car show, truck pulls and polka (517/369-7334).

HOT AIR JUBILEE

JACKSON, JULY 18–21

By day, more than 30 hot air balloons float above Ella Sharp Park while visitors jam to live music and play carnival games; pilots offer helicopter rides. At night, illuminated balloons glow in the sky (517/782-1515).

PAW PAW DAYS CLASSIC CAR AND TRUCK SHOW

PAW PAW, JULY 19–20

On Friday evening, vintage car owners take their autos for a spin through downtown before meeting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 94 >>>

free travel information

For more information on locations featured in our editorial or destinations/activities section, please circle the corresponding number on the attached response card.

Editorial features

1 Shedding Light, pages 12-15
2 Shanty Chic, page 16
3 The Creative Spirit, pages 18-21
4 Q&A: Bruce Campbell, pages 22-24
5 Path to Freedon, pages 26-28
6 Carp on the Fly, pages 32-34
7 Visit with Ease, page 36
8 Party of Few, pages 38-41
9 Cherry on Top, page 42
10 Unpack the Mac, page 44
11 Take it Outside, pages 46-47
12 Game Changers, page 48
13 It's a Shore Thing, pages 50-59
14 Go to the Dark Side, pages 60-61
15 Summer in the Cities, pages 62-67
16 A Million Acres of Adventure, pages 68-75
17 Designer Greens, pages 76-81
18 Everbody Ready?, pages 82-85
19 Here we Go!, pages 87-98
20 State Parks and Trails, pages 106-107
21 Come Together, page 108

Destinations/Activities

22 Apple Tree Inn Petoskey
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25 Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland
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and Zehnder's of Frankenmuth
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26 Cadillac Area Visitors Bureau
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or explorecadillac.org
or cadillacmichigan.com

27 Castle Farms
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28 Charlevoix CVB
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29 Choice Hotels of Michigan
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choicehotels.com

30 CityFlatsHotel
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(800) 495-1770 or grayling-mi.com

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<<< CONTINUED FROM PAGE 91

spectators for old-fashioned root beer floats. The Saturday car show features more than 250 classic cars, all competing for the judges' Best of Show award (269/657-5395).

FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

CADILLAC, JULY 19–20

More than 100 artists set up booths on City Park's lawn overlooking Lake Cadillac. Local bands perform jazz, folk and bluegrass tunes. Art spills onto the streets, where young doodlers compete in the chalk-painting contest (231/775-0657).

UPPER PENINSULA CHAMPIONSHIP RODEO

IRON RIVER, JULY 19–20

Cowboys and girls face off in PRCA rodeo events, including bull riding, steer wrestling and barrel racing. A Wild West-inspired parade, tailgate and tractor show add to the action (906/284-9680).

SUNRISE SIDE WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL

HARRISVILLE, JULY 20

More than 15 wineries and four breweries team up with eight local restaurants to offer a summery tasting menu. Foodies enjoy their feast under a tent on Harrisville Harbor (989/255-6433).

BELL'S BEER BAYVIEW MACKINAC RACE

PORT HURON AND MACKINAC ISLAND, JULY 20–23

More than 200 sailboats race on two courses from Port Huron to Mackinac Island in one of the longest—and toughest—freshwater competitions in the world. Fans greet the sailors with an after-party at the finish line (313/822-1853).

CHARLEVOIX VENETIAN FESTIVAL

CHARLEVOIX, JULY 20–27

A lighted boat parade and fireworks show cap the week-long festivities that include a carnival and bands (231/547-3872).

CRUZ'IN CLASSIC CAR SHOW

MONTAGUE, JULY 26

One of the state's largest car parades features more than 400 classic vehicles cruising through Whitehall and Montague. After the drive, the cars remain displayed in downtown Montague (231/893-1155).

LITTLE TRAVERSE YACHT CLUB UGOTTA REGATTA

HARBOR SPRINGS, JULY 26–28

Known as one of the world's best sailing venues, Little Traverse Bay draws hundreds of sailors from across the country for a weekend competition. Before hitting the water, the Little Traverse Sailors Race Team flips pancakes for spectators during a prerace breakfast each day (231/526-7919).

GRAND HAVEN COAST GUARD FESTIVAL

GRAND HAVEN, JULY 26–AUGUST 4

A memorial service, ship tours and pop-up museum exhibit all create a patriotic salute to members of the Coast Guard. The weekend ends with a fireworks show synced to choreographed music from the Grand Haven Musical Fountain (616/846-5940).

AUSABLE RIVER CANOE MARATHON

GRAYLING AND OSCODA, JULY 27–28

During what's called America's Toughest Spectator Sport, brave canoers use more than 50,000 paddle strokes to travel 120 miles overnight on the AuSable River from Grayling to Oscoda. First prize is $5,000 plus bragging rights (989/820-5196).

LUMBERJACK BREAKFAST AND COUNTRY/POLKA MUSIC FESTIVAL

NEWBERRY, JULY 27–28

Fill up on a feast fit for a lumberjack. On the menu: all-you-can-eat bacon, eggs, sausage and pancakes cooked over a wooden stove in the Tahquamenon Logging Museum. German bands perform polka music (906/293-3700).

MAKER FAIRE DETROIT

DEARBORN, JULY 27–28

Visitors get a firsthand look at what may become tomorrow's biggest inventions at this gathering dubbed The Greatest Show-and-Tell on Earth. Expect works from artists, engineers, scientists and crafters (313/982-6001).

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE WALK

SAULT STE. MARIE, JULY 29

Pedestrians wave goodbye to America as they take a 3-mile stroll over the Soo Locks and the St. Marys River to Ontario. Shuttles carry participants back to explore Sault Ste. Marie's restaurants, shops and park (906/632-3366).

NAUTICAL CITY FESTIVAL

ROGERS CITY, JULY 30–AUGUST 4

A celebration of the Great Lakes and all things Michigan includes polka dancing, a parade, fresh whitefish sandwiches and from-scratch brats. Spectators watch the closing fireworks show from the beach (989/734-4656).

AUGUST

WATERFRONT ART FESTIVAL

ESCANABA, AUGUST 3

More than 60 artists set up pop-up shops in Ludington Park for the area's longest-running art festival. Visitors score deals there or at the Young Artist Market, where budding entrepreneurs sell handmade jewelry, ceramics and more (906/786-3833).

ABBOTT'S MAGIC GET-TOGETHER

COLON, AUGUST 7–10

Magicians from around the country make a pilgrimage to the "Magic Capital of the World," where they share tricks and offer free street performances. The annual magic show features comedians, illusionists, hypnotists and more (269/432-3235).

SUMMER MUSIC FEST

FRANKENMUTH, AUGUST 8–10, 15–17

German-, Polish- and Slovenian-style bands perform at the Harvey Kern Pavilion in Heritage Park. BYO dancing shoes and lederhosen to participate (989/652-3378).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 96 >>>

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EXPLORE FESTS & EVENTS

<<< CONTINUED FROM PAGE 94

MAKE IT A WEEKEND

HESSEL

The Hessel Marina becomes a living museum for a day when boat owners from around the country show off their antique and classic vessels. Visitors to the **Les Cheneaux Islands Antique Wooden Boat Show and Festival of Arts (August 10)** chat with boating experts or browse more than 60 artist tents during the juried art show.

Woods and Waters offers excursions for those who want to get out on the water. Professionals lead full-day, half-day and evening kayak tours through some of Les Cheneaux's 36 islands, the Straits of Mackinac, Drummond Island and Isle Royale. Seasoned paddlers can rent kayaks and plan their own adventures.

Nearby lodging offers aquatic views. Hessel on the Lake's wooden cottages overlook Lake Huron with private docks and a sandy beach. Many feature porches—perfect for relaxing. Sample fresh produce, meat and eggs at the Sunday Les Cheneaux Farmers and Artisans Market, which also sells art including paintings and custom-made jewelry (906/484-3935).

PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY OF FESTIVAL

CONTINUED ON PAGE 98 >>>

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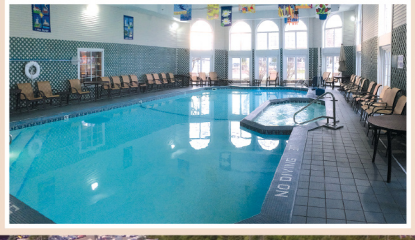

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<<< CONTINUED FROM PAGE 96

MAKE IT A WEEKEND

SOUTH HAVEN

There's no shortage of fresh fruit in South Haven, called the "Blueberry Capital of the World." (The state produces 100 million pounds of berries each year.) The summer's harvest gets put to good use during the **National Blueberry Festival (August 8–11),** when visitors enjoy the crop baked into pies for eating contests, stirred into homemade jams and mixed into fresh pancakes at various locations throughout town.

The Michigan Maritime Museum showcases another state specialty. Exhibits on the Great Lakes' nautical history and boatbuilding span the campus' five buildings. After browsing, visitors take their new knowledge out on Lake Michigan during a hands-on ride aboard *Friends Good Will,* a replica 19th-century tall ship.

Down the shore, Van Buren State Park's sandy beaches and giant dunes offer a spot to both relax and explore. Cyclists tackle the Kal-Haven Trail, a 34-mile crushed-limestone path from South Haven to Kalamazoo. The scenic ride weaves through wooded areas, farmlands and over rivers. No wheels? Rent bikes from the affordable Rock 'n' Road Cycle about 1 mile south of the trailhead (800/764-2836).

MICHIGAN'S LONGEST GARAGE SALE

NEW BUFFALO TO DETROIT, AUGUST 9–11

Bargain hunters score finds at this 200-plus-mile-long sale. Find antiques, collectibles and home goods, plus scratch-made jellies and sauces at homes, businesses and farms along the route (269/925-1137).

RIVER RAISIN JAZZ FESTIVAL

MONROE, AUGUST 10–11

St. Mary's Park hosts big names in big band—notable alums include Kenny G and Ray Parker Jr.—during this free two-day music festival. Breaks between sets give visitors time to check out nearby eateries (800/252-3011).

CONSUMERS ENERGY 400

BROOKLYN, AUGUST 11

At the 2019 NASCAR racing season's last event at Michigan International Speedway, drivers go wheel-to-wheel for 400 miles for the championship title. VIP tickets grant fans exclusive access to driver Q&As, simulated drivers meetings, tram rides and more (888/905-7223).

UPPER PENINSULA STATE FAIR

ESCANABA, AUGUST 12–18

Visitors enjoy the usual fair suspects, including baby animal shows, a midway carnival and deep-fried treats on sticks. Don't miss unique exhibits, including life-size cheese carvings and an antique tractor exhibit (906/786-4011).

WILD BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

PARADISE, AUGUST 16–18

Locals bake one of Michigan's tastiest crops into muffins, buckles, cobblers and more for the annual bake sale. The pie-eating contest and blueberry-pancake brunch tempt those who didn't get their fill (906/492-3219).

WOODWARD DREAM CRUISE

FERNDALE TO PONTIAC, AUGUST 17

The world's largest cruise takes place on Woodward Avenue when more than 40,000 classic cars make the 16-mile journey from Ferndale to Pontiac. Spectators can expect to see muscle cars, street rods and collector vehicles spanning several decades.

GRANDJAZZFEST

GRAND RAPIDS, AUGUST 17–18

Western Michigan's only free weekend-long jazz festival features up to 10 performers, including big-name acts as well as rising artists. Arrive early to score a comfy spot at Rosa Parks Circle. Don't forget a portable chair and small picnic basket or cooler.

RENDEZVOUS AT THE STRAITS POWWOW

ST. IGNACE, AUGUST 24–25

This festival honors the Straits of Mackinac, a 19th-century meeting spot where people of different backgrounds would meet for trading. Today, visitors watch French voyager reenactments and see live demos on life during the 1800s. The powwow includes dancing and traditional cuisine (800/338-6660).

DETROIT JAZZ FESTIVAL

DETROIT, AUGUST 30–SEPTEMBER 2

About 100 jazz artists provide nonstop music and backstage tours throughout Labor Day weekend during this free-to-attend festival. A late-night jam session caps off each evening (313/469-6564).

PHOTOGRAPH: SOUTH HAVEN CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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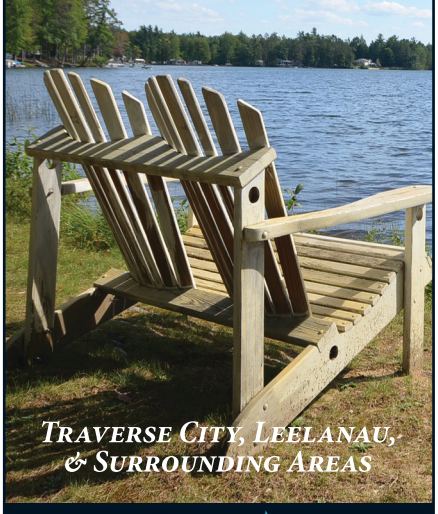

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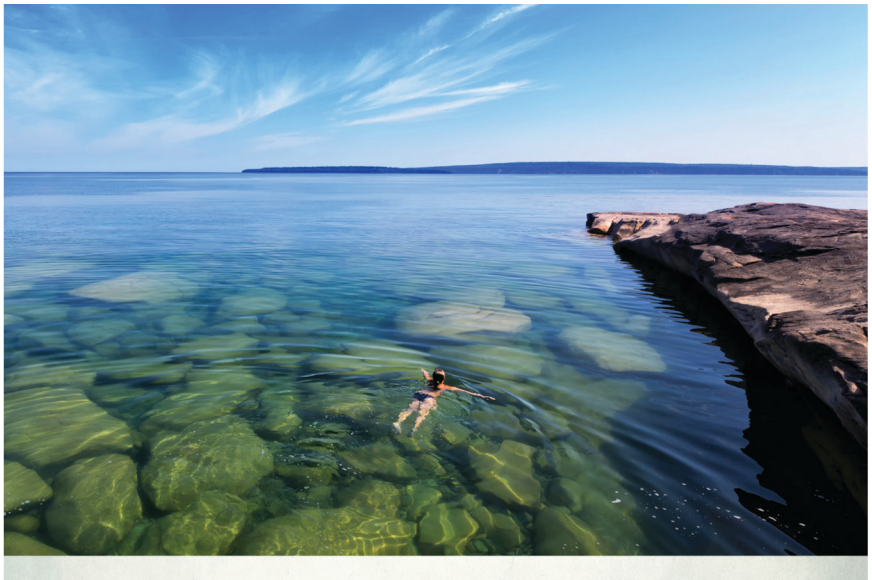

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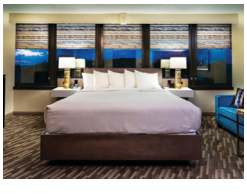

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UPtravel.com

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convention & visitors bureaus

AND REGIONAL TOURISM ASSOCIATIONS

For more information about unforgettable Michigan vacations, please contact the Convention and Visitors Bureau representing the area you'd like to visit.

LOWER PENINSULA ORGANIZATIONS

Allegan County Tourist Council
(888) 425-5342
visitallegancounty.com

Alpena Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
(989) 340-2288
visitalpena.com

Destination Ann Arbor
(734) 995-7281
or (800) 888-9487
destinationann arbor.org

Benzie County Visitors Bureau
(800) 882-5801
visitbenzie.com

Blue Water Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
(810) 987-8687
or (800) 852-4242
bluewater.org

Cadillac Area Visitors Bureau
(231) 775-0657
cadillac michigan.com

Calhoun County Visitors Bureau
(269) 962-2240
or (800) 397-2240
battlecreek visitors.org

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

Cheboygan Area Visitors Bureau
(231) 627-7183
or (800) 968-3302
cheboygan.com

Clare County Convention and Visitors Bureau
(989) 386-6400
or (800) 715-3550
clarecounty.com

Coldwater Country Conference and Visitors Bureau
(517) 278-0241
or (800) 968-9333
coldwater country.com

Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau
(313) 202-1800
or (800) 338-7648
visitdetroit.com

Flint and Genesee Chamber of Commerce
(810) 600-1404
flintandgenesee.org

Frankenmuth Convention and Visitors Bureau
(989) 652-6106
or (800) 386-8696
frankenmuth.org

Gaylord Area Convention and Tourism Bureau
(989) 732-6333
or (800) 345-8621
gaylordmichigan.net

Grand Haven Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
(616) 842-4499
visitgrandhaven.com

Experience Grand Rapids
(616) 258-7388
experiencegr.com

Grayling Visitor's Bureau
(989) 348-4945
or (800) 937-8837
grayling-mi.com

Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau
(989) 752-7164
or (800) 444-9979
gogreat.com

Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce
(269) 469-5409
harborcountry.org

Holland Area Visitors Bureau
(616) 394-0000
or (800) 506-1299
holland.org

Houghton Lake Area Tourism Bureau
(989) 422-2002
or (800) 676-5330
visithoughton lake.com

Indian River Resort Region Chamber of Commerce
(231) 238-9325
or (800) 394-8310
irchamber.com

Experience Jackson
(517) 764-4440
experience jackson.com

Discover Kalamazoo
(269) 488-9000
or (800) 888-0509
discover kalamazoo.com

Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau
(517) 487-6800
or (888) 252-6746
lansing.org

Visit Lenawee
(517) 263-7747
visitlenawee.com

Livingston County Convention and Visitors Bureau
(517) 548-1795
or (800) 686-8474
lccvb.org

Ludington Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
(231) 845-5430
or (800) 542-4600
pureludington.com

Mackinaw Area Visitors Bureau
(231) 436-5664
or (800) 666-0160
mackinawcity.com

Manistee County Visitors Bureau
(877) 626-4783
visitmanistee county.com

Mecosta County Convention and Visitors Bureau
(231) 796-7640
or (888) 229-4386
bigrapids.org

Monroe County Convention and Tourism Bureau
(734) 457-1030
or (800) 252-3011
monroeinfo.com

Mount Pleasant Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
(989) 772-4433
or (888) 772-2022
mountpleasant wow.com

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

New Buffalo Explored
(269) 266-2266
newbuffalo explored.com

Newaygo County Convention and Visitors Bureau
(231) 924-3083
or (877) 500-2570
newaygocounty exploring.com

Oscoda Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
(989) 739-0900
or (877) 867-2632
oscoda.com

Petoskey Area Visitors Bureau
(231) 348-2755
or (800) 845-2828
petoskeyarea.com

River Country Tourism Council of Southwest Michigan
(269) 321-0640
or (800) 447-2821
rivercountry.com

Saugatuck/Douglas Visitors Bureau
(269) 857-1701
saugatuck.com

Shiawassee County Convention and Visitors Bureau
(989) 723-1199
shiawassee.org

Silver Lake Sand Dunes-Hart Visitor Bureau
(231) 873-2247
or (800) 870-9786
thinkdunes.com

Sleeping Bear Dunes Visitors Bureau
(231) 334-2000
sleepingbear dunes.com

South Haven/ Van Buren County Convention and Visitors Bureau
(269) 637-5252
or (800) 764-2836
southhaven.org

Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council
(269) 925-6301
swmichigan.org

Tawas Bay Tourist and Convention Bureau
(877) 868-2927
tawasbay.com

Thumb Area Tourism Council
(810) 569-6856
thumbtourism.org

Traverse City Tourism
(231) 947-1120
or (800) 872-8377
traversecity.com

West Branch Visitors Bureau
(989) 345-2821
or (800) 755-9091
visitwestbranch.com

West Michigan Tourist Association
(616) 245-2217
wmta.org

White Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau
(231) 893-4585
or (800) 879-9702
whitelake.org

UPPER PENINSULA ORGANIZATIONS

Baraga County Convention and Visitors Bureau
(906) 524-7444
or (800) 743-4908
baragacounty.org

Tourism Association of the Dickinson County Area
(800) 236-2447
ironmountain.org

Drummond Island Tourism Association
(906) 493-5245
or (833) 817-7851
visitdrummond island.com

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

Iron County Lodging Association
(906) 265-3611
ironcounty lodging.com

Keweenaw Convention and Visitors Bureau
(906) 337-4579
or (800) 338-7982
keweenaw.info

Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau
(906) 847-3783
mackinacisland.org

Manistique Lakes Area Tourism Bureau
(906) 586-3700
or (800) 860-3819
curtismi.com

Manistique Tourism Council
(800) 342-4282
visitmanistique.com

Travel Marquette
(906) 228-7749
or (800) 544-4321
travelmarquette michigan.com

Munising Visitors Bureau
(906) 387-1717
munising.org

Paradise Area Tourism Council
(906) 492-3266
michigans paradise.com

Porcupine Mountains and Ontonagon Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
(906) 884-2047
porcupineup.com

Sault Ste. Marie Convention and Visitors Bureau
(906) 632-3366
or (800) 647-2858
saultstemarie.com

Schoolcraft Tourism and Commerce
(906) 341-5010
discover manistique.com

St. Ignace Visitors Bureau
(906) 643-6950
or (800) 338-6660
stignace.com

Upper Peninsula Travel and Recreation Association
(906) 774-5480
or (800) 562-7134
uptravel.com

Western Upper Peninsula Convention and Visitor Bureau
(906) 932-4850
or (800) 522-5657
explorewestern up.com

state parks & trails information

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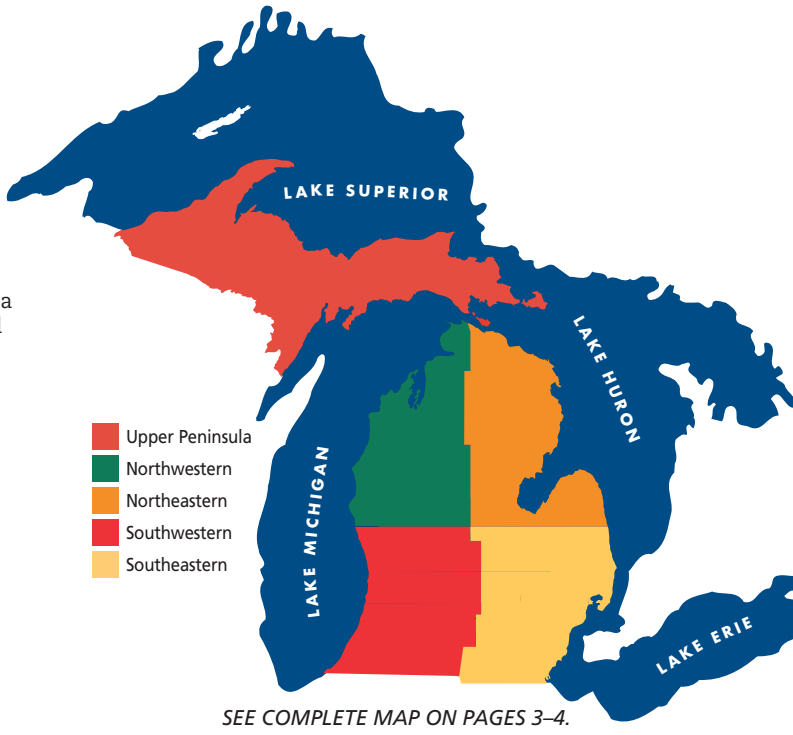
Purchase a Recreation Passport ($9 daily or $32 annually) at the park office or contact booth for access to all of Michigan's state parks, state forests, campgrounds and pathways. Camping fees still apply.

Campers are encouraged to reserve campsites. To reserve a campsite, call (800) 447-2757. For a brochure and additional information on Michigan state parks and recreation areas, write: **Michigan Department of Natural Resources**, Parks and Recreation Division, P.O. Box 30257, Lansing, MI 48909. For the latest updates, go to **michigan.gov/stateparks**.

MORE CAMPGROUND RESOURCES

For a free *Michigan RV and Campgrounds* guide, contact:
Michigan Association of Recreation Vehicles and Campgrounds (MARVAC)
2222 Association Dr., Okemos, MI 48864
(517) 349-8881 or (800) 422-6478 **marvac.org**

For a *Michigan Campgrounds Directory*, contact:
Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds of Michigan (ARVC Michigan)
124 West Allegan St., Suite 1000,
Lansing, MI 48933; (989) 619-2608
michcampgrounds.com



SEE COMPLETE MAP ON PAGES 3–4.

State Park	Location	Phone Number	Campsites	Modern/ Semimodern	Cabin/Tent	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Beach Area	Boat Launch	Swimming Designated	Fishing	Hiking	Horse Trails	Hunting	Visitors Center
Northwestern																
Fisherman's Island	Charlevoix US-31	(231) 547-6641	80	R	T	●						●	●		●	
Hart-Montague Trail	Hart, Montague	(231) 869-2051				●	●	Bicycling					●			
Interlochen	Interlochen M-137	(231) 276-9511	453	R	CT	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Leelanau	Northport CR-629	(231) 386-5422	51	R	C	●	●	●	●		●		●		●	
*Ludington	Ludington M-116	(231) 843-2423	373	●	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
*Mears	Pentwater BUS-31	(231) 869-2051	175	●	C	●	●	●	●		●	●	●			
Mitchell	Cadillac M-115	(231) 775-7911	221	●	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Orchard Beach	Manistee M-110	(231) 723-7422	159	●	C	●	●	●	●		●		●			
Petoskey	Petoskey M-119	(231) 347-2311	180	●	C	●	●	●	●		●	●	●			
Silver Lake	Mears US-31	(231) 873-3083	200	●	T	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●	
Traverse City	Traverse City US-31	(231) 922-5270	348	●	C	●		●	●		●	●	●			
White Pine Trail	Grand Rapids, Cadillac	(231) 775-7911	Bicycling										●			
Wilderness	Carp Lake	(231) 436-5381	293	●	CT	●		●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Wilson	Harrison US-27	(989) 539-3021	157	●	CT	●	●	●	●		●	●				
Young	Boyne City Road	(231) 582-7523	240	●	C	●		●	●	●	●	●	●			
Southwestern																
Duck Lake	North Muskegon M-20	(231) 744-3480				●	●		●	●		●	●		●	
Fort Custer	Augusta M-96	(269) 731-4200	219	●	C	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
*Grand Haven	Grand Haven US-31	(616) 847-1309	174	●	C	●	●	●	●		●	●				
Grand Mere	Stevensville I-94	(269) 426-4013				●	●		●			●	●		●	
Hoffmaster	Muskegon US-31	(231) 798-3711	292	R	T	●	●	●	●		●		●			●
Holland	Holland US-31	(616) 399-9390	311	●	T	●	●	●	●		●	●	●			
Ionia	Ionia M-66	(616) 527-3750	100	●	C	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Kal-Haven Trail	Kalamazoo, South Haven	(269) 674-8011			T	●	Bicycling							●	●	
Muskegon	North Muskegon	(231) 744-3480	247	●	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Newaygo	Newaygo M-37	(231) 856-4452	99	R	T	●		●	●	●	●	●	●			
Saugatuck Dunes	Saugatuck	(269) 637-2788				●	●		●				●			
Van Buren	South Haven I-196	(269) 637-2788	220	●	T	●	●	●	●		●		●		●	
Warren Dunes	Sawyer I-94	(269) 426-4013	185	●	C	●	●	●	●		●		●		●	
Warren Woods	Sawyer Three Oaks Road	(269) 426-4013				●	Natural Area						●			
Yankee Springs	Middleville M-179	(269) 795-9081	200	R	C	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	

State Park	Location	Phone Number	Campsites	Modern/ Semimodern	Cabin/Tent	Picnic Area	Picnic Shelter	Playground	Beach Area	Boat Launch	Swimming Designated	Fishing	Hiking	Horse Trails	Hunting	Visitors Center
Northeastern																
Aloha	Cheboygan M-212	(231) 625-2522	287	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●				
Bay City	Bay City M-247	(989) 684-3020	190	●	C	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●
Burt Lake	Indian River I-75	(231) 238-9392	306	●	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Cheboygan	Cheboygan US-23	(231) 627-2811	76	●	CT	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	
Clear Lake	Atlanta M-33	(989) 785-4388	178	●	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Colonial Michilimackinac	Mackinaw City	(231) 436-5563				●			Historic Site			●	●			●
Harrisville	Harrisville US-23	(989) 724-5126	195	●	C	●	●	●	●		●	●	●			
Hartwick Pines	Grayling M-93	(989) 348-7068	100	●	C	●	●	●				●	●		●	●
Hoeft	Rogers City US-23	(989) 734-2543	144	●	C	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	
Negwegon	Harrisville	(989) 724-5126	4										●		●	
North Higgins Lake	Roscommon US-27	(989) 821-6125	174	●	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Onaway	Onaway M-211	(989) 733-8279	82	●	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Otsego Lake	Gaylord I-75	(989) 732-5485	155	●	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Port Crescent	Port Austin M-25	(989) 738-8663	137	●	C	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	
Rifle River	Lupton M-33	(989) 473-2258	175	R	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Sanilac Petroglyphs	Germania Road	(989) 856-4411			Historic Site								●			
Sleeper	Caseville M-25	(989) 856-4411	226	●	CT	●	●	●	●		●		●		●	
South Higgins Lake	Roscommon US-27	(989) 821-6374	400	●	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Tawas Point	East Tawas US-23	(989) 362-5041	210	●	C	●	●	●	●		●	●	●			
Thompson's Harbor	Rogers City US-23	(231) 734-2543										●	●		●	
Southeastern																
Algonac	Marine City M-29	(810) 765-5605	296	●		●	●	●		●		●	●		●	
Bald Mountain	Lake Orion M-24	(248) 693-6767		R	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Belle Isle Park	Detroit	(313) 821-9844				●	●	●	●		●	●	●			
Brighton	Howell I-96	(810) 229-6566	212	R	CT	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Cambridge Junction	Brooklyn M-50	(517) 467-4401				●	Historic Site									●
Dodge #4	Waterford	(248) 682-7323				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Hayes	Onsted US-12	(517) 467-7401	185	●	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				
Highland	White Lake	(248) 889-3750	25		C	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Holly	Holly I-75	(248) 634-8811	161	R	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Island Lake	Brighton I-96	(810) 229-7067		R	C	●	●		●		●	●	●		●	
Lake Hudson	Clayton M-156	(517) 445-2265	50	●		●	●		●	●	●	●			●	
Lakelands Trail	Pinckney	(734) 426-4913				●	Bicycling						●	●		
Lakeport	Lakeport M-25	(810) 327-6224	250	●	C	●	●	●	●		●					
Maybury	Northville I-96	(248) 349-8390				●	●	●				●	●	●		
Metamora-Hadley	Metamora M-24	(810) 797-4439	214	●	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Ortonville	Ortonville M-15	(810) 797-4439	25	R	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Pinckney	Pinckney US-23	(734) 426-4913	196	R	CT	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Pontiac Lake	Waterford	(248) 666-1020	176	●	T	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Proud Lake	Milford	(248) 685-2433	130	●	CT	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Seven Lakes	Holly US-23	(248) 634-7271	70	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Sleepy Hollow	Laingsburg US-27	(517) 651-6217	181	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sterling	Monroe I-75, Exit 15	(734) 289-2715	256	●	T	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Waterloo	Chelsea I-94	(734) 475-8307	355	R	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Wetzel	Lenox Township	(810) 765-5605		R		Open Space							●		●	
Upper Peninsula																
Baraga	Baraga US-41	(906) 353-6558	115	●	CT	●	●	●				●	●			
Bewabic	Crystal Falls US-2	(906) 875-3324	129	●	T	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Historic Site		
Brimley	Brimley	(906) 248-3422	237	●	●	●	●	●	●		●					
Craig Lake	Michigamme	(906) 339-4461	22		CT					●		●	●		●	
Father Marquette	St. Ignace US-2	(906) 643-8620				●							●			
Fayette	Garden M-183	(906) 644-2603	61	●	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●
Fort Wilkins	Copper Harbor US-41	(906) 289-4215	159	●	C	●	●	●		●		●	●	Historic Site		
Indian Lake	Manistique CR-442	(906) 341-2355	145	●	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Lake Gogebic	Marenisco M-64	(906) 842-3341	127	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Laughing Whitefish Falls	Sundell M-94	(906) 341-2355			Scenic Site							●	●		●	
Mackinac Island	Mackinac Island	(231) 436-5563				●		●	●	●		●	●	●		●
McLain	Hancock M-203	(906) 482-0278	98	●	CT	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	
Muskallonge Lake	Newberry CR-407	(906) 658-3338	159	●	T	●		●	●	●	●	●	●			●
Palms Book	Manistique M-149	(906) 341-2355				●		●		●			●			
Porcupine Mtns. Wilderness	Ontonagon M-107	(906) 885-5275	225	R	C	●	●		●	●		●	●		●	●
Straits	St. Ignace I-75	(906) 643-8620	275	●	C	●		●	●				●			
Tahquamenon Falls	Paradise M-123	(906) 492-3415	296	●	C	●	●	●		●		●	●		●	
Twin Lakes	Toivola M-26	(906) 288-3321	62	●	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Van Riper	Champion US-41	(906) 339-4461	147	R	C	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	
Wagner Falls	Munising M-94	(906) 341-2355			Scenic Site								●			
Wells	Cedar River M-35	(906) 863-9747	153	●	C	●	●	●	●		●		●		●	

C= lodge, cabin or mini cabin **R=** rustic camping **T=** tent or tepee ***=** Wi-Fi service

come together

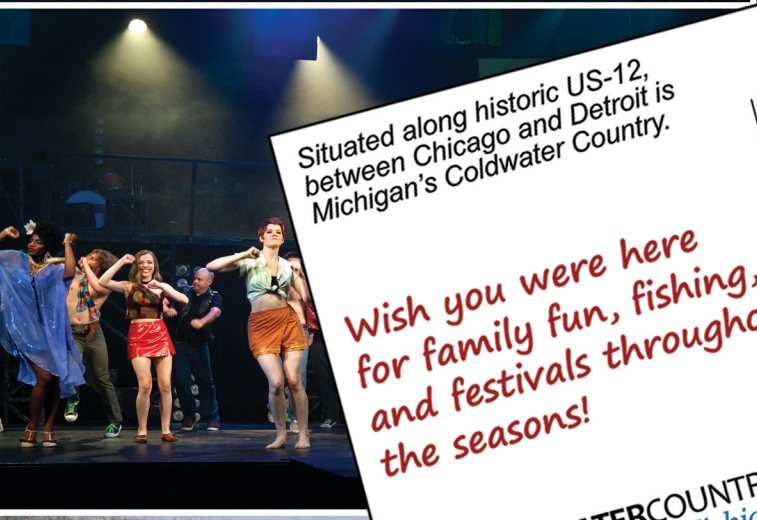
Visitors from different backgrounds, tribes and nations join in honoring Native American culture through song and dance.

go!

Saginaw Chippewa Powwow, Mount Pleasant
JULY 26-28

The annual get-together officially begins when elders light a sacred fire that burns throughout the weekend. After the fire starts, musicians begin to play drums, which represent the heart of the people. More than 500 dancers dressed in colorful patterns jump, swoop and twirl their way through the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal campground. Dancing, chanting and storytelling performances throughout the weekend—including three Grand Entry processions—honor the many different Michigan tribes present. Spectators eat authentic Native American food such as fry bread and Indian tacos. Intertribal events are open to all, and participants may join the dancing. Vendors showcase Native American art and crafts, including eagle feathers, headdresses, jewelry and other handmade regalia (989/775-4000).

WRITER: LAUREN KASSIEN. PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF SAGINAW CHIPPEWA POWWOW



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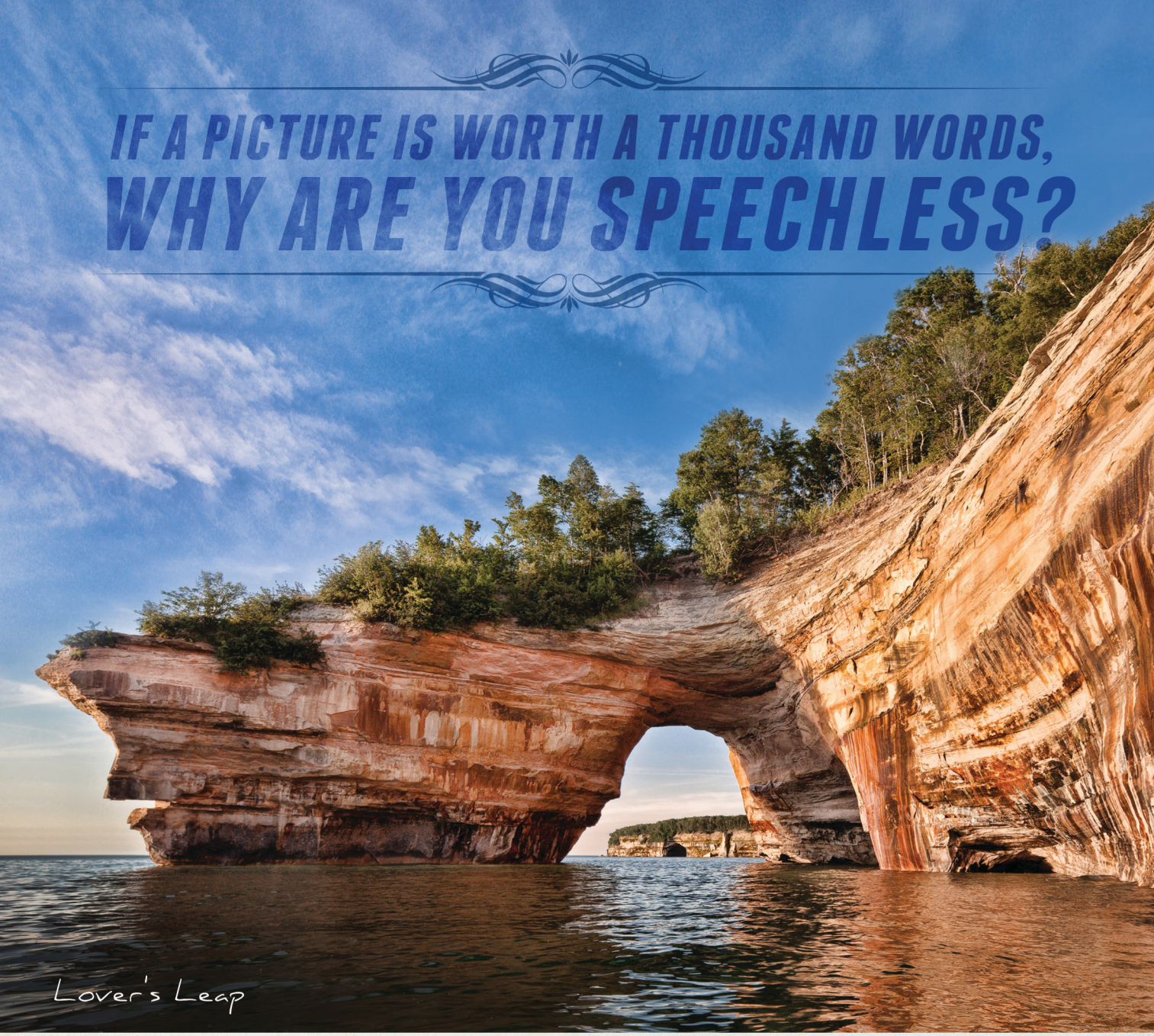

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