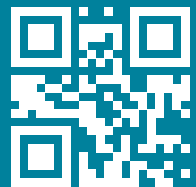


# PURE MICHIGAN<sup>®</sup>



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2018  
TRAVEL GUIDE  
WINTER



# DOWNHILL MORNINGS



PURE *M*ICHIGAN®

TRAVERSE *city*



A man and a woman are sitting in dark brown leather armchairs in a cozy living room. The man, on the left, is wearing a light grey sweater and khaki pants, holding a wine glass and smiling. The woman, on the right, is wearing a dark grey sweater and dark pants, also holding a wine glass and smiling. Behind them is a large fireplace with a warm fire burning. The room has rustic wooden walls and a light-colored rug.

# UPSCALE EVENINGS

It's where everything just comes together. Where you can cut a path through fresh powder all the way down to an easygoing evening. Where every little sip and every winter thrill reminds you that you're in a pretty great place.

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# WELCOME TO michigan

When snow blankets the landscape, lakes ice over and the bright winter sunshine warms your face, a great Michigan adventure awaits.

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If an urban outing is more your style, check out trendy microbreweries, thriving wineries and a culinary scene that boasts national notoriety. Or explore our museums, theaters, boutiques and robust nightlife.

Whether you seek a frosty outdoor adventure or cozy family memory-making, plan your escape with the new **2018 Pure Michigan Winter Travel Guide**.

We can't wait to welcome you to our wonderful state.

Sincerely,



**DAVID LORENZ**  
*Vice President,  
Travel Michigan*



**STEPHEN KIRCHER**  
*Chair, Michigan  
Travel Commission*



A photograph of the interior of a vintage school bus. Several people, including children and adults, are seated on green vinyl seats. A woman in a blue shirt is standing on the left. The bus has large windows and a yellow sign on the ceiling. The text "It's GO time™ DETROIT" is overlaid in large white letters.

# It's GO time™ DETROIT

Base photo courtesy of The Henry Ford

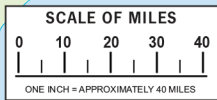
One of "The 10 coolest museums in the world." – *The New York Times*

Be inspired as you step back in time at The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation. Board the bus where Rosa Parks took a stand by taking a seat and discover the flight achievements of the Wright brothers. Beyond The Henry Ford, families can build and play at Legoland Discovery Center Michigan or see underwater wonders at Sea Life Michigan Aquarium, both located at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets. Then cool down at the Detroit Zoo's Polk Penguin Conservation Center, the world's largest penguin exhibit. Now is the time to experience Detroit. It's GO time.



visit**detroit**.com





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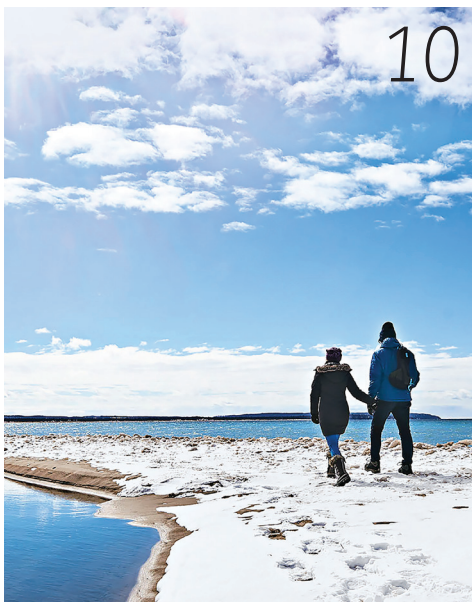


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Treetops Resort, Gaylord  
Photographer: Nate Luke

## DIGITAL EDITION

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**P.16**

FIND FESTIVE FUN—AND SPECTACULAR SHOPS—IN THESE HOLIDAY HOT SPOTS.



**P.22**

INSIDE OR OUT? DISCOVER IDEAL WINTER FAMILY OUTINGS.



**P.28**

MICHIGAN FLAVORS SHINE IN TRAVERSE CITY'S EATERIES AND TAPROOMS.

# explore

SEASONAL  
EVENTS

FOOD  
FINDS

SHOPPING

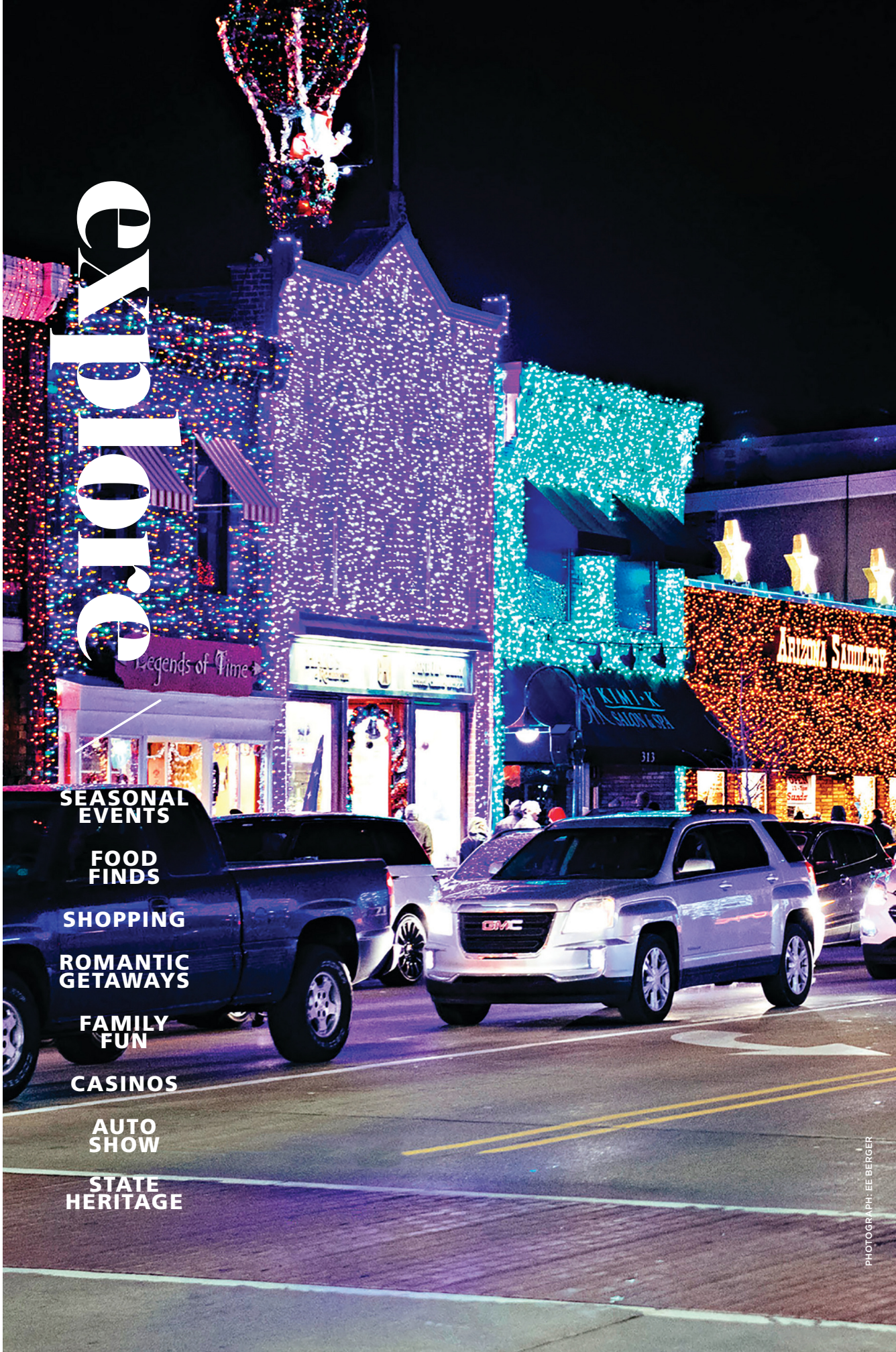
ROMANTIC  
GETAWAYS

FAMILY  
FUN

CASINOS

AUTO  
SHOW

STATE  
HERITAGE





**go!**

Big, Bright  
Light Show!  
Rochester  
NOVEMBER 19-  
JANUARY 1.  
For full details,  
see page 16.





# JUST THE two of you

When you need to get away as a couple, try these singular retreats with on-site amenities that make it easy to stay cozy all weekend long.

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CASTLE IN  
THE COUNTRY,  
ALLEGAN

DID  
YOU  
KNOW?

Owners Ruth and Herb Boven restored the Castle to its original splendor, including the Romeo and Juliet Suite, one of 10 rooms.

### CASTLE IN THE COUNTRY BED AND BREAKFAST INN, ALLEGAN

This rural 1906 Victorian mansion beckons couples to 65 wooded acres about halfway between Kalamazoo and Holland. Choose from romantically named rooms (such as the Romeo and Juliet Suite), most with fireplaces and whirlpool tubs for two. Stay in and treat yourself to breakfast in bed, a couple's massage, chocolates and a picnic basket for two. Venture out for a snowshoe walk along 3 miles of trails in the woods, or a horse-drawn wagon or sleigh ride. It's a short drive to top wineries, breweries and restaurants like [Salt of the Earth](#) (Fennville) and [Food Dance](#) (Kalamazoo). Both specialize in fresh local fare.

### INN AT BAY HARBOR, BAY HARBOR

This Petoskey-area getaway recalls an elegant vintage lakefront resort with recently renovated rooms, each with a box of local Kilwins chocolate-covered cherries. Sleep soundly but not too late, or you'll miss the breakfast buffet at [The Sagamore Room](#). Go skiing or snowboarding at nearby [Boyne Highlands Resort](#) and [Boyne Mountain Resort](#), then recover with [The Spa's](#) 90-minute Northern Luxury treatment (featuring warmed Petoskey stones). For dinner, the [Vintage Chophouse and Wine Bar](#) offers classic ambience. For a bit of boutique shopping, explore Petoskey's [Gaslight District](#) or the [Village at Bay Harbor](#) via a complimentary shuttle.



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TO TAKE YOUR  
*Breath Away*



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EXPLORE  
2-DAY  
TRIP

# Choose your path



## THE HOMESTEAD, GLEN ARBOR

Escape to this laid-back resort's two hotels, rustic lodge and historic inn next to [Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore](#). Skiers head to [Bay Mountain](#) for beginner-friendly slopes and Lake Michigan views, while cross-country skiers and snowshoers follow trails to the dunes. Enjoy an upscale dinner at [Cafe Manitou](#), the on-site restaurant with gorgeous sunset views. Or plan an indoor picnic for two with grab-and-go items from country store [Cavanaugh's](#). The [Spa Amira](#) pampers with steaming stones and towels.

## THE HARBOR GRAND HOTEL, NEW BUFFALO

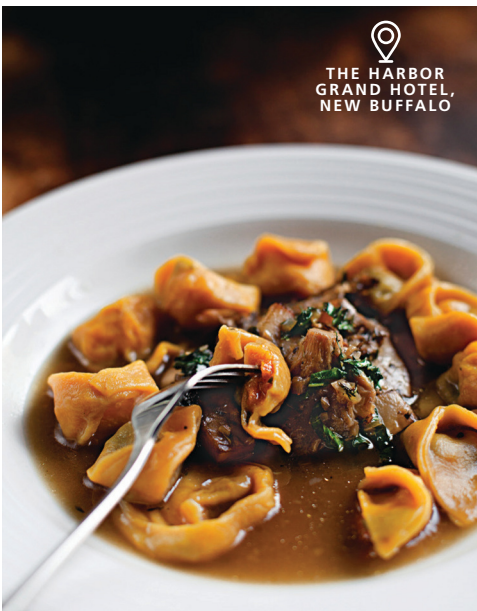
Ben & Jerry's 24/7 sounds sweet, even in winter. That's one of the perks at this boutique retreat in southwest Michigan's Harbor Country, where it's a five-minute walk to the snow-covered Lake Michigan beach. If the ice cream gives you goose bumps, warm up with a massage, dinner at the [Terrace Room](#) (featuring a fireplace and cushy chairs) or evening s'mores. Guest rooms with fireplaces and whirlpool tubs kindle romance.

## GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT AND SPA, ACME

Whether you nestle into the main hotel, the sleek glass tower (dine at [Aerie Restaurant and Lounge](#) with views at the top) or an outlying condo, you might be tempted to add another day to your trip at this property a few miles east of Traverse City. Snowshoe, ice-skate and cross-country ski on the grounds, or even keep your golf swing sharp in heated bays. At the spa, warm up with a couple's massage, body wraps and hot stones. Hit the health club for a hot tub soak or sauna.

  
**Michigan's Upper Peninsula**  
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#### MGM GRAND DETROIT, DETROIT

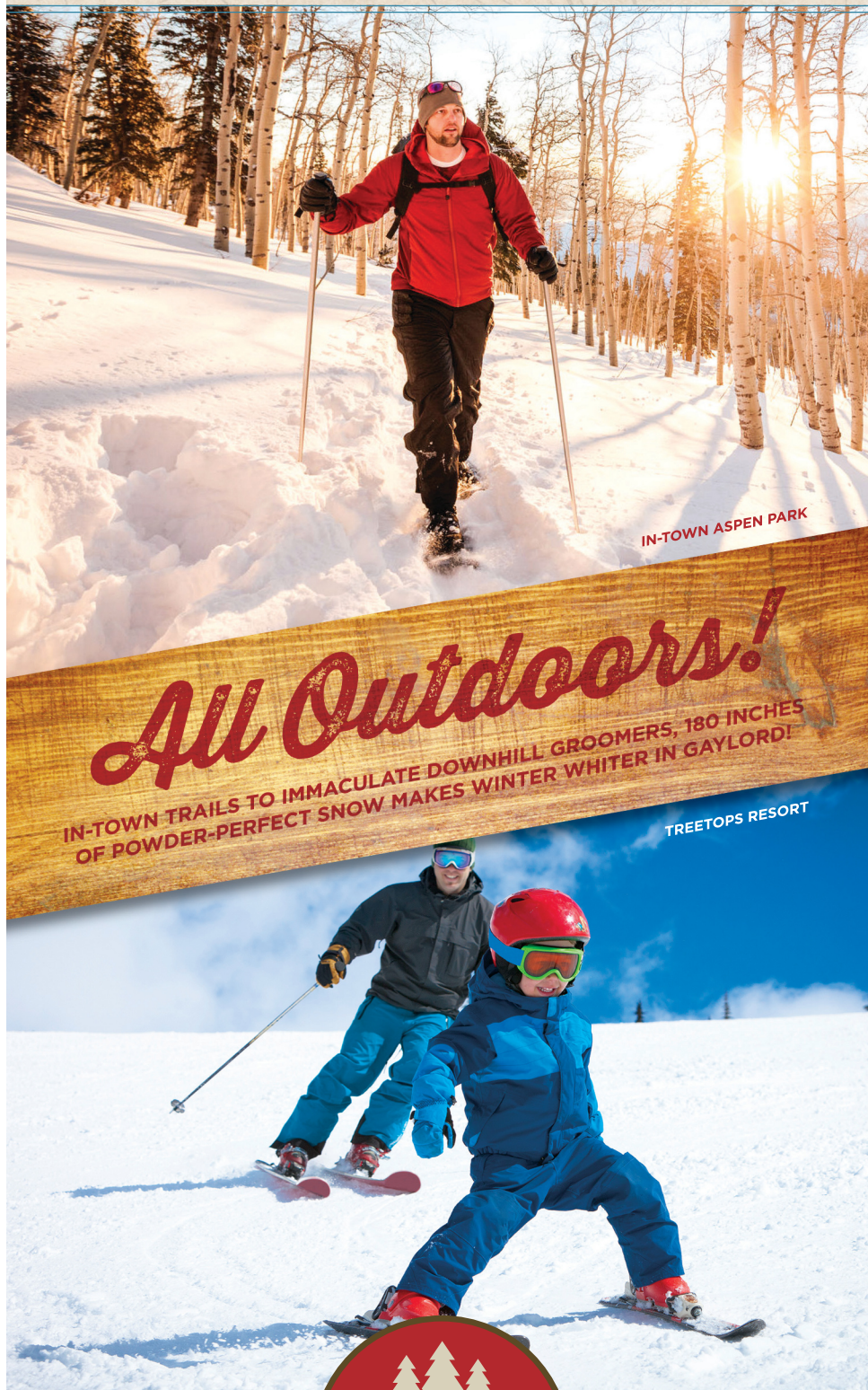
For a luxurious stay, spend some downtime at this urban showcase with 400 modern rooms. Spring for in-room champagne and chocolate-dipped strawberries, rejuvenate at the **IMMERSE** spa, splurge on a meal at **Wolfgang Puck Steak**, and let the games begin at the casino. Cap the night in the **AXIS Lounge**.

#### JW MARRIOTT, GRAND RAPIDS

Loll in luxury bedding or a thick bathrobe as you weigh the self-indulgent options at this high-rise with views of the Grand River. Book a spa treatment, dine on French cuisine at **six.one.six**, or kick back with a cocktail at **Mixology**, the cosmopolitan lounge. Within walking distance, find museums and a multitude of craft breweries.

#### GARLAND LODGE AND GOLF RESORT, LEWISTON

A woodsy theme permeates the rustic log structure. See it aboard a horse-drawn sleigh ride or trek through the 3,000-acre property on cross-country skis. The Nordic Nibble event offers stops at five food stations (weekends in February). Cozy up to the stone fireplace and dine on wild mushroom chicken at **Antlers Bar and Grill**.



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# merry AND bright

Whether you're looking for trendy gifts or the spirit of Christmases long ago, head for these festive holiday hubs.



CAMPUS MARTIUS PARK, DETROIT

## CAMPUS MARTIUS PARK, DETROIT

**This vibrant gathering spot sits in the heart of the city's business district.**

**CELEBRATE** Downtown's winter wonderland officially kicks off with the tree-lighting ceremony mid-November and runs through early January. Throughout the season, enjoy outdoor skating, pop-up shops and food trucks.

**BROWSE** A dozen or more vendors turn the lobby of the **1001 Woodward** building into a marketplace for jewelry, fashions, food and home decor.

At **Cadillac Square's** European-style market, sellers occupy dozens of glass stalls. The End Grain Woodworking Company features goods made with wood from old Detroit buildings.

The scent of holiday greenery from Greystone Gardens wafts through the **Capitol Park** market.

**TAKE A BREAK** Refresh with cocktails, snacks and desserts from gastropub Central Kitchen + Bar in the **Cadillac Lodge**, a heated tent hangout furnished with couches, fireplaces and rugs.

## DOWNTOWN ROCHESTER

**Storefronts covered with holiday lights create a show for shoppers.**

**CELEBRATE** More than a million glowing lights drape downtown businesses during the annual **Big, Bright Light Show!** (November 19–January 1). See the spectacle from 5 p.m. to midnight; most shops are open until 9 p.m.

**BROWSE** Hunt for decor flourishes—like Eiffel Tower-



HOGBACK MOUNTAIN | 46.48° N  
NEAR MARQUETTE, MI | 87.66° W

## DON'T HIBERNATE. CELEBRATE.

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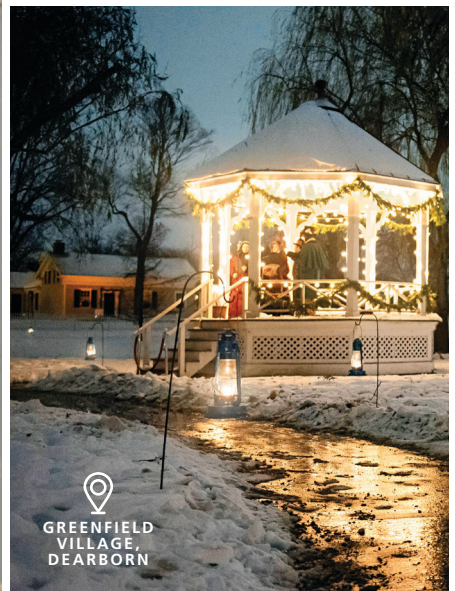


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EMBRACE YOUR NATURAL IDENTITY



DID  
YOU  
KNOW?

You can walk from Old Town to downtown via the Lansing River Trail. It's just over a mile along the Grand River.



inspired wine glasses—among the French-flavor flea market finds and vintage pieces at **The Urban Merchant**, which looks like an indie cousin of Anthropologie.

Pick up comfy apparel bearing a distinctive “mi” logo at **mi State of Mind**.

Flatter your feet with hard-to-find brands from **Sole Sisters**, an indie shoe boutique.

**TAKE A BREAK** People rave about the ribs and the s’mores brownie dessert at **The Meeting House**, known for its neighborhood feel.

## OLD TOWN, LANSING

Shop this historic district a mile north of the Capitol.

**CELEBRATE** Back-to-back events kick off the holiday shopping season. Local artists and owners greet customers with sweets, treats and hot beverages. Find special deals during **Small Business Saturday** (November 24) and **Holiday Hullabaloo** (December 1).

**BROWSE** At the **Old Town General Store**, create a gift basket with Michigan-made goodies, such as chocolate-covered cherries.

Pop into **Cravings Gourmet Popcorn** for versions of the crunchy snack. The holidays bring flavors like candy cane, coal (really, it’s black cherry and licorice) and butter rum.

**TAKE A BREAK** **Meat BBQ** coddles carnivores with Southern-style pulled pork, smoked chicken wings and nachos. The restaurant appeared on Food Network’s *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives*.

## CROSSROADS VILLAGE AND HUCKLEBERRY RAILROAD, FLINT

A charming, re-created 19th-century village welcomes visitors.

**CELEBRATE** Thousands of lights twinkle as carolers and costumed villagers mingle with visitors at **Christmas at Crossroads Holiday Magic**. Shop for stocking stuffers, take a train ride or spin on a vintage carousel.

**TAKE A BREAK** **Mill Street Warehouse** serves a buffet with favorites such as chicken and ham, green beans, and mashed potatoes. Save room for a build-your-own sundae.





GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

# COOLCITY



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## DOWNTOWN HOLLAND

### Hip offerings mix with Dutch heritage.

**CELEBRATE** Join the procession as Sinterklaas, atop his white horse, leads families to the tree-lighting ceremony during the [Sinterklaas Eve Celebration](#) (December 7). Artisans and food vendors fill open-air booths in the Eighth Street Marketplace on weekends during [Kerstmarkt](#) (November 17–December 8).

**BROWSE** A perk for downtown shoppers: heated sidewalks (no snow!). Century-old [Holland Peanut Store](#) tempts with fresh-roasted nuts and hand-dipped chocolate treats.

Shop for gifts at [Karla's Place](#), where DIY succulent potting stations share space with cheeky “Wish You Were Beer” apparel.

**TAKE A BREAK** Breathe in the chocolate aroma at [Kilwins](#) and taste Mackinac Island fudge. An outdoor fireplace warms hands.

## GREENFIELD VILLAGE AT THE HENRY FORD, DEARBORN

### The living-history village transforms into the world of Christmas past.

**CELEBRATE** Follow lantern-lit paths through 80 acres of living history at [Holiday Nights](#). It's a magical evening

as carolers gather under lampposts and costumed performers reenact holiday moments. Ice-skate, take a horse-drawn wagon ride, shop and tour historical homes decked for the season. A fireworks display caps each evening.

**TAKE A BREAK** Pop-up tents and stands sell hot chocolate, chestnuts and other savory snacks. Kids love hot dogs and mac 'n' cheese from the [Village Pavilion](#), while [A Taste of History](#) restaurant serves a traditional turkey dinner, soup and dessert.

## STEAM RAILROADING INSTITUTE, OWOSSO

### A historic train transports riders to a winter wonderland.

**CELEBRATE** Ride the [North Pole Express](#) to the Village of Ashley's Country Christmas festival, where kids meet Santa. The historic [Pere Marquette 1225 steam locomotive](#), which inspired the one in *The Polar Express*, pulls the train as passengers sip cocoa.

**TAKE A BREAK** Food carts serve grab-and-go sweet treats, such as elephant ears and deep-fried Oreos. For a sit-down dinner, try hot dogs and pretzels from the [Burger Barn](#), lighter fare at the [North Pole Express Cafe](#), soup and bread at the [Hobo Kitchen](#), or dinner and drinks at [Gus' Eatery and Saloon](#).

# TOGETHER TIME

The time spent with family is the greatest gift. At Crystal, we cherish that time doing the things you love together – gliding down the slopes, learning to snowboard, relaxing at the spa, or sipping hot cocoa next to the crackling fire. Create new traditions with your loved ones here at Crystal Mountain.

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Welcome, to the 'winter blues'.



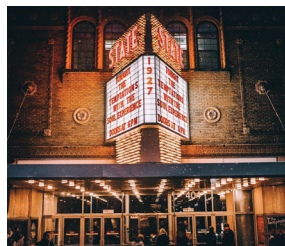
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## LUGE

Novice sliders reach speeds up to 30 mph down an 850-foot luge track at **Muskegon Winter Sports Complex**, one of only four tracks in the nation. (Jake Hyrns, an alternate on the 2018 Winter Olympics team, trained here.)



## SKIING

Pizza and French Fries—cute names for beginner skills taught at **Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville**. Slopeside lodging offers quick access to terrain parks and almost 60 ski runs; advanced skiers take on ungroomed trails.



## EXTREME TUBING

This is no ordinary sledding hill. At **Treetops Resort in Gaylord**, a towrope takes you up the mountainside before your exhilarating ride down the steep hill. Families can tie multiple tubes together. Reservations are required.



## ZIPLINE

Soar up to 25 mph—hands-free, if you're brave—above the ski runs at **Boyne Mountain in Boyne Falls**. The nine-line Zipline Adventure tour begins at the top of the mountain and descends 50 stories as riders zip through the trees.



# wanna play?

When you're ready to chase away the winter blues, find indoor and outdoor options for your perfect family getaway.



## SUPER SPLASH

A countdown begins when fearless riders enter the Super Loop Speed Slide at the indoor water park, **Zehnder's Splash Village in Frankenmuth**. Then a trap door opens on this splashy thriller, dropping you four stories and into a giant loop.



## COOL CAVE

Rub a 1-foot-by-1-foot salt chunk as you enter the re-created cave at the **Outdoor Adventure Center in Detroit**. You can also walk behind a waterfall, watch fish, step inside a beaver lodge, stand in an eagle's nest and paddle a kayak down a simulated river.



## FLIGHT SIMULATOR

Strap in before taking control of your fighter jet at **Kalamazoo's Air Zoo**. As pilot, you'll decide whether to do stomach-flipping barrel rolls as you fly a stunt plane or go head-to-head against robots or enemy aircraft.



## CAR CREATOR

How fast can you assemble a Model T? Find out at **Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation in Dearborn**, when you use bolts and wrenches to attach a part before turning the hand crank to start it up. (By 1927, Ford cranked out a Model T every 24 seconds!)

# GREAT MINDS *think* A LOT.

Challenge Everything  
Create Anything

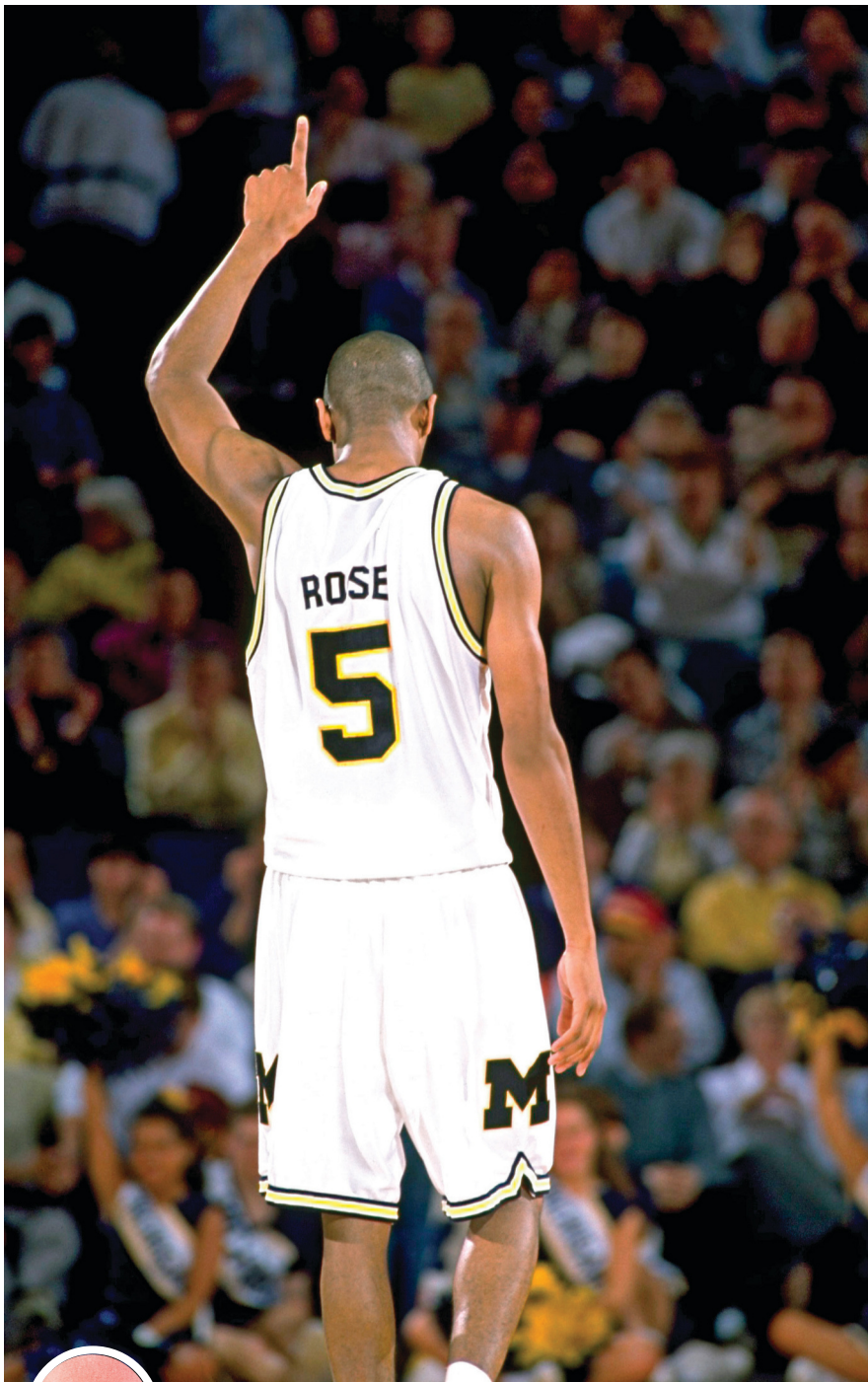
[DestinationAnnArbor.org](http://DestinationAnnArbor.org)

ANN  
ARBOR



# Jalen Rose

The college hoops legend, former NBA star and broadcaster sends a love letter to the Motor City, his hometown.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

In the Fab Five's first game starting as a unit, they scored all of Michigan's points against Notre Dame.



**DETROIT RUNS JUST AS DEEPLY AS BASKETBALL THROUGH JALEN ROSE'S VEINS.** The ABC/ESPN analyst grew up in the Motor City, electrifying Southwestern High School fans on the basketball court in the early '90s with future NBA ballers Voshon Lenard and Howard Easley. In Ann Arbor, he became part of one of college basketball's most legendary lineups: the University of Michigan's Fab Five, the powerhouse team that also included Detroit's Chris Webber. (Despite public squabbles among the teammates, speculation is flying about a 25-year reunion during the current hoops season.)

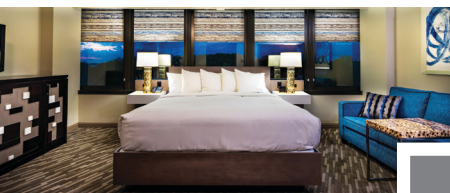
Jalen spent 13 seasons in the NBA and eventually graduated with a communications degree. You'll still see him on TV: He appears on *Get Up!* with Mike Greenberg and Michelle Beadle, ESPN2's *Jalen & Jacoby*, and ABC's *NBA Countdown*. And there's still a good chance of spotting him around Detroit, where he has founded a public charter high school and frequents local restaurants and shops. You also might glimpse his wife, ESPN's Molly Qerim—the two married quietly last summer.

Jalen sat down with *Pure Michigan* to share some Detroit love and give his top picks for going out in the Motor City.

**Q** So you're still a **Detroiter**.

**A** Detroit is always going to be my home. My mother and grandmother live here, and the public charter high school I created, Jalen Rose Leadership Academy (JRLA), is here. I travel to the East Coast to do my ESPN shows, but Detroit is where I call home.





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Jalen Rose  
Leadership  
Academy  
Celebrity Golf  
Classic, Detroit

**Q Why did you start the academy?**

**A** Because I want kids in Detroit to have a quality education. I already had the scholarship going, but a motivating factor was that Detroit was closing schools and building prisons. Along with my cofounder, Michael Carter, we wanted to know how we could make a substantial impact for students, and it was the 9–16 program. *(The tuition-free high school guides more than 400 scholars grades 9–12 and through college.)*

**Q How's that going?**

**A** Almost all JRLA students graduate, and all graduates go to a university—a few attended my alma mater, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor—a college or junior college, a trade school, or into the military.

**Q What's behind your media success?**

**A** I'm one of the few athletes that actually went on to work in the field I majored in, so I had a lot of practice before I started on TV. The secret ingredient for me is being knowledgeable on many subjects, not just sports, but also politics, education, pop culture and current events. I try my best to be well-versed.

**Q What other projects are you working on?**

**A** Last year I did a sitcom, *Jalen vs. Everybody*, which was shot as a pilot for ABC, but they didn't pick it up. However, ESPN liked it and ran with it. ESPN does all sorts of content, but a sports-related sitcom, that was a first for something like that. The show got a lot of eyeballs, so I may continue through Amazon and Netflix, but nothing's been finalized.

**Q What do you do in your free time?**

**A** I love music, and one of my hobbies is being a DJ. But for visitors, I tell people they must go to the Motown Museum. It's in Berry Gordy's original "Hitsville U.S.A." building and shows the history of Motown.

**Q What else?**

**A** I'm into fashion and like to go to Shinola for their accessories. It's an international chain, but their flagship (and first) store is in Detroit. And because my last name is Rose, I like to give people gifts of roses. Byron's Flowers is my go-to.

**MY 5 FAB PLACES TO EAT**

**I consider myself a foodie; I do cook, but I prefer to eat out. Here are some of my metro Detroit favorites:**

1. For a great steak, **London Chop House**. It's legendary, as it's been downtown for decades (opened in 1938, but closed for a period, re-opening in 2013).
2. I love eating at **Sweetwater Tavern**. It's famous for its marinated chicken wings. And it's a juke joint. You walk in and play the jukebox that's always going.
3. **The Original Pancake House**. Not IHOP. The Original, in Grosse Pointe Woods. I don't just go for breakfast—I'll go any time for the silver dollar pancakes.
4. **Fishbone's** in Greektown is a classic. It's a New Orleans-style place famous for seafood gumbo and Cajun food.
5. Eating at **American Coney Island** is a Detroit tradition. You don't just get a hot dog. You get a Coney Island Hot Dog with Chili Cheese Fries. It's the entire experience. One bite, and it's all over your wrists and forearms.



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Nov. 24 • Downtown Muskegon

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## A TRAVERSE CITY

# tasting tour

Savor some of this culinary hot spot's most-loved dishes and flavor experiences—think cheese made from just-milked cows and spirits coaxed from local grains—at these 10 stops.



LOCAL FLAVOR **PERCH**  
TRY IT AT **MAMA LU'S**  
ORDER **TACOS PESCADOS**

Lake Superior perch stars at this 40-seat Front Street taqueria. Pearlescent fillets become tacos pescados as they're flash-fried, folded in made-to-order tortillas and dressed with orange-jicama slaw, mint and house-made hot sauce.

LOCAL FLAVOR **ARTISAN CHEESE**  
TRY IT AT **LEELANAU CHEESE**  
ORDER **RACLETTE**

While savoring a slice of melty raclette or spreadable herb-laced fromage blanc,

visitors watch cheese-makers John and Anne Hoyt transform Leelanau County cow's milk into nutty washed-rind wheels of fromage, an art they learned in the Swiss Alps.

LOCAL FLAVOR **SOUP BEER**  
TRY IT AT **JOLLY PUMPKIN**  
ORDER **BAM NOIRE**

The beer wizards at Jolly Pumpkin have a stack of awards for Bam Noire, a sour barrel-aged dark farmhouse ale that smacks of dried fruit, coffee and cacao. Pair a cold snifter with the local bison sloppy joes or sample the farmhouse

French onion soup made with rich bone broth, Bam Biere and caramelized onions.

LOCAL FLAVOR **BRUNCH**  
TRY IT AT **RED SPIRE BRUNCH HOUSE**  
ORDER **RED VELVET PANCAKES**

Red Spire Brunch House, tucked into Grand Traverse Commons' twisty brick corridors, takes its name from the jagged Victorian peaks of the former 19th-century state hospital campus that is now a shopping, dining and gallery destination. The cafe's signature dessert-for-breakfast comes in the form of airy red velvet pancakes drizzled with a cream cheese glaze.





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Chalk up another mark for Traverse City's foodie reputation: In 2017, BuzzFeed named it one of America's most-underrated food cities.



LOCAL FLAVOR **SPARKLING WINE**  
TRY IT AT **TRATTORIA STELLA**  
ORDER **C-3 PINOT BRUT**

Big Little Wines owners and brothers Mike and Peter Laing craft their C-3 Pinot Brut from a blend of Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris and Pinot Blanc grapes grown on their family's Lake Leelanau vineyard. The champagne-style, small-batch sparkling wine ages for two years in the bottle. It effervesces with aromas of golden apple and fresh-baked bread.

LOCAL FLAVOR **HERITAGE APPLES**  
TRY IT AT **TANDEM CIDERS**  
ORDER **A HARD-CIDER TASTING**

In the Tandem cellar, cider-maker Dan Young crushes and co-ferments wild gribbles, red crabs and table apples like Northern Spy from local orchards. Tandem Ciders' lineup of seven distinctive hard ciders runs the spectrum from the slightly sweet Smackintosh to racy, bone-dry The Crabster.

LOCAL FLAVOR  
**FARM-TO-FORK COOKING**  
TRY IT AT **THE COOKS' HOUSE**  
ORDER **A COOKING CLASS**

Each month, Chef Jennifer Blakeslee draws upon her network of local farmers and her love of travel to teach intimate, hands-on cooking classes. Participants travel to the farmers market and transform fresh produce into two to three dishes, which could include aromatic South Indian curries or spicy Thai noodle bowls.

LOCAL FLAVOR **WINE PAIRINGS**  
TRY IT AT **BLACK STAR FARMS**  
ORDER **A FRIDAY DINNER**

A three-course dinner paired with wines captures the bounty from Black Star Farms' vines, fruit trees, gardens and pastures. The Inn's culinary team preserves ingredients all year to round out rich winter dishes like roasted lamb shank with caramelized butternut squash or salad with grilled pear and roasted beets.

LOCAL FLAVOR  
**LOCALLY GROWN SPIRITS**  
TRY IT AT **MAMMOTH DISTILLING**  
ORDER **A WHISKEY COCKTAIL**

Mammoth Distilling's industrial-chic cocktail lounge sits in the Warehouse District. Woolly mammoth chairs embrace guests while sipping a Mammhattan, Mammoth's spin on a classic cocktail featuring Michigan grain-based Woolly Rye whiskey and Cherry Bounce vermouth.

LOCAL FLAVOR **WINERY EXPERIENCE**  
TRY IT AT **MARI VINEYARDS**  
ORDER **A PRIVATE TOUR**

Surrounded by acres of rolling vines and orchards, Mari's stone arches and red-tile roofs seem plucked straight from the Tuscan countryside. Private tours at this state-of-the-art Old Mission winery wind past percolating steel fermenters and into the aging caves, where you'll find sleeping barrels of bold reds while enjoying tastes from charcuterie boards.





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November 4 - 10, 2018

HOLIDAY PARADE & TREE LIGHTING  
November 23, 2018

NEW YEAR'S EVE BRIDGE DROP  
December 31, 2018

GROUNDHOG SHADOW FESTIVAL  
February 2, 2019

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 Winter Sledding, Saginaw



 Tobico Marsh Nature Area, Bay City

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Don't hibernate, get out on the trails in towns like Bay City, Birch Run, Chesaning, Frankenmuth, Midland, and Saginaw.

Stroll amongst ice sculptures during Snowfest, get out and see the true beauty of winter at Chippewa Nature Center, venture onto the USS Edson to explore a permanently moored Naval ship, and be on the lookout for a white-tailed deer or a bright red cardinal amid the white winter snow in Bay City.

With so much to experience and so many memories to make, it all begins in the Great Lakes Bay Region of Pure Michigan.

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USS Edson, Bay City 







 Chippewa Nature Center Schoolhouse Trail, Midland



 Wooden Bridge, Frankenmuth



 Zehnder's Snowfest, Frankenmuth



# put it in D

During North America's most influential car show, 800,000-plus visitors clamor for close-up previews of the latest models from the world's automakers. Plan a day (or a whole weekend) to see all the best stuff.

**go!**

North American  
International  
Auto Show,  
Detroit

JANUARY 19-27, 2019



## CONCEPT CARS

No idea is too out there for the concept cars on display. Last year's Enverge from GAC was an all-electric, two-door compact crossover SUV. It featured digital screens, augmented reality and windowless swing doors. (It's even green, covering 370 miles on a single charge.)

## POP CULTURE

Television and movies fuel a lot of the exhibits. Big hits last year: Attendees could record an auto sing-along (hi, Carpool Karaoke!) to share on social media. Or they could star in a TV commercial by hopping behind the wheel of a classic Mustang and racing another driver to a parking spot.

## HANDS ON

Top automakers let visitors check out new vehicles. Climb behind the wheel of a glossy sports car—or design one. At last year's Chevy Virtual Dynamics Lab, novice engineers created cars using an Etch A Sketch-like machine. At Ford, attendees built Lego people before snapping pics.

## VIRTUAL REALITY

This is where innovators show just how big they're dreaming. In 2018, Ford's City of Tomorrow experience took guests on a virtual five-minute roller-coaster-like ride. Passengers experienced a few close passes with tree branches and buildings while soaring over an earth-friendly futuristic utopia.

## SENSORY-FRIENDLY DAY

The show designates one day for audiences with autism and sensory sensitivity. Doors open at 8 a.m. (an hour early) for visitors to experience the show without flashing lights, monitors and loud noises.

## ON THE MOVE

In 2020, the North American International Auto Show moves to early June. This change lets companies expand exhibits outdoors with a larger presence in and around downtown locations such as Campus Martius Park.







## Michigan's best gift comes in small packages, in shades of red and gold.

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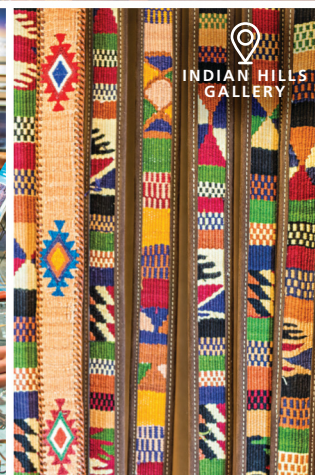
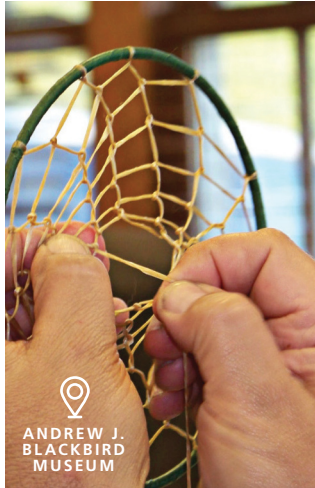
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# culture keepers

Delve into Michigan's rich Native American history with an artful memento from a maker or an inspiring immersive experience.



## GALLERIES AND SHOPS

**INDIAN HILLS GALLERY** You'll find beaded jewelry, quill crafts and hand-carved walking sticks among the items at this shop in Petoskey.

**MESHTOONIGEWINOONG GIFT SHOP** Purchase beaded jewelry or the supplies to make your own at the Ziiibiwing Center's gift shop in Mount Pleasant.

**LEGENDS OF TIME** Check out healing stones, intricate beaded necklaces and traditional pottery in this Rochester shop that aims to honor Michigan's Native ancestry through community education.

**SOARING EAGLE CASINO AND RESORT GIFT SHOP** Two million dollars' worth of Native American artwork graces the casino and resort in Mount Pleasant. Claim some of your own with authentic Anishinabek crafts, beadwork, art and music in the gift shop and gallery.

## EVENTS AND EXPERIENCES

**ZIIIBIWING CENTER** Practice ceremonial dances and admire local Native American artwork in this crescent moon-shape educational center in Mount Pleasant. Rotating art exhibits alongside the permanent collection ensure a new experience with every visit.

**NOKOMIS LEARNING CENTER** Call ahead to arrange a storytelling experience at this Okemos center. Tour the museum, library and indigenous artwork gallery. Exhibits, events and educational programs, such as language classes, also await.

**ANDREW J. BLACKBIRD MUSEUM** Learn to make dream catchers from crafters in the historic Harbor Springs home of renowned Ottawa tribe leader and historian Andrew J. Blackbird.

**BELOW** This kit from Meshtoonigewinoong includes the tools for a smudging ceremony designed to remove negative energy.







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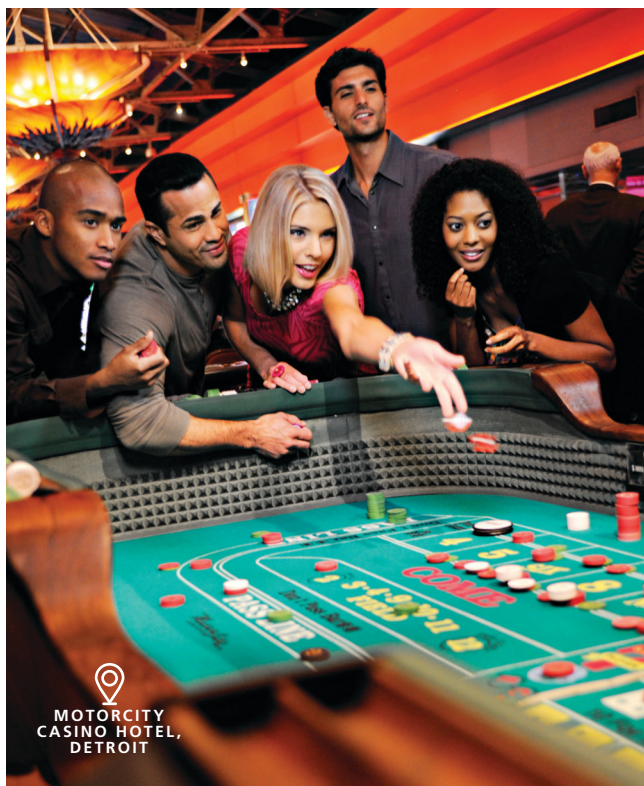


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# IT'S A numbers game

Follow the stats to the Great Lakes State's casinos—whether or not you're a gambler.



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Max amount of one bet in any of Michigan's 26 casinos. The smallest bid: an affordable one penny. Try your luck at any of the 35,156 slots and gaming machines or the 783 table games.

**3,300**

Gaming machines at the state's largest Native American-owned casino, Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mount Pleasant. It also boasts four restaurants, plus an off-site water park with a lazy river and a three-story slide.

**5**

Four-diamond hotels with casinos, according to travel guru AAA. The stars: FireKeepers Casino Hotel, Battle Creek; Four Winds Casinos Resort, New Buffalo; and Detroit's MGM Grand, MotorCity and Greektown casino hotels.

## ... OR OFF

**11/9/18**

The date that the late '60s rock band REO Speedwagon takes the stage at Four Winds' Silver Creek Event Center in New Buffalo. Odds are good that you'll hear favorite hits like "Can't Fight This Feeling," "Take It on the Run" and plenty more.

**3**

As Michigan's largest city, Detroit offers gaming at three casinos within close proximity of all the major Detroit sports venues: Comerica Park (Tigers), Ford Field (Lions) and Little Caesars Arena (Pistons and Red Wings).

**23**

The number of treatment rooms at Spa Grand Traverse, the sister property of Turtle Creek Casino and Hotel. Warm up and de-stress with the Grand Stone Massage or snuggle up like a cocoon in the Woodland Wellness Wrap.



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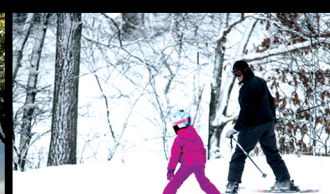


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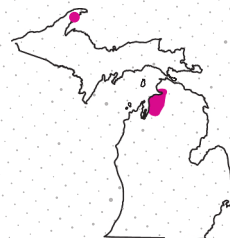
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# CHASING POW

POW=FRESH  
POWDER SNOW

ON A TOUR OF  
HER HOME HILLS,  
A MICHIGAN  
NATIVE SKI  
RACER SHOWS  
HOW TO HIT  
A HANDFUL OF  
TOP RUNS IN  
A SINGLE EPIC  
LONG WEEKEND.

THAT'S AMANDA:  
SKI BUM IN  
WINTER; WILDLAND  
FIREFIGHTER IN  
SUMMER.





## DAY 1: FRIDAY

SHANTY CREEK'S  
STEEPEST RUN

Red cheeks. Gulping for air. Icy lungs. Wow, I just held my breath the entire way down Kingdom Come. It took less than a minute, and when I notice I'm still white-knuckling the poles, I realize it's been awhile since I've gone that fast. Dang, it's good to be home.

It's a strong start to my three-day homecoming tour, the kind of "micro adventure" I've built my travel approach around. On this one, I'll burn only a single vacation day while hitting some of my favorite resorts in the Mitten's northwest corner: Shanty Creek, Boyne Mountain and Nub's Nob.

SKIING AT YOUR  
TOP SPEED

My plan is simple: ski all day, spend the night, wake up early and drive 40 minutes max to the next resort. Wash, rinse, repeat—from Thursday night through Sunday.

I spend most of my morning bombing Kingdom Come and Shanty's other must-do frontside black diamond, Goosebumps. Later, I head to the backside to get my fill on blues and greens through dense stands of beeches and maples. The red lift is particularly nice this morning—a few inches of fresh snow blanket the ground and trees, and with no condos and few people, quiet reigns. It's a perfect contrast to the frontside's speed and excitement.

BEGINNER AND  
INTERMEDIATE RUNS

At day's end, I ride about 10 minutes on Shanty's complimentary shuttle bus to downtown Bellaire. Short's Brewing Company is a must-do for anyone visiting northern Michigan, but especially if you can get access to a ride. The brewery serves dozens of beers—easy-drinking, go-to beers like Locals Light and Bellaire Brown, or zanier selections with ingredients such as local cherries, bourbon and peanuts. There's also Bee Well, a meadery, and Mammoth Distilling within walking distance of Short's.

DESIGNATED  
DRIVER=MORE IPAS!

Chris Hale, a Schuss Mountain and Shanty Creek Resorts exec, nailed it when he quipped that the Bellaire scene was "approaching cosmopolitan." All those legit dining and craft beverage choices (plus crazy-pretty scenery) are right there.

THE ALPINE PEDI  
COMES WITH A  
COMPLIMENTARY  
BEVERAGE.

## DAY 2: SATURDAY

If Shanty Creek Resorts is winding up to cosmo, my next stop is full-blown there. Boyne Mountain Resort offers a slew of amenities, such as ziplining, fat-tire biking, tubing and, um, spa-ing. Horseback riding? Yup. An arcade? You got it. But it's not amenities that make Boyne Mountain a must. It has enough acreage, heart-jarring steep slopes and terrain parks to keep any hard-charging skier happy for an entire season. So for a single day, I'm golden.

AT NIGHT, DRIVERS  
USE GROOMING  
MACHINES TO GIVE THE  
RUNS A CORDUROY LOOK.

Fresh groomers, soft snow and a bluebird sky greet me as I take a few laps on the high-speed six-person lift, lapping Hemlock and McLouth, two of Boyne's (maybe even Michigan's) most fabled runs. Both offer views of Boyne Valley, and with east-facing slopes, they're perfect morning runs.

It's tough to rip myself away, but come afternoon, I know a trip to the resort's southernmost edge is worth the time and effort. Super Bowl is a great place to carve big turns—especially on a powder day.

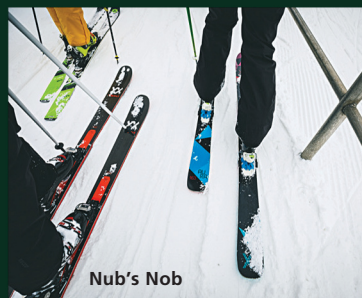
MCLOUTH'S DROP-OFF IS  
ABRUPT, SO KEEP YOUR  
SIGHTSEEING IN CHECK!

And while racing down wide-open groomers is never a bad time, nearby Dave's Glade fills my spoiled, tree-skiing, mountain-loving heart. Its perfectly spaced hardwoods are as close as I've gotten (in the Lower Peninsula, anyway; the Upper Peninsula's Mount Bohemia is another story) to the long tree runs I love out west. Both runs sit far enough from the high-speed lift to dissuade the crowds, but on a true powder day, this is where you find the locals.

MORE DETAILS LATER!



GET COMFY—IT'S AN 8- TO 9-MINUTE RIDE TO THE TOP ON NUB'S ORANGE LIFT.



Nub's Nob



Nub's Nob



Nub's Nob



\*BOYNE MOUNTAIN BOASTS THE HIGHEST VERTICAL (500 FEET) IN THE LOWER PENINSULA, PLUS 60 RUNS, 10 CHAIRLIFTS AND 7 TERRAIN PARKS.









**NUB'S NOB CHECKS ALL THE BOXES.  
(OK, I MAY BE BIASED SINCE IT'S  
MY HOME HILL.) IT COMBINES SOME OF  
THE STATE'S BEST SNOW WITH A FRIENDLY  
STAFF AND ZERO FRILLS. NO ZIPLINES  
OR WATERSLIDES. NOT EVEN A HOTEL ROOM.  
IT'S A HUMBLE OPERATION THAT'S AS  
MOM-AND-POP AS THEY COME,  
AND THEY'RE ALL IN ON ONE THING:  
GREAT, WELL-GROOMED SNOW.**



## DAY 3: SUNDAY

The sun comes up as I pull into the lot at Nub's Nob, my home hill. I learned to ski here between my dad's knees as a toddler, and when I became a teen, I got my first season pass here. Nub's is as no-frills as they come. Instead of a zipline, waterslide or hotel on site, you'll find a simple focus: dang good skiing.

SCARFACE AND  
CHUTE =  
STEEPEST AND  
FASTEST RUNS  
AT NUB'S

BEST CHOICE:  
CHICKEN  
NOODLE SOUP  
AND CURLY  
FRIES

MEANING,  
YOU DON'T HAVE  
TO TREK FAR

The three frontside black diamonds—Smokey, Scarface and Chute—make up the area's most visible face. It would be a travesty to visit Nub's without skiing one of them, but I'm saving them. First, a little warm-up, right? Nub's is home to what is probably my favorite blue square in Michigan, Sno-Pro. The long, dogleg run starts with huge views of Boyne Highlands (just across the Pleasantview Valley from Nub's) and Little Traverse Bay. I especially love it on mornings when the corduroy is fresh. After a few wide, swooping turns, I'm treated to a calendar-worthy frame of the Nub's base area and day lodge.

I head to the green lift to get some turns on the frontside before lunch at the cafeteria. I lap Smokey a few more times (I can't get enough of its sustained speed and easy, no-skate access to the chairlift) and head to the orange lift, the southside of the ski area. Here I find the same peace and quiet as my first morning. The seven- to eight-minute ride to the top gets you to long, leisurely green squares through the hardwoods. The black and gray lifts access Pintail Peak. Its smattering of great blue squares and views of Little Traverse Bay make it another necessary experience.

By late afternoon, three days of sun and endless skiing have me wiped. Thankfully, the only après option available—and needed—at Nub's is Nub's Pub in the day lodge at the base of the green chairlift. I grab a Two Hearted Ale and settle on the porch to watch others ski the last hours of the day—a suitable Sunday ending for a three-day ski marathon. But I can't stop thinking: Maybe I could find the energy to head up Bayview. Because those sunset views would be totally worth it.

A MICHIGAN BEER  
FROM BELL'S  
BREWERY  
IN KALAMAZOO

## MOUNT BOHEMIA: ITS OWN ROAD TRIP

If you're ready to trade a little more driving for a lot more snow, add a loop up to Mount Bohemia on the UP's Keweenaw Peninsula.

With an average annual snowfall of 300 inches, a 900-foot vertical drop, no grooming, and heavily treed runs (meaning, not beginner-friendly), it rounds out an ultimate ski road trip.

On Mount Bohemia, don't worry about getting lost—the best runs end at a road, where a shuttle bus picks up skiers to bring them to the base. Be prepared for a few laps in the bus.

New runs in the Outback drop into Outer Limits, which is good for fresh turns, whether it's a pow day or not. This remote backcountry boasts some of the deepest snow. No matter where you end up at Bohemia, its steep, rocky terrain will challenge any skiing ability.

For those willing to spend a little more for fresh turns, Bohemia offers cat skiing. A snow cat (a machine with huge treads) delivers up to 20 skiers to areas inaccessible by a chairlift.

Cat skiing isn't the only new amenity. The base area has grown to include a hot tub and log-cabin lodge that houses a bar and sauna, though most of its facilities (cafeteria, sitting areas, bathrooms and ski patrol) are still housed in small, heated yurts.

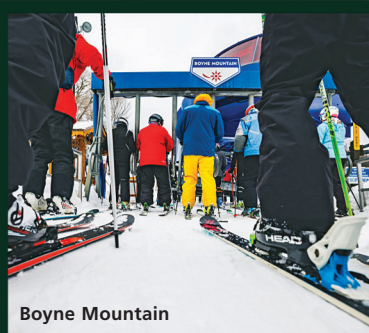
PHOTOGRAPHS: NATE LUKE



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THE RESORT'S SUMMIT.  
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OFFER VAST VIEWS  
EAST OF BOYNE



STRAITS OF MACKINAC





# CAPTURE THE COLD

WINTER MEANS OPEN SEASON ON  
PHENOMENAL PHOTO OPS.  
GRAB YOUR CAMERA AND CHASE THESE  
FLEETING NATURAL BEAUTIES.

## BLUE ICE

When conditions are just right, icy slabs stack up on shore near the Mackinac Bridge, which joins the Lower and Upper peninsulas. The ice isn't really blue—low temps and calm winds allow Lake Michigan's water to freeze slowly and evenly, creating a dense, bubbleless structure (similar to a glacier's) that absorbs light. Sunlight's red particles travel far into this type of ice, which scatters blue particles to make the aqua hue.

+++

## CAPTURE THIS

*Exercise caution: While it may be tempting to step on an ice shelf, stay along the shore. Shoot near the Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse in low light often found at sunrise and sunset.*





## COPPER HARBOR

### SNOWY GLOW

For a great view of the aurora borealis, head north (the farther the better) on a clear night, when the light show can reflect off water. In Copper Harbor in the Upper Peninsula, Brockway Mountain provides panoramic views of Lake Superior's coastline.

+++

### CAPTURE THIS

*Your best shot to see the northern lights comes near the spring or fall equinox on a clear, moonless night at a northern latitude of at least 45 degrees. Shoot away from town and along the shore at a place like Hebard Park, just west of Copper Harbor, after midnight.*

### ICY FALLS

Open year-round, Tahquamenon Falls State Park near Paradise in the UP draws visitors to the 50-foot-tall Upper Falls. It's a short walk

(.3 miles) from the parking lot to the Upper Falls. The more adventurous can plan a wintry snowshoe trek.

From the parking lot, the moderately difficult Giant Pines trail makes a 3.8-mile loop.

+++

### CAPTURE THIS

*In January, frozen spray coats the trees. Shoot from the handicapped-accessible overlook along the Upper Falls trail.*



## TAHUAMENON FALLS





POINT BETSIE  
LIGHTHOUSE

PHOTOGRAPHS: (FALLS) JOHN MCCORMICK, (SKY) AUBRIETA V. HOPE, (LIGHTHOUSE) THOMAS BOS

### FROSTED LIGHT

Fresh snow coats the icy shore around Point Betsie Lighthouse and Keeper's Quarters in Frankfort along Lake Michigan. Built in 1858, the still-operational light marks the entrance to the southern end of the Manitou Passage.

+++

**CAPTURE THIS** *Be ready to head out in adverse weather conditions such as high winds and snowstorms. In this photo, a snow squall instantly turned day into night.*



# GET YOUR MOTOR RUNNING



MORE THAN 6,500 MILES OF GROOMED  
AND INTERCONNECTED SNOWMOBILE TRAILS  
WEAVE THROUGH MICHIGAN'S WOODS  
AND ALONG ITS SHORES. START YOUR TOUR  
AT FOUR OF THE STATE'S HOTTEST HUBS.

**WRITER** KRISTIN BIENERT **PHOTOGRAPHER** AARON PETERSON



## Keweenaw Peninsula

**226**  
miles of  
groomed trails

### MEET UP & RIDE

Rendezvous in Houghton before crossing the

**Portage Lake Lift Bridge's** lower deck and following

**Trail #3** (60 miles) to the tip of the peninsula, with panoramic views of Lake Superior along **Brockway Mountain** near Copper Harbor.

**GOOD TO GO**  
ALL SNOWMOBILERS  
MUST PURCHASE A  
TRAILS PASS, VALID FOR  
ONE YEAR (\$48).



## Gaylord

**500**  
miles of  
groomed trails

### MEET UP & RIDE

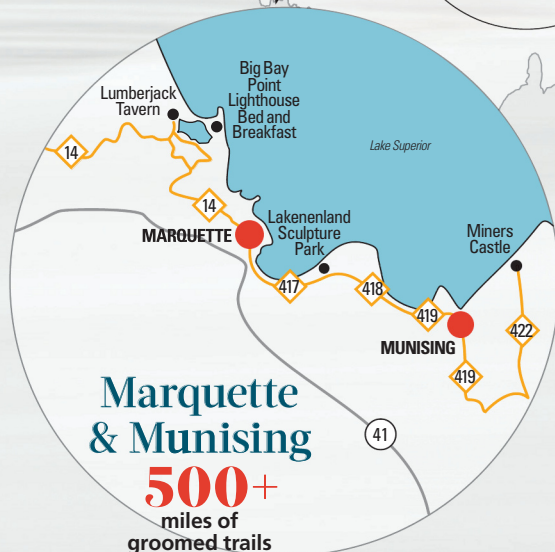
Find ample trailer parking at **Mama Leone's** restaurant.

Cross Old 27 to pick up the **North Central State Trail (#7)**.

It's a scenic ride (62 miles) to Mackinaw City. Travel through a handful of small communities while taking in views of snow-covered lakes, forests and farms.

**go!**

North American  
Snow Festival,  
Cadillac  
JANUARY 31-  
FEBRUARY 2



## Marquette & Munising

**500+**  
miles of  
groomed trails

### MEET UP & RIDE

Riders find a roaring bonfire, hot cocoa and coffee, plus lively conversation at **Lakenenland Sculpture Park** along **Trail #417** (15 miles southeast of Marquette). Continue east on **Trails #417, 418** and **419** into Munising.

A north-south spur, **Trail #422**, leads to the iconic **Miners Castle** formation at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore along Lake Superior. Or from the Marquette hub, head 54 miles northwest along **Trail #14** to Big Bay. Check out the **lighthouse** (which now offers inn rooms) and **Lumberjack Tavern**, site of a murder made famous in the Jimmy Stewart classic *Anatomy of a Murder*.

## Cadillac

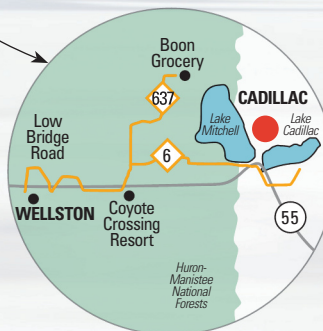
**200**  
miles of  
groomed trails

### MEET UP & RIDE

Swap trail info and stories at the Boon Bonfire along **Trail #637**, behind **Boon Grocery**. The north-south route (12-15 miles)

runs through the Huron-Manistee National Forests, where frosted pines line the route. From

**Coyote Crossing Resort**, head west on **Trail #6** to Wellston. It's about an hour's ride (roughly 17 miles) to the **Low Bridge Road** for picturesque views.





# IT'S ICE UP HERE



HOCKEY MANIA AND A ZANY WINTER CARNIVAL MAKE  
FOR A MEMORABLE WEEKEND IN HOUGHTON, HIGH  
IN MICHIGAN'S (OH-SO-SNOWY) UPPER PENINSULA.

WRITER MARY BEAUMONT

PHOTOGRAPHER KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI







**D**uring a break in the action at a Michigan Tech hockey game, you might expect the Huskies Pep Band to be playing. But they aren't. They're singing.

*At the tender age of three/  
They threw me on my ear/  
And there was nothing left for me to do/  
But become an engineer.*

To be sure, this is not pretty singing. It's an irreverent, throaty chanting that befits their trademark striped overalls and personalized hats. Before re-shouldering their instruments (a viola here, an accordion there), the band belts "Engineers" with grinning glee. It's a fitting celebration of their school—where engineers-in-training hone their craft in part by sculpting elaborate snow buildings during an annual winter carnival—and a sport that has laced together their community for generations.

Hundreds of mining companies converged on the remote Keweenaw Peninsula during an 1800s copper boom, as immigrants from 30-plus nations came to toil in the mines and raise families. Hockey soon slid down from Canada, a welcome diversion from the area's hard labor and thigh-high lake-effect snow. Casual local teams evolved into what's believed to be the first pro league anywhere, causing Houghton to label itself and its Dee Stadium rink as the Birthplace of Professional Hockey.

In Houghton and across the Keweenaw, outdoor rinks dot the landscape like Florida's backyard swimming pools. Kids here master walking and then strap on skates, with dreams of taking the ice for Michigan Tech. The Huskies turn out NHLers and Olympians at a brisk clip (the Vancouver Canucks' Tanner Kero is an alum) and will celebrate 100 years of Tech hockey in 2020–21.

## WELCOME TO THE SNOW SHOW

It's no surprise that hockey took hold in Copper Country and at a school first known as the Michigan Mining School, when the state created it to train engineers. The sport rewards the same qualities common in miners: grit, sacrifice, playing through adversity and taking pride in the





go!

Winter Carnival,  
Houghton  
FEBRUARY 6-9



struggle. Hardiness runs deep in a place where the record low snowfall for a season was just shy of 7 feet. There's no way Houghton (population 8,000) could ever become a metropolis, any local will tell you, because there aren't many who can hack it through a Houghton winter.

Not in spite of the wicked weather but because of it, Michigan Technological University has staged elaborate wintertime carnivals since the 1920s. In January, student teams begin carving massive, intricate snow sculptures around town for Winter Carnival. Some cultivate free-range whiskers all winter for a beards competition, judged through public skits. And their breath whooshes in white puffs during carnivalized sports—human ice bowling (with a person on a saucer sled as the ball), snowy tug-of-war, heavy-booted snow volleyball and the Yooper Sprint, a relay in which competitors wear a cross-country ski on one foot and a snowshoe on the other.

**TOP** Annual snowfall in Houghton averages more than 18 feet, meaning downtown stays Christmas-card pretty all season. **BOTTOM** People pull homemade sleds in human sled dog races.



# MANISTEE COUNTY

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**TOP LEFT** The Portage Lake Lift Bridge connects Houghton to the city of Hancock. **TOP RIGHT** A torchlight ski parade down Mont Ripley bathes the mountainside in a rosy glow. **BELOW LEFT** Grab a cozy dinner at Ambassador. **BELOW RIGHT** Savor a steaming pasty at Roy's Pasties and Bakery.



## A WINTER WEEKEND IN HOUGHTON

PLAY

**WINTER CARNIVAL** One of the largest annual winter celebrations in the nation, Michigan Tech's festival (February 6–9, 2019) features elaborate snow sculptures, shows, contests, races and outdoor movies. Most events are free and open to the public. The carnival closes with a torchlight ski parade.

### A.E. SEAMAN MINERAL MUSEUM

While in Copper Country, visit a 17-ton slab of the stuff at this museum on Michigan Tech's campus. A Great Lakes exhibit features greenstone, Petoskey stones (fossilized coral) and agates laced with copper bands. Marvel at an electric rainbow of specimens that fluoresce under black light.

**THE HISTORY OF HOCKEY** Inside Dee Stadium, a waterfront arena that bills itself as the Birthplace of Professional Hockey, the exhibit offers a look into the history of the favorite local sport. See a stick from the 1904 world championship team and learn about the league that was an NHL forerunner.

EAT

### ROY'S PASTIES AND BAKERY

A century ago, hardworking men toted golden piecrust pockets of meat and potatoes into the copper mines for lunch. Today, pasties are still a UP staple. Roy's serves them hot and hearty, with traditional fillings (including pork and rutabaga) or unexpected combos like turkey cranberry. For dessert, don't miss an almond Danish square.

**AMBASSADOR** Stained glass and historic gnome murals (moved to the building from a local brewery in the 1950s) festoon this family-owned restaurant that's been crafting pizzas from the same recipe for more than 50 years. Pies feature crisp-thin crusts; local Keewenaw Brewing Company beer is on tap.

STAY

**SHERIDAN ON THE LAKE** On the wooded shores of Portage Lake, find three suites and breakfast. Some mornings, enjoy a Finnish meal. *Pannukakku* has a sweet, creamy texture—part delicate custard, part oven-baked pancake. Or try thimbleberry jam spread onto *nisu*, a glazed cardamom bread. More than 10 miles of trails unfurl outside for hiking or skiing; a sunroom invites relaxation.

### MAGNUSON HOTEL COPPER CROWN

This 46-room hotel with indoor snowmobile parking sits about a mile and a half from Michigan Tech. Fuel up for the day with a free continental breakfast; wind down (and warm up) in the evening in a whirlpool and sauna.

(Bundle up, and then add an extra layer—it's been so cold in past years that the priest's fingers have frozen to the chalice.) Then get over to MacInnes Student Ice Arena to cheer the Huskies' brick-wall defense and guffaw at the band, an ensemble so cheeky and shamelessly raucous that they got themselves banned from the Northern Michigan University football stadium. (The crime, according to the band: neutralizing home-field advantage.) Their spirit is conspicuous in a place where friendly, earnest reserve is more the norm. But at hockey games, Houghton classics like "No Beer!" will thaw even the most stoic fans:

*In heaven there is no beer/ NO BEER!  
That's why we drink it here ...  
In heaven there is no snow/ NO SNOW!  
That's why we want to go.*





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# Mecosta County

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Convention & Visitors Bureau

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[www.bigrapids.org](http://www.bigrapids.org)



# 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  
visitallengancounty.com

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

**Destination Ann Arbor**  
(734) 995-7281  
or (800) 888-9487  
destinationannarbor.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  
cadillacmichigan.com

**Calhoun County Visitors Bureau**  
(269) 962-2240  
or (800) 397-2240  
battlecreekvisitors.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  
coldwatercountry.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  
visithoughtonlake.com

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

**Experience Jackson**  
(517) 764-4440  
experiencejackson.com

**Discover Kalamazoo**  
(269) 488-9000  
or (800) 888-0509  
discoverkalamazoo.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**  
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**Manistee County Visitors Bureau**  
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or (888) 772-2022  
mountpleasantwow.com

**Visit Muskegon**  
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or (800) 250-9283  
visitmuskegon.org

**Newaygo County Convention and Visitors Bureau**  
(231) 924-3083  
or (877) 500-2570  
newaygocountyexploring.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  
visitdrummondisland.com

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

**Iron County Lodging Association**  
(906) 265-3611  
ironcountylothing.com

**Keweenaw Convention and Visitors Bureau**  
(906) 337-4579  
or (800) 338-7982  
keweenawinfo

**Les Cheneaux Islands Area Tourist Association**  
(906) 484-3935  
lescheneaux.org

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

**Manistique Lakes Area Tourism Bureau**  
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curtismi.com

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

**Travel Marquette**  
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travelmarquettemichigan.com

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

**Paradise Area Tourism Council**  
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michigansparadise.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  
discovermanistique.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  
explorewesternup.com



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

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### Destinations/Activities

- 15 Ann Arbor Area CVB  
Where the uncommon is common! Challenge everything. Create anything. [destinationannarbor.org](http://destinationannarbor.org)
- 16 Benzie County Visitors Bureau  
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- 17 Boulevard Inn and Bistro  
All-suite hotel located in St. Joseph. [TheBoulevardInn.com](http://TheBoulevardInn.com)
- 18 Cadillac Area Visitors Bureau  
Snowmobiling, skiing, snowboarding, ice fishing, and cross-country skiing. [cadillacmichigan.com](http://cadillacmichigan.com)
- 19 Charlevoix CVB  
Northern Michigan's best kept secret for winter fun! (800) 367-8557 [VisitCharlevoix.com](http://VisitCharlevoix.com)
- 20 Choice Hotels of Michigan  
Free directory to hundreds of Michigan properties. [choicehotels.com/michigan-hotels](http://choicehotels.com/michigan-hotels)
- 21 Coldwater Country  
Antique malls, Amish area, sportsmen lakes. (800) 968-9333 [ColdwaterCountry.com](http://ColdwaterCountry.com)
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- 25 FireKeepers Casino  
Get Your Vegas On...overnight at Firekeepers Casino Hotel Battle Creek. [Firekeeperscasinohotel.com](http://Firekeeperscasinohotel.com)
- 26 Experience Grand Rapids  
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- 30 Iron Mountain  
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- 31 Discover Kalamazoo  
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- 32 Greater Lansing  
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- 33 Manistee County Visitors Bureau  
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- 34 Marquette County Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Embrace your natural identity. (800) 544-4321 or [TravelMarquetteMichigan.com](http://TravelMarquetteMichigan.com)
- 35 Mecosta County CVB  
A secret treasure trove of adventure awaits you! [BigRapids.org](http://BigRapids.org)
- 36 Michigan's Upper Peninsula  
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- 40 Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council  
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# here we go!

## NOVEMBER

### RIVERSIDE SAGINAW FILM FESTIVAL SAGINAW, NOVEMBER 8–11

Several venues screen more than 20 award-winning indie flicks and documentaries from around the world (989/607-1070).

### SILVER BELLS IN THE CITY

#### LANSING, NOVEMBER 16

Thousands of twinkling lights illuminate the capital city while a procession of floats and musical performers parade through downtown. Free cider and cookies keep spectators toasty during the finale—fireworks over the capitol dome (517/487-3322).

### CHRISTMAS THROUGH LOWELL

#### LOWELL, NOVEMBER 16–18

More than 300 artists set up shop in local homes and businesses. Holiday shoppers can browse handmade gifts such as jewelry, candles, totes and quilts (616/897-9161).

### NORTH POLE EXPRESS

#### OWOSSO, NOVEMBER 16–DECEMBER 16 (WEEKENDS ONLY)

Aboard a train pulled by the *Pere Marquette 1225* (the model for the *Polar Express*), families sip cocoa and journey to the Village of Ashley Country Christmas. There, kids meet Santa and his reindeer and watch street performers (989/723-1225).

### AMERICA'S THANKSGIVING PARADE PRESENTED BY ART VAN

#### DETROIT, NOVEMBER 22

Thousands of spectators gather along Woodward Avenue to watch the Midwest's biggest Thanksgiving Day parade. Visitors can expect larger-than-life floats, famous character balloons and live performances (313/923-4700).



### FANTASY OF LIGHTS

#### HOWELL, NOVEMBER 23

Animals, marching bands and illuminated floats travel through downtown's National Historic District. Pre-parade activities include the Fantasy 5K and visits with Santa Claus in Christmas Alley (517/546-3920).

### HOLIDAY PARADE AND TREE LIGHTING

#### CHARLEVOIX, NOVEMBER 23

An evening of snacking on cookies and parade-watching ends with Santa lighting the town's Christmas tree in East Park. Kids can make holiday crafts with Mr. Claus in his workshop (231/547-2101).

### SANTA PARADE

#### PORT HURON, NOVEMBER 23

The holiday season begins with the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus to downtown. After their celebratory parade, the duo pulls the switch to light the town Christmas tree while onlookers snack on hot cocoa and cookies (810/984-9760).

### CHRISTKINDLMARKT

#### FRANKENMUTH, NOVEMBER 23–25, 30, DECEMBER 1–2

Shoppers head to the heated tent at the farmers market where artists sell handmade gifts such as clothing, ornaments, soaps and more. Fresh pastries, fudge and roasted chestnuts make delicious refreshments (989/607-9214).

### CHRISTMAS AT CROSSROADS HOLIDAY MAGIC

**FLINT, NOVEMBER 23–25, 30,  
DECEMBER 1–2, 7–9, 14–16, 20–23, 26–30**  
Visitors to the 19th-century-inspired village enjoy a Victorian-style Christmas featuring tales from costumed villagers, an old-fashioned holiday buffet, artisan craft-makers and 40-minute train rides aboard the historic Huckleberry Railroad (810/736-7100).

### STAFFORD'S DOWNTOWN PETOSKEY HOLIDAY PARADE

#### PETOSKEY, NOVEMBER 24

Floats created by local businesses and performers from area high schools parade through downtown. At the end, Santa hosts a meet-and-greet for kids (231/348-0388).

## MAKE IT A WEEKEND FRANKENMUTH



**Snowfest,  
Frankenmuth  
JANUARY 23–28**

Each winter, teams from around the country make their way to Zehnder's resort to vie for first place in the World Class Snow Sculpting Championships during **Snowfest (January 23–28)**.

Spectators vote for their favorite single- and double-block pieces. In the warm-up tent, chilly visitors enjoy a variety of music and fill up on pub-style snacks. A petting zoo and a fireworks show entertain children.

The Bavarian Inn of Frankenmuth delivers more indoor family fun.

Kids make a splash in the water park featuring four pools and two waterslides. Don't miss the arcade and 18-hole indoor mini golf course. Hungry? Dig into a famous Frankenmuth fried chicken dinner at the Bavarian Inn Restaurant, complete with platters of mashed potatoes, homemade bread and fresh salad. Shopping on downtown's Main Street rounds out a family-friendly weekend. Find German-inspired treasures at Bavarian Specialties, or look for next year's decor at Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, the world's largest Christmas store (989/652-6106).

### CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

#### HARBOR SPRINGS, NOVEMBER 24

Residents work together to decorate the town's tree, placed in the middle of Main Street. After the annual lighting, the crowd sings a round of Christmas carols (231/526-7999).





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### AMERICA'S TALLEST CHRISTMAS TREE

**MUSKEGON, NOVEMBER 29–DECEMBER 1**  
More than 300 Mona Shores High School choir and orchestra students perform Christmas carols from the steps of a five-story pyramid dubbed America's Tallest Singing Christmas Tree (231/722-9750).

### CHRISTMAS IN IDA

**IDA, NOVEMBER 30–DECEMBER 2**  
The small town transforms into a winter wonderland. Activities include lunch with Santa, crafts shows, concerts and ice-skating, all leading up to the grand finale: The Parade of Lights (734/269-6017).

### HOLIDAY NIGHTS IN GREENFIELD VILLAGE

**DEARBORN, NOVEMBER 30, DECEMBER 1–2, 7–9, 13–16, 18–23, 26–27**  
Visitors experience home tours, Model T rides and cookie decorating in the 80-acre outdoor museum, which looks plucked from the 19th century (313/982-6001).

## DECEMBER

### VICTORIAN SLEIGHBELL PARADE AND OLD CHRISTMAS WEEKEND

**MANISTEE, DECEMBER 6–9**  
Guests get a glimpse of Christmas past during a weekend featuring singing with carolers in Victorian-style attire, a parade with draft horses pulling a 30-foot tree and guided tours of the 1894 Lumber Baron Mansion decorated for the holidays (231/398-9355).

### CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

**ESCANABA, DECEMBER 7–8**  
The annual open house features decorations, festive activities and handcrafted gift items. Grown-ups enjoy complimentary roasted chestnuts and hot chocolate while kids say hello to Santa (906/789-1257).

### MERRY AND BRIGHT WEEKEND

**ST. JOSEPH, DECEMBER 7–8**  
On Dasher, on Dancer, on Fido! Guests cheer on dressed-up pups in the annual pet parade featuring the arrival of Santa (269/985-1111).

### CANDY CANE HUNT

**KALAMAZOO, DECEMBER 8**  
Children search for nearly 5,000 pieces of holiday candy hidden on Homer Stryker Field while parents enjoy hot cocoa from the stands. (269/337-8191).



### WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

**MIDLAND, DECEMBER 22**  
Celebrate the longest night of the year with earth-friendly activities such as rolling a beeswax candle and making an evergreen wreath (989/631-0830).

### NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL DROP

**LUDINGTON, DECEMBER 31**  
Crowds watch the town's lighted ball drop at midnight while enjoying drinks. Earlier in the evening, kids participate in the annual balloon drop at the Sandcastles Children's Museum (231/845-6237).

## JANUARY

### HOLLAND FARMERS MARKET WINTER MARKET

**HOLLAND, FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAYS, JANUARY–APRIL**  
Load up on winter staples, including produce, honey, maple syrup, dried beans, bread and baked goods from area farmers (616/355-1138).

### PLYMOUTH ICE FESTIVAL

**PLYMOUTH, JANUARY 11–13**  
Guests tour downtown, where almost 100 ice sculptures are on display. Artists give demonstrations and battle in chain saw carving showdowns throughout the day (248/817-8836).

### TIP-UP-TOWN USA

**HOUGHTON LAKE, JANUARY 18–20, 25–27**  
Banish cabin fever with snowmobile races, fireworks and an ice-fishing contest. A carnival with pony rides gets kids outside (989/366-5644).

### NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

**DETROIT, JANUARY 19–27**  
In the Motor City's Cobo Center, visitors see vehicles up close, as well as technologies shaping the automotive landscape (248/643-0250).

### WINTERFEST

**GRAND HAVEN, JANUARY 24–27**  
Locals put the accumulated snow to good use with events such as a cardboard-sled competition, snow-angel contest and the annual Family Dog Pull. After a day in the powder, enjoy roasted marshmallows from downtown fire pits (616/296-0823).

### ANN ARBOR FOLK FESTIVAL

**ANN ARBOR, JANUARY 25–26**  
More than a dozen folk and roots artists take the stage at Hill Auditorium (734/761-1800).

### INTERNATIONAL 500 SNOWMOBILE RACE

**SAULT STE. MARIE, JANUARY 28–FEBRUARY 2**  
Pro snowmobilers vie for first place on an ice track. During the NASCAR-style race, drivers reach speeds exceeding 100 mph (906/808-5266).

### PERCHVILLE USA

**EAST TAWAS, JANUARY 31–FEBRUARY 3**  
Choose between chilly festivities, such as the Polar Plunge into Lake Huron, or staying warm at the Perchville Chili Cook-Off and tasting. Additional events include a family-friendly murder mystery dinner and fishing challenge (989/362-8643).





The forecast is in. "A chance of snow."

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## NORTH AMERICAN SNOW FESTIVAL

**CADILLAC, JANUARY 31–FEBRUARY 2**

A chili cook-off starts the weekend, which includes a snowmobile fun run, fishing tournament and snowmobile races. A DJ and bands entertain at night (231/775-0657).

## FEBRUARY ALPENFROST

**GAYLORD, FEBRUARY 1–2**

Michigan's Alpine Village celebrates winter with an ice rink, crafts show and 5K run. Treetops Resort's Beer and Wine Festival includes samples from 40 vendors (989/732-6333).

## FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

**BIG RAPIDS, FEBRUARY 1–28**

Film screenings, concerts and dance performances help beat the end-of-winter blues. Guests browse works from rising artists (231/779-6275).

## WINTER CARNIVAL

**HOUGHTON, FEBRUARY 6–9**

Michigan Tech students host winter-theme competitions such as beard-growing, curling and broomball. Students build snow sculptures displayed throughout the college campus (231/383-1120).

## PINE MOUNTAIN FIS CONTINENTAL CUP SKI JUMPING TOURNAMENT

**IRON MOUNTAIN, FEBRUARY 8–10**

The world's top skiers vie for the Continental Cup at the Pine Mountain 123.5-meter jump. More than 20,000 spectators watch while enjoying one of Michigan's largest winter tailgates (800/236-2447).

## WINTERFEST

**BEULAH, FEBRUARY 9**

Kids craft cardboard cars for a family-friendly drive-in movie while silly games—including frozen turkey bowling and a fish toss—bring out the child in grown-ups (231/383-1120).

## LABATT BLUE UP POND HOCKEY

**ST. IGNACE, FEBRUARY 14–17**

Pond hockey goes extreme when more than 200 teams vie to compete at the Championship Games on Lake Huron's Moran Bay. Players who don't make the final round get a second shot in competitions for Best Beard and Best Worst Team (906/643-6950).

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### SNOWSFEST

**HELSEL AND CEDARVILLE,  
MID-FEBRUARY**

Take a ride on a vintage snowmobile or race a DIY cardboard-box sled downhill. At night, join the pub crawl (Friday). Community members serve hot dogs and cocoa for lunch (Saturday) in the warm-up tent (906/484-3935).

### TOP OF THE LAKE SHOW AND RIDE

**NAUBINWAY, FEBRUARY 15-16**

Guides lead snowmobilers along trails to a warm cabin where riders enjoy a relaxing bonfire. At the museum, see displays of antique snowmobiles and sleds (906/477-6298).

### WINTER GAMES

**GRAND RAPIDS, FEBRUARY 15-17**

Sports fans who dream of making it big get their chance to compete in this Olympics-style event. Games include curling, darts, fat biking and snow softball (616/608-1837).

### 906 POLAR ROLL

**MARQUETTE, FEBRUARY 16**

Fat-tire bikers of all skill levels participate in 13- or 35-mile races along fat-tire groomed trails and sections of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail. Food and music await both spectators and competitors at the after-party (906/748-0034).

### SNOWBURST WINTER CARNIVAL

**ONTONAGON, FEBRUARY 23**

Families travel to the Porcupine Mountains for a weekend of winter bliss. By day, guests snowshoe and ski. When the sun sets, take part in lantern-lit expeditions or relax to the tune of live bands (906/885-5275).

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STORY: BETH PROBST. PHOTOGRAPHS: AARON PETERSON



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