



West Michigan Meandering

Visit the community of Frankfort on Lake Michigan's **Betsie Bay**. Known for its world-class salmon fishing, pristine dunes, beaches and spectacular sunsets. Tour the 1858 **Point Betsie Lighthouse**. Continue your drive along Lake Michigan to the Victorian port city of **Manistee**. Here, you'll find numerous year-round resorts for golf and winter sports. Its elegant mansions, opera house and other ornate structures recall the 1800s lumber boom.

Continue south and take a dune buggy ride, stroll soft sand beaches and explore the "art coast" as you make your way through Michigan's picturesque **Beachtowns**. Enjoy sailing, boating, fishing, water sports, scuba diving—as well as Native American and Dutch culture.

In Kalamazoo, enjoy great restaurants, nightlife, shopping—and take time for a history lesson at the **Gilmore Car Museum** or the **Air Zoo** (Kalamazoo Aviation History Museum).



VISITOR INFORMATION

Manistee	manistee-cvb.com
Beachtowns	beachtowns.org
Benzie County	visitbenzie.com
Kalamazoo	discoverkalamazoo.com

A Great Day in Grand Rapids, "Cool Brews. Hot Eats."

Grand Rapids has developed a reputation for culture and cuisine. "**Beer City USA**"—a title Grand Rapids won in national polls—is home to more than 40 breweries along the **Ale Trail**.

Other noteworthy stops around town include the **Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum**, which honors the city's native son and 38th president of the United States, the **Grand Rapids Art Museum** and **DeVos Performance Hall**. Downtown, you'll find entertainment venues, multiple restaurants, microbreweries, a wine cellar, a cigar lounge and live jazz.

From downtown, it's worth making the 10-minute drive to the 158-acre **Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park** to walk paths lined with more than 200 works by masters such as Auguste Rodin, Edgar Degas and Anish Kapoor, garden-lined paths, several indoor/outdoor gardens and "American Horse," the 24-foot-tall sculpture based on Leonardo da Vinci's original 1482 drawings.



VISITOR INFORMATION

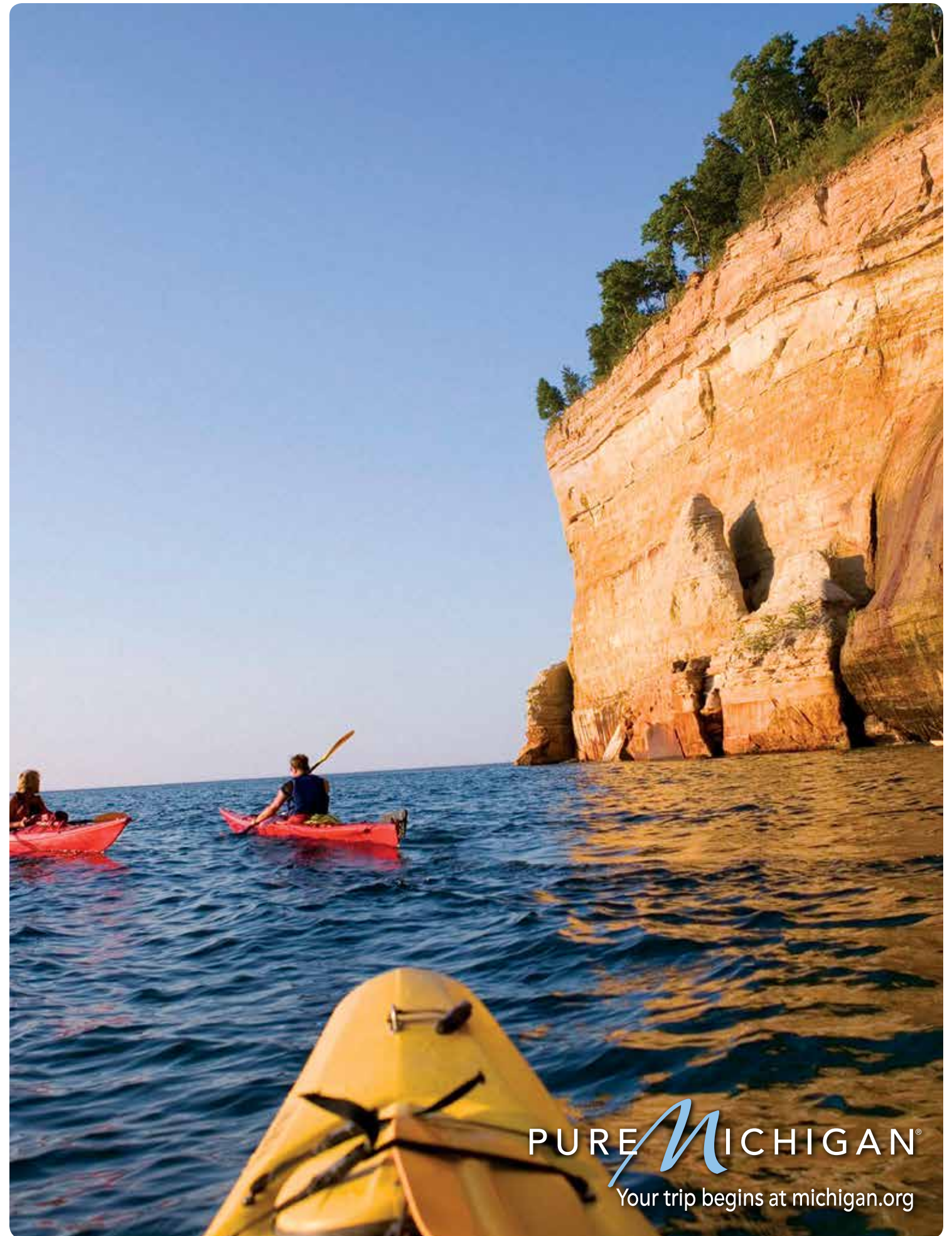
Grand Rapids	experiencegr.com
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Michigan has been shaped by freshwater seas—four of the five Great Lakes—and carved by glaciers more than 12,000 years ago. The two peninsulas are visible from the moon and instantly recognizable on any globe or atlas.

With 11,000 inland lakes that offer some of the best freshwater beaches, boating and fishing found anywhere—Michigan is a four-season paradise. Laced with 36,000 miles of rivers and streams, Michigan offers the perfect warm-weather escape. The state is home to some of the highest freshwater sand dunes in the world, numerous maritime museums, 14 underwater diving preserves and over 100 lighthouses.

And with more than 40 ski areas, 3,000 miles of cross-country ski trails and 6,500 miles of snowmobile trails crisscrossing both peninsulas—our winters offer a variety of outdoor activities.

Art, culture, tantalizing cuisine, fascinating tours and nightlife—Michigan cities have it all. From upscale streetscapes to lakefront towns, from trendy eateries to state-of-the-art sports arenas and from casinos to opera, our cities are world-class jewels thriving with eclectic downtowns, shops, wineries, microbreweries and cultural institutions.

City vibes, entertainment, culture and factory tours

Venture out into Detroit—the automotive capital of the world—where you’ll find a whole world of discovery. Explore world-class museums, shop at the state’s largest malls, share local customs and sample rare delicacies. Enjoy casinos, championship sports and all kinds of ethnic eats.

Check out the [Motown Museum](#), where you’ll stand in Studio A—the very place where legendary artists recorded much-loved music known as “The Motown Sound.”

Enjoy dinner in [Greektown](#), known for its ethnic restaurants and thriving nightlife. View the impressive collection of galleries at the [Detroit Institute of Arts](#). Stroll to the [Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History](#).

Spend a day at [The Henry Ford](#), a collection of museums that celebrate innovation and invention. Stroll through [Greenfield Village](#), a massive indoor/outdoor history museum complex. Tour the famous [Ford Rouge Plant](#) and watch workers assemble the F-150 pick-up truck.

Fine dining and unmatched cultural offerings are staples of [Ann Arbor](#). This vibrant, cosmopolitan city—home to the acclaimed University of Michigan—is known for “Big Ten” sports and summertime celebrations featuring live music, dance, theater and outdoor interactive events.

In Lansing, [Michigan’s Capital City](#), you’ll tour the [Michigan Historical Museum](#) and [R.E. Olds Transportation Center](#). The city is home to trendy microbreweries, distilleries and Michigan State University in neighboring East Lansing.

Head north to Flint and embark on a journey of discovery and imagination at the [Flint Cultural Center](#), which offers seven venues for exploration and learning. At nearby [Frankenmuth](#)—Michigan’s little Bavaria—you’ll experience a taste of old Europe. Tour Midland’s 110-acre [Dow Gardens](#) and the [Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum](#)—home of the USS Edson—in Bay City.

Enjoy waterfront restaurants, trendy boutiques, golfing, fishing and boating along Michigan’s eastern shoreline, known as the [Blue Water Area](#). Explore the [Huron Lightship Museum](#) in Port Huron and the [Huron County Nature Center & Wilderness Arboretum](#) in Port Austin.

Michigan’s northeast Lower Peninsula, known the “Sunrise Coast,” offers great charter fishing, hiking trails, the 145-mile [Sunrise Coast Birding Trail](#), and excellent rivers for canoeing and rafting enthusiasts. Spend a day at [Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#) and explore the area’s maritime history with [Alpena Shipwreck Tours](#).

VISITOR INFORMATION

Detroit	visitdetroit.com
Ann Arbor	visitannarbor.org
Lansing	ansing.org
Flint	flintandgenesees.org/cvb
Frankenmuth	frankenmuth.org
Great Lakes Bay	gogreat.com
Blue Water Area	bluewaterconventioncenter.com
Alpena	visitalpena.com



photo credit: Brian Walters

Head north to Mackinac Island—voted one of the “Top 10 Islands in the U.S.” by Trip Advisor

[Mackinac Island](#) is a nostalgic place where transportation is by foot, bicycle, horseback or carriage—no cars are allowed. Explore the natural wonders, historic sites, monuments and trails of the [Mackinac Island State Park](#). Step back in history at the 1780 [Fort Mackinac](#), bicycle the island’s eight-mile perimeter, stroll past Victorian-era cottages, enjoy a leisurely carriage ride, explore the [Butterfly House](#) and other island museums. Visit [Grand Hotel](#) with the largest porch in the world (660 feet) and its impressive 220-foot serpentine swimming pool. The island’s [Mission Point Resort](#) offers guests a number of lakeside amenities including a full-service spa and fitness center and is a popular spot for yoga on the lawn. Experience the island’s exquisite cuisine and thriving nightlife—and be sure to stop by one of the many fudge shops.



VISITOR INFORMATION

Mackinac Island	mackinacisland.org
Mackinaw City	mackinawcity.com

Hear the roar and whisper of more than 300 majestic waterfalls

The Upper Peninsula—home to more than 300 waterfalls—is surrounded by the waters of three Great Lakes (Huron, Michigan and Superior). It is connected with the Lower Peninsula by a suspension bridge that spans the five-mile wide Straits of Mackinac. At the [Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum](#), located in Whitefish Point on Lake Superior, you’ll learn about the majesty and danger of the Great Lakes and the many shipwrecks that saw their fate here. Nearby is Sault Ste. Marie—the first European settlement in Michigan and the third oldest in the nation. Here, at the rapids where Lake Superior and Lake Huron meet, the [Soo Locks](#) were built to navigate ships through the 21-foot difference between the waters. Take a boat tour through the locks, and you may be fortunate to pull up alongside a 1,000-foot freighter.

Located between the [Porcupine Mountains](#) and [Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore](#), Marquette sidles up to Lake Superior’s southern coast. Trails and beaches link to [Marquette Harbor Lighthouse and Maritime Museum](#). Outfitters give guided kayak tours and direct adventurers to top spots for hiking, paddling, climbing and biking. Unwind at a local craft brewery.



VISITOR INFORMATION

Marquette	travelmarquettemichigan.com
Sault Ste. Marie	saultstemarie.com
Upper Peninsula	uptravel.com

Head to Hemmingway Country

Return to the Lower Peninsula across the [Mackinac Bridge](#) and travel the winding “[Tunnel of Trees](#)” scenic drive along Lake Michigan. Shop and lunch in the Victorian-era resort towns of Harbor Springs, Petoskey and Charlevoix, which enjoy “million-dollar sunsets.”

Continue to Traverse City—Cherry Capital of the World

Few places combine scenery, food and arts like [Traverse City](#) on Grand Traverse Bay. The region is known for cherry production, recreational fishing, boating, biking, trails and many four-season sports as well. Check out festivals, browse downtown shops, dine at a variety of restaurants, golf a championship course and visit one of the area’s many wineries.



VISITOR INFORMATION

Petoskey/Harbor Springs	boynecountry.com
Charlevoix	charlevoixlodging.com
Traverse City	visittraversecity.com

Sleeping Bear Dunes

You’ll find one of the most impressive dune areas anywhere just west of Traverse City at [Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore](#). Miles of sugar-sand beach, bluffs that tower 450 feet above Lake Michigan, lush forests, clear inland lakes and unique flora and fauna make up this national treasure.

These towering dunes afford spectacular views across the lake. An 1871 lighthouse, three former [U.S. Life-saving Service](#) stations, coastal villages and picturesque farmsteads reflect the park’s rich maritime, agricultural and recreational history. Take a hike for spectacular shoreline views, motor along the [Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive](#), or tackle a strenuous dune to Lake Michigan.

Grand Traverse Bay Winery Tour

Northwest Michigan’s temperate weather and fertile soil create ideal conditions for wine production. Wind down your stay in the Grand Traverse area by touring the dozens of wineries on the [Leelanau Peninsula Wine Trail](#) or [Old Mission Peninsula Wine Trail](#). The wines from both have been recognized by international wine enthusiasts as superb award-winning wines.



VISITOR INFORMATION

Speeping Bear	sleepingbeardunes.com
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