

PURE MICHIGAN BYWAYS AND TOUR ROUTES DRIVING GUIDE



INSIDE:

Road Maps
and Scenic Drives

Planning Tips

Points of Interest

Top Adventures





Experience Michigan's Byways



Dear Traveler:

Welcome to the Great Lakes State! We're glad you've chosen to spend some of your precious free time in Michigan. Our four season's playground features four Great Lakes and two interesting peninsulas for you to explore.

On behalf of the Michigan Department of Transportation, I'm pleased to present to you the *Pure Michigan's Byway Driving Guide and Tour Routes*. This guide will lead you to some of the most spectacular locations Michigan has to offer - from our rich cultural heritage sites to our diverse natural beauty.

Whether you are a visitor to Michigan or a long-time resident, we hope the Michigan Byways Guide inspires you to map out a memorable adventure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad C. Wieferich', written in a cursive style.

Brad C. Wieferich, P.E.
State Transportation Director



Dear Traveler:

Our roads are gateways to adventure, far more than merely a means to get from one place to another. We travel through landscapes, cities, small towns and historic places; traveling around the map but also tracing our way through time as well. The network of roads today is built upon and most often follows the same routes that Michigan's first peoples traveled 1,000 and more years ago. Well-worn ancient trails became widened to wagon trails, which became two-way roads and then the interstate highways of today. Population centers are similar to 1,000 years ago as well. Our cities and towns grew up near the same sites that prehistoric villages occupied. Successive waves of farming, resource use, and industry use have left a tapestry of stories, experiences and historic structures.

Self-awareness is important for our society to function well. But knowing who we are is dependent upon also knowing where we are. As individuals, families, communities, and nations, understanding the richness of our place helps us be secure in knowing who we are, as we experience the unveiling future, moment by moment. The cliché that "life is a journey not a destination" can be readily experienced on one or more of the many adventures listed in this *Pure Michigan Byway Driving Guide*: from the richness of our shared heritage and historical events, to the excitement of celebrations, festivals, and county fairs, and to the majestic, awe-inspiring natural wonders and landscapes that inspire our imagination and peace of mind.

We are all richer in spirit and better able to face the future when we are able to pause to take a slower pace, experience the journeys, and to enjoy these multiple routes and destinations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Ettawageshik', written in a cursive style.

Frank Ettawageshik
Executive Director, United Tribes of Michigan

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NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

Designated by the United States Secretary of the Interior, National Historic Landmarks possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting America's heritage. These landmarks are shown in **Green** throughout this guide.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

This National Register is an official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. The program coordinates and supports public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources. These places are shown in **Blue** throughout this guide.

Editorial copy in this publication does not constitute endorsement of products or services by the State of Michigan, the Michigan Department of Transportation or the Michigan Economic Development Corp.'s Travel Michigan. Information, including prices, dates and hours should be verified. Reasonable efforts have been made to maintain content accuracy, it is not represented to be error free.

The Michigan State Police Office of Highway Safety Planning would like to remind you that, while enjoying Pure Michigan's Byways and tour routes, always buckle up and have a safe, sober driver.

ABOUT THIS TOUR GUIDE

The byways are broken down into four tiers: the All-American Road, the National Scenic Byway, the state's Pure Michigan Byway and the National Forest Service's own Scenic Byway program. To learn more, please refer to the Byway Designations on page 68.

TOP ADVENTURES LEGEND

Look for these symbols in each byway's planning tips.

 Natural Beauty	 Bicycling
 Hiking, Trekking and Mountain Climbing	 Boating, Canoeing, Kayaking and Rafting
 National and State Parks and Recreation Areas	 Camping
 Sand Dunes or Mountains	 Fishing
 Island Experiences	 Winter Sports
 Lakes, Rivers and Waterfalls	 Family Fun
 Beaches	 Wine and Cuisine
 Indian Country	 Theatre, Arts, Culture and Heritage
 Wildlife and Bird Watching	 Sports, Festivals and Events
 Photography	 Museums and Galleries
	 Breweries



- National Scenic Byway/All American Road
- National Forest Scenic Byway
- State Scenic Byway
- State Recreation Byway
- State Historic Byway

- Welcome Center
- Rest Area
- Roadside Park
- Scenic Turnout





DETROIT RIVERWALK AND RENAISSANCE CENTER



Woodward Avenue

“Detroit’s Main Street,” Woodward Avenue follows, in part, the route of a Native American trail from Detroit to Pontiac. Dotted with remnants of Detroit’s automotive heritage and decades worth of ethnic neighborhoods, historical homes and landmarks.

Detroit, the Motor City, and, in particular M-1 (Woodward Avenue), put the world on wheels. Discover important heritage past, present and future on this All-American Road. You’ll find famed industrial complexes, office buildings, residential mansions, world-renowned museums, cultural institutions, and nine National Historic Landmarks in the area.



GUARDIAN BUILDING MOSAIC INLAY

Downtown Detroit

Begin your journey where Woodward Avenue once met the beautiful sparkling waters of the **Detroit River**, now **Hart Plaza**. Stroll the miles of waterfront parks, plazas, pavilions, and bike greenways. Play in the water fountains, ride the carousel, rent a bike or enjoy one of the many concerts along this international waterway. Visit one of the only locations where the U.S. is north of Canada. Retrace the pathways to freedom on the **Underground Railroad** where the last stop was a boat trip across the river. In later times it served as a coal yard owned by Alexander

Malcomson, who bankrolled Henry Ford’s first successful foray into automobile manufacturing and the Ford Motor Co.

The **Renaissance Center** anchors the Detroit skyline, comprised of seven skyscrapers. It was built by Henry Ford II and is now the world headquarters for General Motors. Take a guided tour from the **Pure Detroit** store in Tower 400 and visit GM’s 40,000-square-foot showroom, an eclectic display of vintage, new model and concept vehicles. From Tower 200, catch the **People Mover** for a 3-mile elevated view of the city or stop at one of the 13 stations adorned with public art while you explore downtown.

While here, visit the **Guardian Building**, a landmark skyscraper, often referred to as “Detroit’s Cathedral of Finance.” Created when two large financial institutions merged in the late 1920s to serve the automobile industry’s massive growth. Grab a cup of coffee in the mezzanine and enjoy the breathtaking art deco mosaic ornamentation. One of the most impressive art deco buildings in the world.

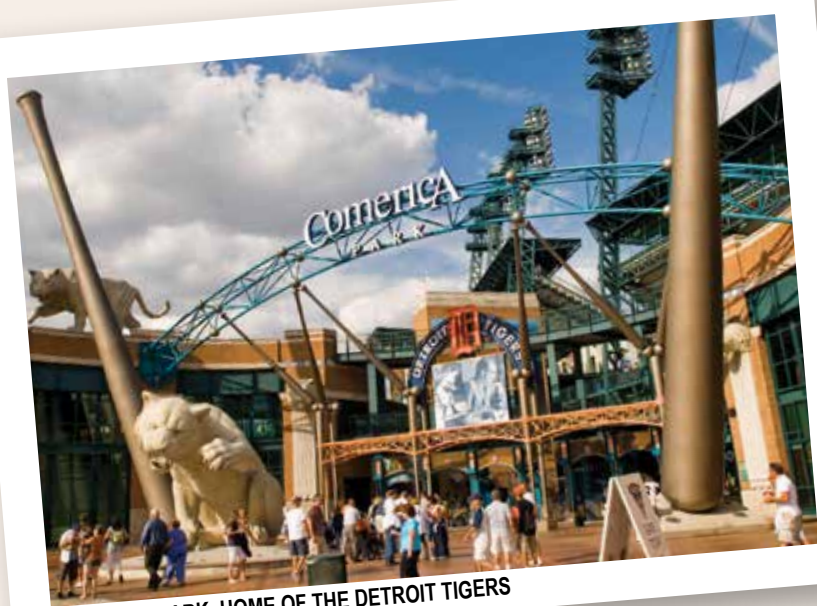
Stop at **Campus Martius**, a park right in the center of the road. Take note of the redevelopment and excitement of this great city along the Woodward corridor while enjoying beach volleyball, concerts, impromptu art and music during the warmer seasons. During the winter months, rent ice skates and enjoy the rink. Here, at Michigan Avenue and Woodward Avenue, where the first tri-color traffic signal was introduced.



CAMPUS MARTIUS PARK

At the north end of downtown find **Grand Circus Park**, home of the **Detroit Opera House**, and transition into the sports and entertainment district. You can’t miss the iconic six-story marquee for the **Fox Theatre**. Woodward Avenue is second to New York City for number of theater seats and has a history of surpassing New York in actual ticket sales. Woodward’s theaters host every type of concert you can imagine.





COMERICA PARK, HOME OF THE DETROIT TIGERS

If you'd like to take one in, visit detroitconcerts.org. Sports enthusiasts can revel in a multitude of sporting events, including hockey with the **Detroit Red Wings**, football with the **Detroit Lions** and baseball's **Detroit Tigers**.

Midtown

Midtown hosts renowned historic mansions, museums, galleries, theaters, and educational institutions. **Wayne State University**, a premier research institute, claims several buildings of famed architecture, including the Minoru Yamasaki designed **McGregor Conference Center**.

In the heart of Midtown, discover one of the nation's premiere art museums, the **Detroit Institute of Arts** (DIA), home to Diego Rivera's **Detroit Industry Murals** commissioned in 1932 by Edsel Ford and DIA director William Valentiner depicting the Ford Rouge Plant operations. Across the street from the DIA is the **Detroit Historical Museum's** Motor City exhibit that chronicles the Detroit automobile industry. Within a short walking distance is the **Michigan Science Center** and the **Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History**.



DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

In the north part of Midtown is the **Fisher Building** commissioned by the Fisher brothers of "Body by Fisher" fame and designed by Albert Kahn. It opened in 1928, known as the Cathedral to Commerce. The

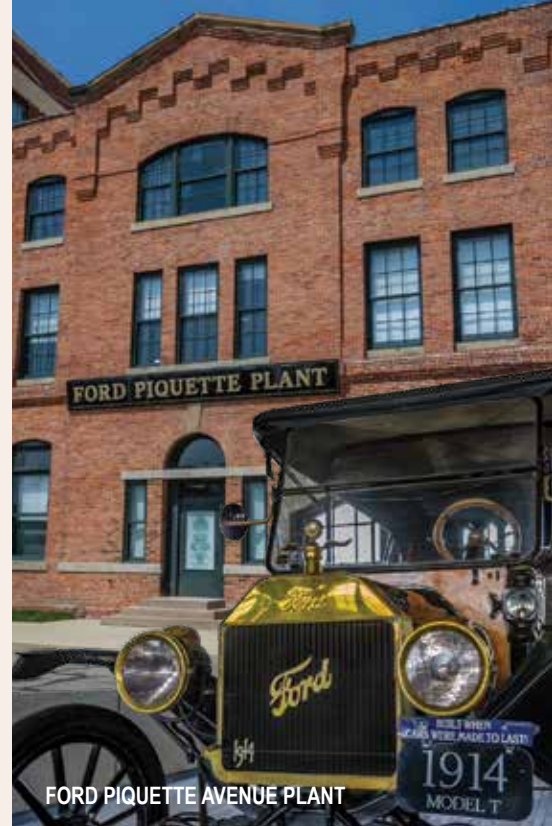
441-foot tower is decked to the nines in fancy marbles, mosaics, and soaring painted ceilings with brass and bronze. Across the street is the historic headquarters of **General Motors**, now serving as State of Michigan offices. Just south is the **Argonaut Building**, former design center for General Motors and current home to the College for Creative Studies, Henry Ford Learning Institute and **Shinola Detroit**, makers of hand-built quality watches, bikes and more.

Milwaukee Junction

Originally the epicenter of automotive history, here find the **Ford Piquette Avenue Plant**, Ford Motor Co.'s first built factory where Henry Ford developed and produced the first 12,000 stationary assembly Model Ts. Thanks to countless volunteers and automotive heritage enthusiasts, the factory is being preserved and undergoing restorations, attracting tourists from the world over.

Boston Edison

Drive through the **Historic Boston Edison/Arden Park** districts and discover the homes of early residents Ty Cobb, James Couzens, Sebastian Kresge, Berry Gordy Jr. and Joe Louis. At Edison Street and Second Avenue is the home of Henry and Clara Ford.



Highland Park

In Highland Park is one of the most historically significant places in automobile history, the **Highland Park Ford Plant**. Here, Henry Ford introduced the moving assembly line, paid a \$5 a day wage and helped launch the modern American middle class. This Albert Kahn-designed complex is not open to the public, however the Woodward Avenue Action Association purchased two buildings fronting Woodward Avenue with restoration plans for an **Automobile Heritage Welcome Center**.

North of Six Mile Road, back in Detroit, is the first mile of concrete highway. Find enchanting **Palmer Park**, 296 acres of historic woodlands, a golf course, tennis courts, splash-park, hiking and biking trails, Lake Frances, a log cabin, and more. **Palmer Woods**, a residential district where nearly 300 homes are tucked away hidden by the wooded frontage, was home to many automobile legends. One architecturally notable home is Detroit's



only Frank Lloyd Wright Home, the **Dorothy Turkel House**. Built in the Usonian style, it has been restored to its former glory by its current owners. Before leaving the city and Wayne County is **Woodland Cemetery**, Section 10, serving as the final resting place for many automobile legends.

Detroit rapper Marshall Bruce Mathers III, better known as Eminem, made the street that divides the city from the first tier of suburbs famous – 8 Mile Road.

Oakland County

Crossing over 8 Mile Road entering **Oakland County** is a 16-mile stretch that is home to the **Woodward Dream Cruise**, held the third Saturday of August. This world-renowned one-day event attracts 1.5 million people and showcases some 40,000 classic cars from around the globe. Today’s cruisers retrace the cruisin’ route where automobile engineers in the 50s and 60s formed car clubs and built hot-rods they unofficially “tested” on Woodward Avenue.

Ferndale is a city that embraces art, diversity, and culture with a bustling downtown, at 9 Mile Road. This collection of small retail businesses and bustling restaurants keeps this city vibrant and a destination. Quietly hidden in between Ferndale and Royal Oak, you will find **Historic Pleasant Ridge** and **Huntington Woods**, two small communities with historic homes

and plenty of charm. **Royal Oak** is a city you may want to go and see or be seen. It is a vibrant city with retail shops and many restaurant options and home to the **Detroit Zoo**. Berkley is a wonderful place to visit. It’s often ranked as one of the best cities to live in. It offers many retail and dining destinations. The city of Birmingham is known for its beautiful downtown and wonderful culinary dining options. You will not be disappointed.

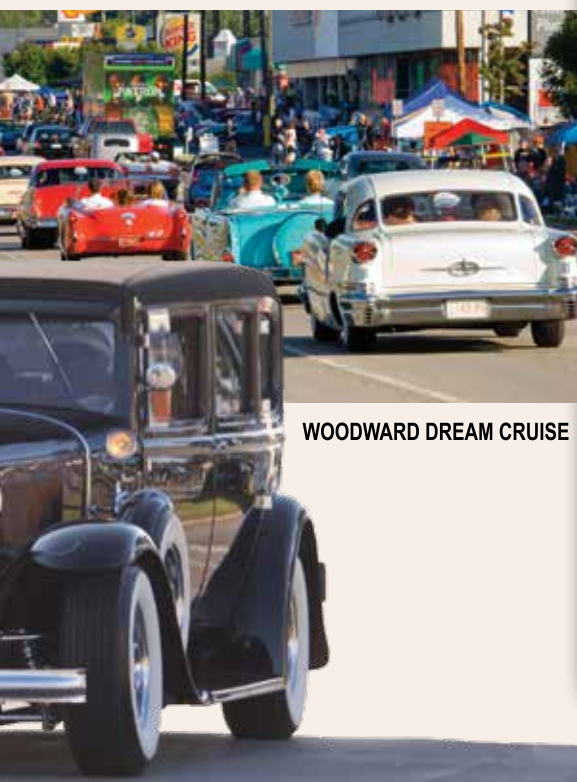
Continuing on the byway, you will be led to the community of Bloomfield Hills. Visit the **Gregor and Elizabeth Affleck House**, a Frank Lloyd Wright home nestled in the trees. Bloomfield Hills is also home to **Cranbrook Educational Community**. Stroll through the gardens, visit the art museum and science institute and don’t miss the charming family manor – the **Cranbrook House**, publishing family

and owners of the Scripps-Booth Automobile Co.

At the north end of the byway is the city named for the Ottawa (Odawa) Native American chief **Pontiac**. Rich with its automobile heritage, General Motors once dominated much of the city with production factories, and even named a brand after it. The historic downtown is known for its nightlife with great local music. Come visit, come tour, come live, work and play at, Woodward Avenue.



DETROIT ZOO



WOODWARD DREAM CRUISE

PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: Access the byway’s starting point in the city of Detroit via the US-10 (John C. Lodge Freeway) south. The “Lodge” south becomes US-10 (Jefferson Avenue) as it reaches the Detroit River. The byway begins at Hart Plaza, noted by the monument to boxer Joe Louis “The Fist” at Jefferson and Woodward avenues. The byway heads in a northwest direction on Woodward Avenue ending in the city of Pontiac.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Travel amenities are available throughout the entire 27 miles. Gas is available in downtown Detroit through Midtown off Woodward Avenue. Midtown north has gas stations located on the byway. Lodging is concentrated in downtown Detroit, available in Midtown Detroit, Birmingham, and Bloomfield Hills. Including national chain hotels/motels, historic Victorian homes converted to B&Bs, and luxury boutique hotels. Restaurants are all along the byway, ranging from the local favorite Coney Island to celebrity chef restaurants and fine dining.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: US-12 Heritage Trail and Pathway to Family Fun

1

DRIVING DISTANCE	27 MILES
DRIVE TIME	1 HOUR
PLAN TO SPEND	3-5 DAYS
BEST SEASONS	YEAR-ROUND
TOP ADVENTURES	

LOCAL RESOURCES:
 Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau
 313-202-1800, 800-DETROIT (338-7648)
www.visitdetroit.com



Copper Country Trail

Highlighting the triumphs and tragedies associated with copper mining, the Copper Country Trail National Byway follows the copper lode that lies deep underground and is the basis of the area's exciting and turbulent history.

What began in the earth more than 1 billion years ago set the landscape for what the Copper Country would become world-renowned for in the 19th century. The seemingly endless native copper lodes that formed were known 7,000 years ago to early people of the Keweenaw. Word of the region's richness and the knowledge of how to mine it was passed down from Native American to the Europeans who came in the 17th century. During the height of historic copper mining, more than 38 ethnic groups lived together in the Keweenaw. This heritage is represented today in the descendant Finns, Native Americans, French Canadians, and many others who call the Keweenaw home.

US-41

Copper Country Trail National Byway traverses the entire length of US-41. From Houghton to Copper Harbor on the Keweenaw Peninsula, passing through numerous former mining communities and winding through dense forests transforming the roadway into a tunnel of trees. Learn about area history at **Keweenaw National Historical Park** or explore the several nature preserves that can be found along the route.

M-203 Spur Route

Connecting the communities of Hancock and Calumet via the Portage Lake Shipping Canal, this route is beautiful any time of year, but particularly at peak fall color. Enjoy the scenery or spend some time at **McLain State Park** and explore the north entry to the canal.

M-26 Spur Route

Connecting the communities of Hancock and Lake Linden, this route brings motorists through the heart of historic smelting and stamp mill sites, including our nation's last remaining 19th century smelting works, the **Quincy Smelting Works**. Discover other small communities along the way like Dollar Bay, Tamarack City, and Hubbell.

Lakeshore Drive

M-26 (Lakeshore Drive) connects the communities of Phoenix and Copper Harbor. Paralleling the rugged Lake Superior shoreline, this scenic drive offers expansive vistas, spectacular sunsets, and in winter the chance to view majestic ice formations. Stop and explore other communities like Eagle River and Eagle Harbor along the way.

Gay-Lac Labelle Loop

This loop brings travelers along the peninsula's sandstone eastern shore where remnants of an old stamp mill drape the landscape and mountains rise up from the water. Several parks along the route offer visitors the chance to stop and enjoy breathtaking views of Lake Superior.



BROCKWAY MOUNTAIN DRIVE

Brockway Mountain Drive

Named for Daniel D. Brockway, former postmaster, resident agent for area mines and the Upper Peninsula state road commissioner. This scenic route near Copper Harbor greets motorists with a panoramic view of the wild Keweenaw. From forest-covered mountains to the deep blue waters of Lake Superior, The road is maintained seasonally. In the winter, snowmobilers travel to the top for winter views.

Cliff Drive

Take this adventurous alternative to US-41 connecting the communities of Ahmeek and Phoenix. Admire the rugged escarpment that follows you along the way, small silvery lakes, and the largest known lava flow on earth.



QUINCY SMELTING WORKS

Bootjack Road

Explorers are led from Lake Linden to Jacobsville through serene rural settings and forested glens. Jacobsville sandstone, another popular local resource, can be seen in many downtown buildings today. It was also used in the original Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City.



EAGLE HARBOR LIGHT



2

PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: The byway has start and end points at the Portage Lake Lift Bridge in Hancock and Copper Harbor at the northern part of the Keweenaw Peninsula. The corridor for the byway is the entire Keweenaw Peninsula.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Gas is available in Houghton, Hancock, and Calumet. Service stations become sporadic north of Calumet. Accommodations range from chain and local hotels/motels to campgrounds and RV parks along the route. Restaurants can be found in most communities and range from local fare to fine dining. Some operate seasonally.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: Iron County Heritage Trail

LOCAL RESOURCES:

Keweenaw Convention and Visitors Bureau www.keweenaw.info

Keweenaw Chamber of Commerce www.keweenaw.org

Copper Country Trail www.coppercountrytrail.org

* Some of the drives are seasonal and may not be open during winter months.

DRIVING DISTANCE	47 MILES
DRIVE TIME	2 HOURS
PLAN TO SPEND	3 DAYS
BEST SEASONS	YEAR-ROUND*
TOP ADVENTURES	



LUMBERMAN'S MONUMENT

AU SABLE RIVER



WANIGAN EXHIBIT - LUMBERMAN'S MONUMENT



River Road

This 22-mile scenic byway extends westward from Lake Huron inland to the Huron-Manistee National Forests, paralleling the historic Riviere aux Sable “River of Sand.”

The Au Sable River was a major transportation route for floating Michigan’s giant white pine to the sawmills on Lake Huron. Byway travelers will find camping, fishing and boating facilities are accessible from the byway, as well as trails for hiking in summer and cross-country skiing in winter. Many of the scenic overlooks are fully accessible, with paved parking areas and sidewalks.

Rollways Campground

Built in 1909, Rollways is a small National Forest Campground overlooking the Au Sable River. The campground features paved pull-through campsites, a picnic shelter with two stone fireplaces and an accessible walking trail to **Westgate Overlook**.

Westgate

Two viewing decks 450 feet apart provide incredible views of **Loud Dam Pond**. An accessible walking trail leads to both the second overlook and **Rollways Picnic Area**. Visitors will have many opportunities to see the varied bird life of the area, particularly trumpeter swans and eagles.

Iargo Springs

Since most of Cooke Pond was dry land before the turn of the century, dams were constructed on the springs by early loggers to divert water to the nearby logging camps. In the early 1900s Europeans started visiting the springs for recreation, and in the early 1930s a trail to the springs was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The original dams were destroyed by a storm in 1981. In 1991, in addition to rebuilding the dams, a 300-step staircase, boardwalks and an overlook were built.

Highbanks Trail

A 7-mile, scenic back-country linear trail system with views of the Au Sable River Valley. From high bluffs of the south shore of the Au Sable River, many species of plants and animals can be seen in their natural setting.

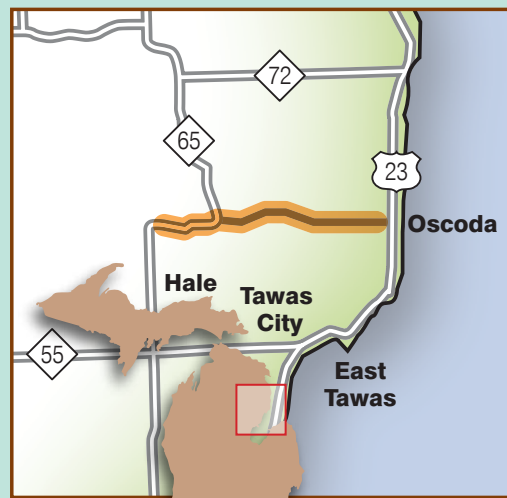
Lumberman’s Monument, Visitor Center and Campground

A 14-foot bronze statue of three lumbermen stands with the Au Sable River as its backdrop. At the visitor center, learn about the logging industry that shaped northern Michigan and the lumbermen who cut the timber and built a nation. Visitors can try one of the many activities available, including climbing a log jam or hiking the stairs down to the

wanigan, which is a logger’s floating kitchen. The **Forest Discovery Trail** is a walkway leading to an observation deck. From May to October, enjoy a variety of programs put on by the visitors center. Visitors can stay at Monument Campground, built in 1909 and one of the first campgrounds in the Huron National Forest, located adjacent to the visitors center grounds.

Foote Pond Overlook

Foote Pond Overlook provides visitors with views of the Au Sable River and Foote Pond. Visitors may have the opportunity to view many species of wildlife from the overlook. This is also a spectacular location to view fall colors.



3

PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: From M-65, 7 miles north of Hale, turn east onto River Road National Scenic Byway. From Oscoda, access is west of US-23.
GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: All are available at either end of the byway in Glennie, Hale, Oscoda and Tawas. There is camping at Rollways and Monument Campgrounds along the byway.
BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: Sunrise Coast

LOCAL RESOURCES:

Huron-Manistee National Forest, 800-821-6263
www.fs.usda.gov/hmnf

Oscoda Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
www.oscoda.com

Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce
www.tawas.com

Blue Water Visitors Bureau
www.bluewater.org

DRIVING DISTANCE 22 MILES

DRIVE TIME 1 HOUR

PLAN TO SPEND 1-2 DAYS

BEST SEASONS SPRING, SUMMER, FALL

TOP ADVENTURES



Whitefish Bay

This route's historic sites and picturesque views stretch along the Lake Superior shore through the hardwoods, conifers and wetlands of the Hiawatha National Forest.

The Whitefish Bay National Forest Scenic Byway (Lakeshore Drive) runs from the Bay Mills Indian Community through the Hiawatha National Forest, ending at M-123 (#9 Tahquamenon) south of Paradise, offering many opportunities for travelers to connect with its natural beauty.

History and Culture

The bluffs and shores of Lake Superior and Whitefish Bay have been home to the Chippewa (Ojibwe) people for generations. The Ojibwe traditional name given to the area is Gnoozhekaaning, "the Place of the Pike."

The Whitefish Bay Byway is also named the I.L. "Curley" Lewis Memorial Highway Scenic Lake Shore Drive. Irwin L. Lewis was a local politician born in Alma whose efforts in promoting and lobbying for scenic highway tourism resulted in the building of several roads in the eastern Upper Peninsula in the mid-1900s. The Whitefish Bay scenic route is one of his efforts.

Bay Mills Indian Community

Twenty-five miles east of Sault Ste. Marie is Bay Mills Indian Community. Located at the southern end of the byway with a modern government center, community college and the **Bay Mills Resort and Casino**. You may be tempted to lay back and relax, the resort includes gaming, an RV park, hotel,

dining options and the 18-hole championship **Wild Bluff Golf Course**. Stop in the resorts gift shop and inquire about the book "Gnoozhekaning," a history of the Bay Mills people.

Brimley State Park

Providing recreational opportunities along the beautiful shore of Lake Superior's Whitefish Bay, **Brimley State Park** is one of the oldest state parks in the Upper Peninsula. Established in 1923 when the Village of Brimley gave Michigan the park's initial 38 acres. Camping, fishing, boating and hiking are just a few of the popular amenities at the park that boasts modern facilities with 237 campsites.

Mission Hill/ Spectacle Lake overlook

One of the most scenic views along the byway is located at the **Mission Hill/ Spectacle Lake overlook**. Here, a steep sand dune towers above Spectacle Lake. On the left, the Point Iroquois Lighthouse's white tower stands out among dark pines and hardwoods. You can view freighters heading for the **Soo Locks** and St. Mary's River System or heading east from the Marquette or Duluth Superior areas.

Monocle Lake

The centerpiece of the attractive natural area in the Hiawatha National Forest



MONOCLE LAKE

is 172-acre **Monocle Lake**. It's stocked for fishing with walleye, bass, pike, and perch. The site features a beach, boat launch and picnic area with grills. A 2-mile hiking trail loop starts at the picnic area and goes through natural hardwoods intermixed with some very old evergreens. Ospreys are known to nest here, they can be spotted catching fish in the wetland shallows. There also are several rustic campsites, some overlook Monocle Lake.

Point Iroquois Lighthouse

Named for a battle in the 1600s between the Chippewa and encroaching Iroquois, is the **Point Iroquois Lighthouse**. Parts have been renovated to include a museum, bookstore and caretaker's quarters. Near the Point Iroquois Lighthouse is the boardwalk, offering a spectacular view of Lake Superior and the adjacent shoreline. It skirts along the beach and through a small section of woods. Together with sidewalks to the lighthouse, the loop encompasses 0.2 miles. There are several rest stops and benches to stop and enjoy the scenery of the Lake Superior coast and passing freighters.

Big Pines Picnic Area

The **Big Pines Picnic Area** is a local favorite place to stop along the byway. Large pines grow in abundance and the site is part of the Hiawatha National Forest. While visiting the site, be sure to go down to the beach, which is sandy enough for lounging and has many colored rocks. It also offers great views of passing freighters entering

the St. Mary's River system. Secluded just off the highway among the large pine trees, the semi-rustic **Bay View Campground** offers full beach access. This site is ideal for spring, summer, or fall camping due to the dune that acts as a buffer from the elements on the coast. The sandy beach is perfect for sunbathing, wading and swimming. However, Lake Superior can be frigid! Swim at your own risk, there are no lifeguards on duty.

National Fish Hatcheries

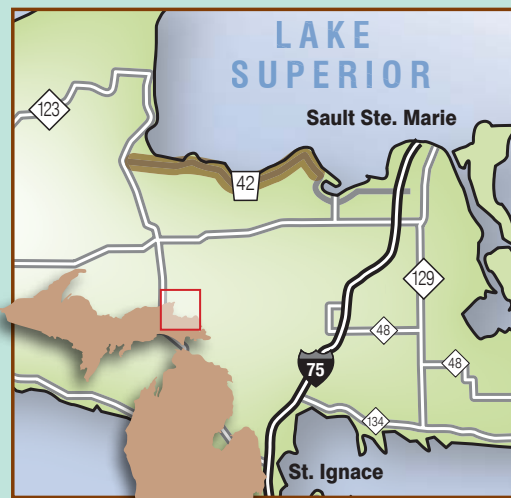
Pendill's Creek National Fish Hatchery, next to its subsidiary, the **Sullivan Creek National Fish Hatchery**, helps stock the Great Lakes every year with lake trout. Visitors can enter the tank buildings and look down at the masses of small fish. The visitor center hosts an abundance of information on the fish, including displays and pamphlets showing fish egg development and explanations about how the parasitic sea lamprey nearly destroyed the upper Great Lakes, and what has been done to control it. Daily tours are offered during the week for the ultimate educational experience.

North Country Trail

The **North Country Trail** traverses through much of the northern Hiawatha National Forest. This designated national foot trail extends 3,500 miles from New York to North Dakota, intersecting with the byway at the **Naomikong Overlook**. Here visitors can catch glimpses of Lake Superior with stairs and a trail winding their way from the parking area down to Lake Superior.

Cross-Country Ski Trails

The **McNearney Cross-Country Ski Trail** offers four loops ranging from a 1-mile flat beginners loop to a 6-mile loop that demands more advanced techniques. The trail is groomed for classic style skiing from January through March. The **Waboose Cross-Country Ski Trail** is a 1.5-mile classic trail offering a quiet remote setting and wildlife viewing. The terrain is flat to gently rolling. With a couple of relatively easy to moderate challenges, this is a leisurely experience skiers of all levels can enjoy.



PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: I-75 north to M-28 Exit 386 just south of Sault Ste. Marie. Head west on M-28 to M-221, then turn north to Brimley/Bay Mills where M-221 ends at Lakshore Drive. The byway here heads west to M-123.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Accommodations and restaurants range from local and national chains primarily in Sault Ste. Marie, Brimley, Bay Mills and Paradise. Bay Mills Resort offers an RV park, while camping is available in the Hiawatha National Forest and at Brimley and Tahquamenon state parks.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: Tahquamenon, North Huron Recreational Trail

LOCAL RESOURCES: Whitefish Bay Scenic Byway www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/hiawatha/recarea Hiawatha National Forest www.fs.usda.gov/hiawatha

DRIVING DISTANCE	33 MILES
DRIVE TIME	1 HOUR
PLAN TO SPEND	1-2 DAYS
BEST SEASONS	YEAR-ROUND
TOP ADVENTURES	



POINT IROQUOIS LIGHT



Black River

The Black River area was officially dedicated as a National Forest Scenic Byway in 1992 in recognition of its exceptional natural beauty and recreational opportunities.

The Black River National Forest Scenic Byway comprises 15 miles of Black River Harbor Road (CR 513) from Bessemer to Black River Harbor. A popular travel route due to its scenic beauty including numerous waterfalls, old growth eastern white pine, hemlock and the historic Black River Harbor Village. There is ample opportunity for hiking the **North Country National Scenic Trail** and camping along the byway. The Black River Harbor provides excellent Lake Superior charter fishing.

Background and History

During 1848, William A. Burt, a U.S. Land surveyor, completed a survey of what today is the Black River Recreation Area. His map shows a wagon road going south from the mouth of the Black River to Chippewa Hill, today's **Copper Peak Ski Flying Hill**. Also, a supply trail led from the river's mouth to iron mines on the Gogebic Range. By 1904, the State of Michigan had built a wagon road from Bessemer to Lake Superior. This road is now the Black River Scenic Byway.

Bessemer

At the south end of the byway, the city of Bessemer lies nestled among large rock outcrops of the Gogebic Range. Attractions include **Bluff Valley Park**, the red sandstone **Gogebic County Courthouse**, and **Steiger Little League Field**, the "most scenic Little League

baseball park in America." Bessemer is known for its huge Fourth of July celebration and October Pumpkinfest.

Black River Harbor

Black River Harbor is popular throughout the year and is the only harbor within the National Forest System. It sits at the mouth of the Black River on Lake Superior, and is composed of three recreation areas: the harbor boating facilities, day-use picnic area, and modern campground.

Summer boating on Lake Superior is popular and the harbor boasts one of the area's few boat launches. The Black River Harbor boat ramp can accommodate almost any craft trailered, with ample parking and no launching fee.

An on-site concessionaire offers docking space for transient boaters. Docking is first-come, first-serve with a daily fee. The concession stand offers fuel and boat sewage pumping. Limited supplies for boaters and visitors are available during regular business hours.

Tall hemlock and pine surround the Black River Harbor day-use area. Picnic tables and grills are available, as well as an enclosed pavilion with fireplace.

Black River Campground

A modern facility with 40 paved camping spurs with several overlooking Lake Superior, campsites can accommodate

tents, trailers and motor homes. Modern amenities include pressurized water, flush toilets and a sewer dumping station.

Copper Peak

Ten miles north of Bessemer, **Copper Peak** rises 364 feet on the east side of the byway. At the peak is the largest ski jump in the western hemisphere: Copper Peak Ski Flying Hill. Volunteers are working to bring ski flying back to



POTAWATOMI FALLS



HARBOR DOCK

Copper Peak, but in the meantime visitors can ride the chair lift and 18-story elevator to the top, for a view never to be forgotten.

Black River Water Falls

As the Black River flows through areas of large pine, hemlock, and hardwoods it spills over a series of scenic waterfalls as it drops to meet Lake Superior. The waterfalls are located along the final 3 miles of the byway. National Forest trailhead signs and parking areas allow



access to five distinct and picturesque waterfalls; Great Conglomerate, Potawatomi, Gorge, Sandstone, and Rainbow Falls. From the parking areas, you'll find trails, boardwalks, and stairs to viewing platforms near each fall.

The **North Country National Scenic Trail** follows the Black River and also provides access to view the waterfalls, as well as wildlife, the river, and people fishing for trout and salmon.

North Country National Scenic Trail

The longest National Scenic Trail in the United States (4,600 miles when complete) passes through the byway with almost 1,500 miles in Michigan. Follow the trail over the suspension bridge from the day-use area and continue on to Rainbow Falls. Or take a shorter trail that leads to the beach on Lake Superior. The southernmost trailhead to the **North Country National Scenic Trail** on the byway is located just north of Copper Peak and has signs to mark its location. The trail can also be accessed using any of the waterfall trailheads.



BRIDGE TO TRAILS



5

PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: The Black River National Forest Scenic Byway is also known as Black River Road and CR 513. Take US-2 to the city of Bessemer (between Ironwood and Wakefield). Turn north at Powderhorn Road and left on to CR 513.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Bessemer, Ironwood and Wakefield are full-service communities. Consider visiting a local bakery and picking up a traditional U.P. pasty. Black River Harbor Campground, at the north end of the byway, offers 40 campsites open spring to fall.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: Iron County Heritage Trail

LOCAL RESOURCES: Ottawa National Forest www.fs.usda.gov/ottawa

Western U.P. Convention and Visitors Bureau www.explorewesternup.com

Copper Peak www.upper-michigan.com/copper-peak/
North Country Trail Association northcountrytrail.org/trail

DRIVING DISTANCE	15 MILES
DRIVE TIME	30 MINUTES
PLAN TO SPEND	1 DAY
BEST SEASONS	SUMMER/FALL
TOP ADVENTURES	



M-22 Byway

“Going Round the Horn” was the nickname for the original scenic loop from Manistee County to Traverse City, which is now M-22, and provides year-round beauty, a rural atmosphere, and a plethora of activities and sites for everyone to enjoy.

M-22 was the first state highway in Leelanau, Benzie, and Manistee counties and was built in 1913. Over time, this byway has been known by a variety of names: West Michigan Pike, Chippewa Trail, Manitou Trail, and Michigamme Trail. The Ojibway (Chippewa) and Odawa (Ottawa) tribes have inhabited this area for hundreds of years and created the first pathways that became state and local roads. M-22 follows closely along the shore of Lake Michigan with some incredible vistas of Lake Michigan, inland lakes, rivers, orchards, forests, and fields. The climate of these counties located along Lake Michigan provides the right conditions for orchards and vineyards with many wineries, cideries, and farm stands. The entire length of the byway provides scenic and nature, recreational, and historic and cultural activities, food, and some lodging.

Elmwood Township

In the southeast section of Leelanau County, stop by the **Discovery Center and Pier Great Lakes** for fun and educational experiences for the entire family. The center complex houses the Great Lakes Children’s Museum, Maritime Heritage Alliance, Traverse Tall Ship Co., Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay, and Traverse City Community Sailing. The museum is an interactive and

informational educational environment focusing on the Great Lakes. The Traverse Tall Ship Co. docks the Manitou, a 114-foot 1800s replica schooner and offers public sailings where you can sit back and enjoy or take an “all-hands-on-deck” approach and assist the crew.

Turn west on Cherry Bend Road to access the **Cedar Lake Boat Launch** and the **Leelanau Trail** trailhead. The trail connects Traverse City and Suttons Bay. Further down the road is the 145-acre Leelanau Conservancy **DeYoung Natural Area**, originally the DeYoung Farm. This natural area includes streams, Cedar Lake frontage, fields, a forest, and historic buildings that provide for a variety of activities, such as birding, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

Suttons Bay Township and Village of Suttons Bay

Suttons Bay Township and the village of Suttons Bay are host to several parks that offer places for recreation and water access. Suttons Bay is a year-round coastal community that has a quality all its own, including a marina, boat launch, beach, specialty shops, galleries, and unique dining experiences. On 4th Street is the north trailhead for the **Leelanau Trail**. On Suttons Bay,

the **Inland Seas Education Association** provides scientific exhibits, wetland demonstrations, and public and school sailings.

Cross over Leelanau County’s east-west connector, M-204, and visit the unincorporated village of **Lake Leelanau**, historically referred to as Provemont. The highway crosses over the Lake Leelanau Narrows, which in the summer season is the water route between north and south Lake Leelanau. This area provides a boat launch, boat rental, food, wine tasting rooms, a distillery, and a cidery.

GRAND TRAVERSE LIGHTHOUSE



Back on M-22 north of Suttons Bay, stop by the township's 45th Parallel Roadside Park for one of the amazing views of Grand Traverse Bay/Lake Michigan. Visit **Peshawbestown**, the government center and historic lands of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and their **Eyaawing Museum and Cultural Center** to learn about the Grand Traverse Band. The **Odaawa Gamik** (gift shop) features the work of tribal and local artisans in the media of jewelry, baskets, dream catchers, stained glass, and more. There are also educational materials, books, and maps.

Leelanau Township

Continuing north on M-22, you'll see beautiful views of Lake Michigan. The small town of **Omena** has a scenic view of Omena Bay with a historic general store and the Omena Historical Society's **Putnam Cloud Tower House Museum**. Further north, the village of Northport lies at the northern point of M-22 at the M-201 intersection, boasting a harbor, marina and beach park, a full-service grocery store, shops, art galleries, and food. Continuing north of Northport on a county road to the northern tip of the peninsula is the **Leelanau State Park**, where you can camp, hike, cross-country ski, access Lake Michigan, hawk watch, and hunt. The park is home to the historic **Grand Traverse Lighthouse** that has guided sailors and vessels since 1858. On your way back south, the 279-acre Leelanau Conservancy **Kehl Lake Natural Area** is a part of a wildlife corridor and refuge that is great for birding, hiking and snowshoeing.

Leland

Driving south on M-22 from Northport on the west side of the peninsula, the Leelanau Conservancy's 370-acre **Houdek Dunes Natural Area** provides hiking, birdwatching, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Next, you will come to the conservancy's 104.5-acre **Clay Cliffs Natural Area** that has a 1.5-mile trail system on flat and hilly terrain. There is a viewing platform with a breathtaking view from 200 feet above Lake Michigan. **Leland** provides year-round grocery shopping, shops, food establishments, harbor and marina, and a public beach, and hosts the **Manitou Island Transit** that

PIERCE STOCKING SCENIC DRIVE



provides services to North and South Manitou Islands that are part of **Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore**. Visit **Fishtown**, a historic, working fishing village with weathered fishing shanties, smokehouses, overhanging docks, fish tugs, and charter boats along the Leland River. Today's visitor can experience one of the few remaining commercial fishing complexes on the Great Lakes where the historic shanties are now shops and galleries.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Located in Leelanau and Benzie counties along M-22 and M-109, the **Lakeshore** is the place to visit and climb the spectacular 450-foot tall sand dunes, Lake Michigan beaches, forests, inland lakes, historic farmsteads, trails camping, and a historic maritime village. Go for a bicycle ride, hike, snowshoe, or cross-country ski on the **Lakeshore's Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail**. The trail is paved from County Road 669 to Empire, connecting many park attractions and communities.

Glen Arbor Township

Glen Arbor Township is set amidst the **Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore**, where you can discover the **Port Oneida Rural Historic District**, a large collection of 19th century farms that dotted the agricultural landscape with fields and farmhouses that is much the same as it was then. West on M-109, there is the **D.H. Day Campground** that provides campsites and access to Lake Michigan. The **Glen Haven Historic District** is a former company town with Lake Michigan access that supplied fuel to steamers along the Great Lakes. The area eventually diversified into farming, canning of fruit, and tourism and now includes a general store, a museum of historic boats, a restored 1920s blacksmith shop with demonstrations, Lake Michigan beach area, trails, and the **Sleeping Bear Lifesaving Station and Maritime Museum**. South on M-109, visit the **Dune Climb**, where you can hike up the dune for a beautiful view of Glen Lake and then run back down!



Empire Township and Village of Empire

Home to three of the most scenic Lake Michigan overlooks in the Lakeshore: the 7-mile **Pierce Stocking Drive**, **Empire Bluff Trail**, and the **Treat Farm Trail**. The village of Empire hosts the Leelanau Conservancy's **Chippewa Run Natural Area** that features 112 acres of four ecosystems, 1.3 miles of trails, and ponds for birdwatching, hiking, and snowshoeing. Visit the **Empire Area Museum Complex**, comprised of numerous exhibits among five buildings recounting the history of Empire. On Empire's main street there are shops and food establishments.

In Benzie County, you can visit these points of interest in the **Lakeshore** continuing south on M-22: **Esch Road Beach**, **Platte River Campground** near the Platte River and Lake Michigan, and **Old Indian Trail** for hiking, snowshoeing, or cross-country skiing that leads to a view of Lake Michigan.

Point Betsie Lighthouse

Built in 1858, the lighthouse is still serving as an active navigation aid at the southern nautical entrance to the Manitou Passage on Lake Michigan. It is open to the public from the end of May through October.



Frankfort/Elberta Area

M-22 skirts the business district of the city of Frankfort, but a short drive from M-22 on Main Street brings you to where the shops, restaurants and movie theater are located. A beautiful public beach is at the end of Main Street, where beachgoers and lake lovers can rest and relax, and where people may be kite boarding, stand-up paddle boarding, kayaking, or just playing in the sand and water. The **Betsie Valley Trail** starts here and continues through Elberta, then east to the south shore of Crystal Lake, and ends in Thompsonville. The village of Elberta is host to restaurants, beaches, and marina. In 1892, the Ann Arbor Ferry began transporting visitors across Lake Michigan from Kewaunee, Wisconsin. Heading south, you can visit the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy's nature preserves, 242-acre **Green Point Dunes Nature Preserve**, and the 176-acre **Fruithaven Nature Preserve**.

CRYSTAL LAKE



M-22 Byway

of Portage Point Road off M-22 that is a community park and natural resource area on Lake Michigan, with a beach, restrooms, gazebo, and access to the Portage Lake channel pier for fishing, walking, and watching sunsets.

Manistee Township

Manistee Township is the southern gateway to the M-22 Byway at the intersection of US-31 and M-22 and is home base to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. As you travel north, M-22 (Orchard Highway) takes you through farms and orchards. Visit **Orchard Beach State Park** off M-22 on Lake Shore Road on Lake Michigan.



FRANKFORT LIGHTHOUSE

Arcadia

The last stop in Benzie County is the most magnificent view on M-22, the Arcadia Overlook (Inspiration Point). Visitors, as well as locals, enjoy one of the highest points in the area. M-22 then takes you through the conservancy's 3,600 acre **Arcadia Dunes Nature Preserve** for year-round outdoor activities. Then, on to the town of Arcadia where you can access Lake Michigan and visit the 273-acre **Arcadia Marsh Nature Preserve** for hiking and major birdwatching.

Onkama Village and Onkama Township "The Two Lake Town"

The village and township are home to **Portage Lake** and **Lake Michigan**, offering a wide range of year-round outdoor activities such as beach access and boating on both lakes, concerts in the park, fishing, food, and lodging. Visit **Captain John Langland Park** at the end

SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE



PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: Starting at the northwest boundary of Traverse City at M-72, the byway heads north on the Leelanau Peninsula up and around the peninsula to the west side. The byway includes the M-204 west connector from Suttons Bay and M-109 west from Glen Arbor; then south through Benzie and Manistee counties to the US-31 intersection.



GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Accommodations around the area include motels, resorts, B Bs, cottage and cabin rentals, campgrounds, and RV parks. Local fare is available along the byway from farmers markets to fine dining.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: Old Mission Peninsula

LOCAL RESOURCES:

M-22 Pure Michigan Byway
www.m22byway.org

Leelanau Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
www.leelanauchamber.com/

Benzie Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau
www.visitbenzie.com

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
www.nps.gov/slbe

Manistee Visitors Bureau
www.visitmanisteecounty.com



DRIVING DISTANCE 116 MILES

DRIVE TIME 3.5 HOURS

PLAN TO SPEND 3-7 DAYS

BEST SEASONS YEAR-ROUND

TOP ADVENTURES ALL see table of contents



Old Mission Peninsula

Utting out into Lake Michigan's Grand Traverse Bay, M-37 is the peninsula's main route, running a northerly course between beautiful scenery from rising bluffs, vineyards, orchards, and farms.

The Old Mission Peninsula divides Grand Traverse Bay and has a long history, starting with the Ottawa and Chippewa tribes. In 1839, Rev. Peter Dougherty established a mission for those tribes. The first public road in Grand Traverse County was built in 1853 by volunteers, stretching from Traverse City to the village of Old Mission. Europeans discovered that this "finger of land" along the 45th parallel was ideal for growing fruit. In 1935, the road was designated "Queen's Highway" in honor of the annual cherry blossom celebration's elected queen.

The byway is entirely within Peninsula Township, where you'll find amazing views of Lake Michigan, orchards, vineyards, farm fields, rolling hills, parks, trails, and a lighthouse. There are many **value-added agricultural destinations**, such as wineries, bed and breakfasts,

u-pick farms, and farm stands, just off the byway to the east or west on county roads. Many wineries offer spectacular views of east and west Grand Traverse Bay/Lake Michigan and farm stands provide seasonal fruit, such as cherries, blueberries, peaches, apples, etc., and fruit products. Peninsula Township was the first local government in the state of Michigan implement a voter-approved "Purchase of Development Rights" program to preserve the orchards, farmlands and scenic view areas from development.

US-31 to Bowers Harbor Road

The southern section of the byway is more residential, with many year-round and seasonal homes and clustered residential developments. Two miles north of Traverse City's busy US-31 corridor is the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy's 62-acre **Pelizzari Natural Area**, which was once the Pelizzari family farm. Its location amidst relatively dense development makes it a backyard park for many, as well as a destination worth traveling to. There are nearly 3 miles of trail that meanders through wide-open fields, former orchards, quiet upland forests, and cool lowlands with giant hemlocks, and are suitable for hikers, skiers, and snowshoers. Visitors are likely to encounter several bird species. The upland hardwood forest is dazzling in autumn.

Further north, the **East Grand Traverse Bay Boat Access Site** provides launching of pleasure and fishing boats, canoes and kayaks into East Grand Traverse Bay. **Archie Roadside Township Park** provides bicyclists a parking lot and staging area for tours of the Old Mission Peninsula, with access to Grand Traverse Bay. Further north, visitors can pull off at the **Center Road Scenic Overlook** to take in the spectacular view of east and west Grand Traverse Bay and take pictures.

Just off the byway on Bowers Harbor Road is **Bowers Harbor Park**, a major township park with access to natural and recreational resources that includes tennis and volleyball courts, baseball, softball and soccer fields, playgrounds, picnicking amenities (such as pavilions, grills, and tables), a restroom, and nonmotorized trails. North of Bowers Harbor Park on Peninsula Drive is the conservancy's 159-acre **Pyatt Lake Nature Preserve**, one of the last remaining examples of a "wooded dune and swale complex" habitat in northern Michigan. The pristine landscape and unique habitat mosaic make it a haven for more than 250 plant species. In the spring, lady slipper orchids and trillium carpet the ground. Migrating waterfowl use the lake as a resting place, while warblers, winter wrens, woodpeckers, and owls all flourish in the maturing forest. With its geological and botanical features and abundant wildlife, Pyatt Lake is a must see.



PELIZZARI NATURAL AREA

**Bowers Harbor Road
to Old Mission Road**



Returning to the byway, head north through the less populated section that has many farm fields, vineyards, and cherry, peaches and apple orchards, including a lavender farm. The small unincorporated village of **Mapleton** on the byway hosts a market, gasoline services, and a food establishment. Visitors can take Old Mission Road to the east to the historical village of Old Mission. The **Old Mission General Store** has been in operation since the mid-1800s, where you can step back in time and enjoy penny candy, purchase lunch, dinner,

and picnic fare, jumbo cookies, and a pickle on a stick, or browse the antiques. Few places in the region are as evocative and historically significant as the 1842 **Dougherty Mission House**, which was the first permanent European settlement with the oldest post-and-beam frame house in the area. When Rev. Dougherty moved across Grand Traverse Bay to Omena in 1852, this area became known as “Old Mission.” The **Old Mission Inn**, built in 1869 and formerly known as Hedden Hall, is northern Michigan’s oldest, continually operating historic hotel, now operating as a bed and breakfast. **Haserot Beach Township Park** located at Old Mission Harbor is the only improved public beach access on the Old Mission Peninsula. Facilities include a boat launch, swimming area, playground equipment, restroom, parking, and a basketball court.

**Old Mission Road
to Old Mission Point**

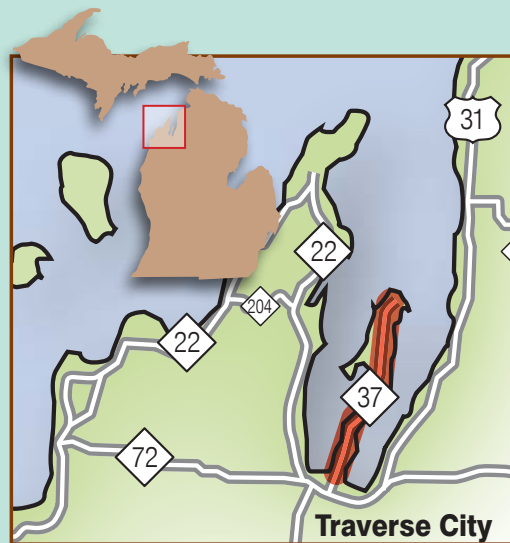
At the north end of the byway and at the end of the Old Mission Peninsula is the **Mission Point Lighthouse Park** on the 45th parallel, owned by Peninsula Township. During the 1860s, a large ship hit a shallow reef and sank just in front of where **Mission Point Lighthouse** now sits. A lighthouse was then built and completed in 1870. From 1870 through 1933, Mission Point’s light kept the waters at the end of Old Mission Peninsula safe for mariners. It was in 1933 that the lighthouse was de-commissioned and later replaced with

an automatic buoy light just offshore. The lighthouse is open seasonally for public self-guided tours that offer visitors a peek into what life was like around the turn of the century for lighthouse keepers and for others who lived and worked in the area at the time. This lighthouse is on the National and State Historic Register. Peek into the historic **Hesler Log House**, a rare surviving log house dating from the early settlement of the Old Mission Peninsula. Built in 1856, the house is made of hand-hewn pine and hemlock from the eastern shore of the southern portion of the peninsula. This house typifies the first

shelters built by early pioneers. When the house was threatened with demolition, citizens rallied to save it and moved it to the Old Mission Lighthouse Park, where it was then restored. It is on the Michigan History Center’s historical markers list.

Surrounding the lighthouse on three sides are thickly wooded trails that are open year-round for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and birdwatching. Visitors can also stroll the beach and utilize the picnic area.

OLD MISSION GENERAL STORE



PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: The route begins at the northern edge of Traverse City and travels north the length of Old Mission Peninsula. There are views of both the east and west arms of Grand Traverse Bay through the rolling hills, orchards and vineyards.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: B&Bs and cottages are located along the byway and other locations on the peninsula. Local fare from farm stands to fine dining are located on and near the byway. The Traverse City area offers an array of options, including hotels, motels, resorts, and camping, with a full range of dining options.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: M-22 Byway, M-119 Tunnel of Trees

LOCAL RESOURCES: Wineries of Old Mission Peninsula www.ompwinetrail.com
Traverse City Tourism www.traversacity.com

DRIVING DISTANCE	18 MILES
DRIVE TIME	1 HOUR
PLAN TO SPEND	3-5 DAYS
BEST SEASONS	YEAR-ROUND
TOP ADVENTURES	



Tunnel of Trees

This centuries-old route follows the Lake Michigan shoreline from Harbor Springs to Cross Village. Its canopy of trees and natural beauty can be enjoyed from season to season.

Native people (Odawa) following wild-life trails created footpaths on the land and followed the winding bluffs overlooking Lake Michigan between Harbor Springs and Cross Village. The area was called Waganakising, which means “it is bent.” When the French voyagers arrived, they gave it the name L’Arbre Croche because of a large crooked tree that stood on the crest of the bluff that was visible for many miles. This was used as a landmark to those traveling by canoe on Lake Michigan. Native American camps were first established all along the Lake Michigan shoreline at various points, including Harbor Springs, Seven Mile Point, Middle Village (Good Hart), and Cross Village.

Following the voyagers, fur traders, missionaries, loggers, and civil war land grantees came to the area. After the immense virgin hardwood forests were lost to logging and the subsequent decline of that industry, the advent of rail and passenger steamers brought tourists to this area as early as the 1880s. In 1936, Mrs. C.F. (Alice) Irwin, via her statewide newspaper column, initiated a grassroots effort to protect and preserve the M-119 corridor. Several hundred people met to consider protecting the corridor as opposed to other plans being entertained that would have modified the road to accommodate growing usage. Mrs. Irwin successfully petitioned the Michigan

Legislature to protect and preserve the road in its natural state. Local residents continue to work to protect and preserve the trees, scenic beauty, history, and culture of this magnificent corridor. To this day, the road still does not have shoulders or a centerline.

The byway is predominately private, featuring year-round and seasonal homes and tracts of land, with no incorporated villages. Along the byway there are nature preserves, historical sites, farms, a value-added agricultural farm destination, small businesses, and food establishments. Look for the historical signs that have been placed along the byway to learn about the area. Visitors will observe the steep Lake Michigan bluffs with some richly forested gorges below M-119. Odawa history tells that these gorges were created by “the fighting between the sky and water spirits.”

Harbor Springs to Middle Village

Located north of Harbor Springs about 3.5 miles turning off M-119 to Lower Shore Drive is the Little Traverse Conservancy’s 30-acre **Thorne Swift Nature Preserve**. Open seasonally, it is a mix of upland dunes, cedar swamp, and Lake Michigan shoreline. There is a total of 1.5 miles of trail, a dune observation platform, pond observation platform, gazebo, amphitheater,

and seasonal guided programs that all make this an excellent family destination. The **Elizabeth Kennedy Nature Center** is filled with educational displays about plant and animal life found at the preserve and at the neighboring **Weimer’s Lake Nature Preserve**.

Next is the **Five Mile Creek School**, built in 1880. The schoolhouse has been preserved by the Five Mile Creek Community Association after closing in 1950. The brick structure is an excellent example of a one-room school. North of the school, the landscape opens up for a spectacular scenic view from the 900-foot bluffs above the Lake Michigan shore.

The byway makes a sharp turn to the left and heads to the Lake Michigan coast, where the next few miles of the road follow close to the Lake Michigan shoreline bluff. Travelers can stop and visit the conservancy’s 100-acre **Hoogland Family Nature Preserve**, where the land is flat on the west side but rises to rolling ridges to the east. In late spring, the woods are dotted with trillium, trout lily, and spring beauty. The preserve has a 1.5 loop trail. Then heading north from the preserve, there is one sharp turn along the byway, the historical site of **Devil’s Elbow**.

Middle Village to Good Hart

East of the byway are two conservancy nature preserves. The 685-acre **Goodhart Farms Nature Preserve** on Robinson Road is a mix of meadows, hay fields, and a maple, beech, and ash forest with old orchards and pine plantations, and rolling scenic fields that offer views of Lake Michigan. There are 6.5 miles of marked trails with 3.5 miles groomed in winter that are ideal for hiking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. The 220-acre **Elmer Johnson Nature Preserve** on Church Road is a mix of meadowlands and rolling hardwood forest dominated by beech, sugar maple, and red oak. There are 2 miles of trails with hilltops that offer magnificent views of Lake Michigan and Beaver Island.

The area now known as Good Hart was also called **Middle Village** after its location halfway between Harbor Springs and Cross Village. This area is also home to the first Jesuit mission, set in 1741. **St. Ignatius Church** was later built in the same vicinity as the mission in 1833 and is located west of the byway on Lamkin Road. The present building was built in 1889 with the tall steeple. There is a pathway that leads to the **Middle Village Beach**, a popular spot for swimming in Lake Michigan. The **Good Hart General Store**, built in 1934, was a general grocery, butchery, and gas station and is still in operation as a general store that hosts the post office. It has many of the original features still intact.

About 4 miles north of Good Hart is the **Area of the Old Council Tree**, which was in close proximity to the byway. In this area, beneath a large tree, tribal chiefs of the Menominee, Ojibwe (Chippewa), and Odawa held many councils in the late 1700s. The tree was also used as a navigational tool during seasonal migrations.

Good Hart to Cross Village

Stop by the conservancy's 62-acre **Woolam Family Nature Preserve** that has Lake Michigan frontage with mature beech-maple hardwoods near the byway to mixed upland conifers near the water. The half-mile trail takes you through the hilly woods to the Lake Michigan shoreline.

The byway ends at Cross Village, which sits high on a bluff overlooking Lake Michigan. The first known settlers of Cross Village were members of the Odawa Tribe, who picked the area near Cross Village because of its suitable terrain to grow corn. They established a small village in the late seventeenth century and called the settlement Waganakisi. The first Europeans to arrive in Cross Village were French Jesuit missionaries, who set up a mission in the early eighteenth century and likely placed a white cross on the bluff, as was their custom. Later, Cross Village was known for its lumber and commercial fishing.

The Conservancy's 0.4-acre **Shurtleff Preserve** is located on the bluff between the byway and Lower Shore Drive and provides magnificent views of Lake Michigan. Visit the **L'Arbre Croche Museum**, which features information beginning with the Odawa through present day. There are separate rooms dedicated to the Native Americans and the lumber industry with artifacts and displays showcasing the rich history of the village over the past several

hundred years. There is also a research room containing many books on the village. **Legs Inn** restaurant was built in 1921 and was named for the stove legs that adorn the roofline of the unusual and artistic structure. This Michigan Historical Site sits on the bluff overlooking Lake Michigan and is known for its unique atmosphere and authentic Polish cuisine. The 9-acre **Port of Cross Village Park** on Lake Michigan provides beach access, a boat launch and picnic tables.



LEGS INN



PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: The route begins in Harbor Springs and follows northern Emmet County's Lake Michigan shore, traveling through the village of Good Hart and ending at Cross Village.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Food establishments are available in Harbor Springs, Good Hart, and Cross Village. Cottage, cabin rentals, resorts, hotels, motels, and B&B lodging are available in the Harbor Springs and Petoskey areas.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: Sunrise Coast, US-2 Top of the Lake Scenic Byway, North Huron Recreational Trail

LOCAL RESOURCES:

M-119 Tunnel of Trees


www.m119tunneloftrees.org/

Harbor Springs Chamber of Commerce

www.harborspringschamber.com

Emmett County

www.emmettcounty.org

DRIVING DISTANCE	20.5 MILES
DRIVE TIME	1 HOUR
PLAN TO SPEND	3-5 DAYS
BEST SEASONS	YEAR-ROUND
TOP ADVENTURES	



Tahquamenon

A 63-mile journey through Michigan's eastern Upper Peninsula, the Tahquamenon region is a vast untamed land, but the wind in the ancient forest sings a song of welcome to all who enter.

For generations, native peoples have called the Tahquamenon region home. Follow the byway from the mouth of the mighty Tahquamenon River near Paradise into the abundant interior and know you're following in the footsteps and paddle strokes of a proud people. This is a land still rich in raw materials, fish, game, berries, birch, balsam and more, of lives lived close to the land. Discover the heritage of the region's first inhabitants as you travel, and know that, while change is inevitable, a respect for the land, its seasons and power remain as constant as the Tahquamenon's deep, slow push toward Lake Superior.

Eckerman Pond

The perfect picnic spot, this charming site, abundant with marsh marigolds in the spring and cool breezes all summer long, invites visitors to stay and sit for awhile or explore the pond and its many tributaries that once served as a fish rearing site. You may be intrigued enough to grab your paddle and explore; it's a paddler's paradise with launch access available for car-top boats and canoes only. Bring your tackle and try some trout fishing. Restrooms are on site.

Tahquamenon Rivermouth

Where the Tahquamenon River meets majestic Whitefish Bay, nature has formed a sanctuary. This sanctuary is

home to amazing plants and animals, with miles of sandy shorelines. Paddle through the river and its tributaries, explore the hidden coves of nearby **Marsh Island**, hike **Emerson Trail** and listen for songbirds, try your luck fishing the river, or simply kick back and relax. Part of the **Tahquamenon Falls State Park** system, the Rivermouth unit has 136 modern and rustic campsites.

Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum

Become fully submerged in the eerie history surrounding the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes are the resting grounds to roughly 6,000 shipwrecks, all with a story to tell. The museum's extremely well thought out exhibits and use of lights, music and information sets the scene for a full experience



GREAT LAKES SHIPWRECK MUSEUM

of the dark and unknown world of Great Lakes shipwrecks. With shipwreck artifacts, models of sunken ships, a 12-foot lighthouse lens, and more, you'll always find something new on a tour through the museum. In addition to the shipwreck exhibits, the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum has restored the **Whitefish Point Light Station** to mint, 1920s condition.

Whitefish Point Bird Observatory

With a mission to document the distribution and migration of the abundance of birds throughout the Great Lakes region, the **Whitefish Point Bird Observatory** exists because of the natural corridor created where the Upper Peninsula separates Lake Superior and Whitefish Bay. If you are an experienced bird watcher or you just want to be amazed, the observatory is a definite stop. With miles of beaches and trails, there is plenty to do in the Whitefish Bay region. For a view to overlook the Point, make sure you hike **Hawk Dune**. Whichever season you visit, the observatory will have something to offer, but spring and fall migration paths bring tens of thousands of birds.

Tahquamenon Falls

Located in an aged, pristine Michigan forest, **Tahquamenon Falls** is a gem of the Upper Peninsula. The third-tallest waterfall east of the Mississippi, the upper falls captivates all of its onlookers. With a roughly 50-foot drop and spanning 200 feet across, the fall allows the dark, tannin-colored water to be seen. As you walk along paved trails and boardwalks guiding you through the largest stand of old growth trees in Michigan, look up and admire some of the 300 species of birds the forest supports. Everything existing in harmony, Tahquamenon Falls is home to a unique Michigan ecosystem, nurtured by Lake Superior. With excitement waiting at every stop, a day at Tahquamenon is more than an adventure, it's a memory.

The lower portion of Tahquamenon Falls is comprised of a beautiful, smaller set of cascading falls. Inviting viewers to venture to the island to get up close, the Lower Tahquamenon Falls also offer some of the best fishing, from northern pike and muskies to walleye and brown trout. In the morning, bald

eagles have been known to fish the waters around the lower falls.

Newberry

The **Tahquamenon Logging Museum and Nature Study** hosts a wide variety of things to do. The original buildings and artifacts of the lumbering past will take you back to an important and historical time in America and the Upper Peninsula. Exhibits showcasing the lumberjack lifestyle, you will feel connected to the rich heritage found here. After the museum, make your way to the nature trail and take the boardwalk over a swamp, through the forest and find the mighty **Tahquamenon River**.

Constructed in 1894, the **Luce County Historical Museum** initially served Luce County as the jail and sheriff's residence. Close to demolition, the Luce County Historical Society rescued the building in 1975. The building itself will transport you to past eras and the history inside highlights every facet of life, from early Michigan home life to international wonders. Both a State and National Historic Site, the museum has history in its bricks and plenty to offer.

Hamilton Lake Nature Area

The unexpected beauty found at Hamilton Lake Nature Area makes a lasting impression. Walk the trail, wander in nature, and carefully look for lady slippers in bloom, Michigan wildlife and other treasures along the hiking trail that wind around this calm, scenic lake.



LUCE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



DRIVING DISTANCE 63 MILES

DRIVE TIME 1.5 HOURS

PLAN TO SPEND 2 DAYS

BEST SEASONS YEAR-ROUND

TOP ADVENTURES

9

PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: The byway has start and end points at the M-28/M-123 intersections in Newberry and Eckerman.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Gas, lodging, and food are available in Paradise and Newberry. The Tahquamenon Brewery and Pub is located inside the Tahquamenon Falls State Park as well as the State Park campground. Additional campgrounds and RV parks are located along the byway.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: Whitefish Bay National Forest, North Huron Recreation Trail.

LOCAL RESOURCES:

Paradise Area Chamber of Commerce
www.paradisemichigan.org

Newberry Chamber of Commerce
www.newberrychamber.net

Tahquamenon Falls State Park
www.Michigan.gov/DNR/Places/V-Centers/Tahquamenon



US-2 Top of the Lake Scenic Byway

For 92 miles, US-2 follows the picturesque shoreline of Lake Michigan's northern edge.

Just across the mighty Mackinac Bridge sits the historic town of St. Ignace, the jumping off point for a ferry to timeless Mackinac Island and the beginning of the Top of the Lake. Follow the byway from downtown St. Ignace all the way west through Manistique to Thompson and you'll traverse the northernmost points on Lake Michigan. Built on the traces of an ancient Native American trade route, US-2 winds along tall bluffs and then dives down to skirt miles of deserted beaches. Along the way, explore quaint villages like Brevort, Epoufette, Naubinway, Gould City, and Gulliver; scenic roadside turnouts; state and federal campgrounds; and

recreation opportunities for all seasons. Slow down, pull over and take in the view from the top.

St. Ignace

The gateway to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, St. Ignace welcomes every traveler crossing the Mackinac Bridge. The people of St. Ignace have a celebrated history of hospitality, which you'll find in the shops, restaurants and hotels of the community. See and hear the story of our ancestors on display at a variety of local museums and landmarks. From high atop **Castle Rock** to the shores of **Lake Huron and Lake Michigan**, St. Ignace's landscape tells a story of the state that you won't discover anywhere else.

The Dunes

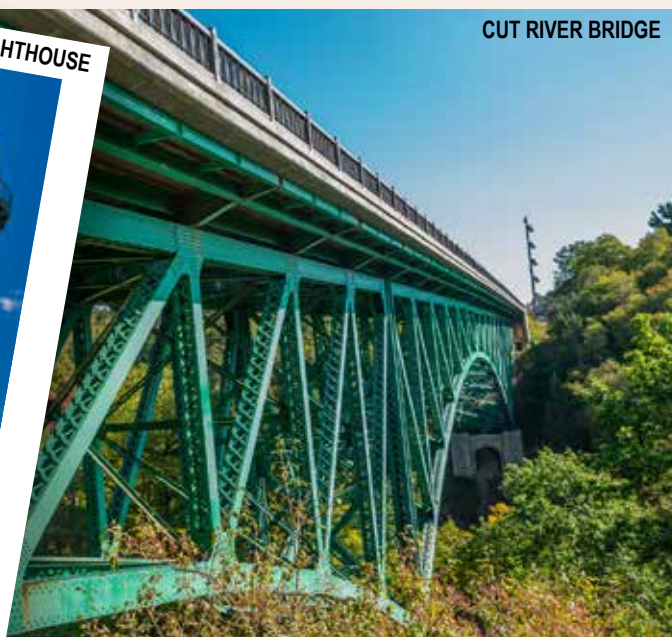
The sandy waterfront west of St. Ignace, commonly known as the "Dunes," is largely open to the public. Where the roadway parallels the shore, it's a perfect place to pull over for a dip in Lake Michigan. The **Brevort River** crosses the highway about midway through this stretch, and camping opportunities abound between the dunes and **Brevort Lake**.

Cut River Bridge

Among Michigan's largest and most well-known historic bridges is the iconic **Heath Robinson Memorial Cut River Bridge**, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A scenic area attraction – especially during the fall color season – the bridge is the setting for a roadside park and a series of walking nature trails that take you to the bottom of the gorge and along the river to its mouth. Stairways take pedestrians under the bridge for views of the massive supporting trusses.

Black River

Stop at the **Mouth of the Black River** – a favorite local fishing spot. Or take a side trip a bit north on Black River Road to pitch your tent or park the RV at the **Black River State Forest Campground**, with 12 rustic sites.





US-2 LAKE MICHIGAN

Naubinway, Engadine, and Gould City

Just 7 miles apart, the villages of **Naubinway** and **Engadine** are great places to stop to fuel up both the car and the family. There are several little diners and a welcoming atmosphere at both stops. Naubinway’s harbor and marina offer access to Lake Michigan along with scenic vistas. While in Naubinway, take the family to see a unique collection of antique, vintage and classic snowmobiles at the **Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum**. A large and growing collection of historic sleds draws visitors from all over the country and beyond. **Engadine** is 1 mile north of the byway. Just west of Engadine and 4 miles south visit **Big Knob State Forest Campground** to stroll nature trails or climb the stairway to the top of Big Knob for views of Lake Michigan and nearby communities. Just south of Gould City, another small community, check out **Scotts Point Park**, with water access. There are pavilions, swings, restrooms, and free rustic campsites. Closer to the byway, Gould City’s **Old School Park** features a playground, restrooms, and grills.

Curtis

As the local slogan says, “It Won’t Hurt Us To Go To Curtis!” Head 10 miles north of the byway to the **Manistique Lakes** area and enjoy restaurants, public access to smaller lakes, shops and ice cream. The **Curtis Historical Society Museum** houses artifacts from early logging and settlers and is open most afternoons. Enjoy the art and maybe catch a performance at the **Erickson Center for the Arts**.

Gulliver/Seul Choix Lighthouse

With resorts, restaurants and easy water access to good fishing on **Gulliver Lake**, **McDonald Lake**, and **Lake Michigan**, Gulliver offers a quintessential up-north experience. **Doyle Township Park** on Gulliver Lake offers swimming, a playground, and picnic sites. The **Seul Choix Lighthouse** boasts beautiful grounds and views, a gift shop, a library, and a museum that’s open for the summer season. The brick-towered Seul Choix (pronounced sis-shwa) light marks a small Lake Michigan harbor. The name means “only choice.” For Native Americans and French fur traders paddling their canoes across 60 miles of



SNOWMOBILE MUSEUM

rough water toward the Straits of Mackinac, it was the last harbor of refuge.

Manistique

Cultural, historic, and recreational opportunities abound in and around the City of Manistique. Stroll on the **Manistique boardwalk** to watch the sunrise or go back in time to the once-bustling iron smelting company town – now a museum village – at **Fayette Historic State Park**. A side trip on M-149 north of the byway takes you to **Indian Lake State Park** and **Kitchi-Iti-Kipi (The Big Spring)** at

Palms Book State Park, where you can raft out to gaze down into the largest spring in Michigan – 40 feet deep with more than 10,000 gallons of crystalline water gushing each minute. Continue your trip and follow the **Top of the Lake Circle Tour** to view the **Seney National Wildlife Refuge** and other area attractions.



PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: The route starts in St. Ignace and ends in Manistique.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Gas and dining options are available in St. Ignace, Naubinway, Engadine, Gould City and Manistique. Accommodations range from chain and local hotels/motels to campgrounds and RV parks along the byway.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: Tahquamenon, North Huron Scenic Byway, Whitefish Bay National Forest.

LOCAL RESOURCES:

St. Ignace Visitor’s Bureau
www.stignace.com

Top of the Lake Communities Association
www.topofthelake.org

DRIVING DISTANCE	92 MILES
DRIVE TIME	1.5 HOURS
PLAN TO SPEND	2 DAYS
BEST SEASONS	YEAR-ROUND
TOP ADVENTURES	

Top of the Lake Snowmobile Museum
www.snowmobilemuseum.com

Curtis Area Chamber of Commerce
www.curtischamber.com

Manistique Tourism Council
www.visitmanistique.com



LAKE HURON BEACH, OSCODA



Sunrise Coast

Sparkling lakes, majestic Lake Huron, mysterious shipwrecks, historic lighthouses, pristine beaches... treasures to be found along Michigan's 200-mile Sunrise Coast.

The Lake Huron Shores Good Roads Association was formed in 1913 to finish the Huron Shores Highway, now US-23, that linked Bay City and Mackinaw City. A promotional effort enlisted local people, businesses, and donations to construct this rural route. By June 20, 1913 a nationally acclaimed through-route had been completed. All along it are scenic views of Lake Huron, 6,000 miles of crystal clear rivers and streams, and more than 3,000 water bodies await travelers along the Sunrise Coast (US-23). Begin your journey at a historic train depot in Standish and wind your way up the Lake Huron coast to the majestic Mackinac Bridge at the Straits of Mackinac, where the sparkling blue-green waters of Lake Huron and Lake Michigan flow together. Gems nestled along the

Sunrise Coast include 16 lighthouses, hundreds of miles of hiking, biking, skiing, horseback riding, and motor trails, unique museums, true up north small towns, cottages, live performances, wine tasting, and fine dining.

The adventures continue beyond the coast. Connecting to US-23 byway in Oscoda is the **River Road National Scenic Byway**, which winds along the mighty AuSable River through the Huron National Forest. (For more information on the River Road Byway, see page 12.) Coastal and inland discoveries await, so get back to the water on the Sunrise Coast.



STANDISH HISTORIC TRAIN DEPOT

Standish and Au Gres

Begin your journey in Standish at the historic train depot on the corner of US-23 and M-61. The Standish/Au Gres area offers many opportunities for outdoor fun at the numerous campgrounds and canoe liveries in the area. The Rifle River travels through downtown Omer on its way to Lake Huron and is one of the fastest, most popular trout streams in the Lower Peninsula. Fishing, birding and wildlife watching opportunities abound around Saginaw Bay. From historical schoolhouses and family-friendly parks to the faster-paced excitement at the **Saganing Eagles Landing Casino** southeast of Standish and Au Gres. It's a perfect start to your Sunrise Coast adventure.



PRESQUE ISLE LIGHTHOUSE

Tawas Bay

Continue north on the byway to Tawas Bay and follow the signs to the end of Tawas Point, the “Cape Cod of the Midwest.” The current **Tawas Point Light** dates to 1876, replacing an earlier lighthouse. Tawas Point is a mecca for birders and is recognized as one of the Midwest’s premier birding destinations. Near the turnoff for Tawas Point is the Newman Street shopping area, a quaint downtown filled with shops and eateries. For birders who want to go off the beaten path, follow the brochures to the **Tuttle Marsh National Wildlife Area**, a 400-acre impoundment surrounded by 5,000 acres of wetlands.

AuSable and Oscoda

North of Tawas Bay are nestled the communities of AuSable and Oscoda, where sugar sand beaches abound. Turn left in Oscoda onto River Road to experience the **River Road National Scenic Byway**, which follows alongside the mighty AuSable River. Follow the signs to visit the National Forest attractions along the route, including majestic scenic overlooks, trails, and steep sand dunes sloping down to the river. Don’t miss **Lumberman’s Monument**, with 260 steps down to the river where you can board a wanigan (replica of a floating cook shack).

Harrisville

Keep heading north and experience the outdoor adventures in the Harrisville area. **Harrisville State Park** offers pristine beaches with Negwegon State Park boats trails, a Michigan Dark Sky Preserve, boast trails, Native American history, and backcountry camping. Nestled between the two is **Sturgeon Point Lighthouse**, where the keeper’s house and tower are open to the public. Alongside the light sits **Old Bailey School**, a one room schoolhouse open for tours. Travel west of Harrisville on M-72 into the Huron National Forest to access **Reid Lake Quiet Area**, a 3,000-acre backcountry experience with 12 miles of foot trails and **Hoist Lakes Foot Travel Area**, which contains more than 10,000 acres of forestland and more than 20 miles of foot trails.

Alpena and Thunder Bay

Keep heading north into Alpena and the area known as Thunder Bay. The **Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary** protects more than 200 shipwrecks lying in what is known as “Shipwreck Alley.” During the last two centuries, large vessel shipping began passing Thunder Bay on their way to outposts at Mackinaw, Sault Ste. Marie, and Green Bay. Its location along shipping lanes and its shelter for vessels during inclement weather contributed to the vast number of shipwrecks that now lay preserved in the cold, fresh water of Thunder Bay. Visitors can view the shipwrecks by snorkeling, kayaking, or in the glass-bottomed boat that departs from the **Maritime Heritage Center** on the Thunder Bay River. Those with a more adventurous spirit can visit a local dive charter and get a close-up view of the haunting wrecks in deeper waters. Located within Alpena and Presque Isle Counties are two more Michigan Dark Sky Preserves - **Rockport State Recreation Area** and **Thompson’s Harbor State Park**.

Presque Isle

North of Alpena, US-23 travels near Long Lake and Grand Lake, two sparkling examples of inland lake gems. North of Grand Lake are two lighthouses situated close together in what is known as “Presque Isle.” The **Old Presque Isle Light** (1840), is known as a “Ghost Light” that reportedly



US-23 HERITAGE BYWAY



OCQUEOC FALLS

still shines even though the light has been removed, and the **New Presque Isle Light** (1870), the tallest lighthouse tower accessible by the public on the Great Lakes. Both towers are open to climbing. In Rogers City, divert west on M-68 to **Ocqueoc Falls**, the largest waterfall in the Lower Peninsula. Visitors can swim in the falls, so be sure to experience this refreshing side trip. Back on the byway, a bike path runs alongside US-23 north of Rogers City and connects to **Hoef State Park** and **40 Mile Point Light**, where one can view the shipwreck *Joseph S. Fay* on the beach, swim, have a picnic, and climb the 1896 light tower.



THUNDER BAY SHIPWRECK

Cheboygan

The next community on US-23 is Cheboygan, a river town that is also the intersecting point of the **North Central State Trail** and the **North Eastern State Trail**. Two rail trails more than 62-miles-long each connect the coastal area to

destinations up north. While in Cheboygan, visit the **Opera House** and the four lighthouses visible from town. A ferry also runs from Cheboygan to **Bois Blanc Island**, a forested gem consisting of trails, cottages, lakes, a general store, a tavern and fantastic views of the Straits of Mackinac. Between Cheboygan and Mackinaw City, you will encounter **Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park**, a hands-on experience in logging, with an adventure component consisting of a zip line and a forest canopy bridge.

The Straits of Mackinac

Finally, arrive in Mackinaw City at the **Straits of Mackinac** for the end of your journey. Stop at one of the many parks with views of the Straits and the **Mighty Mackinac Bridge**, the largest suspension bridge in the western hemisphere. Or visit one of many historic sites or shops in the city. Wait until dark and head out to The Headlands just west of town, an **International Dark Sky Park**, to gaze into the heavens in wonder as Mother Nature puts on a spectacular show!

PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: The route runs between Standish and Mackinaw City along the Lake Huron shore and passes through the communities of Omer, Au Gres, Tawas City/East Tawas, Oscoda/Au Sable, Harrisville, Ossineke, Alpena, Rogers City, and Cheboygan.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Accommodations range from chain and local hotels/motels, B&Bs, cottages and cabins to campgrounds and RV parks along the route. Local fare to fine dining restaurants are in most communities.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: River Road, Tunnel of Trees

LOCAL RESOURCES:

US-23 Heritage Byway
www.heritage23.com

Au Gres Chamber of Commerce
www.augresareachamberofcommerce.org

Standish Chamber of Commerce
www.standishchamber.com

Tawas Bay CVB
www.tawasbay.com

Oscoda CVB
www.oscoda.com

Alpena CVB
www.visitalpena.com

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DRIVING DISTANCE	200 MILES
DRIVE TIME	4 HOURS
PLAN TO SPEND	3-5 DAY
BEST SEASONS	YEAR-ROUND
TOP ADVENTURES	

Rogers City Area Chamber of Commerce
www.rogerscityareachamber.com

Cheboygan Area Chamber of Commerce
www.cheboygan.com

Mackinaw City Visitor's Bureau
www.mackinawcity.com

Up North Trails
www.upnorthtrails.org



I-69 Recreational

Throughout this beautiful historic region, you'll find opportunities for unlimited year-round outdoor activities with some of the finest fishing in southern Michigan.

From the Michigan/Indiana border north along I-69, this recreational byway travels through scenic countryside. Definitely the beaten path, you'll need to venture off I-69 to take in the views of rural farmsteads, natural scenes, historic and recreational sites in Branch and Calhoun counties. This area holds many opportunities for those who love the out-of-doors.

Michigan Border to Coldwater

Branch County sells more fishing licenses than any other Michigan county. It also boasts being one of the best counties for deer hunting. Its lakes are excellent for all kinds of recreational activities: fishing, boating, skiing, swimming and sunbathing. Through mostly rural farmland, 3 miles north of Michigan's southern border is Copeland Road (Exit 3). Travel east on Copeland Road 1.5 miles to the **Coldwater Lake State Park**. Still undeveloped, the park offers in-season hunting and on-shore fishing. West of the byway on Copeland Road, take a right and head north on Angola Road to Iyopawa Road, then head east to the **Iyopawa Island Golf Course**, a nice nine-hole course in the middle of Coldwater Lake. Back on the byway north, a must-stop is Michigan's **Coldwater Welcome Center**. Here, trained staff will assist with area points of interest, lodging and eateries along the byway and throughout the state.

Exit 13, Coldwater's Chicago Street, is the juncture of the **I-69 Recreational** and **US-12 Heritage Trail (#16)** byways. Native Americans shaped this area for hundreds of years and forged a trail through the wilderness. The route was later used to link Old Fort Detroit and Fort Dearborn (Chicago), and became known as the "Sauk Trail." The first white settlers came to the Coldwater area in the late 1820s.

Today, Coldwater boasts a rich history with numerous sites on the National Register of Historic Places, including several districts and a thriving downtown. One of the districts, the **East Chicago Street Historic District**, bisects historic neighborhoods and allows motorists a glimpse of what used to be. Coldwater reflects a unique balance of past and present in its architecture, landscape, and unique shopping. Downtown's **Four Corners Park**, the cultural hub of Coldwater with its Civil War Parrot Gun serves as a monument to the men of company "A" of the First Michigan Light Artillery known as Loomis' Battery. On Hanchett Street is the **Tibbits Opera House**. Built in 1882, it is one of the oldest theaters in Michigan. Tibbits offers excellent acoustics, an intimate 499-seat setting, and a variety of quality performances year-round. At Division Street and Park Avenue is the historic **Coldwater Train Depot**, home to the **Little River Railroad**. Take a ride on a

1911 steam locomotive, providing rides and themed excursions weekends through most of the year.

Find yet another outdoor activity 9 miles west of the byway on Chicago Road, the **Capri Drive-In Theater**. Opened in 1964, it's one of a handful of drive-in theaters still in operation. Open weekends spring to fall. For more information on US-12 Heritage Trail Byway, see page 41.

Branch County Lakes Aplenty

Branch County has more than 100 in-land lakes. Just north of Coldwater is the North Chain of lakes with easy access west of the byway at exits 13 and 16. The chain includes **Craig Lake** and **Morrison Lake** to the north and



COLDWATER FOUR CORNERS PARK

encompass 122 acres. Both lakes are best fished for bluegill, crappie, and largemouth bass. **Randall Lake, North Lake, and Cemetery Lake** encompass 573 acres and are best fished for bluegill. **Messenger Lake and South Lake** encompasses 54 acres and are best fished for bluegill and largemouth bass. **Rose Lake Chain**, also known as the Lake of the Woods, encompasses 335 acres, and is abundant with pike, tiger muskie and smallmouth bass. One of the longest continuous watercourses in southern Michigan, **Marble/Coldwater Chain of Lakes**, is a major tourist attraction during the summer and home to the Marble Lake Tip-Up Festival in February.

Branch County's recreational offerings include all types of outdoor activities: golfing, camping, hiking, swimming, fishing, boating, bird watching or picnicking. Take the opportunity to relax and enjoy the great outdoors at the many resorts and campgrounds.



MARSHALL RIVERWALK

Tekonsha to Marshall

Just over the county line is the small town of Tekonsha. Here, you can fuel up your vehicle or grab a bite to eat. Travel up to exit 25 (M-60) and take a quick jog west to 15 Mile Road to **Harvey's Farm**. A u-pick with fresh asparagus in May, throughout the seasons; strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, chestnuts and fall produce.

Heading north on the byway the next exit is 36. Head east to the historic town of Marshall and home to **Marshall Territorial Road Byway #18**.

A great spot for outdoor lovers is the **Marshall Riverwalk**. Beginning at Stuart's Landing Park, individuals can stroll the boardwalk below the dams on the Kalamazoo River to South Marshall

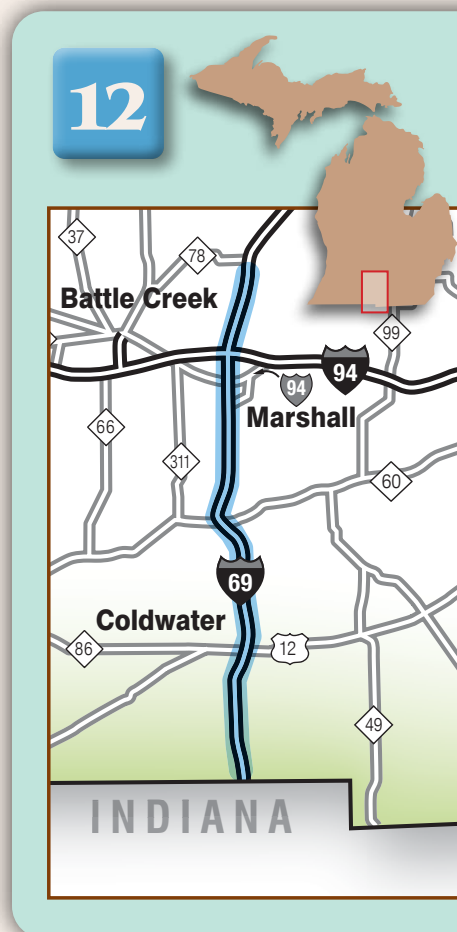
Avenue with its bridges and viewing areas. The Riverwalk continues on the west side of South Marshall Avenue with boardwalks, paved trails for biking, scenic overlooks and a pagoda. For more information on Marshall Territorial Road, see page 47.

North to Eaton County

At exit 42, N Drive North west of the byway is the **Medalist Golf Club**. You'll find a championship links-style 4.5 star course that has been exquisitely etched out of 300 acres of rolling wooded land and wetlands. Further on N Drive is **Cornwell's Turkeyville**, a destination that plays host to several events. Including community yard sales, Bike Night, craft shows, theatre and more. Their specialty is serving delicious turkey dinners, but don't miss the ice cream parlor, bakery and gift shop.

Take 15 1/2 Mile Road north to 15 Mile Road. Turn north to Michigan Audubon Society's very first sanctuary which remains one of the largest. The **Bernard W. Baker Sanctuary** was established in 1941 primarily for the protection

of Greater Sandhill Cranes and their nesting and migration-staging habitat. Access to certain areas of the sanctuary are restricted but the **Meadow and Marshland Trail** is accessible off 15 Mile Road between T Drive North and Q Drive North. The trail is excellent for hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and nature observation. Deer, turkey, fox, coyote, hawks, bald eagles, frogs, turtles, butterflies, bluebirds, and other species frequent the area surrounding the trail.



PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: The route extends from the Michigan/Indiana border north along I-69 through Branch and Calhoun counties to the Eaton County border. Access the interstate from Indiana or any of the entrance ramps along the byway from either direction.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Gas is available along the byway. Accommodations include chain and local hotels/motels, B&Bs, cottages, cabins, campgrounds and RV parks. Local fare to fine dining restaurants in Coldwater and Marshall.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: US-12 Heritage Trail, Marshall's Territorial Road

LOCAL RESOURCES:

Branch County

www.countyofbranch.com

Calhoun County

www.battlecreekvisitors.org

DRIVING DISTANCE	80 MILES
DRIVE TIME	1 HOUR
PLAN TO SPEND	1-2 WEEKS
BEST SEASONS	YEAR-ROUND
TOP ADVENTURES	



DOWNTOWN VASSAR

Pathway to Family Fun

A family-friendly alternative to I-75, taking travelers through a relaxed corridor known for its quaint towns, local parks, recreation and camping areas.

The junction with US-24 just south of Clarkston on the northwestern edge of Metro Detroit is the southern point of the byway. M-15 runs north and northwest to Bay City, joining up with M-25 at the Bay City Center Avenue Byway. Every year on the first Saturday of May, the **M-15 Yard Sale** is held from Clarkston to Vassar.

Village of Clarkston and Ortonville

Savor the history and charm of the **Village of Clarkston** with a walking tour. Learn about the city's history of homes and businesses on the National Register of Historic Places. On the east side of Clarkston is the **DTE Energy Music Theatre**, recognized as one of the most popular amphitheatres in the country. In close proximity is the **Pine Knob Golf Course**, one of the highest elevations in Oakland County that gives players amazing views. For year-round family fun, **Pine Knob Ski Resort** offers 17 runs, six chairlifts, and four tow ropes.

Heading north, the route narrows to two lanes and is dominated by rural scenic countryside and farmland. Near **Ortonville**, inland lakes dot the landscape. **Clearwater Campground** on Grass Lake offers camping, rental cabins, boating, swimming and organized events. Near the Oakland and Lapeer

county line and east of the byway is the **Ortonville State Recreation Area**. With more than 6 miles of equestrian trail, this 5,400-acre facility has a rustic campground, picnic area with restrooms, shelters, playground and swim area on Big Fish Lake. Great for hiking, fishing and hunting.

Goodrich and Davison

Goodrich and Davison are Flint suburbs that retain a small town feel. In **Goodrich**, you can grab a bite to eat, fuel up, and take in the historic structures of the **Hegel Road Historic District**. Further north is the city of **Davison**. If golf is your game, there are several courses on the outskirts of the city. Just south of the city proper, in Davison Township, is the restored historic **Kitchen School**. The school, which is open to the public, was attended by WWII Rear Admiral Thomas C. Hart in the late 1800s.

Davison's 138-acre **Abernathy Park** behind the middle school on the byway has a softball field, a skate park, a sledging hill, tennis courts, and a playscape. Its **Abernathy Park Hiking Trail** has several access points and connects to the Davison Township **Black Creek Trail**.

Genesee County Parks

Genesee County touts Michigan's largest county park system, with more than 11,000 acres of woods, rivers,

lakes, trails, beaches and campgrounds. Near the byway is **Holloway Reservoir Regional Park**, east on Stanley Road. Take advantage of **Buttercup Beach** and **Wolverine Campground** on the reservoir's north side, and the large **Walleye Pike Boat Launch** to its south. In the winter, enjoy snowmobiling or try their toboggan hill. The **Richfield County Park** has the **Goldenrod Disc Golf Course**, fun for the entire family.

Three miles west on Mt. Morris Road is the county's **Mounds ORV Park**. Bring your off-road vehicle for some great fun, or enjoy the **Genesee Recreation Area** across from the ORV park. If you want to venture a little further, 5 miles west is **Crossroads Village** on Bray Road, a collection of more than 30 relocated and preserved historic structures. Ride the **Huckleberry Railroad**, or catch a show at the **Colwell Opera House**.



Otisville, Millington and Vassar

Heading north, the byway's community and surrounding area of **Otisville** has much to offer. **Delmar Griswold Park** has a swimming beach, picnic area and bandstand, and is a great site for birding. The area's many lakes offer family camping, too. One of the more unusual is **Covenant Hills Camp**. Their RV campground/retreat has 5 miles of ORV/hiking trails and access to the lake, about a half-mile from M-15, on Farrand Road.

Millington has several well-kept older buildings and antique shops. Bikers and hikers will find the northern end of the 10.2-mile **Southern Links Trail** here, connecting the communities of Millington, Columbiaville, and Otter Lake. The trail winds through open fields, wetlands, wooded areas, and farmland coinciding with an equestrian path. Four miles northeast of Millington is the **Murphy Lake State Game Area**. Its 2,565 acres are dedicated for wildlife conservation and management by the Department of Natural Resources and can be used for a scenic drive or fishing. For those looking for a rustic camping experience, the **Arthur Latham Memorial Park Campground** sits on the western edge of the village, open from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

North on M-15, make your way to the city of **Vassar**. On the north side of the Cass River is the trailhead to the **City of Vassar Rail Trail** that runs along the river and through a park and picnic areas. **Riverside RV Park** on Cass Avenue offers a few campsites with access to the river for canoeing, kayaking or paddle boarding. Downtown has several beautifully restored historic buildings. Take in a movie at the classic **Vassar Theatre**, a single-screen Art Deco-style cinema. Six miles east of

Vassar is the **Krystal Lake Campground**, camping the way it was meant to be for the entire family on a 33-acre lake. Amenities include a heated pool, miniature golf, three playgrounds, cabins, 200 campsites and more. Nearby on Sanilac Road is **Tomkins' Orchard and Country Store**. Cherries and apples are their specialty, but you'll find plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables. A bakery and deli have all the seasonal favorites, from hand-dipped ice cream to caramel apples. Just east of the orchard is the **Vassar Golf and Country Club**, with 18 holes and is open to the public. Further north and east on Swaffer Road is the **Willow Springs Golf and Country Club**, which offers excellent golfing in a scenic rural setting.

Bavarian Side Trip

West of the byway, on Ormes Road, it's 10 miles to **Frankenmuth**, Michigan's Little Bavaria. Come prepared for a jam-packed day or weekend of fun. With more than 30 attractions, there is something to do for the young and the young at heart. Family-friendly activities include **The Adventure Park**, **Bavarian Belle Riverboat**, **Bavarian Inn Castle**

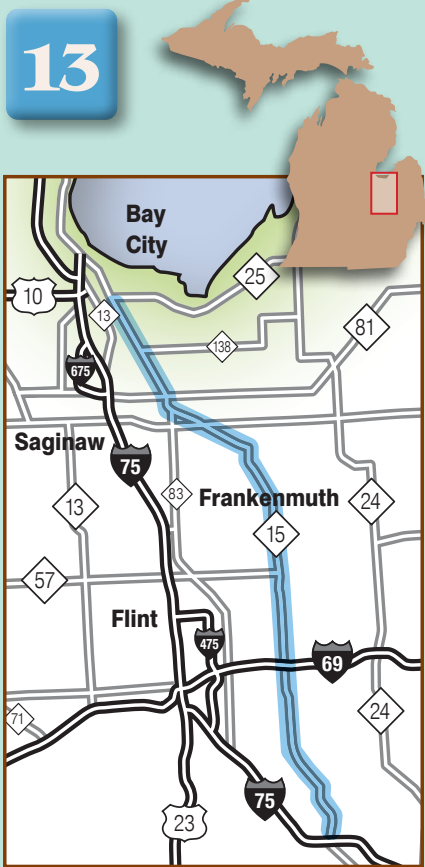
Shops, **Bronner's Christmas Wonderland**, and **Frankenmuth Historical Museum**, just to name a few. In addition to lots of fun, there are numerous options for dining and lodging.

Trails Adorn Road Less Traveled

Cross M-46 north of Richville and find the trailhead for the 10-mile **Harger Line Trail**, a biking and hiking nonmotorized trail. East of the byway is the community of Munger, home of the **National Potato Festival** for nearly 60 years.

At the Bay City/Portsmouth Township line is a byway access point to the 17.5-mile **Bay-Hampton Rail Trail** that loops through Bay City. The trail is suitable for year-round use, with striking scenery changing from woodlands and marshes to riverfront views.

Where the M-15 byway ends another begins. **Center Avenue/Bay City (#19)** byway (M-25) runs through downtown Bay City. For more information on Center Avenue/Bay City Byway, see page 48.



PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: M-15's southern point is at US-24/Dixie Highway in Clarkston. You can enter from any side street along its northbound route or its entrance ramps from I-75 or I-69

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Gas stations can be found in metropolitan areas along the byway. Camping and B&Bs, local fare and fast food are along the route. Major chain motels and hotels, as well as a full range of restaurants, can be found in and near Clarkston, Davison and Bay City.

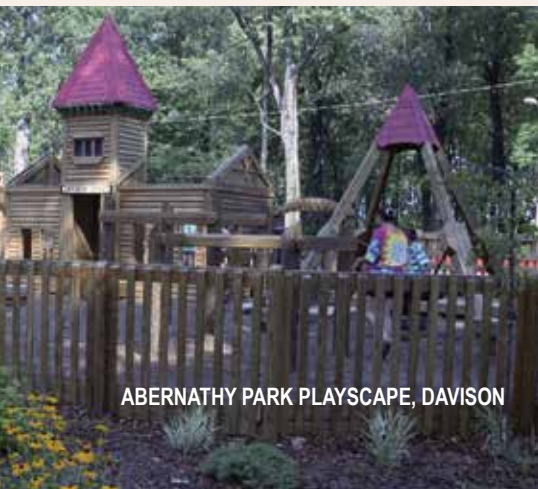
BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: Woodward Avenue, Center Avenue/Bay City

LOCAL RESOURCES:
Genesee County Parks
www.geneseecountyparks.org

Flint and Genesee Chamber of Commerce
www.flintandgenesee.org/visit/

Frankenmuth
www.frankenmuth.org

DRIVING DISTANCE	74 MILES
DRIVE TIME	2 HOURS
PLAN TO SPEND	4-5 DAYS
BEST SEASONS	YEAR-ROUND
TOP ADVENTURES	



ABERNATHY PARK PLAYScape, DAVISON



Hidden Coast

Meandering through wilderness between Menominee and Gladstone along Lake Michigan's northwestern shore, large parts of the old Native American Sault and Green Bay Trail, this "Hidden Coast" is drenched in history and heritage.

Menominee Historic Waterfront District

Once home to a Native American community, this Michigan/Wisconsin border town on the shores of Green Bay at the Menominee River has turn-of-the-century architecture, specialty and antique shops, restaurants, and art galleries. Explore the history of logging and industrial heritage at the **County Heritage Museum**. The district also hosts monthly concerts and festivals. The **Logging and Heritage Festival** takes place in July. Drive over the Menominee River to catch a glimpse of Marinette Marine building a new combat ship.

Beaches, parks, and marinas provide locations to boat, swim, or fish. Adjacent to downtown is the **Great Lakes Memorial Marina and Park**. The marina has ample amenities, including boat ramps. The park has public restrooms, picnic tables, and a children's playground. Nearby, the **Veterans Memorial Park** has a guarded swimming area with volleyball nets and picnic tables. Visit the Menominee North Pier for a stroll or fishing, the **Menominee North Pier Lighthouse** graces its point.

Heading north, enjoy a round of golf and breathtaking lake views at the **North Shore Golf Club**.

Bailey Park and West Shore Fishing Museum

On M-35, 13 miles north of Menominee, find **Bailey Park** and, within it, the **West Shore Fishing Museum**. The primitive pristine 74-acre park has 4,800 feet of scenic Lake Michigan sand dunes and beaches with views across Green Bay of Wisconsin's Door Peninsula. Stop for a swim (no lifeguard present), boating or fishing. Pack a meal to enjoy the picnic area (vault toilet). The museum, in the restored house of the former Charles L. Bailey commercial fishery, shows the region's culture and history of the areas fishing industry.

Cedar River Area

South of Cedar River is 678-acre **J.W. Wells State Park**, offering camping, swimming, picnicking and hiking, as well as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and ice-fishing in the winter. Rustic cabins originally built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps are also available. The **Cedar River North Campground** is off M-35 on CR 551, on the banks of the river. It's ideal for launching a canoe or kayak. An 8-mile trail through the forest is fit for hiking, mountain biking, or wintertime cross-country skiing.

Enter the historic town of Cedar River, once home to the Potawatomi Indian Tribe. Learn about the Native American history of the area by visiting the **Hannahville Indian Museum** located 25 miles north in Hannahville. Nineteenth century Cedar River was a timber industry boom town and home to lumber and shingle mills; the old Catholic church along the route serves as a reminder. Today, Cedar River has a state harbor providing boater services, picnic area with grills, a dog run, and horseshoe pits. Feeling adventurous? The Cedar River is not only popular for fishing, but also for exploring scenery and wildlife by canoe or kayak. The 19-mile **Forest Islands ORV Trail** trailhead has access just south of the Cedar River bridge, with more than 30 miles of interconnected trails through the Escanaba River State Forest. North of Cedar River is Fox Park, a stretch of sandy shore with beachside campsites and swimming.

SANDPOINT LIGHTHOUSE



Portage Marsh

Twenty miles north of Cedar River, take a short detour to **Portage Marsh** (access from Portage Point Road), a 600-acre wetland home to an array of birds and wildlife. A one-half mile raised dike provides hikers and nature lovers an elevated foot-trail through cattail marsh and shrub thicket with excellent views of Portage Bay. There's easy access to the sand beach on the south side of Portage Point; canoes, duck boats and other small car-top watercraft can be launched into Portage Bay, though there are no facilities or launch.

Ludington Park Area

Nestled between Escanaba's downtown and Little Bay de Noc is 120 beautiful lakeside acres with a full 165-slip marina, a state-of-the-art harbor service building, restrooms, showers, and laundry. Connected to the park by bridge is **Aronson Island**, where you'll find a guarded public beach, natural area, bathhouse, small playground, fishing pier and boat launch.

A kids favorite, the **Harbor Hideout Playground Complex** is a 22,500-square-foot barrier-free adventure play area for all children. Explore the park's paved walking and jogging path, including a nonmotorized path, or meet up with friends for a round of tennis, sand volleyball, basketball, or disc golf. Picnic areas, a pavilion, and restrooms are onsite.

The **Sand Point Lighthouse** and the **Delta County Historical Museum** showcase information about Escanaba's first pioneers - European settlers, the railroads, timber industry and maritime history. The lighthouse has been restored to its original 1868 working condition and is open to the public. During limited hours, visitors may climb the tower. Off-shore, a green buoy marks a dive site of the wreckage of the steamer Nahant.

Downtown Escanaba

Sample local flavors at any of the charming cafes, restaurants, brewpubs or winery. Or drop into the **Saykilly's Candies** for a freshly made treat. Every Saturday and Wednesday at 1st Avenue and 9th Street explore the local farmer's market. Enjoy discovering the many stores, antique shops, the **Bonifas Fine Arts Center**, or other small galleries with works by local artists. The public is

also welcome to the 18-hole **Escanaba Golf and Country Club**, south on M-35.

U.P. State Fairgrounds

Home to the annual **Upper Peninsula State Fair** since 1928, it's a one-of-kind in Michigan and highlights the importance of agriculture and natural resources. The 120-acre site along US-2 includes a grandstand, racetrack, horse barn/riding arena, livestock buildings and a pocket park. The pocket park, created by the Department of Natural Resources, has a wildlife display, teaching station, picnic area, stream and waterfall, and a stocked pond for young anglers. The fair is in August but the grounds have special events year-round.

Van Cleve Park Area

Along the coast of Little Bay de Noc, this 62-acre recreation area has a tot lot and playground, picnic areas featuring a gazebo and pavilion, multipurpose open field, restrooms, beach house, two sand volleyball courts, one 20-station fitness course, and a swimming beach with a log rolling dock and beach raft. The park is also home to **Kid's Kingdom**, a 14,000-square-foot playground.

Adjacent to Van Cleve Park is Gladstone's harbor, with 36 slips, a pump-out facility, a harbormaster/restroom/shower facility, wall-side gas dock, small boat launch, grills, parking area and a mast hoist. The **Gladstone Yacht Club**, a social club with a bar and liquor license, hosts many events throughout the year and is open to transient boaters. Next to Van Cleve Park is the 23-acre City Park, with picnic areas, pavilion, multi-purpose open field, softball field, restrooms, basketball court, horseshoe pits, and lakeshore fishing.

Gladstone

At the northern end of the byway is a nature preserve off North 15th Street where outdoor-loving, year-round visitors can view wetlands and wildlife from raised boardwalks and platforms. The **Gladstone Bay Campground** along Little Bay de Noc has waterfront camping in a peaceful coastal environment. During winter, take advantage of the **City's Ski Hill**, with skiing, tube and snowboard runs.



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PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: The byway has start and end points on US-41 in Menominee at the Michigan-Wisconsin border and along US-2 in Gladstone. It's the gateway to the Upper Peninsula for visitors heading north from Wisconsin. The byway follows the shore of Little Bay de Noc and crosses through the city of Escanaba.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Gas is available in Gladstone, Escanaba, Cedar River, and Menominee. Accommodations include chain hotels, local motels, and many campgrounds. There are restaurants of all types, including fast food, family diners, and upscale eateries.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: Iron Country Heritage Trail

LOCAL RESOURCES:

Marinette Menominee Chamber of Commerce
www.mandmchamber.com

Visit Escanaba
www.visitescanaba.com

Delta Commerce Center
www.deltami.org

DRIVING DISTANCE 64 MILES

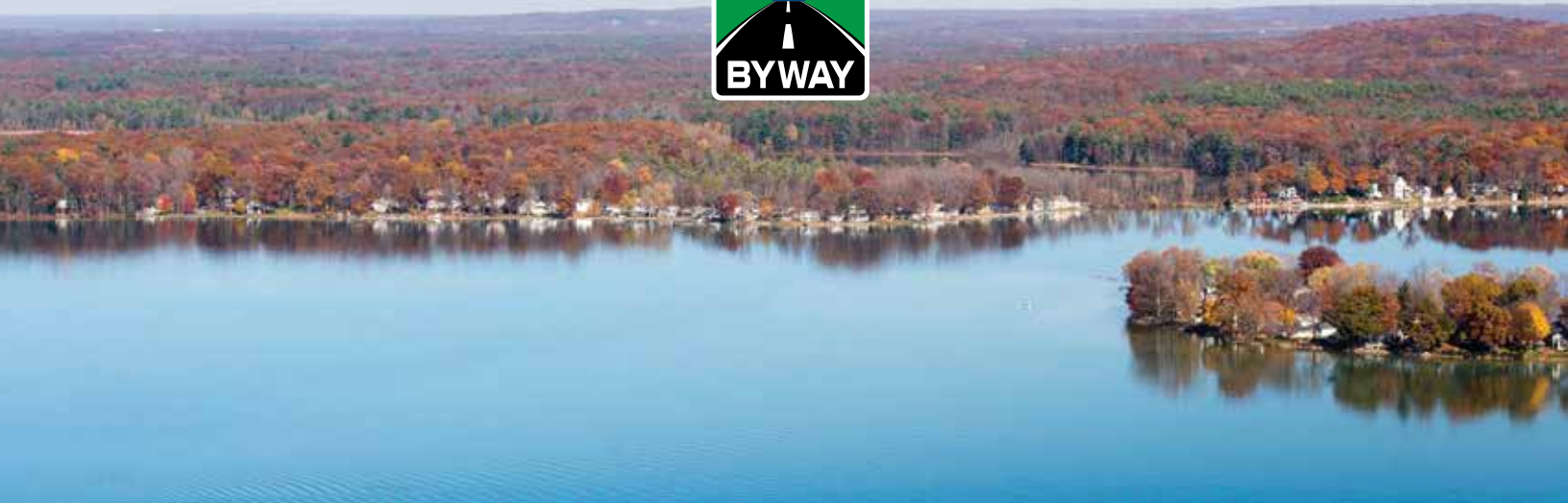
DRIVE TIME 70 MINUTES

PLAN TO SPEND 1 DAY

BEST SEASONS SUMMER/FALL

TOP ADVENTURES





Chief Noonday

With its beautiful canopy of hardwoods towering over the pavement, M-179, also known as Chief Noonday Road, winds east through a land of recreational opportunities and historical significance.

The bountiful wildlife in this area made perfect hunting grounds for Native Americans. This area is still heavily wooded and inhabited by an abundant variety of wildlife. This is the gateway to the **Yankee Springs Recreational Area** and the **Barry State Game Area**. Activities available along the way include camping, hiking, swimming, boating, fishing, hunting, biking, horse-back riding, water and cross country skiing, berry and mushroom picking, photography, and visits to historical sites and museums.

Chief Noonday

In the early to mid-1800s, Noahquageshik, or Chief Noonday, of the Ottawas (Odawas), lived in the Upper Village on the rapids of the Washtanong, or Grand River.

Beautiful lakes and bountiful wildlife in this heavily wooded area between the Grand and Kalamazoo rivers made perfect hunting grounds for Native Americans, who lived here for thousands of years before the European settlers. Living out his last years in the Yankee Springs area at Slater's Mission, Chief Noonday's grave lies near Prairieville.

Today, the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of the Pottawatomi people (Gun Lake Band) prosper here, having achieved federal status as a sovereign

government in 1999. Their state-of-the-art government center is located just outside Bradley, and the nearby Gun Lake Casino is located at the M-179/US-131 interchange.

Yankee Springs Recreation Area

The rugged terrain, bogs, marshes, lakes, streams, and unique beauty of Michigan's **Yankee Springs Recreation Area** lend themselves to many forms of recreation. The park's 5,200 acres includes nine lakes within the park boundaries, providing fishing and water sports of all kinds. A modern campground is located at **Gun Lake**, while rustic camping can be found at **Deep Lake**, and equestrian and youth organization campgrounds complete the accommodations.

Favorite fair weather activities include 30 miles of hiking trails (including one that is barrier-free), 12 miles of challenging mountain bike trails, and 9 miles of horse-back trails, as well as two public beaches, picnic shelters, and two universally accessible fishing piers at Gun and Deep lakes. Three special points of interest in the park include **Devil's Soup Bowl**, a glacially carved kettle formation, **Graves Hill Overlook** and **The Pines**, accessible from the extensive trail systems.

As a year-round park, cross-county skiing abounds on more than 10 acres of Nordic ski trails. Snowmobiling, snowshoeing and ice fishing are also popular winter activities.

White-tailed deer and wild turkeys are very common throughout the area and



YANKEE SPRINGS RECREATION AREA

the winter months offer excellent viewing opportunities. Take the **Long Lake Trail** to view waterfowl and wading birds such as great blue herons from its scenic wetland boardwalk.

In 1996, two historic districts in the park were added to the National Register of Historic Places: the **Long Lake Group Camp** and the **Chief Noonday Group Camp**. These two districts were group camps designed to house workers during the reforestation, erosion, and natural resource development of the area during the Great Depression by the National Park Services' Recreation Development Area program. The original buildings at Chief Noonday Group Camp are available to rent.

houses a working water-powered cider mill, grist mill and museum. They still grind and sell fresh cornmeal using its water-powered mill stones. Additionally, visitors can enjoy the 1840s plank house, 1850s one-room school house, the 1874 Victorian-era Bowen family home, a covered bridge, horses, and a picnic area. There are seasonal activities families can experience, including history encampments, live music and apple dumplings. It's a quiet, country, old-time spot to learn about the past.

Charlton Park Village and Museum

Nine miles past the byway on M-79 is the 300-acre **Charlton Park Village and Museum**, located on Thornapple Lake and River. Those who love the outdoors will enjoy swimming, a picnic area, nature trails, playgrounds, boat ramp, baseball diamond, horseshoe pits, volleyball court and canoeing. Additionally, there are several educational – and sometimes even hands-on – events children can enjoy. The museum and village features a collection of agricultural, industrial, business and household

artifacts, with 25 historic residences, community buildings and businesses that were moved here to create this quaint village.



GLEN BARTLEY

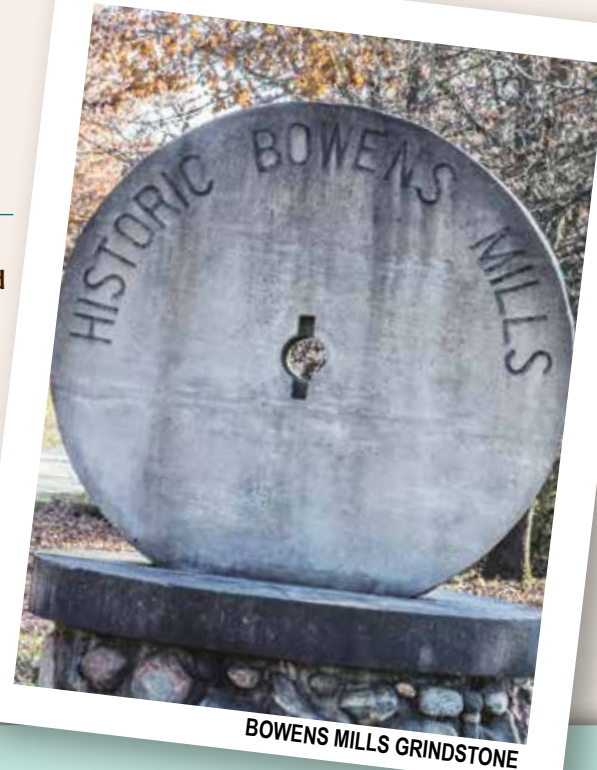
CERULEAN WARBLER

Barry State Game Area

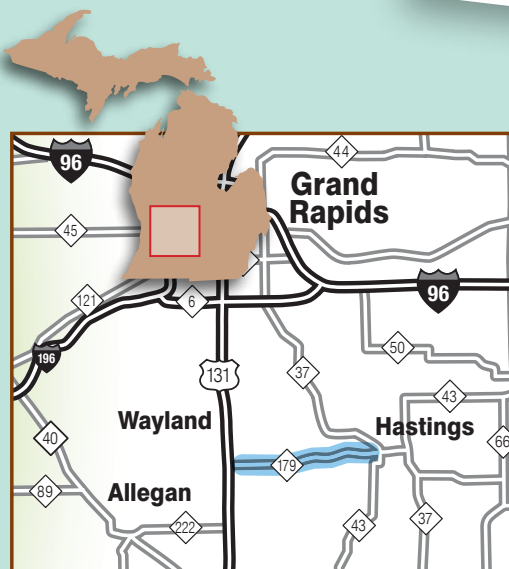
Alongside Yankee Springs Recreation area on Gun Lake Road is **Barry State Game Area**, one of the most significant natural areas in southwest Michigan. It comprises 22,000 acres of public open space and wildlife habitat. Watch for sandhill cranes in and around the northern section of the area and warblers during spring migration - birdwatchers from all over the Midwest come to view the Cerulean Warbler. This beautiful bird is federally listed as a "Species of Special Concern" as well as indicated as a "top 10" bird sought by birdwatchers. The habitat here offers the birds a suitable place with mature, contiguous forests.

Historic Bowens Mills

Two miles north of the byway on Briggs Road, an 1864 grist and cider mill are the focal points of **Historic Bowens Mills**. Located to the north of Yankee Springs Recreation Area is this 19-acre historical park and village. The four-story building's main floor



BOWENS MILLS GRINDSTONE



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PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: From US-131, turn east at Bradley Exit 61. The Chief Noonday Byway (M-179) runs east to M-43 just west of Hastings.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Gas stations, dining options and accommodations are sporadic along the byway. Private campgrounds and cottage rentals are nearby. Yankee Springs Recreation Area offers rustic cabin rental and camping. Hastings, near the east end of the byway, has gas, restaurants and hotel/motel/B&B options.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: I-69 Recreational LOCAL RESOURCES:

Yankee Springs Township
www.yankeespringstwp.org

Allegan County Parks, Recreation and Tourism
www.allegancounty.org/departments/parks-recreation-and-tourism

Barry County Chamber of Commerce
www.mibarry.com

DRIVING DISTANCE	17 MILES
DRIVE TIME	20 MINUTES
PLAN TO SPEND	3-4 DAY
BEST SEASONS	YEAR-ROUND
TOP ADVENTURES	



North Huron Recreational Trail

A 50-mile excursion along the northern shore of Lake Huron, M-134 is rich with wildlife habitat, scenic views, boating and recreational opportunities.

Trails by Air and by Sea

Extending from St. Ignace to Drummond Island, and north to Pickford, the **North Huron Birding Trail** encompasses the byway and beyond, with excellent bird-watching sites marked throughout the region. Waterfowl, including loons and cranes, and raptors, like the snowy owl, find well-preserved habitat along the byway. The **North Huron Water Trail** also parallels the byway. From broad sandy beaches to island-protected alcoves, the north shore of Lake Huron provides a varied paddling experience with endless potential for a variety of trips.

Hessel/Cedarville

These two places boast a connection to the **Les Cheneaux Islands** and offer small town lure with marinas, restaurants, shops, the **Great Lakes Boat Building School**, and plenty of recreation. Public forest, trails, beaches, campgrounds, resorts, and fishing are just some of the many activities you'll find. Stop at the **Mackinac Bay Nature Overlook**, an expansive grassy marshland along Mackinac Creek as it enters Mackinac Bay. Its viewing platform will allow you a first-hand look at the wildlife, tuneful songbirds and croaking frogs. Travel back to a time when lumbering and fishing were at their peak. The **Les Cheneaux Historical**

Association operates both the **Historical Museum** and the **Maritime Museum** in Cedarville, open May through September. If you're here in August and love vintage boats, you'll want to check out the annual **Antique Wooden Boat Show**, with entires from all over the U.S. and Canada.

Birge Preserve Complex

Located on Brulee Point overlooking the Les Cheneaux Islands, the **Birge Nature Preserve** captures the quiet solitude of the Lake Huron shoreline and surrounding wetlands. The parking area can be found on the right side of the road at the Jack Mertaugh unit where marshes and grasslands edge the Lake Huron shoreline at the mouth of Hessel Bay. Shorebirds congregate in the area during spring and fall

migration, and waterfowl and wading birds can be seen off shore from spring through fall. Walk back along the road to the first unit and continue on the boardwalk to a viewing platform overlooking Loon Lake. Mixed stands of water-loving poplar, larch, balsam fir, and white spruce surround the boardwalk and lake, providing excellent habitat for songbirds. The small lake attracts various types of ducks, including common and hooded mergansers. In spring, walk the boardwalk in the evening and enjoy the courtship calls of the aptly named spring peepers.

Les Cheneaux Islands

The Les Cheneaux Islands are a group of 36 small islands, some inhabited, along 12 miles of the Lake Huron shoreline. These islands provide sheltered



HESSEL HARBOR

channels and bays for boaters and explorers. Towering forests laced with trails and pathways offer unparalleled year-round opportunities for vacations, day trips, reunions and quiet breaks from the city.

DeTour Roadside Park

Nestled in the forest adjoining Lake Huron, the DeTour Roadside Park provides a convenient rest stop for humans and migrating birds traveling along the lakeshore. The manicured grounds offer picnic tables, vault toilets and drinking water with a dense canopy of hardwoods and conifers. The open, park-like setting is ideal for spotting woodpeckers, nuthatches and brown creepers searching for insects. The forested shoreline along this stretch of Lake Huron is critical habitat for the northern parula warbler, who builds its nest from the lichens hanging from the trees. These trees are also used by midges hatching from the lake. This rich food source attracts and supports many bird species that migrate to nesting grounds in northern Canada. The smaller islands are used by nesting ring-billed gulls.

DeTour State Forest Campground

This campground and the adjoining state forest lands are located on a peninsula that extends from the byway out into Lake Huron. White spruce and white pine forests extend to the rocky lake edge in some spots and along dunes in others. The endangered Pitcher's thistle and Houghton's goldenrod grow in the foredunes closest to the water's edge, while creeping juniper, bearberry, reindeer lichen, and American dune grass transition into the surrounding forest. For those interested in an extended hike, park in the first pullout on the right after turning onto State Forest Campground Road. Follow the 3-mile trail through the forest to the lake edge and hike around the point to the trail that continues to the campground, then on the park road. Or, continue driving to the campground and park in the day-use area. In winter, the park roads and trails offer outstanding cross-country skiing and snowshoeing routes.

DeTour Village

The village of DeTour is surrounded by water on three sides: Lake Huron, the St. Mary's River, and the DeTour Passage. This unique village is home to miles of beaches, a marina, boat launches, picnic areas, and freighter views. **The DeTour Botanical Gardens** is a beautiful oasis of gardens, located just south of DeTour village. The summer gardens are filled with annuals and perennials, featuring rose gardens with 30 different varieties. **The DeTour Passage Museum** possesses exhibits including clothing, pictures, record books and Native American artifacts. The marine display features the Fresnel lenses from the **DeTour Reef Light** and many other items. The museum also features a viewing scope to watch ships plying the waters of the St. Mary's River. The 144-acre **DeTour Peninsula Nature Preserve** is just a mile away from the village. With the Lake Huron shore offering a quality habitat for a large diversity of residential and migratory species, this makes a great spot for birdwatching enthusiasts.

Drummond Island

Take the ferry to Drummond Island, the perfect location for a multitude of recreational activities. Enjoy ATV/ORVing on some of the most scenic and rugged trails in Michigan, with more than 117 miles of ORV trails and loops. Golfers can enjoy playing on two different courses on the island carved out of hardwoods and cedar forests. Kayak or canoe the paths of the Native Americans and early settlers, with more than 140 miles of coast and inland shoreline to explore. Or, spend time relaxing as you fish for smelt, perch, walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, salmon, or one of several other species of fish available around the Island.



SANDHILL CRANE

DRIVING DISTANCE	50 MILES
DRIVE TIME	1.5 HOURS*
PLAN TO SPEND	3 DAYS
BEST SEASONS	SUMMER, FALL
TOP ADVENTURES	

16

PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: The route begins at the M-134 Exit 359 off I-75 and ends on Drummond Island.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Gas, lodging and restaurants are available in Hessel, Cedarville, DeTour, and on Drummond Island. Campgrounds and RV parks are found all along the route.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: Whitefish Bay National Forest Byway, Tahquamenon, Sunrise Side.

LOCAL RESOURCES:

Les Cheneaux Islands Chamber of Commerce
www.lescheneaux.net

DeTour Village
www.detourvillage.org

Drummond Island Tourism Association
www.visitdrummondisland.com/

* not including ferry time.





West Michigan Pike

Explore the sugar sand beaches, majestic sand dunes, and quaint communities along the 184-mile West Michigan Pike, one of the nation's oldest "tourist" roads. Festivals and events, historic places, and Michigan-made foods, beverages and art keep travelers returning to the "Pike" year after year.

Travel the historic West Michigan Pike, the first paved road in Michigan built especially for visitors! Now known as US-31, the 184-mile "Pike" is the newest Pure Michigan Byway, and is often credited for sparking tourism and the development of the coastal towns that dot the shores of Lake Michigan.

Beginning near New Buffalo at the state line, the Pike will take you through some of west Michigan's most popular destinations. Watch the seasons change, take in a festival or event, view area lighthouses, or simply kick back, bury your toes in the sand, and read a book on one of the area's sugar sand beaches. And at the end of the day, be sure to catch a breathtaking Lake Michigan sunset!

Whether traveling the route on a whirlwind tour or taking the time to soak in the unique personality of each of the towns along the byway, you're invited to celebrate the road, the people, the places, the history, and the stories of the shoreline communities as you explore the West Michigan Pike!

St. Joseph

Indulge your senses from your head down to your toes in beautiful southwest Michigan. Breathe in the perfume of springtime blossoms and, in the fall, pick pink juicy peaches and sip award-winning wines. Wiggle your toes in Lake Michigan's warm soft sands or reel in a feisty salmon aboard an area charter. Tee off at lush green golf courses, scramble to the top of a climbing wall, or race down the face of a towering dune. Attend musical and theatrical performances and browse art studios, galleries, and quaint antiques and collectibles shops. Watch fireworks light up the night sky and ride a hand-carved carousel horse beneath a thousand twinkling lights. Learn how to cook or take a thrilling snowmobile ride over scenic wooded trails. Just follow your senses - and your sense of adventure - in southwest Michigan.





SOUTH HAVEN MICHIGAN - SOUTH BEACH

South Haven

Welcome to South Haven, where relaxation and reconnecting to your true self begin. Feel the area's scenic beauty and awaken your senses on white sand beaches, basking in the glow of a fiery sunset, or watching boats slip peacefully past the century-old lighthouse. Stroll along HarborWalk to the historic Maritime District with its engaging museum complex and replica tall ship, the *Friends Good Will*. Take a leisurely ride along the West Michigan Pike, where you'll discover antique shops and art galleries, and cozy bed-and-breakfasts or family resorts. Visit farmers markets and art galleries along the Blue Star Highway, and explore the quaint villages, vineyards, wineries, and craft brewpubs on the outskirts of town. Whatever the season, relax and share memorable moments with those who matter most.

Saugatuck-Douglas

The inspiring beauty of the Saugatuck-Douglas area has attracted patrons and practitioners of the fine arts for more than a century. The proliferation of galleries, artists' studios and do-it-yourself art opportunities have built the area's reputation as "The Art Coast of Michigan," and more recently its designation as "Best Coastal Small Town in America" by *USA Today*. If you are seeking relaxation, take time to mellow out on the world-famous Oval Beach or in surroundings reminiscent of vintage small-town America, the hallmarks of



SAUGATUCK CENTER FOR THE ARTS

which are scenic beauty and a unique collection of shops, restaurants, attractions and year-round activities. The performing arts, the visual arts, the art of shopping, the art of relaxation, the culinary arts, and the Great Art-Doors are all part of the art of being Saugatuck-Douglas!

Grand Haven

Experience award-winning beaches and the quaint, small-town charm of the Grand Haven area. Whether you want a fun family getaway or a romantic retreat for two, this Lake Michigan beach town will satisfy. Learn area history while riding the historic trolley and take

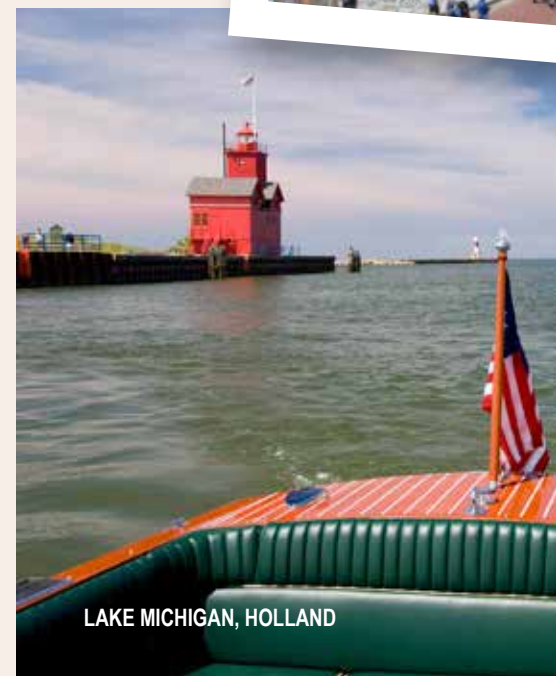
in a nightly performance of the Musical Fountain - one of the largest of its kind in the world. Explore biking trails and stroll the boardwalk along the Grand River channel from the historic downtown shopping district to the harbor lighthouses and soft, sandy beaches of Lake Michigan. See why *Travel+Leisure* magazine named Grand Haven in its "Best Secret Beaches on Earth" edition. Come and experience for yourself why so many families and couples make the Grand Haven area their vacation destination year after year.

Holland

Situated on the sun-soaked shores of Lake Michigan and Macatawa, Holland is a Pure Michigan delight! From an award-winning downtown to white sandy beaches, you'll fall in love with Holland's small-town charm and big-city amenities. Dine along the waterfront or at a cozy cafe. Climb to the crest of a towering sand dune or to the top of a windmill!

Shop for a pair of wooden shoes or attend a world-famous festival. Explore a quaint Dutch village or a modern college campus. Stroll downtown's cobblestone sidewalks or

BOB LOWRY



LAKE MICHIGAN, HOLLAND

hike the trails in tree-shaded parks. Sail the waters of Lake Macatawa or watch a fiery sunset over Lake Michigan. Experience four seasons of breathtaking beauty and memorable adventures in this all-American city with a delightful Dutch accent!

Muskegon

Take your vacation to a new level in Muskegon! From the tops of wind-blown dunes down to the sugar sand shoreline of Lake Michigan, you'll find Muskegon to be the perfect playground in any season. Soar into the blue on a world-class roller coaster at Michigan's Adventure, or relax on sun-drenched beaches. Treat your taste buds at a microbrewery or dine on a lakefront patio. Attend festivals or catch live productions at the historic Frauenthal Theater. Take a look back in time at history, maritime, veterans, and submarine museums, or cruise across the lake on the Lake Express High-Speed Ferry. When seasons change,



DOWNTOWN MUSKEGON



the fun doesn't stop. Follow fall color on the Depot-to-Depot Fall Color Tour, slide down one of only four luge tracks in the U.S. at the Winter Sports Complex, or watch a power play at a USHL hockey game. Whatever you enjoy doing, you'll experience it all at a whole new level in Muskegon.

Silver Lake Sand Dunes Hart

Choose a quiet day at the beach or take an exciting off-road vehicle (ORV) ride to the top of a sand mountain in the Silver Lake Sand Dunes Area. From the peaceful to the adventurous and everything in between, there's something for everyone. No wonder the area has been called the "Paradise of the Midwest"! Tour the Silver Lake Sand Dunes the way that suits you best. Bring your own ORV, rent one, take a tour from a local business, hike, or sandboard the sand dunes - all while enjoying panoramic views of Lake Michigan. You can also spend your days relaxing in the sun and surf, golfing, fishing, biking, exploring farm markets, and enjoying the local culture and history. Any choice is guaranteed to leave you with memories to last a lifetime!



SILVER LAKE SAND DUNES

PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: Begin your West Michigan Pike adventure at the state line on I-94 and I-94 Business Route (BR) traveling north through New Buffalo, St. Joseph, and Benton Harbor. In St. Joseph, hop on M-63 and continue north to I-196/US-31. I-196 BR takes visitors through South Haven, and then reconnects to I-196/US-31. Continue north through Douglas and Saugatuck, and into Holland via US-31 BR. Getting back onto US-31 after visiting Holland, continue north on US-31 and US-31 BR through the cities of Grand Haven, Muskegon, Whitehall, and Montague, the Silver Lake Sand Dunes area, and Pentwater, completing your journey at the intersection of US-31 and US-10 near Ludington.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Travel amenities, including fine dining, local fare, and farm-to-table dining, are available along the entire length of the byway, especially in the cities of New Buffalo, St. Joseph, South Haven, Douglas/Saugatuck, Holland, Grand Haven, Muskegon, the Silver Lake Sand Dune area, and Pentwater. Resorts, B&Bs, cottages, and hotels with names you know and trust are available in virtually every major West Michigan Pike community.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: US-12 Heritage Trail

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DRIVING DISTANCE	184 MILES
DRIVE TIME	4 HOUR
PLAN TO SPEND	4-6 DAYS
BEST SEASONS	YEAR-ROUND
TOP ADVENTURES	

LOCAL RESOURCES:

Michigan Beachtowns
www.michiganbeachtowns.com/west-michigan-pike/



PHOTO: THE HENRY FORD



US-12 Heritage Trail

Rich in colorful character, remarkable history and an ever-changing landscape, the US-12 Heritage Trail invites the traveler to journey its winding road, meet its people, explore its places and uncover its hidden treasures.

US-12 is among the oldest road corridors east of the Mississippi River following an early Native American trail. Although many different tribes lived in southern Michigan, the trail became known as the “Sauk Trail” by European settlers. In 1994, the Michigan Legislature honored the Civil War’s 24th Michigan Infantry Regiment and named this route “Iron Brigade” Memorial Highway, the regiment’s nickname.

This east-west thoroughfare was one of the most important migration routes for tribes and, later, European settlers who moved into the Michigan territory. It now provides access to some of the most extensive and significant historic, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources in Michigan.

Downtown Detroit

Begin your travels in downtown Detroit where the US-12 Heritage Trail (Michigan Avenue), meets with Woodward Avenue at the **Michigan Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Monument in Campus Martius**. The monument was raised to honor those who lost their lives during the Civil War. While there, be sure to see the **Woodward Avenue Byway (#1)**. (For more information on Woodward Avenue, see page 7.) There you will find many attractions at the east end of the US-12 Heritage Trail.

Michigan’s Automotive Heritage

Head west to **Dearborn**, home of **Fair Lane** (the Henry and Clara Ford Estate), **Ford Rouge Complex**, and **The Henry Ford**. The nation’s largest indoor/outdoor history museum complex was originally named the Edison Institute. This complex houses the **Henry Ford Museum** and **Greenfield Village**, 200 acres of invention, inspiration and innovation and 300 years of history. 26 million artifacts are housed here, including the presidential limousine of John F. Kennedy, Abraham Lincoln’s chair from Ford’s Theatre, and the Rosa Parks bus. Experience this truly eye-opening eye-opening and mind-blowing collection started by Henry Ford himself.

Also in Dearborn is the **Automotive Hall of Fame**, an automotive industry international hall of fame. It includes interactive exhibits that make it not only a fascinating place to stop, but educational as well.

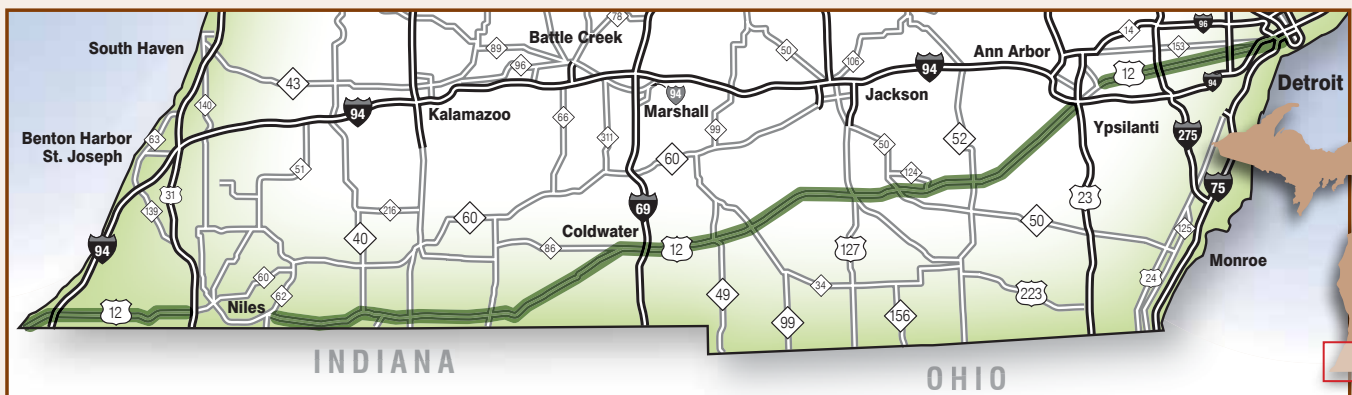
Head west to **Inkster**, birthplace of Geraldine Doyle, the model for the “Rosie the Riveter” posters of the World War II era. For those who enjoy the hometown feel, stop in downtown **Wayne**. There are plenty of shops and restaurants worth exploring, and the **Wayne Historical Museum**, which maintains more than 100 exhibits.

Washtenaw County

Continuing into Washtenaw County, US-12 heads into **Ypsilanti**. US-12 is the south boundary of **Depot Town**, a commercial and residential anchor of the **Ypsilanti Historic District**. This historic district has more than 750 buildings, the oldest of which dates back to 1837! Near the west end of the district is the **Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum**, highlighting local auto industry in Michigan. On the west side of the Huron River is the **Michigan Firehouse Museum**, a restored 1898 firehouse, and the **Ypsilanti Historical Museum**.

A short drive north of the byway on Summit Street is **Ypsilanti Water Tower** and **Eastern Michigan University**. Historical sites on the university’s campus include **Eastern Michigan University Historic District**, **Pease Auditorium**, and the oldest building on campus, **Starkweather Hall**.

Next, Pittsfield Township’s 500-acre **Pittsfield Preserve** features more than 10 miles of hiking trails straddling two watersheds. Here, the Great Blue Heron colony consists of more than 40 nests. **Saline** is next with the byway’s **East Michigan Avenue Historic District**. Self-guided tours will take you past the historical mansions, homes and buildings.



Lenawee County

Make a stop in **Clinton** at the **Southern Michigan Railroad** museum and take a ride through southern Michigan between Clinton and Tecumseh. They offer a variety of tours, giving ample opportunity to see the countryside. As you make your way west, the rolling hills will resemble going through the Irish countryside, hence the fitting name **Irish Hills**. The road winds through hills and valleys spotted with lakes, including **Wampler's Lake**, a 780-acre all-sports lake inside the **Walter J. Hayes State Park**. Its 710 acres provide camping, hiking, picnics, swimming, boating and fishing. In addition to this all-sports lake, there is **Round Lake**, a no-wake lake for those looking for relaxation. A number of private campgrounds and cottage rentals are in the area for those who'd like to spend more time here. While here, be sure to see one of the fastest and largest speedways, **Michigan International Speedway**. **Cherry Creek Cellars**, part of the **Pioneer Wine Trail**, is located in a historic 1870s school house just west of the speedway. Their Schoolhouse Cafe serves appetizers to paninis that can be paired with one of their award-winning wines or craft beers.

Hillsdale County

Breakaway from the stress of life and enter a fairytale-like atmosphere at **McCourtie Park** in Hillsdale County. Known as the most whimsical and best-kept secret of Michigan, this park sits on 42 acres and has cement folk art bridges crossing over a stream with sculptures throughout. In **Jonesville**, visit the **Grosvenor House Museum**. It occupies a 32-room Victorian Italianate structure that was once home to Lt.

Gov. Ebenezer Oliver Grosvenor. Inside is a 1865 Chickering piano, family artifacts, and memorabilia from Jonesville. Also here are the former **J.J. Deal and Son Carriage Factory** building and the **Grace Episcopal Church**.

Branch County

Branch County marks the center of this east-west route. With access to more than 100 fresh water lakes, anyone who loves the outdoors will find a haven here. The **I-69 Recreational** (#11, pg. 30) byway crosses over US-12 here in **Coldwater**. There are plenty of activities for land lovers too, such as a drive-in theater, steam engine rides, and historic places. Travelers can take a break at the second-oldest theatre in Michigan, the **Tibbitts Opera House**, which hosts a variety of cultural activities. Additionally, this town's five historic districts offer a rich history told through its architecture. They include the **Coldwater Downtown Historic District**, **East Chicago Street Historic District**, **Marshall Street Historic District**, **South Monroe Street Historic District** and the **West Pearl Street Historic District**. Stop by the **Wing House** at 27 S. Jefferson St. Built in 1875, it now belongs to the Branch County Historical Society and serves as their museum. If you're looking to see the entire historical community rather than specific sites, downtown Coldwater has historic walking tours offered in 1-, 3- or 5-mile lengths and allow you to see first-hand the many historic places here. On the byway just west of Coldwater, you can watch a movie without leaving your car at the **Capri Drive-In Theater**, open weekend evenings spring to fall. For more information on Coldwater and I-69 Recreational byway, see page 30.



Before leaving Branch County, visit **Bronson**. The area is known for flower farming and has been dubbed the **Gladiolus Capital** of the United States. Also known for numerous lakes, it's a fisherman's paradise. The **Bronson Public Library** opened in 1912 as one of the 1,679 Carnegie libraries built nationwide with money donated by Scottish-American businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie.

St. Joseph County

Also known as "River Country" for its 16 rivers and streams, St. Joseph County is a gem for outdoor enthusiasts. Just off the byway east of Sturgis is **Cade Lake County Park**, with 98 acres on the shores of the 32-acre lake. It has 62 campsites, a swimming beach, fishing, boat rentals, picnic shelter, playground and hiking trails.

The US-12 route was surveyed and built through **Sturgis**, the largest city in St. Joseph County, in the early 1830s. The downtown was centered along US-12 and rebuilt after a devastating fire in 1859 that destroyed all of the commercial businesses. The Michigan Southern Railroad was extended to Sturgis in 1851 and linked the community with a growing nationwide rail network. Its **Old New York Central Railroad Depot** is listed on the State Historic Register. If you'd like to stop for a round of golf there are several courses in the area.

Traveling west on US-12, pass through the cities of **White Pigeon** and **Mottville**.





TIBBITS OPERA HOUSE

Here, stop by the **St. Joseph River/Mottville Bridge**. Built in 1922, it is the longest-surviving reinforced concrete camelback bridge in Michigan. Nature lovers will definitely enjoy a stop here with its small scenic lakes and streams. Also, **Mill Creek Park** offers 25 secluded acres of nature trails, access to a canoe launch, and great fishing. For more excitement there's **Mottville Speedway**, a quarter-mile asphalt oval racetrack that holds the national record for most nights raced in a single season!

Cass County

With more than 100 lakes, this county is great for boating, swimming and year-round fishing. Six county parks offer outdoor recreation, great places to camp, hike, and mountain bike, and 7 miles of cross-country and snowshoe trails. If golf is your game, try the **Four Lakes Country Club** - its 18-hole course is open to the public. Cass County is primarily agricultural, so look for fresh, locally grown produce and meats during harvest season, farmer's markets and u-pick farms.

Berrien County

As you approach the western portion of the byway, one of the top haunted attractions in Berrien Country is the **Niles Haunted House Scream Park**. Its 44 acres is one of the country's largest. The city also boasts a rich history. **Fort St. Joseph**, built on the banks of the St. Joseph River, was occupied by both the French and British from the late

1680s through 1781. Between the 1820s and the Civil War, Niles was an integral part of the Underground Railroad, helping slaves escape to Canada. The **Chapin House**, a beautiful Queen Anne-style mansion built between 1882 and 1884, includes a huge carriage house and is home to the **Fort St. Joseph Museum**. Inside the museum are exhibits on the Underground Railroad, area railroads and local historical topics.

North of the byway on Red Bud Trail is the city of **Buchanan**. Its historic districts include **Downtown Buchanan**, a district that features buildings from the 1840s-1960s with a variety of architectural styles, and the **Buchanan North and West Neighborhoods**. With more than 700 properties, its buildings represent a variety of architectural styles. Many were homes to city leaders and merchants. The **Pears Mill**, a restored mill on the St. Joseph River, is open Saturdays spring through fall with exhibits on trades of the past. For outdoor lovers, there's the **Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve**, with 105 acres of cultivated and natural areas along the St. Joseph River. For more artistic tastes, visit the **Buchanan Art Center**, featuring three galleries displaying works of local artists.

End your westward trek of the byway in the city of **New Buffalo**, where the nation's first Highway Travel Information Center opened here in 1935 on US-12. Built by the Michigan State Highway Department, now the Michigan Department of Transportation, to welcome motorists entering the state, a new **Michigan Welcome Center** was constructed in 1972 and is located on east-bound I-94 north of the state border.

New Buffalo is a center of activity with its public beach, lake, riverside parks, boat launch and marinas. Enjoy the sandy shores of **Lake Michigan** in this Michigan Beachtown and its streets lined with specialty stores and unique eateries. **Lakefront Park and Beach**, located on the north end of Whittaker Street, is a perfect place to watch sailboats or a sunset, and feed wild gulls, geese and ducks that line up daily at the banks. On South Whittaker Street is the **New Buffalo Railroad Museum** depicting the history of the railroad industry and New Buffalo with photographs, documents and a working miniature model railroad. A Chessie box car and a World War II Pullman-built troop sleeper car are open to tour.

PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: THE US-12 Heritage Trail starts at M-1 (Woodward Avenue) in downtown Detroit. The route travels west/southwest to the Michigan/Indiana state border near New Buffalo. Access can be made anywhere along the route. Several rural roads and M-routes meet or cross this east-west corridor. The main points of entry can be accessed at the interchanges of I-94, US-31, US-131, I-69, US-127, US-23, I-275, US-24, I-96, and I-75.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Travel amenities are available throughout the entire 208 miles. The best bets for gas, food and accommodations are the communities and cities that dot the routes, including; Detroit, Dearborn, Wayne, Ypsilanti, Saline, Quincy, Coldwater, Sturgis, Niles, and New Buffalo. Here, you'll find local fare, fast food to fine dining, plus local and chain hotels, motels and quaint B&Bs.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: Woodward Avenue, Monroe Street and I-69 Recreational.

LOCAL RESOURCES:

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

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DRIVING DISTANCE	208 MILES
DRIVE TIME	5 HOURS
PLAN TO SPEND	3-5 DAYS
BEST SEASONS	YEAR-ROUND
TOP ADVENTURES	

US-12 Heritage Trail
www.us12heritagetrail.org
Corktown Historical Society
www.historiccorktown.org
Coldwater Country
www.coldwatercountry.com
Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce
www.harborcountry.org



IRON COUNTY COURTHOUSE



Iron County Heritage Trail

Located in Iron County of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the Iron County Heritage Trail is composed of 16-miles connecting 14 premier sites that provide visitors the opportunity to discover the history behind the beauty of Iron County.

The Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa lived in Iron and Gogebic counties hundreds of years ago. In the 19th century, valuable resources like iron ore and seemingly inexhaustible forests attracted immigrants to the area. Mining and logging dominated the economy until the early 20th century. This heritage is preserved today in the history behind Iron County's beauty. Discover Native American history at **Pentoga Park**, hear stories from the past at the **Harbour House**, or explore the areas human history at the **Iron County Historical Museum**.

Crystal Falls Area

The Iron County seat, Crystal Falls, is home to the iconic **Iron County Courthouse**, which sits stoically at the top of downtown. Stroll through the historic streets and enjoy shopping and restaurants, or take a step back into history at the **Timothy Murphy House**, now the **Harbour House Museum**. East on M-69 is **Pioneer Church** near the site of Iron County's worst mining disaster, now the **Mansfield Mine Location Historic District**. Travelers can head north on US-141 to explore the county's logging history and **Amasa Museum**.

Historic US-2

As you drive through the stunning scenery of Iron County, take advantage of recreational stops. Pull over at **Fortune Pond** to cast a line or learn more about the area's iron ore mining history. Spend the day at **Bewabic State Park** hiking, swimming, or camping on gorgeous Fortune Lake. Take a break at **Larson Park**, which is thought to be the first roadside park in the nation.

Iron River Area

Named for the river that runs through it, Iron River is the largest community in Iron County. A drive around town will reveal restaurants, shops, and lodging

opportunities. The paved, nonmotorized **Apple Blossom Trail** connects Iron River with Caspian, continuing south to **George Young Recreational Complex** and its fantastic golf course. North of town, discover the last fully intact Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Michigan, **Camp Gibbs**. A drive southeast offers the beautiful **Lake Ottawa Recreation Area and Campground**. Adventurous types can explore **Mile Post Zero and Treaty Tree**, a marker for the Michigan-Wisconsin state boundary placed there in 1840.

Iron County Historical Museum

The museum's 10 acres offer visitors a glimpse into Iron County's history, including information about Native

Americans, iron ore mining, logging, homesteading, transportation, the Victorian era, and the early 20th century. The facility also houses wonderful pieces for art lovers. Visitors have the chance to wander through the complex's 26 buildings for a one-of-a-kind step back in history.

County Road 424 Area

This scenic back road connects the communities of Gaastra and Alpha. Stop at **Pentoga Park**, a site with great Native American significance, now a county park. Pull over at the **Alpha Public Buildings Historic Complex** to eat, shop at the **Historic Porter School**, or explore Alpha's iron ore mining history.



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PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: The route has start and end points in Crystal Falls and Iron River, but all of the sites are located within Iron County.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Gas is available in Crystal Falls, Iron River, Caspian, and Amasa. Accommodations range from chain and local hotels/motels to campgrounds and RV parks along the route. Restaurants can be found in most communities and range from local fare to fine dining.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: Hidden Coast

LOCAL RESOURCES: Iron County Chamber of Commerce
www.iron.org

Iron County Historical Museum
www.ironcountymuseum.org

DRIVING DISTANCE	16 MILES
DRIVE TIME	1 HOUR
PLAN TO SPEND	2 DAYS
BEST SEASONS	YEAR-ROUND
TOP ADVENTURES	



Marshall's Territorial Road

Within the city limits, Michigan Avenue becomes the Pure Michigan Byway Marshall's Territorial Road, lined with landmarks and retail shops with a host of yearly events.

Marshall's Territorial Road features 28 historical markers, with 14 being official Michigan Historical Markers - the most of any Michigan community outside of Detroit. The markers recall Marshall's early importance in Michigan's government, education, abolition, railroad, unionism, and architectural history.

National Historic Landmark

It has been referred to as a "virtual textbook of 19th century American architecture" and home to one of the nation's largest National Landmark historic districts. The **Marshall Historic District** has more than 850 buildings, including the world-famous Honolulu House.

Marshall's tradition of historical preservation and restoration began in the 1920s and continues today. With a multitude of grand homes and landmarks in and around downtown, this concentration of heritage led to the declaration of a significant amount of the area as a National Historic Landmark District and paved the way to include Territorial Road in the Pure Michigan Byway Program. The district between Cherry Street and East Drive serves as a reminder of the city's rich legacy.

National Register of Historic Places

Another national designation abounds on this byway that's big on history and

short in length. The number of properties with historical significance listed on the National Register of Historic Places include the **Harold C. Brooks House**, **Capitol Hill School**, the **Emporium**, **Governor's Mansion**, **Honolulu House**, **Joy House**, the **Isaac Lockwood House**, **Marshall Avenue Bridge**, **Masonic Temple**, **National House**, **Oakhill**, the **William Prindle Livery Stable**, **Stonehall**, the **Stow-Hasbrouck House**, **Wagner's Block**, and the **Wright-Brooks House**. Many of these are also located within the **Marshall Michigan Historic Landmark District**.

Marshall Historic Home Tour and Self-Guided Walking Tour

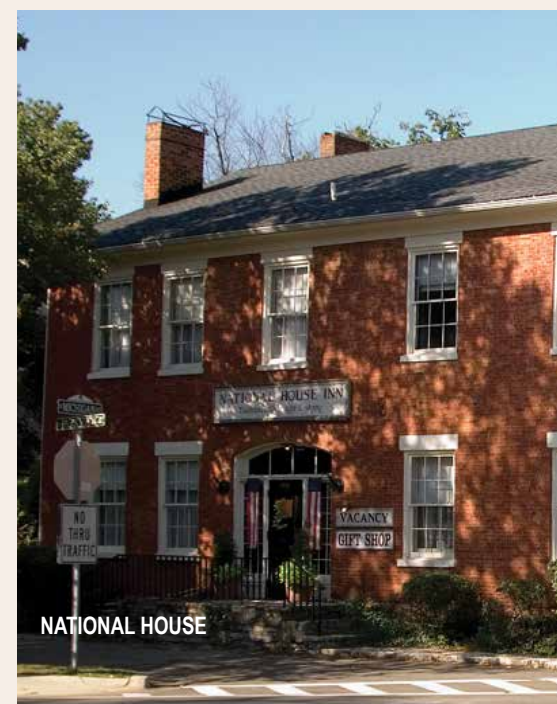
Each September, the Marshall Historical Society hosts its Historic Home Tour, which has been called "the best in the Midwest." It showcases several different architectural-style homes, offering something for everyone. If you prefer to go at your own pace, try a walking tour guided by markings on the pavement. Self-guided visitors may take as much time as they like to see everything while exploring the byway.

Near the west end of the byway and built in 1835 is **National House** Inn. The oldest operating inn in the state, it currently serves as a bed and breakfast with 16 luxurious rooms and a view of Fountain Circle and the **Brooks Memorial Fountain**, a chaste

Greek Doric design. The central structure was a replica of the "Temple of Love" in Marie Antoinette's garden at Versailles, France.

Museums

North of Fountain Circle is the must-see **Honolulu House**. Built in 1860 by Abner Pratt, the home's unique blend of Italianate, Polynesian, and Gothic Revival architecture stands out among the surrounding neighborhood. The **Honolulu House Museum** is open to the public during scheduled hours and houses the Marshall Historical Society.



MARSHALL'S TERRITORIAL ROAD

The **Grand Army of the Republic Hall** (GAR Hall) was built on Michigan Avenue in 1902 as a meeting hall for Civil War veterans. It has become the **Marshall Historical Museum** at the GAR Hall, and now houses Marshall historical information and artifacts, along with Civil War artifacts connected to Marshall. The **Walter's Gasoline Museum** collection includes gasoline artifacts and is housed in the former Marshall Interurban Railway Depot.

On South Marshall Avenue is the **Governor's Mansion Museum**. It was built in 1839 with the hope it would become the governor's home if Marshall were selected as the state capital. It's currently the **Governor's Mansion** of the Mary Marshall Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Built in 1860, the **Capitol Hill School** operated for 101 years. Located on Washington Street, it became the **Capitol Hill School Museum** after the Marshall Historical Society acquired it. Visitors can see the 19th century school room, children's toys and games from yesteryear. Marshall is home to the second-largest **U.S. Postal Service Museum** with more than 4,000 artifacts, including uniforms, rural carrier memorabilia, rural post office equipment, automobiles and sleds. The **American Museum of Magic** is the largest magic museum in the U.S. open to the public. It celebrates the art of magic. The collection includes both famous and obscure, located on the byway.



Eat, Drink and Enjoy.

Located on Kalamazoo Avenue, the **Dark Horse Brewing Co.** and tap room brews a variety of beer that has won medals at various brewing competitions. Their shop across the street specializes in home brewing and Dark Horse merchandise. No trip to Marshall is complete unless it includes a stop at the historical **Schuler's Restaurant**. This fine dining establishment on Eagle Street has been family-owned and operated for more than 100 years.

Marshall's year-round events

Included are the New Year's Day auction, a March quilt show, the celebration of Michigan Week in May, the Fourth of July BBQ, "Cruise to the Fountain" car show, and "Welcome To My Garden" tour. In August, it's home to the oldest county fair in Michigan. Fall events include the Scarecrow Festival, Harvest Festival and the Cranefest in October. In December, enjoy the famous Christmas parade, Merchant's Christmas Open House, and Candlelight Walking Tour of beautiful homes.



HONOLULU HOUSE



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PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: Easy access from I-94, Exit 112 (I-94 Business Loop west), or east of Marshall take the I-69, Michigan Avenue Exit 36 (I-94 Business Loop east).

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: In the city of Marshall there are gas stations. Food is available from fast food, local fare to fine dining. There are a few B&Bs, in and around the city, as well as local and chain motels and hotels.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: I-69 Recreational, US-12 Heritage Trail

LOCAL RESOURCES:

Marshall Michigan
www.marshallmich.com/

Marshall Chamber of Commerce
thechambermarshall.com/

Marshall Historical Society
www.marshallhistoricalsociety.org/

Calhoun County Visitors Bureau
www.battlecreekvisitors.org/

DRIVING DISTANCE 1.2 MILES

DRIVE TIME 5 MINUTES

PLAN TO SPEND 2-3 DAYS

BEST SEASONS YEAR-ROUND

TOP ADVENTURES 



Center Avenue/Bay City

Travel this byway and return to an era when lumbering, ship-building, agriculture and commerce flourished in this city by the bay.

“When the legislative bill was finally approved it included historical significance among the resources to be emphasized, Bay City realized it could easily participate in the program. For along 1.5 miles of its Center Avenue (M-25) from near downtown east to about the municipal limits, the community had one of Michigan’s most outstanding collections of architecturally significant residences and institutional buildings.”

“The lavish structures date from the early 1870s forward, when some of Bay City’s most affluent families began to build homes along the tree-lined street that ultimately became one of the town’s principal east/west thoroughfares. These wealthy people displayed their fortunes in their dwellings, erecting elegant Victorian mansions on well-spaced sites with broad lawns and ample set-backs from the road.”

*Excerpt from LeRoy Barnett’s
A Drive Down Memory Lane: The Named
State and Federal Highways of Michigan.*

From its picturesque tree-lined streets with majestic mansions to a beautifully restored county building and business district, Bay City is a preservationist’s dream. The M-25 (Center Avenue) neighborhood has almost 900 historic structures in its [Center Avenue Neighborhood Residential District](#). You’ll marvel at 150 years of building technology and architecture gracing one of the Great American Main Streets. In addition, nearby are the [Bay City Downtown Historic District](#) and the [Midland Street Commercial District](#).

The Homes of Center Avenue

Lumber barons and other members of the city’s wealthy elite built showplace homes on Center Avenue, where only a few are extant from the early years of development. The **Denison House** at 1201 Center Ave. is a prime example of the Italianate style, which was quite popular at the time.

At 701 Center Ave. representing the Italianate style is the **Shearer House**. This imposing brick house helps to anchor the western end of the corridor. The owner, architect James Shearer, had designed several buildings in Michigan, including the “Shearer Block,” the first brick building in Bay

City. In 1871, the governor of Michigan chose Shearer to help supervise the construction of the state capitol.

However, the most common late century architectural style and most prominent on the byway overall is the Queen Anne style. The **Whitney House** at 1315, and **Turner House** at 1514, are quite outstanding illustrations of this exquisite style. Romanesque Revival, seen in the **Chesbrough House** at 1515; Neoclassical Revival, seen in the **Bousfield House** at 1200; and the Shingle style, seen at 1812 in the **Courtright House**, are all additional late 19th century architectural styles that can be admired by Center Avenue visitors.



MIDLAND STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT



801 PENDLETON ST.

CENTER AVENUE/BAY CITY

Saginaw River. Sitting at the center of the community, it's used for many events, particularly arts performances.

Post-World War II Homes

Buildings constructed during the late 1940s and early 1950s now meet the 50-year requirement for consideration as historic but must still meet the National Register criteria for historical significance. Because Center Avenue continued to serve as Bay City's premier residential street during post-World War II, the homes built during this period contribute to the historic district. Just off the byway within the district, homes of notable mid-century architects of the period include the likes of Alden B. Dow, Victor Nurmi and Joseph Goddeyne.

Center Avenue Architecture

Along with the opulent homes located along Center Avenue, the corridor is graced with several cultural treasures dating back to the late 1800s, including the **First Presbyterian Church** at 805, the **Trinity Episcopal Church** at 911 and the corner of Grant Street, and the **Scottish Rite Masonic Center** at 612, built in the early 1920s. **Temple Beth Israel**, designed by Alden B. Dow, was constructed in 1960. At 2300, it sits within the residential neighborhood, blending in with the development pattern and setbacks established by the residential homes.

Center Avenue's Neighborhood

Off the byway, visitors can see why the Queen Anne style remained popular, as seen in the **Frederick McCoy House** at 1315 McKinley St. or **Amos Eaton House** at 600 Monroe St. However, revival styles, specifically Colonial and Tudor Revival, began to come into prominence. With its stucco cladding, the **Ida E. Eddy House** at 1907 Fifth St., a Tudor Revival home, also shows an Arts and Crafts influence, which is often seen in homes of the early 1900s. Two more unique and unusual houses built in 1914 are the **Sharp House** at 2130 Center Ave.,

an Arts and Crafts-influenced Italian Renaissance-style pre-cut "kit" house sold by Alladin Homes Co., and the **Kolb House** at 2009, an oversized four-square influenced by Japanese design.

While Center Avenue does not have recreational resources, nearby **Carroll Park** is two blocks north of Center Avenue near the east end. Additionally, the **Railtrail** traverses north/south across Center Avenue near Livingston Street, providing a natural gateway to the city and the Center Avenue corridor from Hampton Township. It gives non-motorized access from the outer edges of the city to Center Avenue.

Wenonah Park sits at the western terminus of Center Avenue along the



1514 CENTER AVE.



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PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: M-25 heads east from the US-10/I-75 interchange. The byway extends from Madison Avenue in downtown Bay City and runs east to Livingston Street.

GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Gas stations are near the route. A wide range of dining options are available. Accommodations in and near Bay City include chain hotels/motels to some of the historical homes in the area that are now B&Bs.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: Pathway To Family Fun, Sunrise Coast

LOCAL RESOURCES:

Bay County Historical Society
www.bchsmuseum.org

City of Bay City
www.baycitymi.org

Downtown Bay City
www.downtownbaycity.com

Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
www.baycityarea.com

DRIVING DISTANCE	1.5 MILES
DRIVE TIME	10 MINUTES
PLAN TO SPEND	2-3 DAYS
BEST SEASONS	YEAR-ROUND
TOP ADVENTURES	



Monroe Street

This Pure Michigan Byway represents a community's history and culture evolved throughout the centuries, creating a cultural landscape uniquely its own.

Driving, walking or cycling along M-125 (Monroe Street) provides visitors an unparalleled opportunity to enjoy a mix of residential, religious and commercial landmarks and structures, as well as natural resources such as the historic River Raisin, known by Native Americans as “Numaseppee” or River of Sturgeon.

Monroe is the second oldest Euro-American settlement in the Lower Peninsula, beginning in 1784 on land deeded to French Canadian Francis Navarre by local Potawatami. Representing this rich past are about 40 historic sites scattered along 2 miles of Monroe Street. With two centuries of history, and a desire to preserve it, Monroe became the first Michigan city to receive an historic Heritage Route designation in early 1996, forerunner to the Pure Michigan Byways.

Historic Districts

South of the river along the byway at Front Street and extending for several blocks is the oldest settled area in Monroe, dating back to 1817 when the area was first platted. This **Old Village Historic District** is primarily a commercial and residential area and has some of the oldest surviving buildings dating back to 1830. The **Sawyer House**, at 320 Front St., was built in 1873 in Italianate style of architecture.

North of the river to Loraine Street on the byway is the **East Elm–North Macomb Street Historic District**. Some of the houses date back to 1820 and include a wide array of Greek Revival, Federal, Second Empire, and Victorian architecture. Most are privately owned houses and large mansions, while small businesses line the stretch along the Monroe Street Byway.

Located at 203 East Elm Ave. is the **Wing-Allore House**. In 2014, it was

added as a place of historic significance. Just two blocks away at 47 East Elm Ave. is the **Gov. Robert McClelland House**, occupied briefly by McClelland when he served as mayor of Monroe in 1841 before leaving to embark in national politics. Located across Monroe Street is the **St. Mary's Church Complex Historic District**. The church traces its origins to the St. Antoine aux Rivières Raisin, which was founded in October 1788 and is the oldest church in Monroe County. At the junction of the byway



GEORGE ARMSTRONG CUSTER MONUMENT AND ST. MARY'S CHURCH COMPLEX

and Elm Avenue is the **George Armstrong Custer Equestrian Monument**. The 14-foot bronze statue pays tribute to the Civil War hero, who spent most of his younger days in Monroe. Next to the monument is **St. Mary's Park**, a great place to relax and enjoy a walk along the river.

Monroe Museums

Sitting at 126 South Monroe St. is a Georgian-style public building. Built as a post office in 1910 on the site of Gen. and Mrs. George A. Custer's residence, it now houses the large collections of 18th and 19th Century artifacts of the **Monroe County Historical Museum**. Some of the permanent exhibits include Early Michigan, the Gen. George A. Custer exhibit, Victoriana, the First Americans, and French habitants. The **Monroe County Labor Museum** on Front Street is a tribute to business owners, farmers, factory workers and slaves. The exhibits detail the Industrial Revolution and organized labor history in the United States.

River Raisin

The historically significant War of 1812 River Raisin National Battlefield was one of the worst defeats Americans experienced during that war. As many as 357 American soldiers were killed as the battles commenced near the mouth of the River Raisin and Lake Erie in Frenchtown, present-day Monroe.

Abandoned, the site was occupied by a paper mill. Realizing the significance of the American sacrifice on the hallowed grounds, many concerned citizens began waging a new battle in the 1980s to preserve the River Raisin Battlefield. Tremendous investments in the battlefield's restoration resulted in Congress authorizing the creation of the **River Raisin National Battlefield Park**. The battlefield continues to be restored and opened for the benefit of future generations at East Elm Avenue and Dixie Highway.

Parks and Trails

The only Michigan state park on Lake Erie is **Sterling State Park**. Its 1,300 acres offers great recreational opportunities, including more than 1 mile of beach, boating, shore fishing on Lake Erie and its fishing lagoons, lakefront camping, wildlife viewing and the

6-mile **Sterling Marsh Trail**. Directly connected is the 1.5-mile **River Raisin Heritage Trail**. From here, "the trail provides visitors with an outstanding opportunity to step back in time and experience the marshes and wetlands the early French settlers first explored, hunted and called home." The trail continues through the **River Raisin National Battlefield Park** along the river back to the byway.

The middle section of the trail contains more historic and cultural sites meandering through Monroe's historic districts. The western portion has access to **Veterans Park**, saluting those who served from World War I to the present. It also has a spot to fish and relax. Through this section, there are multiple places lending scenic views of the river. The trail ends at **Munson Park**.

The **Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge** is the only international wildlife refuge in North America, established in 2001 and managed jointly by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service. Its nearly 6,000 acres consists primarily of migratory coastal wetlands, most of which

are restored. Here in Monroe, there are two units: the 240-acre **Eagle Island Marsh** added in 2005 and the **Ford Marsh**, which encompasses 180 acres, added in 2010.



RIVER RAISIN



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PLANNING TIPS

GETTING THERE: The route can be accessed anywhere along the M-125 corridor. US-24 (Telegraph Road) and I-75 run parallel with the byway in Monroe. Exit 11 (Laplaisance Road) off I-75 will get you to the southern end of the byway and exit 18 (Nadeau Road) from the north.

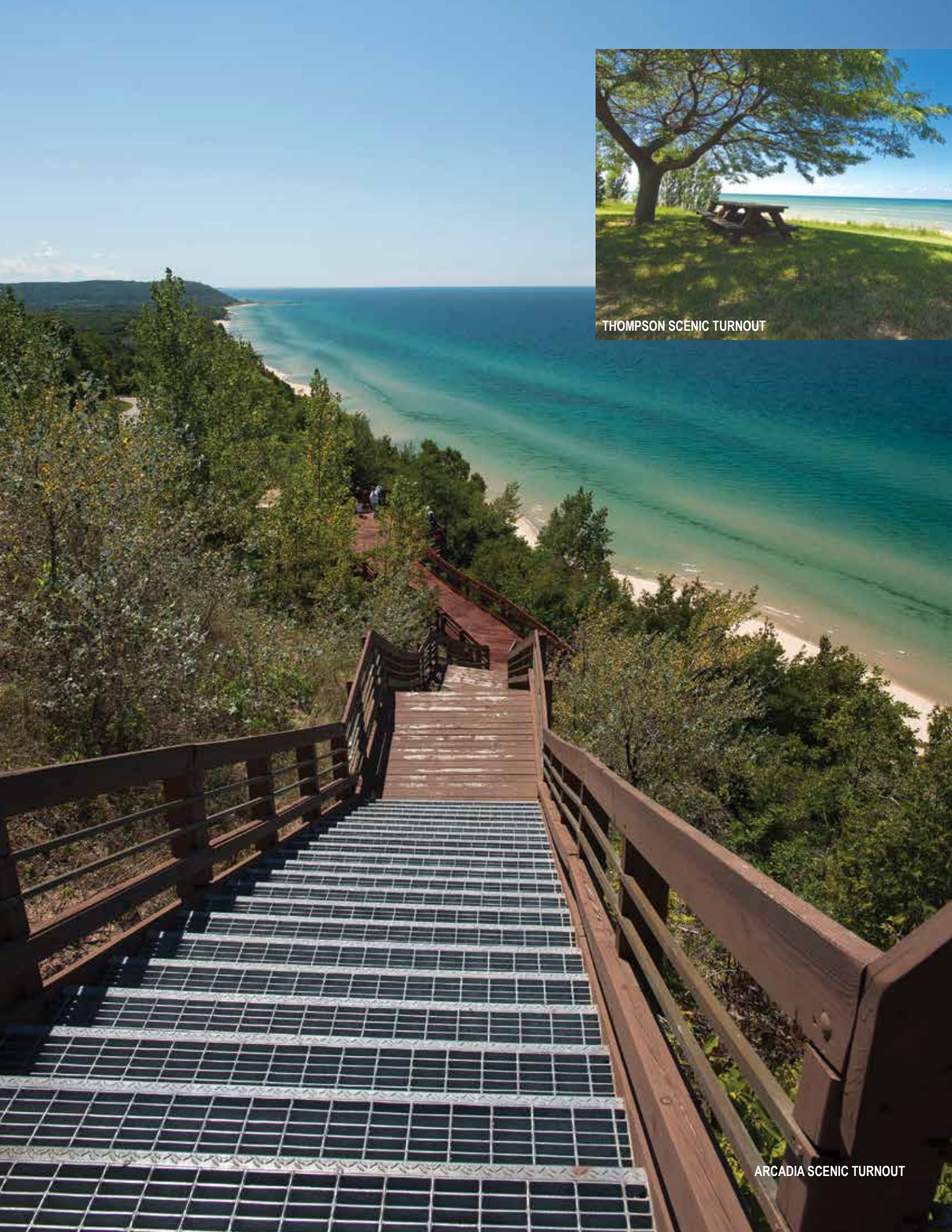
GAS, FOOD AND LODGING: Gas stations are along the route. A wide range of dining options are available. Accommodations in and near Monroe include chain hotels/motels to B&Bs.

BYWAYS THAT ARE NEAR: US-12 Heritage Trail, Woodward Avenue

LOCAL RESOURCES: Monroe County Convention and Tourism www.visitmonroemi.us

City of Monroe www.monroemi.gov

DRIVING DISTANCE	2 MILES
DRIVE TIME	10 MINUTES
PLAN TO SPEND	2-3 DAYS
BEST SEASONS	SPRING, SUMMER, FALL
TOP ADVENTURES	



THOMPSON SCENIC TURNOUT

ARCADIA SCENIC TURNOUT



FUMEE FALLS ROADSIDE PARK

Michigan was the first state to provide travelers a place to stop for a picnic or take in a vista along its roadways. America's likely first roadside park, located on US-2 east of Iron River, is named for its founder, Herbert F. Larson.

Today, Michigan boasts more than 80 roadside parks and about 20 scenic turnouts located along its rural state highways. Some roadside parks are gateways to hidden scenic gems like **Canyon Falls Roadside Park**, a trail heads down through a cedar forest to the Sturgeon River. Motorists can stretch their legs and take in this beautiful segment of river as it tumbles over rocky shelves through a deep

canyon. Others parks reveal Michigan's scenic and historical richness, like **White Rock Roadside Park**, with views of Lake Huron and a large, offshore boulder with a past. White Rock was a boundary marker defining the territory released by Native American tribes of Michigan to the U.S. in the 1807 Treaty of Detroit. The park features steps to the beach, an observation deck and walking trails to a nonmotorized path along M-25.

These are just a few examples, so come and explore a little more. Plan a stop at some of Michigan's roadside parks and scenic turnouts as part of your next tour.

Most Michigan roadside parks feature drinking water and facilities, some of which may be primitive. Scenic turnouts have no water or facilities.

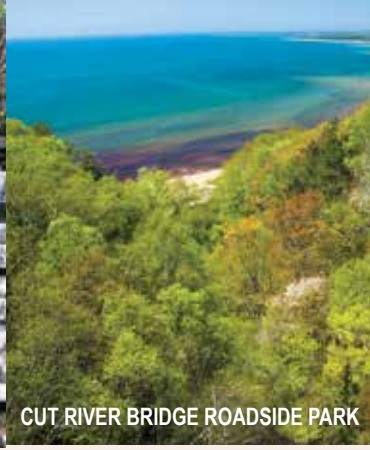
Scenic Turnouts

ROUTE	COUNTY	LOCATION	PARK NAME
M-28	Marquette	West of Alger County line	
M-28	Marquette	East of Marquette	
M-26	Keweenaw	East of T43	
US-41	Keweenaw	North of Hancock	Keweenaw Scenic Turnout
US-2	Mackinac	West of Brevort	Epoufette Bay Scenic Turnout
US-2	Mackinac	West of St. Ignace	
M-134	Chippewa	West of DeTour Village	
M-134	Chippewa	West of DeTour Village	
M-134	Chippewa	West of DeTour Village	
M-28	Alger	1 mile west of Au Train	
M-28	Alger	4.7 miles west of Au Train	Lake Superior Scenic Turnout
M-28	Alger	0.5 miles east of Au Train	
M-28	Alger	3.1 miles west of Au Train	
US-2	Mackinac	East of Brevort	Brevort Scenic Turnout
M-22	Benzie	North of Arcadia	Arcadia Scenic Turnout
M-72	Kalkaska	West of Kalkaska	
M-22	Leelanau	Near Empire (<i>obstructed view</i>)	
US-23	Cheboygan	North of Cordwood Shores Road	
US-23	Presque Isle	East of Pine Hill Road	
US-23	Presque Isle	East of Ray Road	
US-131	Emmet	South of Greg Road	
M-25	Huron	Southwest of Port Austin	Thompson Scenic Turnout
M-25	Sanilac	East of Applegate	

Roadside Parks

ROUTE	COUNTY	LOCATION	PARK NAME
US-2	Gogebic	1 mile east of Bessemer, north side	Memory Lane Roadside Park
US-2	Gogebic	8 miles east of Watersmeet, south side	Watersmeet Roadside Park
US-2	Iron	5 miles east of Iron River, north side	Larson Roadside Park
US-2/141	Iron	6 miles south of Crystal Falls, east side	Alpha Roadside Park
US-2	Dickinson	1 mile east of Quinnesee, north side	Fumee Creek Roadside Park
US-2	Menominee	2 miles west of Hermansville, south side	Cunard Roadside Park
M-26	Keweenaw	1 mile west of Copper Harbor, north and south sides	Hebard Roadside Park
M-26	Keweenaw	5 miles east of Eagle Harbor, north side	Esrey Roadside Park
M-26	Keweenaw	Between Eagle River and Eagle Harbor, north side	Sand Bay Roadside Park
M-28	Ontonagon	2 miles west of Ewen, north side	Ewen Pines Roadside Park
M-28	Ontonagon	West of Trout Creek on middle branch of Ontonagon River, south side	Agate Falls Roadside Park
M-28	Marquette	1 mile east of Michigamme, south side	Michigamme Roadside Park
US-41	Houghton	4 miles south of Calumet, east side	Memorial Airport Roadside Park
US-41	Baraga	6 miles north of Baraga, east side	Baraga Cliff Roadside Park
US-41	Baraga	1 mile south of Alberta, west side	Canyon Falls Roadside Park
US-41	Baraga	19 miles south of L'Anse, south side	Tioga Creek Roadside Park
US-45	Ontonagon	12 miles north of Bruce Crossing, east side	Military Hills Roadside Park
US-45	Gogebic	7.5 miles south of Watersmeet, east side	Gateway Roadside Park
M-95	Marquette	5 miles south of Republic, east side	Leif Erickson Memorial Park
M-28	Marquette	7 miles east of US-41, north side	Lake Superior Roadside Park
US-2/41	Delta	8 miles west of Escanaba, south side	Hyde Roadside Park
US-2	Schoolcraft	4 miles west of Manistique, south side	Thompson Roadside Park
US-2	Schoolcraft	3 miles southwest of Blaney Junction, south side	Green School Roadside Park
US-2	Mackinac	26 miles west of St. Ignace, north side	Cut River Bridge Roadside Park
US-2	Mackinac	6 miles west of St. Ignace, south side	Gros Cap Roadside Park
M-28	Alger	20 miles west of Munising, south side	Deer Lake Roadside Park
M-28	Alger	11 miles west of Munising, north side	Scott Falls Roadside Park
M-28	Alger	1 mile west of Munising, south side	Grand Island Harbor Scenic Turnout
M-28	Luce	1 mile west of M-117 on M-28, south side	Old Flowing Well Roadside Park
US-41	Alger	6 miles north of Trenary, west side	Kiva Roadside Park
M-77	Schoolcraft	1 mile south of Germfask, east side	Manistique River Roadside Park
M-134	Chippewa	6 miles west of DeTour, 16 miles east of Cedarville, south side	DeTour Roadside Park
M-185	Mackinac	British Landing Road/Lake Shore Boulevard, Mackinac Island, east side	British Landing Roadside Park
US-10	Lake	4 miles north of Baldwin, north side	Baldwin Roadside Park
US-10	Lake	7 miles east of Baldwin, north side	Chase Roadside Park
US-31	Charlevoix	4 miles northeast of Charlevoix, north side	Lake Michigan Shores Roadside Park
US-31	Antrim	North of Elk Rapids, east side	Birch Lake Roadside Park
US-31	Grand Traverse	5 miles east of Traverse City, north side	Acme Roadside Park
US-31	Benzie	3.5 miles south of US-31/M-115 junction, west side	Benzonia Roadside Park
M-37	Wexford	South of M-115 and Mesick, west side	Hodenpyl Pond Roadside Park
M-55	Manistee	5 miles west of M-37 (Wellston), both sides	Cooley Bridge Roadside Park
M-115	Wexford	3 miles northwest of Mesick, north side	Mesick Roadside Park
US-131	Grand Traverse	14 miles south of Kalkaska, east side	Fife Lake Roadside Park
US-131	Wexford	5 miles north of Manton, east side	Manistee River Roadside Park

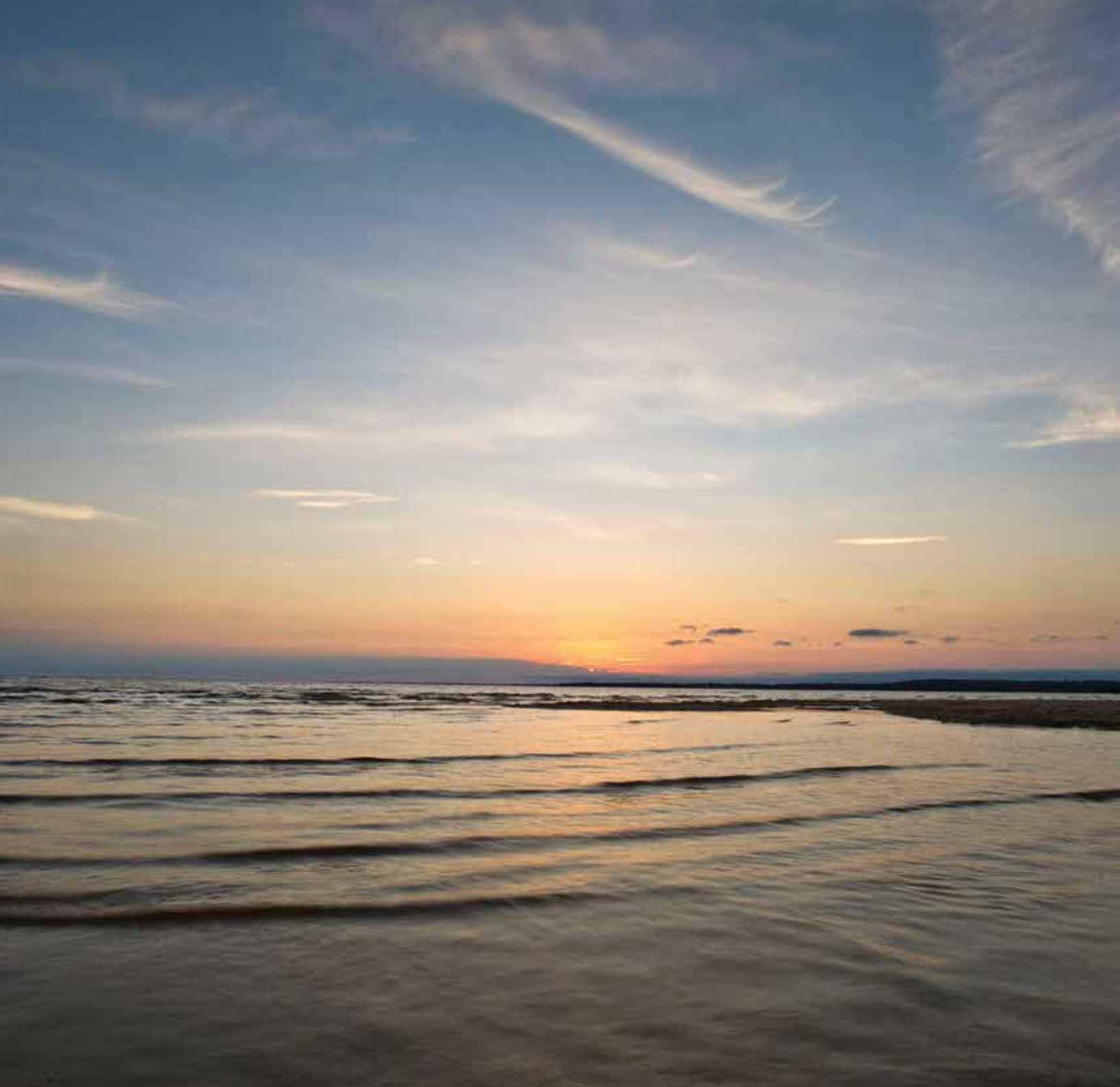
ON BYWAY ■ NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY/ALL AMERICAN ROAD ■ NATIONAL FOREST ■ STATE SCENIC ■ STATE RECREATION ■ STATE HISTORIC



CUT RIVER BRIDGE ROADSIDE PARK

DEER LAKE ROADSIDE PARK

ROUTE	COUNTY	LOCATION	PARK NAME
US-23	Iosco	3 miles north of Oscoda, east side	Oscoda Roadside Park
US-23	Presque Isle	16 miles southeast of Rogers City, east side	Grand Lake Roadside Park
US-23	Presque Isle	26 miles north of Rogers City, east side	Huron Dunes Roadside Park
US-23	Cheboygan	13 miles east of Cheboygan, east side	Huron Shores Roadside Park
US-23	Cheboygan	7 miles north of Cheboygan, east side	Mackinac Straits Roadside Park
M-33	Montmorency	7 miles north of Atlanta, east side	Northern Pine Roadside Park
M-33	Ogemaw	6 miles north of Alger, east side	Ogemaw Roadside Park
M-55	Iosco	11 miles West of Tawas City, north side	Au Gres River Roadside Park
M-32	Montmorency	Between Atlanta and Hillman, north side	Hillman Roadside Park
M-20	Oceana	3 miles east of New Era, south side	Zeek Lake Roadside Park
M-21	Kent	3 miles east of Ada, south side	Ada Roadside Park
M-21	Ionia	4 miles west of Ionia, north side	Bellamy Creek Roadside Park
US-31	Ottawa	1 mile north of M-45 (Agnew), east side	Agnew Roadside Park
M-37	Newaygo	3.5 miles south of White Cloud, west side	White Cloud Roadside Park
M-46	Montcalm	4 miles east of Edmore, south side	Marl Lake Roadside Park
M-57	Montcalm	East of Greenville, north side	Greenville Roadside Park
M-66	Montcalm	1 mile north of M-57, east side	Sheridan Roadside Park
M-82	Newaygo	4 miles east of Newaygo, north side	High Rollway Roadside Park
M-13	Arenac	4 miles south of Standish, west side	Standish Roadside Park
M-13/M-21	Genesee	M-13/M-21 intersection, northeast side	Lennon Roadside Park
M-15	Tuscola	1 mile south of Vassar, west side	Vassar Roadside Park
US-23	Arenac	6 miles east of Standish, east side	Omer Roadside Park
M-25	Sanilac	1.5 miles south of Port Sanilac, east side	Lake Huron Roadside Park
M-25	Sanilac	North of Port Sanilac, east side	Four Mile Roadside Park
M-25	Huron	0.5 miles south of M-25/M-142 junction, east side	Brown Roadside Park
M-25	Huron	3 miles southwest of Port Austin, west side	Jenks Roadside Park
M-30	Gladwin	7 miles north of M-61, east side	Meridian Roadside Park
M-46	Tuscola	10 miles east of M-46/M-15 junction, north side	Cass River Roadside Park
M-25	Huron	North of White Rock, east side	White Rock Roadside Park
US-12	Branch	1.5 miles west of Bronson, north side	Bronson Roadside Park
M-43/M-66	Barry	2.3 miles east of Woodland, south side	Woodland Roadside Park
M-60	Calhoun	2 miles west of M-60 and I-69 (Tekonsha), north side	Burlington Roadside Park
M-140	Berrien	1 mile south of Watervliet, east side	Artesian Flow Roadside Park
US-12	Hillsdale	1.5 miles east of Jonesville, west side	Jonesville Roadside Park
M-43	Ingham	4 miles west of Williamston, north side	Red Cedar Roadside Park
M-50	Lenawee	2 miles south of US-12/M-50 (Cambridge Junction), south side	Cambridge Junction Roadside Park
US-127	Jackson	7 miles south of Jackson, west side	Austin Blair Roadside Park



US-2 NAUBINWAY REST AREA

US-127 CLARE WELCOME CENTER



Welcome Centers and Rest Areas

Serving Michigan travelers are 14 Welcome Centers and numerous rest areas located throughout the state's network of roads and freeways.

When you're on the road traveling the state's many byways, you'll need a break every now and then. Whether you're looking for vacation activities or just a place to stop and stretch, Michigan's Rest Areas and Welcome Centers are here to help.

Statewide, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) operates and maintains 78 rest areas along major roadways with attendants on site eight hours a day. Rest areas are open 24 hours, offering a variety of services and conveniences and are generally located within an hour's travel time of

each other. Rest areas provide modern restroom facilities, telephones, picnic areas, pet exercise zones, paved parking areas, and fresh drinking water, among many other amenities. You'll find inviting landscapes at our rest areas - some of them have been adopted by local groups and beautified with help from master gardeners.

Some of these rest areas are also full-fledged Welcome Centers with tourism and event information and special attractions of their own. Michigan's 14 Welcome Centers serve more than 7.5 million travelers annually. Staff are knowledgeable members of the hospitality industry dedicated to assisting travelers find places to stay and things to do in their areas. They provide Pure Michigan travel and tourism information to promote destinations, events and activities around the state.

Many Welcome Centers feature memorial plaques, historical markers or cultural displays. The Clare Welcome Center on US-127 in Clare County hosts the MDOT's Employee Memorial, a permanent sculptural tribute to highway

workers from around the state who lost their lives while building our transportation system. Dedicated in May 1994, the memorial was developed and paid for by current and retired MDOT employees.

Stopping at a Welcome Center? Get ready to have some fun. At Monroe and New Buffalo, you'll find Welcome Centers with universally accessible playgrounds. Monroe features a walkable path through an interpretive rock garden, with 38 mineral specimens from around the state. At the Marquette Welcome Center on US-41, with Lake Superior and the Iron Ore Heritage Trail as backdrops, you'll find a deck perfect for watching the waves roll in. In winter, cheer on sled dog teams as they race by during the annual mushing marathon.

You'll see a lot of variety at Michigan's rest areas and Welcome Centers. They range from modern plazas to rustic log buildings. But they all have one thing in common: they're designed with the same goal to make your trip easier and more enjoyable.



I-75 MONROE WELCOME CENTER ROCK GARDEN



I-69 SWARTZ CREEK REST AREA



I-75 TIPONABEE REST AREA



I-94 NEW BUFFALO WELCOME CENTER

Michigan rest areas and Welcome Centers listed by route. Welcome Centers are shown in purple.
 (EB: Eastbound, WB: Westbound, NB: Northbound, SB: Southbound)

ROUTE	COUNTY	LOCATION	REST AREA NAME
US-2	Gogebic	EB and WB in Ironwood	Ironwood Welcome Center and Rest Area
US-2	Dickinson	EB and WB in Iron Mountain	Iron Mountain Welcome Center and Rest Area
US-41/M-35	Menominee	NB in Menominee	Menominee Welcome Center and Rest Area
US-41	Marquette	NB and SB south of Marquette	Marquette Welcome Center and Rest Area
I-75	Chippewa	NB south of Sault Ste. Marie	Sault Ste. Marie Rest Area
I-75	Chippewa	SB in Sault Ste. Marie	Sault Ste. Welcome Center and Rest Area
I-75	Mackinac	NB in St. Ignace	St. Ignace Welcome Center and Rest Area
I-75	Mackinac	SB north of St. Ignace	St. Ignace Rest Area
US-2	Mackinac	3 miles east of Naubinway, south side	Naubinway Rest Area
M-28	Schoolcraft	EB and WB west of Seney	Seney Rest Area
US-2	Delta	1 mile east of Garden Corners (M-183)	Garden Corners Rest Area
US-131	Wexford	NB south of Cadillac	Cadillac Rest Area
US-131	Osceola	SB south of Cadillac	Tustin Rest Area/Senic Turnout (primitive facilities)
US-31	Mason	NB south of Ludington	Ludington Rest Area
I-75	Cheboygan	NB north of Topinabee	Topinabee Rest Area
I-75	Cheboygan	SB south of Mackinaw City	Hebron Rest Area
I-75	Crawford	NB south of Grayling	Grayling Rest Area
I-75	Crawford	SB north of Grayling	Hartwick Pines Rest Area
I-75/US-23	Emmet	NB in Mackinaw City	Mackinaw City Welcome Center and Rest Area
I-75	Ogemaw	NB south of West Branch	West Branch Rest Area
I-75	Otsego	NB south of Gaylord	Gaylord Rest Area
I-75	Otsego	SB north of Gaylord	Vanderbilt Rest Area
I-75	Roscommon	SB south of Roscommon	Nine Mile Hill Rest Area
US-27	Roscommon	NB south of Houghton Lake	Houghton Lake Rest Area
I-96	Ionia	WB east of Portland	Portland Rest Area
I-96	Ionia	EB west of M-66	Saranac Rest Area
I-96	Kent	EB west of Grand Rapids	Walker Rest Area
I-96	Ottawa	WB east of Muskegon	Fruitport Rest Area
I-196	Ottawa	EB east of Zeeland	Zeeland Rest Area
US-31	Muskegon	SB north of Muskegon	Muskegon Rest Area
US-31	Oceana	NB north of Rothbury	Rothbury Rest Area
US-31	Oceana	SB south of Hart	Hart Rest Area
US-131	Kent	SB north of Grand Rapids	Rockford Rest Area

ON BYWAY ■ NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY/ALL AMERICAN ROAD ■ NATIONAL FOREST ■ STATE SCENIC ■ STATE RECREATION ■ STATE HISTORIC

ROUTE	COUNTY	LOCATION	REST AREA NAME
US-131	Montcalm	NB north of Cutler Road	Morley Rest Area
US-131	Mecosta	SB north of 13 Mile Road	Big Rapids Rest Area
I-69	Genesee	EB west of Swartz Creek	Swartz Creek Rest Area
I-69	Lapeer	EB east of Lapeer	Five Lakes Rest Area
I-75	Arenac	SB south of Alger	Alger Rest Area
I-75	Bay	SB south of Bay City	Bay City Rest Area
I-75	Bay	NB north of Linwood	Linwood Rest Area
I-75	Genesee	SB north of Flint	Clio Rest Area
I-75	Genesee	NB south of Clio	Dodge Road Rest Area
US-23	Genesee	NB north of Fenton	Fenton Rest Area
US-127	Gratiot	NB north of Ithaca	Ithaca Rest Area
US-127	Clare	NB and SB north of Clare	Clare Welcome Center and Rest Area
I-69	Branch	NB south of Coldwater	Coldwater Welcome Center and Rest Area
I-69	Calhoun	SB north of Marshall	Turkeyville Rest Area
I-94	Berrien	NB north of Indiana state line	New Buffalo Welcome Center and Rest Area
I-94	Berrien	WB east of Watervliet	Watervliet Rest Area
I-94	Calhoun	EB west of Battle Creek	Battle Creek Rest Area
I-94	Calhoun	WB east of Marshall	Marshall Rest Area
I-94	Kalamazoo	WB east of Kalamazoo	Galesburg Rest Area
I-196	Allegan	NB north of South Haven	Glenn Rest Area
I-196	Allegan	SB south of Holland	Saugatuck Rest Area
US-131	Kalamazoo	SB north of Kalamazoo	Alamo Rest Area
I-75	Monroe	NB south of Monroe	Monroe Welcome Center and Rest Area
I-94	Jackson	EB west of Jackson	Sandstone Rest Area
I-94	Jackson	WB east of Jackson	Grass Lake Rest Area
I-96	Ingham	WB east of Lansing	Okemos Rest Area
I-96	Livingston	EB west of Howell	Howell Rest Area
I-96	Clinton	EB west of Lansing	Grand Ledge Rest Area
I-275	Monroe	SB north of Monroe	Carleton Rest Area
US-23	Monroe	NB south of Dundee	Dundee Welcome Center and Rest Area
US-23	Washtenaw	SB north of Ann Arbor	Northfield Church Rest Area
US-127	Ingham	NB south of Lansing	Lansing Rest Area
US-127	Jackson	SB north of Jackson	Jackson Rest Area
I-69	Eaton	NB east of Potterville	Potterville Rest Area
I-69	Shiawassee	WB east of Woodbury Road	Woodbury Road Rest Area
US-127	Clinton	SB north of Alward Road	Dewitt Rest Area
I-94	Washtenaw	EB east of M-52	Chelsea Rest Area
I-75	Oakland	SB north of Clarkston	Clarkston Rest Area
I-75	Oakland	NB north of Clarkston	Davisburg Rest Area
I-94	St. Clair	SB west of Port Huron	Richmond Rest Area
I-94	St. Clair	NB west of Port Huron	Adair Rest Area
I-94	St. Clair	WB in Port Huron	Port Huron Welcome Center and Rest Area
I-94	Wayne	WB west of Belleville	Belleville Rest Area
I-275	Wayne	NB north of Michigan Avenue	Westland Rest Area
I-69	St. Clair	WB west of Capac	Capac Rest Area
I-75	Wayne	At the Ambassador Bridge	Detroit Welcome Center



Byway Designations

Michigan's incredibly varied recreational, scenic and historic cultural treasures all share one thing, a common thread joining them together: roads. Pure Michigan Byways and Tour Routes encourage travelers to slow down, take roads less traveled, and discover the state's true beauty, wonder and traditions.

The Pure Michigan Byways program continues a long legacy of recognizing outstanding motor routes across the state. Established by the State Legislature in 1993, the Michigan Heritage Route program was founded as a grassroots effort uniting local residents, government officials, landowners, and other interested groups in a common cause: to preserve the state's unique scenic, historic and recreational highways.

Now, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Michigan Economic Development Corp. (MEDC) have collaborated to reinvent the Heritage Route program. In 2014, the Legislature changed the name to the Pure Michigan Byway program, rebranding and aligning the program much more closely with the national American Byways program and the wildly successful Pure Michigan travel and tourism initiatives. This program will help ensure the rich heritage of local highways and road-sides continues to play an important role in improving Michigan's economy and quality of life.

New signs were developed through cooperation between the MEDC, MDOT, and byways around the state.

The new markers incorporate the popular Pure Michigan campaign logo and the word "Byway," which is used nationwide in 45 other state programs. The new sign will be the statewide standard for all byways going forward. But you won't see them on every route right away. Existing Heritage Route markers will only be replaced as needed.



The byways are broken down into four tiers: the All American Road, the National Scenic Byway, the state's Pure Michigan Byway, and the National Forest Service's own Scenic Byway program. The first two tiers are awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration, based on a rigorous application process and development of a "corridor management plan" by the destination marketing organizations and byway committee. The third follows a similar application process at the state level. The last, designated by the U.S. Forest Service, as a scenic route within a National Forest.

Byways connect the public to destinations and special places. These designated routes encompass some of our state's most unique landscape and communities noted for their scenery, and natural and cultural features. Planning a byway requires a community conversation bringing many diverse partners together. The partners benefit by promoting stewardship and boosting local economies.

The process involves countless hours of work and coordination with local communities, nonprofits and state agencies. These may include MDOT, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, MEDC's Travel Michigan, the Audubon Society of Michigan, and other resources to ensure proper signs being posted. Infrastructure and travel adventures are available along the route.

A Pure Michigan Byway must demonstrate a rich and varied archaeological, cultural, historical, natural beauty, and recreational qualities contributing to the uniqueness of each of these treasured pathways. Michigan's collection of byways have been preserved for all to enjoy.

You, our Pure Michigan Byway traveler, reap the rewards of being able to use this guide to plan some time, select a direction and drive. It is our hope you use it to plan many road trips across our beautiful state, and learn from its rich history.

Of special note, throughout this guide each byway lists "Planning Tips." This has been compiled along with other resources that will help you in planning your trip. The "Travel Times" stated are the time it takes to complete the drive from start to finish. But "Plan to Spend" the time it takes to enjoy all our Pure Michigan Byways have to offer.

Quick Reference Guide

State and National Resources

**Pure Michigan's Official
Travel and Tourism**
www.Michigan.org
888-784-7328

Michigan State Parks and Trails
www.MichiganDNR.com/ParksAndTrails
517-284-7275

Michigan Water Trails
www.michiganwatertrails.org

Michigan Bike Trails
www.Michigan.gov/MDOT-Biking

Michigan Department of Transportation
www.Michigan.gov/MDOT
Byway Coordinator
MDOT-Byways@Michigan.gov

**Michigan State Parks and
Harbor Reservations**
www.MiDNRReservations.com
800-447-2757

Audubon Michigan
www.michiganaudubon.org
517-580-7364

**National Scenic Byways and
All American Roads**
<https://fhwaapps.fhwa.dot.gov/bywaysp>
202-366-0660

National Park Service
www.nps.gov/state/MI
402-661-1736 Midwest Region Office

U.S. Forest Service
www.fs.usda.gov
800-832-1355

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\\Transportation Planning\Project Planning\Heritage Routes and Scenic Byways\MI BYWAY — Version 6: Updated 8/2023

Trip Diary

Use this page to document your travels on our Pure Michigan byways.

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Trip Diary

Use this page to document your travels on our Pure Michigan byways.

A large area of the page is filled with horizontal dotted lines, providing a space for writing a trip diary.



www.Michigan.gov/MDOT/Travel/Tourists/Byways

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