

50 Fun Things to do in Michigan This Summer

by admin on July 12, 2011



During the long cold winters here in Michigan I like think of all of the places I want to visit and things I want to do during Michigan's beautiful summer. The list tends to grow and grow until it reaches a length that I know makes it impossible to see and do everything that is on it.

So, I thought I would share my list with everyone in the hopes that others will find something in Michigan that they hadn't thought of before or didn't know about.

These are in no particular order.

1. Climb the big dune at [Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park](#).
2. Spend the day at [Mackinac Island](#).
3. Catch a Tigers game at [Comerica Park](#).
4. Take a [copper mine tour](#) in the U.P.
5. Visit [Fort Michilimackinac](#) with your kids.
6. Go for a swim in [Lake Michigan](#).
7. [Go camping](#) at one of the numerous state or private campgrounds.
8. Take the family and watch the synchronized musical fountains of [The Cascades in Jackson](#)

9. Climb [Castle Rock](#) in St. Ignace
10. Tour the [Valley Camp Ship museum](#) in Sault Saint Marie
11. Take a hike in the Porkies – The [Porcupine Mountains](#) that is
12. Drive one of the [Great Lakes Circle Tours](#)
13. Bike around the 8 mile highway, [M-185](#), on Mackinac Island. You won't have to watch out for vehicles 😊
14. Love cherries? Get your fill at [The Cherry Hut](#) in Beulah, Michigan. It started out as a roadside pie stand in 1922.
15. Cross the Kalamazoo River in Saugatuck via one of the oldest [hand-cranked chain ferries](#) in America.
16. Visit the [Roadside Attractions store](#) in Metamora, Michigan.
17. Take in a movie at the [Capri Drive-In](#) in Coldwater. Rated one of the Top 10 Drive-In movie theaters in the country.
18. Hike or bike the [Kal-Haven Trail](#).
19. Ride the [S.S. Badger Car Ferry](#) from Ludington to Manitowoc, Wisconsin.
20. Take a couple of days to visit [The Henry Ford and Greenfield Village](#)
21. Watch a Great Lakes freighter pass through the [Soo Locks](#).
22. Spend some time hiking around [Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore](#).
23. Visit one of [Michigan's 115 Historic Lighthouses](#)
24. Play a pickup game of baseball at the Tiger Stadium site at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull
25. If you happen to be driving along U.S. 2 in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, stop in for a refreshing glass bottle of soda at the [Hog Island General Store](#) just east of Naubinway.
26. Stay the night at a working lighthouse on Lake Superior – [Big Bay Point Lighthouse Bed and Breakfast](#)
27. Drive across the [Mackinac Bridge](#). For only \$3.50 for a car you, too, can earn the badge of honor of being able to say, "yep, I drove across that bridge."
28. Visit one of Michigan's numerous farmers markets. [Find a Michigan Farmers Market near you](#).
29. Spend a day at [Michigan's Adventure](#). It's the perfect size amusement park for young families. You get all of the rides plus their huge waterpark for one admission fee.
30. After Michigan's Adventure stop in at a classic drive-in, [Dog-N-Suds in Montague](#).
31. While I'm on the subject of food – if you are ever near New Buffalo, do yourself a favor and try a burger at [Redamak's](#).
32. Give some love to the overlooked Great Lake – Lake Huron. Drive along M-25 and M-23 and discover all of the great places on Michigan's east side.
33. Take in a concert on a Thursday in South Haven along the river. The [Community Riverfront Concert Series](#) is all summer long and starts at 7pm.
34. Get the tastiest and freshest whitefish at [Scalawags Whitefish and Chips](#) in downtown Mackinaw City or Traverse City.
35. Get all Bavarian up in [Frankenmuth](#).

36. Go for a ride on the dunes with [Mac Wood's Dune Rides](#) in Mears.
37. Do some beachcombing along Michigan's 2,147 miles of Great Lakes shoreline. You never know what you will find.
38. [Go fishing!](#)
39. If your kids are acting like animals, consider a trip to the zoo. [John Ball Zoo](#) in Grand Rapids, [Binder Park Zoo](#) in Battle Creek, [Potter Park Zoo](#) in Lansing, the [Detroit Zoo](#), and [Kalamazoo](#) (not a zoo, but still a fun town!).
40. While you are in Kalamazoo, how about the [Air Zoo!](#) (technically in Portage, but who's counting?)
41. Go [blueberry eating!](#)
42. Want to see some Michigan black bears up close, but not be in any danger? You have to go to [Oswald's Bear Ranch](#) near Newberry, Michigan.
43. Tour a Michigan Ghost Town. The [Fayette Historic State Park](#) is a unique opportunity to walk through a wonderfully preserved abandoned townsite from the early days of iron mining in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.
44. There are 197 waterfalls in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. You won't have to [travel far to find one!](#)
45. Do yourself a favor and visit [Traverse City](#). One of Michigan's most beautiful beach towns.
46. Stay at one of Michigan's numerous [Indoor Water Park Hotels](#).
47. Shoot for par (I like to aim low, just like my drives off the tee 😊) at one of [Michigan's golf courses](#).
48. Spend the day at the [Gilmore Car Museum](#) in Hickory Corners just minutes from Kalamazoo. Over 200 cars of all eras to gawk over, grab something to eat at a 1940s era Diner, and see what a gas station looked like in the 1930s.
49. [Canoe the Platte River](#) near Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. We canoed the Lower Platte before and had a great time spotting wildlife and enjoying the ride.
50. Ride into history on the [Little River Railroad](#) in Coldwater. Take a ride on a steam-powered locomotive for a unique experience the whole family will love!
51. **Bonus!** Stop in at one of Michigan's 14 Welcome Centers and come up with hundreds of ideas for great things to do in Michigan.