

GREAT LAKES USA



**ILLINOIS
MICHIGAN
MINNESOTA
OHIO
PENNSYLVANIA
WISCONSIN**

greatlakesUSA.co.uk

GREAT LAKES GREAT IDEA



**ILLINOIS • MICHIGAN • MINNESOTA
OHIO • PENNSYLVANIA • WISCONSIN**

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There are so many wonderful, exciting possibilities when it comes to planning a trip to the States that just making up your mind where to go can be a problem. City life or outdoor adventures? Fascinating history or shoppertunities galore? Stunning scenery or fabulous food?

Think no more. The Great Lakes have the answer because the region has them all.

Do you just love big cities? Then check out Chicago in Illinois, with its towering skyscrapers, vast shores bordering Lake Michigan and bustling foodie scene. Or detour to Michigan's Detroit for its unique designer boutiques, legendary music scene and auto background. Maybe Philadelphia in Pennsylvania is more to your liking with its riveting history, numerous museums and colourful murals.

Or do small towns take your fancy? Then pop up to Michigan's Upper Peninsula to Mackinac Island, where cars are not allowed. Or take a trip to Butler County in Pennsylvania for a glimpse of small-town America.

Desperate to hit the open road? Illinois' Heritage Corridor is the home of the first 100 miles of the legendary Route 66; the 154-mile North Shore Scenic Drive in Minnesota is a spectacular outing; and the Great River Road, which is bordered by the Mississippi, winds its way through historic towns and State and National Parks of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois.



**NAVY PIER,
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

Outdoor opportunities abound in the Great Lakes, from hiking, biking, boating and fishing to golfing, kayaking, caving and snowmobiling. Whatever your sport or pastime, it's there for the taking.

With more than 10,000 inland lakes in each of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin alone, it's easy to see why the region is called the Great Lakes. And with the lakes come some stunning scenery – cascading waterfalls, awe-inspiring cliffs, seemingly never-ending forests, and a National Park (Voyageurs in Minnesota) where canoeing is the recommended form of transport.

When it comes to top-class attractions, you're spoiled for choice in the Great Lakes. Biker buffs will just love Wisconsin's Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee, Ohio's Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland is a must visit for rock and pop lovers, and the theme parks of Cedar Point in Sandusky and Kings Island near Cincinnati, both in Ohio, will keep thrill-seekers happy.

And if you fancy a beer after a hectic days of touring or roller-

coaster riding, where better to try some of America's excellent craft beers than either Michigan's Grand Rapids, nicknamed Beer City USA and voted the Craft Beverage Capital of the United States by *USA Today*, or Milwaukee in Wisconsin, which has a history of around 200 years of brewing through famous names such as Miller, Pabst and Schlitz.

But if shopping for stylish fashion and browsing superb department stores clothes is more to your liking, Chicago's Magnificent Mile, with over 450 retailers along Michigan Avenue, hits the spot. Want to shop, have some fun and games, and sample some great food as well? Then the giant Mall of America in Minnesota is the place for you, with its more-than 520 stores, theme park and a vast array of restaurants to choose from.

Not far from the Mall, Prince's Paisley Park home and studio is a must for any music fans, while Detroit's Motown Museum at Hitsville USA enables Motown fans to wallow in nostalgia.

So, whatever way you look at it, a visit to the Great Lakes is a Great Idea.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

on the Great Lakes USA states and featured attractions, log on to www.greatlakesUSA.co.uk

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ILLINOIS

BIG CITIES AND BREATHTAKING SCENERY

Want to get to know the real America? Then Illinois is the place for you. With big cities and small towns, magnificent architecture and breathtaking scenery, Illinois has it all.

Drink in panoramic views from **Chicago's** skyscrapers, cycle the banks of Lake Michigan, enjoy an outdoor concert in **Millennium Park**, or cruise the **Chicago River**.

Music aficionados will love Chicago's Jazz and Blues, culture buffs will enjoy countless museums and theaters, and the **Magnificent Mile** is shopper heaven.

For architecture, Illinois' **Frank Lloyd Wright Trail** will guide you through 13 public buildings around the state, including two UNESCO Heritage Sites. Explore **Starved Rock State Park** for thundering waterfalls and awe-inspiring bluffs, while the **Shawnee National Forest's Garden of the Gods** offers spectacular views of towering sandstone cliffs.

The legendary **Route 66** starts in Chicago and stretches for 300 miles within Illinois. Make plans to stop at attractions like the many **Muffler Men**, historic diners like **Cozy Dog**, and quirky tourist stops, like **Pink Elephant Mall**.

Stay on Route 66 through the state capital of **Springfield** and visit the interactive **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum**. And outside **The Lincoln Tomb**, guests pay tribute by rubbing the nose on Abraham Lincoln's statue. For scenic views, **The Great River Road** runs along the Mississippi River and through charming towns such as **Galena** and **Alton**.

SILVER BAY,
TETTEGOUCHE STATE PARK



SHAWNEE
NATIONAL FOREST



MICHIGAN

TWO PENINSULAS OF FRESH EXPERIENCES

They love their statistics in Michigan ... and it's no wonder why. Known as the **Great Lakes State**, it has 11,000 inland lakes, 36,000 miles of rivers and streams, 3,200 miles of shoreline and 13,400 miles of state designated trails. There are also more than 100 state parks, five national parks, 1,000 campgrounds and RV parks, at more than 650 public golf courses and more than 120 lighthouses.

Split into two peninsulas – the **Upper Peninsula**, where outdoor adventures abound, and **Lower Peninsula**, which has its own natural beauty as well as the bustling, revitalised city of **Detroit** – Michigan offers scenic routes, open roads and city adventures that both leap back in time and gaze into the future. Fans of the Great Outdoors will love the Lower Peninsula's 35-mile-long **Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore**, called the **Most Beautiful Place in America** by viewers *Good Morning America*, or the Upper Peninsula's 50,000-acre **Tahquamenon Falls State Park**, where the impressive **Upper Falls** have a drop of 50 feet.

Further south, **Lansing**, the state capital, is located on the banks of the picturesque Grand River, while **Grand Rapids**, named **Beer City USA**, was voted **Best Beer City** by *USA Today* Readers. Picturesque **Traverse City**, a big favourite with visitors, is a multi-award-winning destination, while **Mackinac Island**, located between the two peninsulas, known as the jewel of the Great Lakes does not allow any cars on the island.

ENJOYILLINOIS.COM



EXPLOREMINNESOTA.COM

MINNESOTA

DRIVING INTO DREAMS

Minnesota may be known as the **Land of 10,000 Lakes** (there are actually nearer 12,000), but while those lakes are a major draw for visitors, so too are the state's great drives, spectacular scenery, charming river towns and lively cities.

Out of **Duluth**, the 154-mile **North Shore Scenic Drive** is one of Minnesota's spectacular routes, with its secluded beaches, lush forests, small shoreline towns and scenic lighthouses.

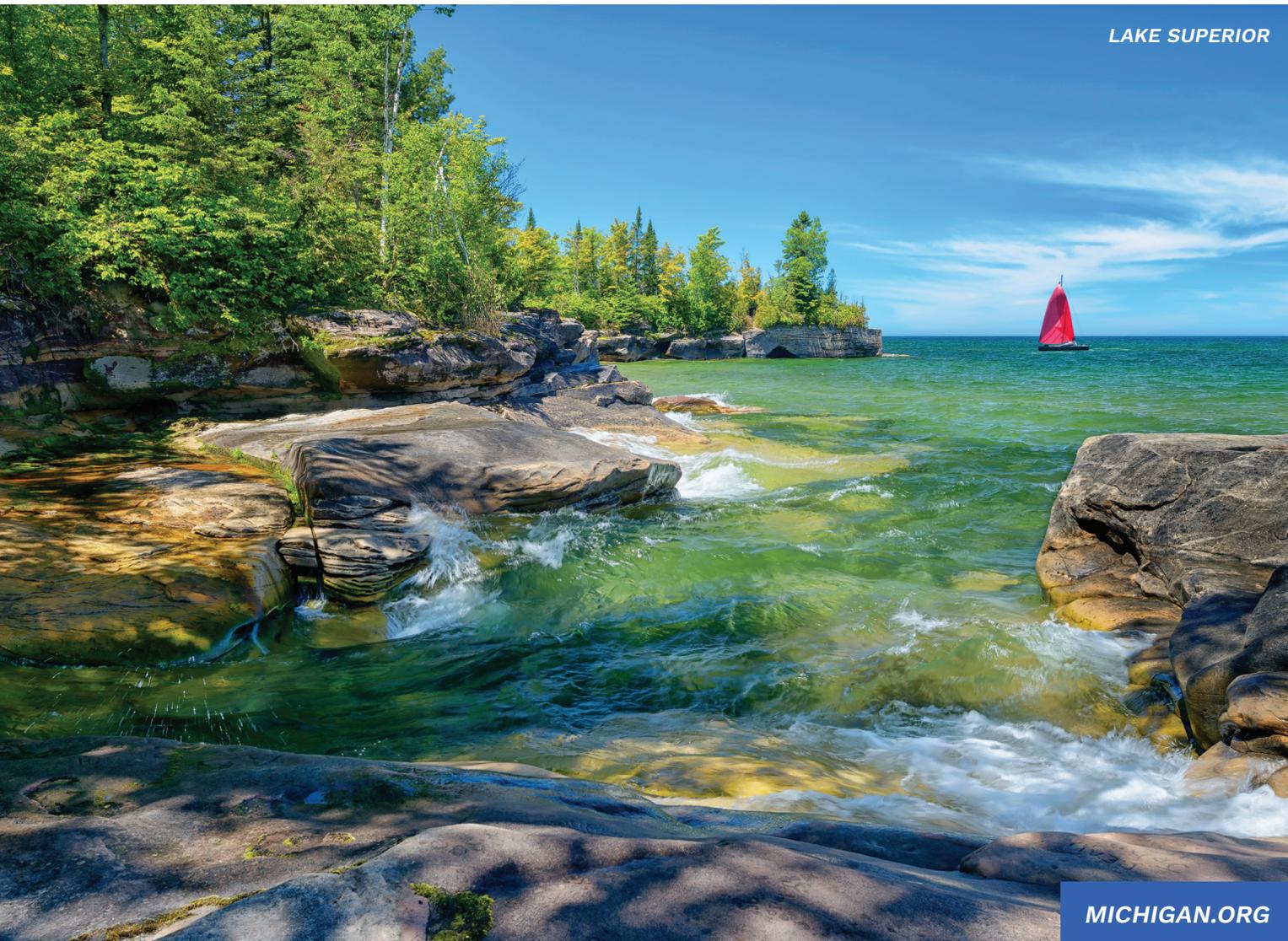
In **Voyageurs National Park**, boating is the recommended form of transport to reach more than 200 campsites on the park's four lakes, while the **Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness** has more than 1,200 miles of canoe routes, 11 hiking trails and around 2,000 designated campsites.

And the cities of **Minneapolis** and **Saint Paul** – the **Twin Cities** – are bustling centres of the arts and music, wineries and craft breweries, and award-winning restaurants.

Minneapolis was where rock legend **Prince** was born and **Paisley Park**, his home and recording studio, close to the city, is open to the public.

Bob Dylan was also born in Minnesota, in Duluth, where **Bob Dylan Way** runs for almost two miles through the city's downtown area. Giant murals of Dylan and Prince can also be seen in Minneapolis.

Bloomington, close to the Twin Cities, is the location of the **Mall of America**, the country's biggest indoor shopping centre, pulling in 32 million visitors a year.



LAKE SUPERIOR

MICHIGAN.ORG

OHIO

ROCKING INTO HISTORY

The phrase 'rock 'n' roll', so the story goes, was first used by **Cleveland** radio DJ Alan Freed in 1951, so it's only natural that the **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame** is based in ... Cleveland.

Opened in 1995, it has inducted scores of world-famous names, from David Bowie, Eric Clapton and Prince to Madonna, Whitney Houston and Carole King. A music-lover's delight, it has the largest collection of rock artefacts in the world.

Columbus, the state capital, was founded in 1812 and subsequently was settled by German immigrants. As a result, the **German Village historic area** is a target for visitors, with its small brick homes and unique shops, while the **Short North Arts District** and **Columbus Museum of Art** should also be on your to-do list.

Ohio's other major city, **Cincinnati**, continues the German theme with its historic **Over-the-Rhine** area, which offers a host of well-preserved 19th-century buildings as well as craft breweries and gastropubs.

Ohio has two major theme parks – **Cedar Point** in **Sandusky**, with 71 rides, and **Kings Island**, near **Cincinnati**, which has been running since 1972 – but for a more relaxing look at life, **Hocking Hills State Park** offers cascading waterfalls, awe-inspiring cliffs and seemingly never-ending forests.

For sports fans, **Canton**, where the NFL was born, is the home of the **Pro Football Hall of Fame**.

HOCKING HILLS
STATE PARK



KINZUA SKY WALK



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OHIO.ORG

WISCONSIN

UNIQUE & UNEXPECTED

Wonder-filled Wisconsin is surprising and adventurous, with picturesque road trips to take, endless coastlines and state parks to explore and charming and friendly small towns to visit.

The shores of Lake Michigan and the peninsula of **Door County** offers hundreds of miles of freshwater coastline, beaches galore like **Kohler Andrae State Park** perfect for swimming and surfing, landmark lighthouses and charming harbor-side towns.

For a real one-of-a-kind trip, visitors should head to the **Apostle Islands National Lakeshore** off the northern-most tip of the state. Kayak through ancient sea caves and visit **Frog Bay Tribal National Park**.

Beyond the Great Outdoors, Wisconsin's lively cities offer even more unique experiences. **Milwaukee**, the state's largest city, is the location of the fascinating **Harley-Davidson Museum**, where visitors are invited to take a ride through the bike's history as well as build their own dream machine.

Another must-visit on the shores of Lake Michigan is the **Milwaukee Art Museum** with its signature 217-foot wings, the **Burke Brise Soleil**, that open and close daily, filling the museum with light. Tour more impressive architecture by following the **Frank Lloyd Wright Trail** across southern Wisconsin.

Golfers should also take notice of Wisconsin—with **10 courses ranking among the nation's top 100 public courses**, as ranked by *Golf Digest*, (more than any other state) and all of them under a three-hour drive from Milwaukee.

PENNSYLVANIA

PAST (AND PRESENT) PERFECT

History hits the spot in Pennsylvania – but city experiences, outdoor adventures and different lifestyles are there for the taking too.

In **Philadelphia** – the USA's first **World Heritage City** – the **Declaration of Independence** was signed in 1776 and the USA was born. **The Liberty Bell** is said to have been rung when that declaration was made, and the **Betsy Ross House** is where she created the American flag.

A great place for walking, Philadelphia has museums galore, 4,000 highly-colourful murals to discover, and more than 100 recreation areas to explore in **'America's Garden Capital'**.

Gettysburg, site of one of the most-famous Civil War battles, is also a must-visit for history buffs, as are **Harrisburg**, with its **National Civil War Museum**, and **Valley Forge National Historical Park** outside of Philadelphia.

Pittsburgh is a big city with small-town charm that welcomes visitors. Check out the **Andy Warhol Museum** and **Carnegie Science Center** and quench that thirst with a craft beer or two at one of the 75 breweries in the area.

Moving into the countryside, outdoor enthusiasts can hike a section of the **Appalachian Trail** – the U.S.'s longest hiking-only path – check out **Cook Forest**, where some of the trees are up to 350 years old. Nearby visitors can see more than 1,400 free roaming elk. Explore Amish communities to find out about their way of life in **Lancaster County**, unchanged for 300 years.

KOHLER-ANDRAE
STATE PARK



TRAVELWISCONSIN.COM

BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA

HOME OF MALL OF AMERICA

Bloomington, 5 KM from the Minneapolis Saint Paul Airport, is also the home of **Mall of America**, the United States largest indoor shopping and attraction center. For outdoor experiences, take in the **Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge** and the **Hyland Hills** ski area. Nearby, visit **Paisley Park**, the former home of **Prince** and recording studio museum. Visitors get an insight into the star's life, where he lived and worked and performed music in his own nightclub.



BLOOMINGTONMN.ORG



VISITBUTLERCOUNTY.COM

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

FESTIVALS, FUN AND THE FALLS

Buffalo's **Canalside district** - the original end of the **Erie Canal**, which linked the lake with New York city via the **Hudson River** is the heart of the Downtown waterfront. Home to boat cruises, tours, festivals, events, kayaking, **Explore & More Children's Museum**, the **Buffalo Naval Park**, and more. Across the river is **Buffalo Riverworks**, an entertainment complex/brewery featuring the **Buffalo-O Ferris Wheel**, zip-lining, rock-climbing, and more! Take advantage of the outstanding art, architecture, culture and food in Buffalo before visiting nearby **Niagara Falls USA**. It can best be experienced from the **Maid of the Mist** and **Cave of the Winds**.



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BUTLER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

HISTORY AND HARMONY

Butler County, only 25 miles from big-city life in Pittsburgh, gives a fascinating glimpse into small-town America, the country's history and its **German background**. Founded in 1800, the County is named after General Richard Butler, a colonial officer in the American Revolution. Two of the towns with German links are **Harmony**, established in 1804 by a group of Lutherans seeking religious freedom, and **Saxonburg**, which has the architectural charm of a quaint German hamlet. Thirsty visitors can head out on the **Butler County Beer Circuit**, a listing of the unique breweries in the area.



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CHICAGO'S NORTH SHORE

CITY LIFE. ELEVATED.

Bordering Chicago along Lake Michigan, Chicago's North Shore is the perfect spot to base a Chicago visit. Close to Downtown Chicago and O'Hare Airport, Chicago's North Shore is home to **Northwestern University**, **Chicago Botanic Garden**, **Ravinia Music Festival**, the only **Baha'i House of Worship** in North America. Home to first-class hotels, most with free parking, access to the architecture of **Daniel Burnham** and **Frank Lloyd Wright**, outdoor landscaped shopping centers with premier retailers and a strong restaurant scene. A direct 30-minute ride on Chicago's famous "el" train along Lake Michigan transports you from Chicago's North Shore to the Chicago City Center.

CLEVELAND, OHIO

ARTS AND ACTIVITIES

Located on the shore of Lake Erie, Cleveland is home to the **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum**, which features the world's largest collection of rock 'n' roll memorabilia. The city is also jam-packed with additional exciting experiences. The **Cleveland Museum of Art** contains arguably one of the most acclaimed collections in the U.S.; the world-renowned **Cleveland Orchestra** performs at **Severance Music Center**; the Lake Erie coastline offers charter-boat fishing, stand-up paddleboarding and kite surfing; and the Cuyahoga River, which twists its way through the city, is ideal for kayaking, rowing and jet-skiing.



THISISCLEVELAND.COM

COLUMBUS, OHIO

INDOORS AND OUTDOORS

From outdoor experiences, such as the **Columbus Zoo and Aquarium** or **Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens**, to the indoor activities of **COSI** (the Center of Science and Industry) – acclaimed as the best science museum in the U.S. – **the Columbus Museum of Art** and the **National Veterans Memorial and Museum**, the Ohio state capital has a lot going for it ... and then some. There are art galleries galore in the **Short North Arts District**, while clothes-conscious visitors will love exploring the streets of the U.S.'s Number 3 fashion destination behind New York and Los Angeles.



EXPERIENCECOLUMBUS.COM

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

THE CITY ON THE UP AND UP

From rock bottom to top dog – that's the recent history of Detroit. The days when the city on the banks of the Detroit River filed for bankruptcy are long gone and it is now a place to be seen in, to visit, and to enjoy. It has a range of terrific restaurants and hotels, some fabulous modern architecture, a vibrant clothing industry, a **riverwalk** voted Number 1 in the country by *USA Today* ... and, of course, a historic music scene that harks back to a host of Motown legends at the **Motown Museum** at **Hitsville USA**.



VISITERIE.COM

ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

PENNSYLVANIA'S WATERFRONT TREASURE

Erie stands as a unique gem in Pennsylvania, proudly boasting its distinction as the only Great Lakes port in the state. Nestled by **Lake Erie's** shores, Erie thrives as a modern city bustling with water-related activities. **Presque Isle State Park**, a peninsula arching out from the mainland, is an outdoor enthusiast's dream with seven miles of beaches, flat trails, and diverse ecosystems. Here, kayaking, swimming, hiking, fishing, and biking are popular pastimes. Breathtaking vistas and world-class sunsets await from indulgent waterfront dining to leisurely sails aboard a majestic tall ship.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

BEER AND BEAUTY

Beer is the best in Grand Rapids – and this Michigan city has 40+ breweries and the awards to prove it. In addition to winning the title of **Beer City USA** in 2013, Grand Rapids has hailed as **America's Best Beer Town**, **The Nation's Craft Beverage Capital**, and **Best Beer City** (three times). On a cultural note, art and nature combine at the 158-acre **Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park**, with its 200 sculptures from internationally acclaimed artists and the state's largest tropical conservatory, and *USA Today* named it "one of the best cities where you can see amazing art."



EXPERIENCEGR.COM



HCDESTINATIONS.COM

GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN

PACK IN SOME HISTORY

To visitors, Green Bay is probably best known for its American football team, the **Green Bay Packers**. But while a visit to the team's **Lambeau Stadium and Hall of Fame** will keep fans happy, there is plenty to see elsewhere. Wisconsin's oldest community (it was settled originally by the French as a fur-trading centre) combines small-town charm with big-city involvement. Attractions include the **Hazelwood Historic House Museum**, an authentically-furnished, 1837 Greek-Revival home; 26 original and reconstructed buildings in **Heritage Hill State Historical Park**; and the **Titelton District**, which hosts community events and free festivals.



GREENBAY.COM

HERITAGE CORRIDOR DESTINATIONS, ILLINOIS

ON THE ROAD TO LEGENDS

Starting a few miles south-west of Chicago, Heritage Corridor is the home of the first 100 miles of the legendary **Route 66**, the charming **Illinois & Michigan Canal towns**, and the magnificent **Starved Rock Country**. Those early stages of the Mother Road offer many great stops, such as the two-cell jail in **Gardner** and the **Polk-a-Dot Drive-in** in **Braidwood**; the I & M Canal towns have delightful restaurants (**Lockport**), boutique shops (**Morris**) and exciting speedway (**Joliet**); and breathtaking canyon views and soaring eagles are highlights in **Starved Rock State Park**.



HOLLAND.ORG

HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

A DUTCH DELIGHT

Nestled within the wildly beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline, Holland combines big water adventures and landside entertainment into one amazing package. Kayak or paddleboard to a **centuries-old windmill**, bike a winding path through a **dune forest**, and cruise past an **iconic lighthouse** at sunset. Why not follow a lakeside path to discover *America in Bloom's* "**Cooldest Downtown**" in the nation? Holland's historic city center buzzes with unique shops, sidewalk cafes, and brewpubs renowned for their hospitality. There is much to love about this **former Dutch colony** just three hours from both Chicago and Detroit.

KEYSTONE CROSSROADS, PENNSYLVANIA

CHOCOLATE AND CULTURE

Pennsylvania's Keystone Crossroads region – **Gettysburg**, **Hershey** and **Lancaster** – brings together a trip into American history, culture and food. Gettysburg is known for its famous Civil War battlefields, reflected in its numerous museum galleries and re-enactments. Hershey is a sweet destination featuring both **Hershey's Chocolate World**, where visitors enjoy interactive attractions and shop a "king-sized" retail selection, and **Hersheypark®**, the town's legendary candy-themed amusement park with 15 coasters. Lancaster is **Amish country**, where visitors can get a glimpse of a different culture, and, in the city, check out the **Fulton Theatre**, the oldest continuously-operating theatre in the U.S.

KEYSTONECROSSROADSPA.COM



MACKINAC ISLAND, MICHIGAN

RELAX AWAY FROM THE RUSH HOUR

When the 'rush hour' involves cyclists and horse-drawn carriages, you know you're in the ideal place to relax, kick off your shoes and take life as it comes. On Mackinac Island, located in the Straits of Mackinac on Lake Huron, the automobile has been banned since 1898. This unique destination features the world-famous **Grand Hotel**, **Fort Mackinac** and is the **Fudge Capital of the World**. Recently voted **The Top U.S. Summer Destination** and **Best Island in the Continental U.S.**, visitors love the fact our hotels, restaurants and gift shops are one of a kind. A vibrant nightlife always puts a bow on a perfect day.

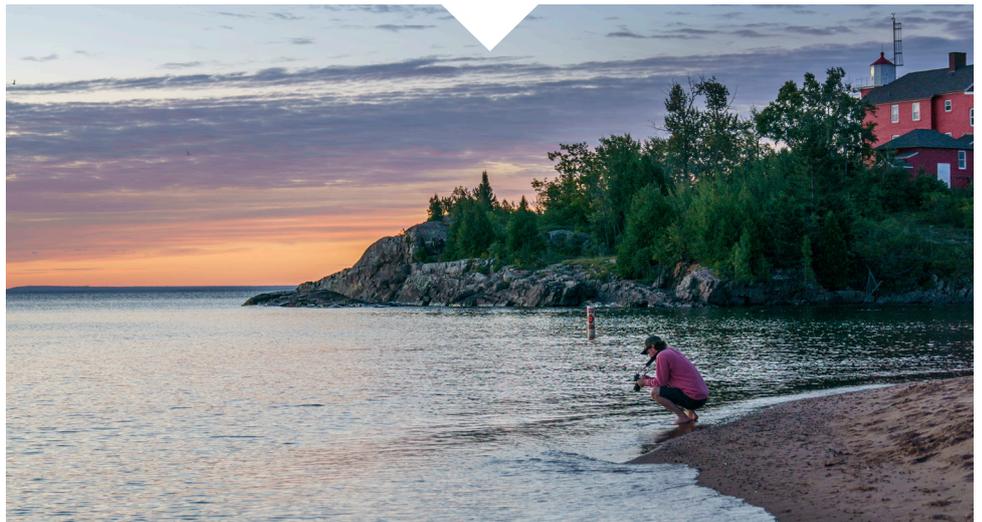


MACKINACISLAND.ORG

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

AT HOME IN THE DOME

Outdoor enthusiasts will have a field day in Marquette, the largest community on Michigan's scenic **Upper Peninsula**. With so many mountain peaks within easy reach, experiencing outdoor action is not a problem. There are also miles of shoreline to explore, as well as walking trails and a marina in **Presque Isle Park**, which juts out into Lake Superior. Elsewhere, historic lighthouses, charming shops, museums, galleries and golf courses all have their own appeal. The **Superior Dome**, home to both the Wildcat American football and soccer teams, is the largest wooden dome in the world.

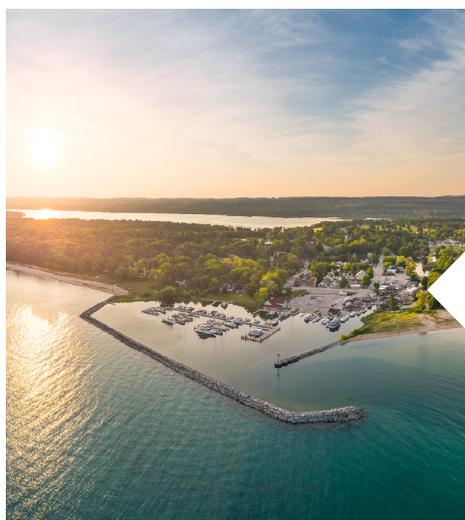


TRAVELMARQUETTE.COM

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

INCLINED TO WELCOME VISITORS

Pittsburgh, known as the **Steel City** (because of its role in the US steel industry) and the **City of Bridges** (it has 446 crossing its three rivers), was named after British Prime Minister William Pitt the Elder. But it's a Scot, industrialist and philanthropist **Andrew Carnegie**, who has more than left his mark on the city, with its **Art and Natural History museums** and **Science Center** all named after him. Among its other attractions are the **Andy Warhol Museum**, the **Acrisure Stadium** (home of the Pittsburgh Steelers NFL team) and its **Duquesne** and **Monongahela Inclines** (funicular railways).



TRAVERSECITY.COM

TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN

DINING OUT DELIGHT

Traverse City, around 255 miles to the north-west of Detroit and overlooking **Grand Traverse Bay**, has been voted one of the **Ten Most Beautiful Towns in the World** by *Select City Magazine* as well as being listed in the **U.S.'s Top Ten Summer Trips** and **Top Five Foodie Towns**. Among its dining options are numerous restaurants and cafes with picnic tables overlooking Grand Traverse Bay. The surrounding region has 60 miles of sandy beaches, nearly 50 wineries, two distinct wine trails and more than 20 microbreweries, brewpubs and tap rooms.



GREAT LAKES USA