

SUMMER 2022 — \$3.95

Crossings



Ohio
Cancun

New Jersey

Great Train Rides

Windsor & Essex County

Panama City Beach

Michigan
Ottawa

Cambridge UK





No matter the season, there's always a reason to visit **Michigan's Coldwater Country**. Situated along the historic US-12 Heritage Trail, in south-central Michigan, the area is a haven for relaxation.

Spend the day on one of 100+ freshwater lakes, including two chains of lakes, kayak a waterway trail or reel in the catch of the day.

Step back in time with a ride aboard the 110 year-old Little River Railroad steam engine train or while exploring timeless Victorian downtowns and countless antique shops.

Learn magic in the Magic Capital of the World or take in a performance at Tibbits Opera House or a double-feature at the Capri Drive-In. The possibilities are endless. Find out more at COLDWATERCOUNTRY.COM.



COLDWATERCOUNTRY
...at the pulse of Michigan



(517) 278-0241



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Volume 22, Number 2, Summer 2022

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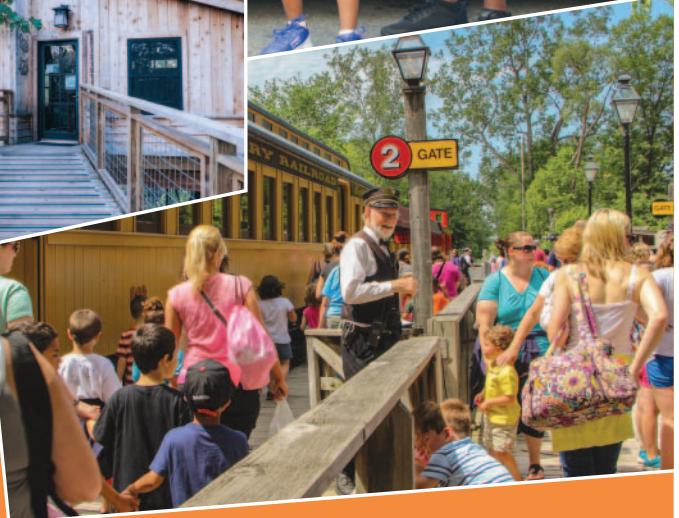
CANCUN IS YOUR PLACE IN THE SUN

Cancun is like a beach with an island in the middle.





Savor the Summer



Experience the sights and sounds of Flint & Genesee.

From the links to the bricks, there's no better place than Flint & Genesee County, Michigan to make the most of the long summer days. Take in a round of golf at one of nearly two dozen notable courses. Step back in time at Crossroads Village & Huckleberry Railroad or at Back to Bricks, downtown Flint's classic car show. Drink in the rays of the season while finding your Zen amongst the trees at For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum. Flint & Genesee welcomes you to make the most out of your summer.

EXPLORE
FLINT & GENESEE

ExploreFlintandGenesee.org

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Crossings

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SLOAN

MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY



OPEN JULY 16, 2022

the **NEW SLOAN MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY** in Flint, MI

A totally re-Imagined interactive science and history museum featuring four brand new engaging galleries & state-of-the-art Learning Labs & Maker's Space.

GENERAL ADMISSION

Non-Genesee County Residents:
Adult Ages 12-59 - \$13
Seniors 60+ - \$10
Students (with ID) - \$10
Children 2-11 - \$8
Children 0-1 - Free

HOURS

Mon: Closed
Tues-Sat: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sun: Noon-5 p.m.

Only 1 hour's drive from the Sarnia/Port Huron border.

Make a Day of It and get discounted package pricing for the Longway Planetarium across the street, *Michigan's largest and most technologically-advanced planetarium!*

Tickets go on sale July 1

Advance ticket reservations recommended. Reserve online at:

www.SloanMuseum.org

The Little River Railroad's vintage steam engine



BY RENU SAGGAR

boutiques and shops throughout the area. Browse the antique stores, enjoy homemade baked goods and one-of-a-kind accents and jewelry. Coldwater Country is home to Allen — *Michigan's Antique Capital*, with the Midwest's largest concentration of antique dealers. The area features five antique malls including the *Allen Antique Barn*, boasting two floors and more than 25,000 square feet of treasures.

The beautiful architecture of the *Tibbits Opera House* makes it a treat to visit year-round. Tibbits offers a diverse selection of arts and entertainment throughout the year. The *Wing House Museum* is a three-story Second Empire mansion listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Make your way to the *Capri Drive-In*, Southern Michigan's twin screen drive-in theater. Family owned and operated since 1964, the Capri Drive-In offers an authentic drive-in experience.

For a magical experience head to *Colon* and learn some magic tricks. With three big magic shops and countless activities, and events, it's no wonder they call Colon the *Magic Capital of the World*.

Grab a bite to eat at one of Coldwater Country's locally owned diners, restaurants or pubs. Enjoy the flavors, the local scene and hospitality of the area's many fine restaurants. At the end of your fun-filled day check into one of the many hotels to rest and relax, just minutes from all the attractions.

For additional information on things to see and do, and where to stay, in Michigan's Coldwater Country visit ColdwaterCountry.com.

Michigan's Coldwater Country

Warm weather and water go hand in hand and Michigan's Coldwater Country is the place to be to get on and in the water! Located in south central Michigan, along the US-12 Heritage Route, the area is brimming with outdoor recreation, unique attractions, quaint downtowns, stunning architecture and a whole host of family fun.

Soak in summer on one of the area's more than 100 freshwater lakes. Visitors can travel from one lake to another through the chain of lakes. Coldwater Country is home to not only one chain of lakes but two — *North Chain of Lakes* and *South Chain of Lakes*. Reel in the catch of the day, enjoy a leisurely pontoon ride, or kayak the *Union City Heritage Water Trail*, just one of nine water trails in Michigan.

Hang out at the beach at *The Aqua Pit*, an inflatable aquatic playground featuring a multi-tiered obstacle course in the water, kayaking, paddle boarding and more. It's tons of fun for the entire family!

When you need to get out of the sun, head over to the *Adventure Zone* for mini golf, go-carts, laser tag and a virtual reality lounge. Kids will delight in the play and learning at the *Children's Museum of Branch County*. Children and their families can

paint a masterpiece at *Picasso's Art Studio*, dig for dinosaur fossils, become a dentist, put on a play and more! Take a ride on the rails with the historic *Little River Railroad's* 110-year-old steam engine train.

Enjoy nature with a visit to the *Critchlow Alligator Sanctuary*. Observe these amazing reptiles during guided tours and animal interactions. Walk through the swamp and feed the alligators, or just watch them bask in this reptilian paradise.

Shop 'til you drop at the many unique



The Aqua Pit floating water park

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The Ally Challenge at Warwick Hills

It feels like summer in Flint

Variety is the spice of life in Flint & Genesee. Enjoy an outdoor adventure on land, water, or on the links. Immerse yourself in culture through stage, screen, or a quiet gallery. Just an hour's drive from the Canadian border, Flint offers a unique, urban destination, while the rest of Genesee County provides endless opportunities to explore.

Outdoor Adventure

For those craving sunshine, Flint & Genesee is home to Michigan's largest county parks system, which covers 11,000 acres of outdoor space. The high points of our parks system include the 383-acre *For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum*, which has one of the country's largest treehouses built by Animal Planet's Treehouse Masters. Miles of hiking trails and waterways meander through tree-lined parks, quaint villages, and bustling downtowns. Many hiking trails are multi-use and paved to meet visitors with special needs and accessibility standards.

Public access sites throughout the county make boating and kayaking easy and accessible. Kayak and canoe rentals are available for all skill levels. With more than 70 lakes and two different river systems, the most difficult decision is deciding where to spend a day taking in the natural beauty of Genesee County.

Great Golf

With over 11 national-caliber, public golf courses, Flint & Genesee offers a tailored golf experience for every age, bud-



Back to the Bricks classic car show

get, and skill level. From public Flint city courses to 18-hole championship courses, enjoy an afternoon of beautiful weather, scenic views, and some of the best golf in Michigan. Discounted, overnight golf packages are available.

For those interested in professional golf, Flint & Genesee is proud to once again be host to a major PGA event. The *AllyChallenge presented by McLaren* returns Aug. 22-28 at Warwick Hills Country Club in Grand Blanc. During this PGA TOUR Champions event, spectators can see some of their favorite golf champions at reasonable rates for any budget. The hospitality and food options at this tournament will not be outmatched by any professional golf event. More information is available at theallychallenge.com.

Cultural Gems & Festivals Abound

For a taste of arts and culture, visit the *Flint Cultural Center*, home to the newly renovated and expanded *Sloan Museum of Discovery* (opening July 2022), as well as the state's second-largest art museum and the nation's most technologically advanced planetarium. Plan to catch a live performance or nostalgic movie at Flint's historic Capitol Theatre, originally built in 1928. Or take in a performance by the Flint Symphony Orchestra or a national touring Broadway show at The Whiting.

Celebrating over 100 years of community service, the Flint Institute of Music (FIM) transforms people and community through the power of the performing arts. *Music Around Town* is a long-standing series that helps Flint welcome in the summer season with free to low-cost performances. "Late Night at the FIA" (Flint Institute of Arts) happens every Friday night from 5-9 p.m. July 8 – August 26. All activities are free to visitors, with special pricing on food and drinks.

Festivals are back in full swing this year! As the birthplace of General Motors, Flint & Genesee knows cars. So, it is no surprise that one of our largest annual events is an epic week-long classic car show called *Back to the Bricks* (Aug. 15-20). Music festivals like the *Flint Jazz Festival* (July 29-31), *Flint Drop Fest* (Aug. 13) and *80s in the Hole* (Sept. 9) offer great live entertainment and highlight local and national talent. Several art festivals, fairs and shows give makers (and shoppers) plenty of opportunities to revel in unique handcrafted items.

For basketball fans, the *Gus Macker Tournament* (July 30-31) is returning to downtown Flint for two days of three-on-three games, featuring players of all experience levels. And the *HAP Crim Festival of Races* (Aug. 27) provides runners a unique opportunity to tour historic Flint neighborhoods and race down the bricks of Saginaw Street. Additionally, the *Genesee County Fair* (Aug. 22-28) has been a family tradition since 1850. Visit exploreflintandgenesee.org and start planning your trip to Flint! 

Sloan Museum of Discovery opens in Flint

After three years of major construction the new \$30 million *Sloan Museum of Discovery* will open to the public July 16, 2022. The former Sloan was originally built in 1966 at 58,000 square feet and was known as the Alfred P. Sloan Panorama of Transportation. Initially, it was known for the historic vehicle collection that chronicled Flint's rich automotive heritage. The expansion added 49,000 square feet, allowing enough space to hold four permanent hands-on galleries focusing on hands-on science and history, plus a large traveling exhibit space. The galleries encourage visitors of all ages to immerse themselves in imaginative play and have fun while learning.

The four permanent gallery spaces each have a distinct hands-on focus. *Discovery Hall* science gallery covers over 11,000 square feet of Earth and physical science interactives, all linked to state science standards. It's home to the Discovery Lab Maker Space, Great Lakes Water Table and a three-story "Spaceship Earth" climbing structure. *Hagerman Street Early Childhood Learning* gallery was developed in concert with Head Start and Great Start curriculums and tricycles. This child-sized neighborhood is laid out in a village theme to encourage early childhood complete with roundabouts. It includes a three-story ABC Tree House, a grocery store, hardware store, post office and other kid-sized retail stores.

The *History Gallery* takes visitors from its earliest entrepreneurs, the indigenous tribes who traded with the early settlers, through WWII and up to the Flint Water Crisis. One of the dramatic features of the History Museum is a still-working *Hellcat Tank*, made at Buick City during WWII.

Adjacent to the History Gallery is the *Durant Gallery*, a vehicle exhibition hall that will showcase 15-20 of Sloan's 105 historic and future vehicles on a rotating basis.

The new museum will also be an economic driver. For instance, the *Maker Space* will promote workforce development with tips on helping to attain and retain talent. There are also new visitor amenities like a *Coffee Beanery Café*, community meeting rooms and event spaces for public use. It is estimated to draw over 225,000 tourists per year locally and nationally.

Todd Slusher is Executive Director of The Sloan Museum of Discovery and neighboring *Longway Planetarium*, recalls how the three-year construction was not without hiccups. Slusher explained that after breaking ground in June 2019, they had to deal with the global pandemic and ongoing supply chain issues. Even so, the new museum's opening date is only a few months off their original time line.

When asked why the region needed a new Sloan, Slusher noted that he and the staff recognized the former building was not meeting the needs of the community. The exhibits were long overdue for a major update that would be more inclusive, welcoming and interactive. This was a collaborative effort years in the making. It began with listening tours and focus groups that provided helpful feedback.

Sloan Museum of Discovery opens to the public on July 16. As a world-class hands-on history and science museum, it will likely contribute to many generations of inspired learners and leaders. For more information or tickets, go to www.SloanMuseum.org.

The Durant Gallery





Silver Beach - Whirlpool Compass Fountain

Summer in Southwest Michigan

Fill your bucket list with summer memories

This summer, take the Southwest Michigan bucket list challenge. See how many of these fun things you can check off before Labor Day.

Go to the beach.

Each day is a beach day in Southwest Michigan. Choose from over 10 public beaches. Jump in Lake Michigan, play volleyball, build sand castles, run down giant dunes, picnic, skip stones or read a book — the list of simple joys is endless along with miles of soft, golden sand.

Try all this fun down below the bluff

Just steps from Silver Beach County Park in St. Joseph, are four of the family-friendliest destinations in Southwest Michigan. Visit all of them!

Silver Beach Carousel, with its joyful music and magnificent 48 hand-carved figures and two chariots, is the happiest place for all ages. Enjoy a taste of summer by picking up a bag of warm popcorn or cotton candy from the concession stand before you leave!

Whirlpool Compass Fountain is a huge, refreshing splash pad and it's free. Cannons shoot water 35 feet into the air. No one is too old to cool off in their spray.

Curious Kids' Discovery Zone entertains toddlers to pre-teens with its interactive climbing, water, tactile and traveling exhibits. After exploring here, go up the bluff to the *Curious Kids Museum*, where



The Silver Beach Carousel

two floors of imaginative-play exhibits will captivate your family for hours.

Hungry? *Silver Beach Pizza* is just one of many delicious restaurants in Southwest Michigan—several with outdoor seating. This local favorite is right next to the train tracks. You and your kids will be wide-eyed when the freight and Amtrak trains rumble by!

Ride a historic miniature train and root for a vintage baseball team

Hop aboard a restored train before the whistle blows! *Eden Springs Park*, formerly known as the House of David, offers \$3 train rides every weekend until Labor Day, from noon to 5 p.m. Time your visit to watch an 1800s-style baseball game on the park's diamond. Go Echoes!

Experience a wee bit of Scotland

Prove your putting skills at *Welter's Folly* at *Journeyman Distillery* in Three

Oaks. Inspired by the *Himalayan* putting green in St. Andrews, Scotland, this 18-hole course is likely one of the 10 largest putting greens in the world and the largest not affiliated with a golf course.

Golf on the links of champions

Whether you are just learning the game or are a scratch golfer, make a tee time on one of the championship-level courses in Southwest Michigan. Here's your chance to say you played on the same greens as Paul Broadhurst, Colin Montgomerie, Kenny Perry and Lou Holtz.

Learn the ropes of 19th-century sailors

The *Michigan Maritime Museum* in South Haven, is the home port to five on-the-water exhibits made up of both a replica and historic vessels. Sailing on the 1810 sloop replica *Friends Good Will* is something you will talk about for years.

Earn some artsy prizes

Play the *Creative Connections* game. The more art galleries, theaters or museums you visit this summer, the more game stamps you can collect and prizes you can earn. Details are at swmichigan.org/creative.

Eat Southwest Michigan style

Stop by one of the area's many farm markets and pick-your-own farms for sweet corn, peaches, blueberries and apples. These are the freshest, tastiest fruits and vegetables you will ever bite into.

Paddle, pedal or hike our scenic trails

Rent a kayak, canoe, pontoon boat, sailboat, SUP board or cycleboat and explore not only the coast of Lake Michigan but some of the interior waterways too.

Prefer doing your sightseeing on land? Then, rent a road or mountain bike, surrey or street-legal golf cart.

Or hike dozens of trails through woods, nature preserves, vineyards and over dunes. Download our Trail Guide or Paddling Guide for suggestions.

Plan a summer bucket-list stay in Southwest Michigan.

To get the lodgings with the amenities and dates you want, make your reservations now. Book your summer stay at swmichigan.org/. 

FIND LIFE'S *Simple* JOYS

IN & AROUND ST. JOSEPH



Oh, the fun your family will have walking along the beach, flying a kite and splashing in Lake Michigan. Dance under the Whirlpool Compass Fountain. Sit by the St. Joseph River licking yummy ice cream and watching a giant freighter. Then snuggle as the sun sets – tomorrow will be magical, too.

Southwest
MICHIGAN
SWMICHIGAN.ORG

PHOTO LOCATION: WHIRLPOOL COMPASS FOUNTAIN

BY RENU SAGGAR

to Iron Mountain in the western U.P.

Have a need for speed? Check out one of the small racetracks, or Michigan International Speedway known as NASCAR's fastest track.

Prefer something a bit slower paced? Take a horse drawn carriage or ride a bicycle around Mackinaw Island. Don't forget to stop for some fudge.

Michigan offers Art shows, Music Festivals, Craft Beer, Fine Michigan Wines and Spirits, carnivals, fruits and vegetable markets, galleries, with great food and plenty to see and do.

Search www.MichiganFun.com for festivals, fairs and events in exciting places like Holland, Grand Rapids, Three Rivers, Flint, Gaylord, Traverse City, Munising, Alpena, Marquette and Lansing just to name a few. And you will find images and attractions to peak your interest and even maps to guide you on your way.

Search by event, or find out what's new and exciting in places like Ann Arbor, Coldwater, Flint, Gaylord, Lansing, and Marquette. You'll also find images, event and attraction details and descriptions, maps and links their websites.

A festival, fair or and event only lasts a few days, but the memories that you create from the experience will last a lifetime.

Why not plan a visit this year us and bring the family? Make some magical memories. Michigan is waiting for you to explore and enjoy.



St. Andrews Society of Detroit Highland Games take place Aug. 5&6

Michigan's Sizzling Summer

Michigan is shaped like a mitten, and the state will fit you like a hand in glove. If you're looking for outdoor adventure, world class attractions, shopping, dining and Midwest charm, there's no better place. Get in tune with nature, play a round of golf, or hit the beach. Whether it's a weekend festival, a glass of wine, shopping for bargains, biking, hiking or soaking in hot tub and gazing at the stars, Michigan has a summer for everyone.

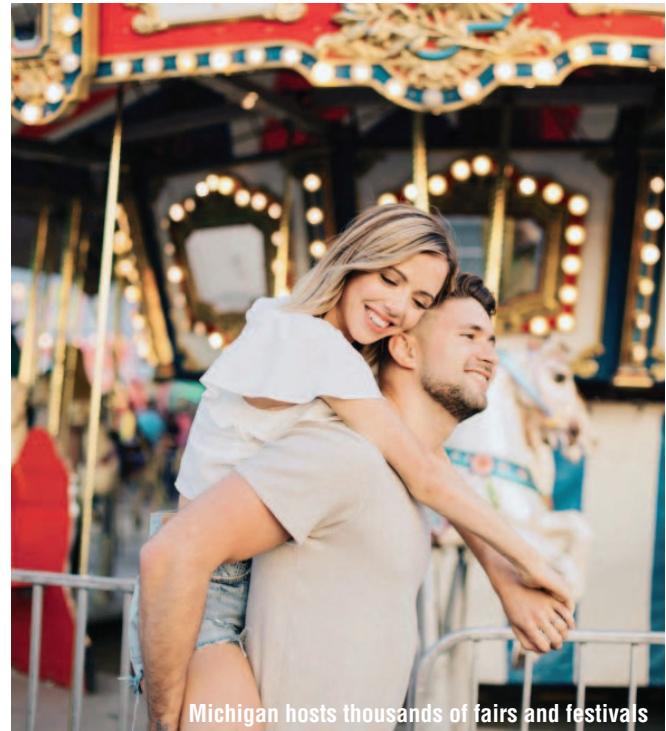
Car Capital Auto Show in Lansing is July 30th



Michigan Festivals & Events

Every year, nearly 35 million people flock to one or more of Michigan's 5,000 festivals, fairs and events. Come "Party at MI Place" in Pure Michigan where all the attractions and events are right at your fingertips at MichiganFun.com.

Get ready to visit Michigan's two peninsulas with their wealth of cultural festivals, fairs and events leaving memories that linger long after you return home. Activities run from Detroit



Michigan hosts thousands of fairs and festivals

Choice Hotels Michigan

Looking for Michigan hotels for vacation or business travel? Explore Choice Hotels and find a place to stay near top Michigan attractions. The Choice family of hotel brands provides business and leisure travelers with a range of high-quality lodgings from limited service to full-service hotels in the upscale, midscale, extended-stay and economy segments.

With 12 brands and over 100 properties in Michigan to choose from, *Choice Hotels* can be the perfect place to create the vacation of your dreams. Choice Hotels has locations in Ann Arbor, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Holland, Traverse City and more.

Whether you're taking a business trip, or planning a family vacation. These may include breakfast, pools, business centers and pet friendly properties.

Comfort brand hotels include Comfort Inn and Comfort Suites. They help guests start their day off right with a complimentary, hearty and healthy breakfast, with fresh baked waffles, hot eggs and meats, pastries and breads. Fresh coffees and teas, and lemon-infused water stations are located in the lobby.

MainStay Suites, a midscale extended-stay brand from Choice Hotels, allows guests to enjoy apartment-life living while enjoying the perks of a hotel stay. They feature spacious and welcoming residential-style suites with fully-equipped kitchens.

Quality brand rooms are bright and cheery with fresh linens, fluffy pillows and plush blankets. Start your morning with

a complementary hot, fresh and healthy breakfast. Other amenities include free Wi-Fi, newspaper, coffee and tea and in-room refrigerator.

The *Rodeway Inn* brand covers the travel basics. With the peace of mind that comes from the backing of a nationally recognized brand, guests can count on the Rodeway Inn brand to provide a restful stay with great savings. Amenities include premium movie channels, complimentary Wi-Fi, and fresh coffee every morning.

Econo Lodge properties offer their guests all the amenities they need, at a price they want, and a brand they can trust. Guest rooms are clean and inviting and offer a premium selection of movie channels. Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the hotel and guests can grab a quick bite with a free Easy Starts

Continental breakfast.

Join the *Choice Privileges* and get more from each stay. Membership is free and offers fast rewards, instant perks and exclusive member rates. Choice Privileges was voted the "Best Hotel Loyalty Program" by USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards, and by U.S. News & World Report for three consecutive years. When you're ready to book your Michigan getaway, finding safe, comfortable and affordable accommodations near all the best destinations is as easy as visiting Choice Hotels.

Book early at ChoiceHotels.com/Michigan-hotels to fit any budget with great savings.



Cambria Suites Traverse City

**You're Invited
to have some**

MICHIGAN

FUN

www.michiganfun.com

The advertisement features a vibrant blue background with yellow wavy lines at the bottom. The word 'MICHIGAN' is written in large, bold, blue letters, where each letter contains a different scenic image from Michigan, such as a lighthouse, a ferris wheel, and people at a beach. Above 'MICHIGAN', the words 'You're Invited to have some' are written in a stylized font. To the right, there is a logo for 'MichiganFun' with a cartoon character and the word 'LUGGAGE' underneath.



The Lansing River Trail

Love Lansing like a local

If you're planning a little getaway, it's always fun to try a new destination, don't you think? Sure, old favorites are always a nice and safe choice, but maybe it's time to shake things up. Why not plan a trip to Michigan's capital city, located right in the heart of the state and a short drive away? A small sized city, Lansing is filled with all kinds of exciting travel opportunities. Visitors can find boutique shopping, diverse dining, and fun family activities all summer long!

Lansing is Michigan's capital where you can explore the majestic and historic *State Capitol Building* with free tours available Monday through Friday. A few blocks away find four floors of Michigan history at the *Michigan Historical Center*. Visitors can walk through a replica copper mine, a lumbering camp and a one room schoolhouse among many other exhibits. Because Lansing was the birthplace of Oldsmobile, there's a museum with over 60 vehicles dedicated to locally produced cars and trucks at the *R.E. Olds Transportation Museum*.

All these attractions are in the downtown area along with a minor league baseball team the *Lansing Lugnuts*, and the terrific family-friendly *Impression 5 Science Center*. Find great casual dining spots, breweries and distilleries — all within a walkable downtown.

Don't leave without a trip to the *Peanut Shop*. This former Planter's peanut store is a step back in time with peanuts and

other nuts roasted daily, trail mixes and an assortment of old-fashioned candy behind the glass counter.

Boutique shopping more to your liking? Head to Old Town on the north side of the city. Connected to downtown by the *Lansing River Trail* and located on the banks of the Grand River, Old Town is a compact area of just two streets packed with an abundance of delightful boutiques offering unique clothing stores, art galleries, a home and garden shop, stringed instrument store and more! Discover locally owned restaurants like MEAT BBQ, Creole, Pablo's and Ozone's Brewhouse among others. Love pinball and arcade games? Don't miss *The Grid*, an

arcade/bar that will be right up your alley.

Lansing is Michigan's festival capital with close to 60 festivals each year, so you can schedule your trip around an upcoming event. *Lansing Alive!* is taking place July 16th, 2022, at Rotary Park with live music, carnival and yard games, cornhole and dodgeball tournaments and waterfront activity! Come out for the day to see all the ways Lansing is alive with activity and great people! Upcoming festivals include the *Car Capital Auto Show* and *Michigan's Bacon Festival*, both in downtown Lansing on July 30th. August 4-6th is the *Michigan JazzFest* in Old Town while August 6th is the 49th Annual *Island Art Fair*.

And if that isn't enough, the Greater Lansing region makes the perfect family destination with multiple entertainment centers with indoor go-karting, bowling, escape rooms, laser tag, axe throwing, rage rooms and so much more. And if golf is your game, find 30 courses within 30 miles that offer championship courses at affordable rates. With all these options, it's easy to make Lansing Michigan your next getaway. ↗

Book your overnight now at lansing.org and you can love Lansing like a local.

BY RENU SAGGAR



Love Lansing

LIKE A LOCAL

Discover diverse dining and exciting attractions, lively festivals and artsy neighborhoods, unexpected chill spaces and family play places all in the heart of Michigan.

Plan your getaway at lansing.org

GREATER LANSING CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU 517.487.0077 | Lansing.org | #LoveLansing

Future Mirror

If you are troubled by the problems of life,
then we will solve your problem together.

By

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Jyotish Acharya



Subhastro



subhashish_guruji



Traverse City has 100s of miles of shoreline

Traverse City buzzes with “Bs”

Three “Bs” define Traverse City, Michigan in the summer: Bikes, Boats and Beaches. And just because it’s fun we tossed in one more — a few brews to cap the day. This vacation getaway in northwest Michigan is defined by the water. Receding glaciers gouged deep fingers into the earth that eventually became the Great Lakes. Then they left a sandy soil that developed into perfect beaches.

The Traverse City area has ranges of rolling hills that overlook Lake Michigan and Grand Traverse Bay. Along those hills are hundreds of miles of trails designed for hiking and biking. One resort, *Crystal Mountain* in Thompsonville, has developed its own chairlift-assisted bike park. Take the chairlift that normally carries skiers to the top of the mountain in winter, then zip down 375 feet of vertical trails to the bottom. A choice of six trails, offer skill levels from beginner to advanced. “The cool part is, with all the offshoots, people can take a different way down every time,” notes race and bike manager, Chris Remy.

On any summer day Grand Traverse Bay is alive with colorful sailboats that dance on the clear blue waters. If you’re on shore without a boat, there’s no need to feel sad. A wide variety of cruise options are available. One of the newest is the *Wind Dancer*. This 63-foot schooner sails twice a day and prides itself in not only serving locally sourced food, but

local wines and spirits as well. Other sailing excursions include the tall ships *Manitou*, *Scout*, the *Inland Seas School Ship*, and *Nauticat*. Other possibilities include power boat and yacht rentals along with plenty of canoe and kayak options.

The beaches around Traverse City are legendary. They are consistently voted as some of the best in America. *Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore* was voted by ABC Good Morning America viewers as the most beautiful place in America. The park has 35 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline but also includes 26 inland lakes and 12 miles of rivers and streams. Or take the kids to *Clinch Park Beach* just a block away from downtown Traverse City. Here you’ll find a beautiful sandy

beach along with a concession stand and a fun waterpark that’s perfect for young kids. You can also rent kayaks, stand up paddleboards and bikes.

The entire Traverse City region has hundreds of miles of shoreline with beaches along Lake Michigan, East and West Grand Traverse Bay, inland lakes, or island beaches. So, it doesn’t matter if you’re looking for a secluded beach to get away, or an active beach for a swim and a picnic, you’ll find it in Traverse City. Those glaciers did an outstanding job some 12,000 years ago when they left the region with a water playground.

At the end of the day it may be time to explore that fourth “B.” Traverse City was voted as having one of the best small town brew scenes in America by readers of USA Today. Over a dozen microbreweries produce creative adult beverages using mostly local ingredients. Just one example *Right Brain Brewery*, is proud of its seasonal *Cherry Pie Whole*. Traverse City is known as the *Cherry Capital of the World*, so why not brew a batch with a bunch of whole cherry crumb pies from *Grand Traverse Pie Company*. Local brewers are free to show creativity with every batch they create.

This is home to the 40 member *Traverse Wine Coast* that produce award-winning wines. Plus explore scenic road trips, unique shopping adventures and lots of outdoor activities. ☺

Discover more at <http://www.traversecity.com>.



Traverse City Harbor

Park Place Hotel

The elegant Park Place Hotel & Conference Center is where luxury meets location. It's just steps from downtown shops and restaurants, or an easy stroll to the bay and beach.

Traverse City's distinguished doyen of hotel properties occupies a prominent role in the region. Gracious accommodations, memorable views and thoughtful amenities and services make this a very special place.

Refresh your body and mind in one of the 140 classically decorated rooms, each with its own stunning view of Traverse City, Boardman Lake or Grand Traverse Bay. Several ninth-floor suites and West Wing rooms include a balcony.

Newly-renovated Tower rooms blend contemporary design and modern amenities, with an historic location. West Wing rooms are newly renovated and showcase a modern design while providing all the luxuries and amenities guests expect and deserve. All guest rooms and suites are carefully appointed and feature exceptionally comfortable beds, coffee maker, mini refrigerator, microwave and compli-

mentary Wi-Fi. Pets are welcome for a \$20 per night additional fee.

The 15,000 square foot conference center is a classically modern facility with a capacity for 450 people and can be customized to accommodate a variety of groups. The conference center was part of more than \$9 million in recent renovations to the hotel.

Take a dip in the new indoor pool facility, complete with whirlpool, splash pad and fitness room.

The award winning *Minervas Restaurant & Bar* on the lobby level, offers a comfortable, upscale atmosphere, and is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner with a full menu of steaks, chops, pasta and seafood. Minervas also features happy hour food and drink specials. Traverse City's food scene is like none other and the hotel has curated a list of area favorites, most a short walk or drive away.

Start planning your visit now by visiting www.park-place-hotel.com.



Located in the heart of downtown Traverse City with stunning views of Traverse City and Grand Traverse Bay. All within walking distance to an array of restaurants, boutique shopping and entertainment. And a short drive to sample some of the Midwest's finest wine and beer on Leelanau and Old Mission Peninsula.

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- » Indoor Pool, Hot Tub and Splash Pad
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Panama City beach has 27 miles of sugar white sand

Panama City Beach - Make it yours

Panama City Beach is located in the northwestern part of Florida and is the perfect place for a memorable beach getaway, offering all the amenities desired by those looking for an ideal warm-weather beach vacation. The destination – best known for its 27 miles of sugar-white sands bordering the clear turquoise waters of the Gulf of Mexico – was named the world's No. 2 "Emerging Destination" by Trip Advisor. With 320 days of sunshine annually, the area has long been favored by travelers (especially Canadians) seeking year-round fun for families.

Make it yours

In addition to its beautiful beaches, Panama City Beach boasts numerous activities for every member of the family. Any time of year is a good time to experience the bounty of nature at PCB's many parks and beaches. A hidden gem is *St. Andrews State Park*, which has been named one of the top beaches in the United States. Within the park is Shell Is-

land. This seven-mile-long, undeveloped barrier island runs east to west between the Gulf of Mexico and St. Andrews Bay. Here you'll find Florida at its most natural, complete with graceful sand dunes, coastal scrub forest, pine hammocks and an inland lake.

Make it natural

Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy hiking along scenic trails, bird-watching, boating, fishing, diving, kayaking, off-road cycling, stand-up paddleboarding and more throughout the year. In addition, Panama City Beach provides distinctive wildlife viewing opportunities. From bottle-nosed dolphins and large schools of baitfish in the Gulf of Mexico, to alligators and egrets in the marshes and dune lakes, wildlife thrives in this area.

Make it flavorful

Panama City Beach's unique geography makes it an ideal locale for fresh coastal cuisine inflected with Cajun, Gulf Coast and American Southern traditions. PCB is known as the "Seafood Capital of the

South," which should come as no surprise since seafood is the main ingredient for Panama City Beach menus. However, foodies don't have to go to a restaurant to enjoy the city's seafood abundance, as some of the best eateries are seafood markets that serve their freshest catch right in the markets. Other dining experiences include everything from family-friendly beachside eateries to premier fine-dining restaurants. In addition to the beach's authentic, local restaurants, Panama City Beach hosts some of the area's premier food and drink festivals, including UNwineD – the annual craft beer, wine and spirits festival – as well as *Oktoberfest* and the annual Food Truck and Craft Beer Festival.

Make it eventful

Discover the sights and sounds of PCB. From live music at our open-air amphitheater to seafood festivals and holiday celebrations, PCB's schedule has something for everyone! There's an 800-pound *Beach Ball Drop* on New Year's Eve, the libations celebration called UNwineD, and a swashbuckling good time with *Pirates of the High Seas Fest*. The sugar-white sands provide a beautiful backdrop for Panama City Beach's outdoor events like summer concerts in the park. Music lovers have the chance to enjoy live performances of America's favorite adult rock bands or hear the freshest sounds in country and Southern rock music. Be sure to check the special events calendar at VisitPanamaCityBeach.com/events. There's always something fun going on.

Make it memorable

Panama City Beach delivers an unforgettable vacation for travelers heading South in search of a warm-weather escape. Apart from the serene shoreline, there's plenty of family fun, heart-pounding action, eco-adventure and romance waiting for you. Those seeking an authentic, fun and high-quality beach experience should dive into Panama City Beach & Make It Yours! The hardest part will be deciding what to do first. ↗

Visit the official Panama City Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau www.visitpanamacitybeach.com.



MAKE IT YOUR REAL FUN BEACH

Get away to paradise. With 320 days of sunshine annually, PCB is the ultimate Real. FUN. Beach.

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Exhilaration awaits. Make it yours.

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VISITPANAMACITYBEACH.COM/MAKE-IT-YOURS





Agawa Canyon Tour Train

BY ADELINA IRVINE

comfortable, with WIFI, spacious reclining seats and plenty of legroom, so you can relax while you take in the beautiful surroundings.

Kyoto's Kinkaku-ji, or the *Golden Pavilion*, is one of 17 locations comprising the Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto World Heritage Site. This three-tiered building and its reflecting image on the adjoining "mirror pond" is a breathtaking must-see. The unusual construction has each successive tier designed in a different style. The building's original purpose was to serve the retirement residence of Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, who ruled from 1368 to 1394. The gold-leaf-adorned structure was converted into a Zen temple shortly after his death.

Algoma Central Railway

Nearly a century ago, the boreal forests of the Algoma District drew *The Group of Seven*, Canada's most celebrated landscape painters. Today, visitors can travel the same rail line that brought them into the vast wild places that inspired them. Departing from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, the *Agawa Canyon Tour Train* showcases the rugged beauty of the Canadian Shield. The 114-mile journey weaves stories of the Ojibway and *courteur de bois*, into the endless sprawl of rocks, rapids and bent white pine. Points of interest include the towering trestles at Bellevue Valley—Mile 19, and Montreal River—Mile 92, offering expansive views of Lake Superior.

From late September through mid October, the woods are painted with crimson, orange and gold. The Agawa River's dark water stands in stark contrast to the flaming forest. Tannic acid leaching into the river from the gnarled roots of cedars turns it the color of raw sienna.

Hugging the top of the canyon wall, the train passes monumental slabs of grey and pink granite with quartz veins glinting like whitecaps in the afternoon sun. These rocks are among the oldest on earth, created more than 1.2 billion years ago and sculpted by the last ice age.

Then, it descends 500 feet to the canyon floor. During a 90-minute stopover visitors can relax by the river, or explore the trails leading to several waterfalls. *Bridal Veil Falls* is a multi-tiered cascade that tumbles 230 feet down the canyon's eastern slope. Climb the over 300 stairs to a breathtaking lookout perched 250 feet above the canyon floor.

All aboard for adventure

People dread airports and flying, but rail travel enjoys its own special allure. And unlike flying, there are no arduous security checks, no baggage limitations and no hidden fees. Best of all, is how comfortable it makes your caboose. Take in the passing scenery, stretch out in your seat or wander around and socialize, or meet a mysterious stranger.

Amtrak Coast Starlight

Running daily between Los Angeles and Seattle, the Coast Starlight is one of America's most unforgettable rail journeys. It's 1,377 miles of sheer magnificence, passing through Santa Barbara, the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento to Portland and Seattle.

The scenery along the route embraces the dramatic snow-covered peaks of the Cascades and Mount Shasta, lush coniferous forests, fertile valleys and long stretches of rugged Pacific coast.

From Los Angeles to Oakland the train follows the same route as the "El Camino Real," the old Spanish mission road. Santa Barbara is where food, history, wine and sunshine create their own special alchemy. Golden hillsides roll into bluffs overlooking palm-fringed beaches. San Luis Obispo County is an ever-changing panorama of fog-covered cliffs, pounding surf and spouting whales.

Crossing the Oregon/California State Line between Klamath Falls and Dunsmuir, Mount Shasta dominates the

horizon. Snow covered for most of the year, some of the most dramatic views are from the train on moonlit nights. As the train makes its ascent into the Cascades it passes through 22 tunnels.

Coach passengers enjoy big, comfortable seats and plenty of legroom. Business Class features seating in a dedicated car, free Wi-Fi, and access to the Metropolitan Lounge in Los Angeles and Portland. The floor-to-ceiling windows in the *Sightseer Lounge* are perfect for taking in the views.

The train follows the Willamette Valley with the Cascades on one side and the Coast Range on the other and passing Mount Hood, it crosses the Columbia River and onto Washington State.

Japan's Bullet Trains

Japan has everything from the most cutting-edge modernity, to awe-inspiring ancient traditions. High-speed bullet trains known as *Shinkansen*, were invented in Japan in the 1960s and are known for their punctuality, comfort, safety and efficiency. One of the most popular routes travels from Tokyo to Kyoto, the ancient capital. It takes you on a magic carpet ride past Mount Fuji, to Kyoto's Zen gardens, mysterious Buddhist temples, and tranquil Shinto shrines.

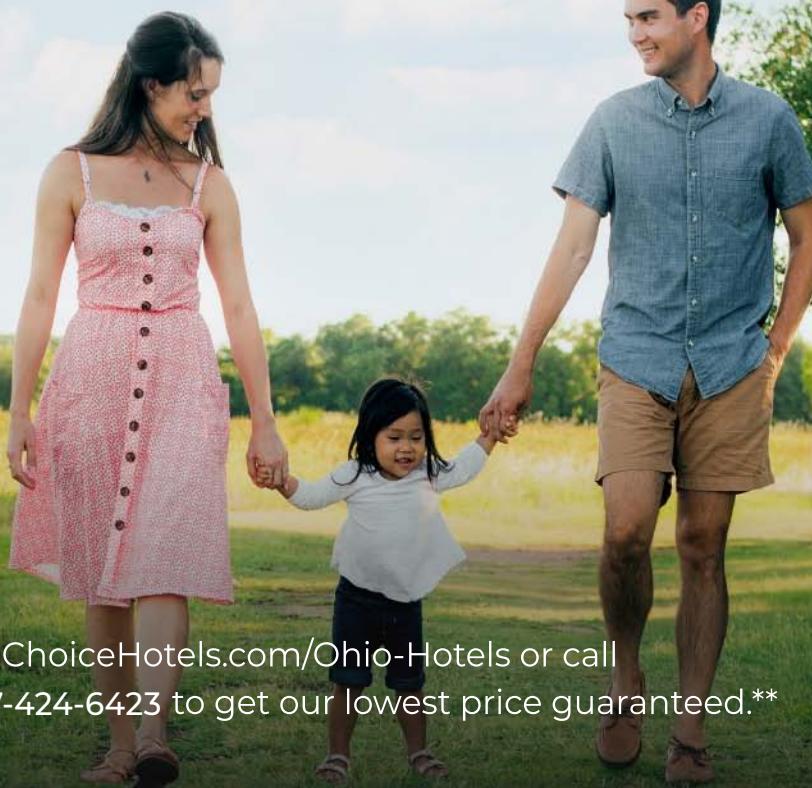
The train, to paraphrase Superman, is faster than a speeding bullet reaching a maximum speed of 320 km/h (199 mph)! Travel between Tokyo and Kyoto can take as little as two hours, depending on which train you take. Cabins are very quiet and



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Old Man's Cave

The breathtaking beauty of the region inspires a vibrant community of artists and craftsmen. Hocking Hills Artists and Craftsmen Association's *Annual Fall Show* takes place September 24 & 25. This juried fine arts and craft show features works by talented artists, free admission, free parking and is handicap accessible. Food will be available for purchase. This is the perfect opportunity to find one-of-a-kind gifts and shop local.

Get in touch with your inner artist at the *Jack Pine Glass Pumpkin Festival*, September 23 to 25. Watch as artists create the famous Jack Pine Glass Pumpkins. Pumpkins and other glass creations will also be available for sale.

Take a step back in time at the *Laurelville Fireman's Old Time Festival* September 28 to October 1. The volunteer fire department's "Old Time" theme comes from the fact that the festival is held on the same streets as it was during the first festival in 1923. There are homemade pies and cakes sold by local churches and a nightly fish fry. Free entertainment from a stage set up on Main St. takes place each evening.

Ohio's most famous grandma is honored at the *Annual Grandma Gatewood Fall Color Hike* on October 15. Emma "Grandma" Gatewood was the first woman to solo hike the Appalachian Trail in 1955. She was 67 years young when she completed

Hocking Hills – Ohio's Natural Crown Jewel

Imagine a vacation where many of the magical experiences come without a price tag ... and priceless moments are around every bend in the road. Hocking Hills is best known for miles and miles of scenic and free hiking trails through the Hocking Hills State Park and Hocking State Forest. But there's so much more!

Take a horseback ride to an authentic cowboy cookout. Rock climbing and rappelling will get your adrenaline pumping. Get a bird's eye view on a zipline canopy or canoe and kayak the historic Hocking River.

Visit a moonshine distillery in historic downtown Logan. The family recipe goes back to the one used to make moonshine during prohibition. As the story goes, Al Capone sent his bootleggers all the way from Chicago to bring the superior quality hooch back to the Windy City's speakeasies.

On August 5 & 6 Logan, Hocking Hills major city, will host the first *Big Foot Festival*. The Historic Downtown will be filled with Sasquatch enthusiasts, speakers and vendors. There will be plenty of good fun with live music, a Squatch Walk, Squatch & Find and Howling Contest. Be sure to save some time to search for Big Foot in the Hills.

Local musicians take the stage throughout the year at local wineries, breweries and pubs. The *Annual Nelsonville Music Festival* is set in the region's beautiful rolling hills. This intimate festival offers live music from a variety of genres on multiple stages from national, regional, and local acts. Catch live music on multiple stages September 2 – 4.

Test your endurance at the *Annual Hocking Hills Trail Run* on September 17. Beginning at the Hocking Hills State Park Naturalist Cabin, the 44th Annual Trail Run winds through vast wooded areas of the Hocking Hills State Park and Hocking State Forest, crossing streams, deep gorges, shimmering waterfalls and lush forests, leading uphill and down. The Hocking Hills Trail Run is the ultimate challenge to the runner's endurance and power of concentration.

the 2000+ mile trail. The six-mile trek will lead hikers from Old Man's Cave, to Cedar Falls and back.

As summer gives way to fall Hocking Hills transform into kaleidoscope of autumn colors. Select from a wide assortment of accommodations. From luxury lodges to tiny houses, the "cabins" will cradle you in all the comforts of home but surrounded by the wonders of nature. Pick a treehouse, tipi or yurt for a truly memorable experience.

Pamper yourself at a spa, salt cave or sauna pod. Enjoy classic comfort food at one of the locally owned eateries. Try a flight of wine, beer or even coffee. Bring your appetite for adventure. You'll leave fully satisfied! ↗

Begin your adventure at ExploreHockingHills.com.



Summer festivals are a Hocking Hills tradition

Relax & Refresh



Need a change of scenery and a little R & R? Time to head for the hills, The Hocking Hills. You'll find cozy accommodations and fresh air waiting for you. This is the place for unlimited outdoor adventures, prehistoric caves, sparkling waterfalls and a much needed break. This is the place to revive your mind, body and soul in the **Hocking Hills**, Ohio's Natural Crown Jewels.



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Ohio segues into summer

Tranquil, green and timeless summer is the perfect season to explore Ohio. When temperatures heat up, Ohio has its own special brand of charm. Cities hum with world-class museums, shopping and attractions, while the countryside offers its own unique traditions, garden parties, festivals and events. Paddle the many lakes and rivers, cycle the towpath on historic canals, or celebrate nature's bounty in the bistros and vineyards. When you least expect it, your heart is sure to be stolen away by Ohio's great natural beauty and quiet charm.

Akron & Summit County

Straddling the line between urban sophistication and pastoral haven, visitors to Greater Akron, Ohio can get swept up in the excitement of downtown Akron, or escape to the scenic splendor of Ohio's only national park.

Those looking to catch a performance have a variety of playhouses and concert venues from which to choose including

the *Akron Civic Theatre*, one of five remaining atmospheric theaters in the nation. Art enthusiasts can explore the *Akron Art*

BY RENU SAGGAR

Museum and galleries like *Summit Artspace*, or *Akrona*, which feature local and touring exhibits. Explore Greater Akron's past at *Hale Farm & Village*, *Perkins Stone Mansion* and *Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens*. The former estate of F.A. Seiberling, co-founder of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, the 65-room Tudor Revival Manor House, is the nation's 6th largest historic home open to the public.

A rotating roster of events happen all year long. The *African American Cultural Festival* returns July 23-24 at Akron's very own Lock 3 Park. The event, featuring music, food, activities and booths, will be open from 11 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. each day.

The *84th FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby* takes place Saturday, July 23. Soap Box Derby champions from around the globe will come to Akron to compete in this world championship event at Derby Downs, a 989 foot racing track designed specifically for Soap Box Derby competition.

County fairs are back this summer! The *Summit County Fair* will return from July 26-31. For more information, please go to summitfair.com/index.html

The *Rubber City Invitational* is making its debut July 31st - August 2, 2022 at the John S. Knight Center in Downtown



The Erie Express at Sauder Village

Akron, OH. The family-friendly event will highlight tattoo artists from both Akron area and around the country. You can get new ink, learn more about the trade, and even enter your best tattoo in one of the many contests!

The *Summit County Italian-American Festival* returns to downtown Akron. There will be entertainment and delicious Italian foods available for purchase. The event runs from August 4-6 at Lock 3, 200 S. Main St., Akron.

There is one weekend a year where a northern Ohio community lives up to its name. Hundreds of twins will descend on Twinsburg August 5-7 for the *Twins Festival*.

The *Summit Music Festival* returns Saturday August 27 at Summit County Fairgrounds Arena in Tallmadge, OH. Rock out 10 national Heavy-Metal Acts, as well as numerous regional and local performances. Also on site — food trucks and vendors! Doors open at 2 p.m. www.summitmusicfest.com.

The *Akron Pride Festival* will be held August 27th. Activities include a march and entertainment downtown along with food in the downtown area. Location" Lock 3, Lock 4, and Cascade Plaza.

Visitors can wander off the beaten path to *Cuyahoga Valley National Park* (CVNP) by using the Ohio Erie & Canalway Towpath Trail, which runs through the heart of downtown Akron, or by hopping on the *Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad*. The 13th most-visited national park in the U.S., CVNP boasts 33,000 acres of unimaginably beautiful areas to play, rest and recharge.

Sights, sounds and special experiences await. Plan a visit that will be your very own. akron.travel, summitbrewpath.com, newagainakron.com, thedripdrive.com, seeakronnow.com.

Sandusky County

Northern Ohio is known for Lake Erie fishing, boating, and island adventures but did you know there is a rich and diverse patrimony of history, art and culture in the area as well? The Sandusky County Visitors Bureau had a vision to preserve and share the areas heritage through a new and unique canvas... Barns! The Visitors Bureau created the *Historic Barn Mural Trail* and partnered with nationally known artist, Scot Hagan, AKA "The Barn Artist" who was commissioned to paint historical depictions on these beautiful old barns.

Agriculture's roots run deep in Northwest Ohio and many of the barn's date back to the mid-1800's and still stand today. Each new mural location starts with a search for an area barn which is carefully chosen based upon location, condition and the history of that area.

Next, a mural is designed specifically for that location and the design of the mural is not only complimentary to the barn but also the history that took place in that town or area.

From historical battles from the war of 1812, to the 19th U.S. President, Rutherford B. Hayes, who resided in Fremont Ohio, there are currently 7 barns that can be seen by following the trail. This self driving adventure takes you through some beautiful Ohio landscapes as you make your way from barn to barn. It takes around an hour and a half, although you may want to stumble upon one of the local restaurants or downtown districts to take in a little small-town shopping. All the communities are safe, welcoming and look forward to seeing guests driving the barn trail!

It is also important to mention and thank the many area sponsors that partnered with the Visitors Bureau to make it

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all possible. The barn trail will be growing each year as more locations are secured and designs are created.

The Sandusky County Historic Barn Mural Driving Trail is just under 60 miles and takes about 1.5 hours to travel from start to finish. The trail takes you throughout Sandusky County while winding along rural country roads that provide breathtaking rural landscapes. When driving the trail, please observe local traffic safety laws as well as to respect the property owners by not trespassing on private property without permission.

Ready to learn more and get started? Visit, www.sanduskycounty.org/barns.

Remarkable Lake County

If you're like everyone else looking for an affordable, fun, and unique summer getaway, look no further than Remarkable Lake County, Ohio. Located just three hours from Niagara Falls, Ontario, the unforgettable experiences that await you in Lake County are well worth the trip and promise to provide memories for a lifetime.

One of the many must-visit attractions in the area is *Headlands Beach State Park, and Nature Preserve*, with its picturesque lighthouse and the longest beach on Lake Erie.

Nature lovers will be in awe at *Holden Arboretum*, one of the largest arboreta in North America. Take in the view form atop the 120' emergent tower and walk among the tree tops on the canopy walk. Special events are planned throughout the year, adding to the already remarkable experience.

Lake County offers a mix of New England/California ambi-

ance, with the largest concentrated winery district in Ohio. Wine lover in your group can visit some of the 30 wineries in the Grand River Valley. When you taste the award-winning wine and take in the beautiful, relaxing scenery, you'll see why this wine region is one of the fastest-growing in the United States and a top tourist destination in the Midwest. Visitors can stay in lovingly restored Victorian B&B's like the Steele Mansion, or a golf resort nestled amidst 700 acres of woods and two designer golf courses. A Frank Lloyd Wright designed vacation rental house, is one of a very few in the entire USA.

For more details on everything Lake County has to offer, including the brand-new Lake County Taco Trail, visit MyLakeOH.com and plan your trip today!

Medina County

Step up to Medina County and enjoy all they have to offer. A wealth of history can be explored in many of Medina's local communities. Many highlight history specific to their township and several have very specific historical museums, including a one room school house, a farm with home and out buildings from the late 1850's. The *Little Wiz Fire Museum* in Medina features a 1916 Hallock Chemical Fire Truck, hand/horse drawn fire equipment (1850), plus newer vehicles, extinguishers, nozzles and pumps. The *Northern Ohio Railway Museum* in Seville, offers rides on a 1914 trolley car.

One of Medina's most unique museum is *Castle Noel*. This private collection of Christmas movie set pieces, costumes and props will fill you with the holiday spirit. Highlights include Cousin Eddy's RV from *Christmas Vacation*, Will Ferrell's Elf Costume, the 16 foot sleigh from the *Grinch* and many more.

Adventure... so near, all year in Sandusky County!

Just 18 minutes from the Put-in-Bay Ferry!

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FREMONT, OHIO - Exit 91 Off 80/90

Visit **SANDUSKY COUNTY**
sanduskycounty.org/stay

Sandusky County Visitors Bureau
Dare to Discover at Sanduskycounty.org/

Browse the Christmas Window displays from famous New York City Department stores.

Families will want to make a stop at *Scene 75*, with arcade games, indoor Go Karts, mini golf and laser tag. Take a spin at *High Voltage* indoor Kart racing. The attached *Foundry Social* offers food, drinks, a craft brewery and games for the family.

Medina County Parks offer hiking, fishing, nature centers bike trails and programs all year long. *Spring Mist Farm* is a wonderful petting zoo with farm animals, Reindeer, a camel, pony cart rides and more.

Buckin' Ohio holds a rodeo monthly May to Oct. on their farm, *Creekbend Ranch*. They offer bull riding, barrel racing and for the kids, an ice cream eating contest and mutton busting, often with music following in the Barn.

Small town shopping is at its best in Medina County, with specialty shops, antique shops. Unique shops include *Hollo's Papercraft* with paper, envelopes, crafting supplies and art supplies. The *Log Cabin Shop* provides everything historical reenactors need for their camps and rendezvous like muzzle loading (black powder) guns and accessories. They also have a collection of 17th and 18th century artifacts including a large collection of early Ohio rifles and Native American artifacts.

The County has festivals and events all year long including *Valley City Frog Jump*, *Medina Ice Festival*, a drive-it-yourself *Fall Foliage Tour*, many Fall Festivals, Holiday Festivals, Concert and Arts programs.

With easy highway access and just 30 miles from Cleveland and 24 miles from Akron Ohio, it's small town atmosphere with big city flavor.

For information and upcoming events, visitmedinacounty.com.

Choice Hotels Ohio

Sometimes the best travel experiences can't be found in a guidebook. All across the Buckeye State visitors can enjoy the pleasures of the big cities and towns. Choice Hotels has locations near all your favorite destinations, for a restful stay, and at an affordable price. Whether you're taking a vacation or a business trip, Choice Hotels has properties to fit your travel needs. So start planning your trip with ChoiceHotels.com/Ohio and see what the great state of Ohio has to offer.

With 7 different brands Choice Hotels provides guests with exactly what they're looking for. *Cambria Hotels* have long been revered among guests for delivering an upscale product that's both approachable and thoughtfully curated just for them. Designed for the modern traveler, guests are treated to guilt-free indulgences allowing them to treat themselves while on the road. Properties feature compelling design inspired by the location, spacious and comfortable rooms, flexible meeting space, and local, freshly prepared food and craft beer.

Choice Hotels is a leader in the extended-stay space, *MainStay Suites* hotels is an extended stay brand with all the comforts of home. They feature spacious and welcoming residential-style suites with fully-equipped kitchens, complimentary continental breakfast, high-speed internet access, weekly housekeeping services, laundry facilities and cable television, including premium movie channels.

With all the amenities you need, and hotels everywhere you want to be, *Comfort Hotels* will get you rested and ready for anything the world throws at you. Trusted by both business and leisure travelers for more than 30 years, they help guests start their day off right with a complimentary, hearty and healthy

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breakfast. At *Comfort Suites* hotels, you'll find more of the space you need to spread out, relax or work.

Quality Hotels offer real value for your hard-earned money. Perks include free parking, Wi-Fi, newspaper, coffee and tea selections, in-room refrigerator and complementary hot breakfast selections..

Life is better when you get together, so *Clarion Hotels* provide the meeting space, catering, restaurants, bars and social atmosphere that make them the perfect place to meet up.

If upscale is more your style, visit *Ascend Hotels* for a one-of-a-kind experience in urban and resort hotels. Ascend properties are thoughtfully furnished to reflect the brand's boutique, historic and unique nature.

Sleep Inn & Suites offer an affordable, simply stylish retreat from which to explore the area. Get a great start to your day with their free Morning Medley hot breakfast buffet and feel free to treat yourself to seconds.

Guests can enroll in the award-winning Choice Privileges® loyalty rewards program. Membership is free and offers fast rewards, instant perks and exclusive member rates when booking directly.



Fulton County

Whether it's playful, tasteful, or cheerful, Fulton County offers more than a weekend FUL of Fun.

"It's historicFUL" Take a day and discover the charms of the past at Ohio's largest living history destination, *Sauder Village*. You will be transported through time from statehood in 1803 to the Roaring 1920's Main Street, home to *The Broken Barrel Speakeasy*. Participate in hands on activities such as making butter, milking a goat, pioneer living playing in *Mary Ann's Cabin* and more! Travel back in time onboard the *Erie Express*, a miniature replica of the original 1863 C.P. Huntington train which played an important role in America's transportation history. Marvel at working craftsmen creating items of beauty, utility and character. *Sauder Village* is sure to engage everyone.

Engage your curiosity and learn about the people who made Northwest Ohio a thriving community. From legendary race car driver Barney Oldfield, to their own version of Annie Oakley, there is always something new to discover at the *Museum of Fulton County*. Travel the world with Carl Britsch, successful architect and artist in 2022's feature exhibit.

"It's eventFUL" During Labor Day weekend, find affordable family fun at Ohio's finest and best county fair! Fair goers will experience top name entertainment, thrilling rides, a huge tradeshow, competitions and of course, food! The Fulton County fairgrounds is host to many events year-round including the National Thresher's Convention, Crosley Car Show, Antique Motorcycle show and races, Dog shows, Horse shows, Stateline Gem and Mineral show and more!

The beautifully maintained fairgrounds are ideal site for camping, whether attending an event or just passing through.

Enjoy small town hospitality at local festivals throughout Fulton County.

What about "flavorFUL", "tasteFUL" and "bellyFUL"?

You will find the number of great eating establishments in Fulton County "plentyFUL", from casual dining to fine cuisine along with a wide variety of fast food and chain restaurants.

Local sweet shops offer donuts, pies, cookies, artisan chocolates, ice cream and more, will make you "gleeFUL"!

"It's powerFUL" Get revved up in the excitement of "Saturday Night Lights" at *Oakshade Raceway*, *Delta Motorsports*

and antique motorcycle races, tractor pulls and demolition derby at the Fulton County Fairgrounds race track.

"It's shopFUL" Throughout Fulton County there are over 40 diverse shopping opportunities from quaint boutiques to nostalgic antiques, creative craft stores to artisan and specialty shops, ready to assemble furniture outlet to bulk food and meat markets.

Oak Openings Pottery and *Manabigama Kiln Center* offer beautiful, handmade wood-fired pottery. *Richard Allan Metal Arts* takes unwanted items from peoples past and makes them into incredible pieces of art, *Windfall Woodworks* create wood lathed turn works into unique and functional pieces, such as bowls, boxes, bangles and more, all from wood blown down from the wind!

Turkeyfoot Creek Creamery is a family owned farm which handcrafts artisan goat cheese and ice cream. Handmade delectable chocolates are crafted at *Stella Leona Artisan Chocolates* tucked away in the quaint town of Pettisville, where you can also visit Sunday's Market, a step back into history. ☺

To find your FUL in Fulton County go to visitFULToncounty.com.

The collage includes:

- sauder village**: Two young girls petting geese in a grassy field.
- playful**: A girl swinging on a swing set.
- knotty vines winery**: A bottle of red wine and a glass filled with red wine.
- flavorful**: A close-up of a wine bottle and a glass of red wine.
- harrison lake state park**: A view of a lake with autumn-colored trees in the foreground.
- restful**: A view of a lake with autumn-colored trees in the foreground.
- fulton county fair**: A night view of the fair grounds with a large, colorful light installation.
- artful**: A circular light installation with a grid pattern.
- junk & disorderly**: An indoor shop filled with various items and decorations.
- oakshade raceway**: A dirt track with spectators in the stands.
- eventful**: A race car on a track.
- fulton county museum**: The exterior of a white, two-story building.
- ful of history**: The same building as the museum, with the text overlaid.
- bracy gold bison ranch**: A close-up of a bison's face.
- peaceful**: Two bison grazing in a field.

fulton COUNTY
THE PLACE TO FIND YOUR PACE
visitfultoncounty.com



BY RENU SAGGAR

Hambletonian Stakes, Harness Racing's Premier Championship event will be held at the Meadowlands Racetrack on August 6th.

Families can enjoy dinner theater at *Medieval Times* in Lyndhurst, electric go-kart racing at *RPM Raceway* in Jersey City. The *Liberty Science Center* in Jersey City, offers hands on learning experiences and the largest planetarium in the Western Hemisphere.

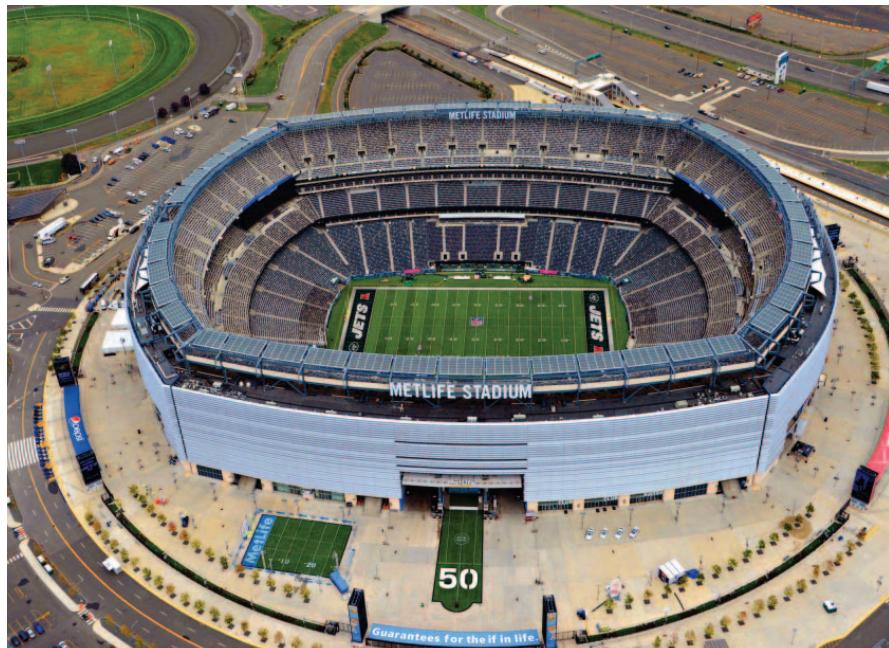
Field Station, Dinosaurs an outdoor dinosaur and science expedition in Leonia, has added new games, shows and activities for the summer. With 31 life-sized animatronic dinosaurs it's a Jurassic size adventure for families and groups.

Outdoor lovers can join free, hosted bird walks, or enjoy hiking, at one of The Meadowlands' many public parks. Take an eco-cruise with the Hackensack Riverkeeper specially rigged 30-foot pontoon boats. History buffs can check out the *Historic New Bridge Landing* that served as President George Washington Headquarters during the American Revolution.

Foodies will enjoy The Meadowlands' diverse cuisine with everything from local delis, the unique New Jersey Diner experience, to gourmet French, Italian, Spanish and other ethnic cuisine. ☺

For more information and to begin planning your visit, please visit the MLCVB at www.mlcvb.com.

MetLife Stadium will host the 2026 FIFA World Cup™

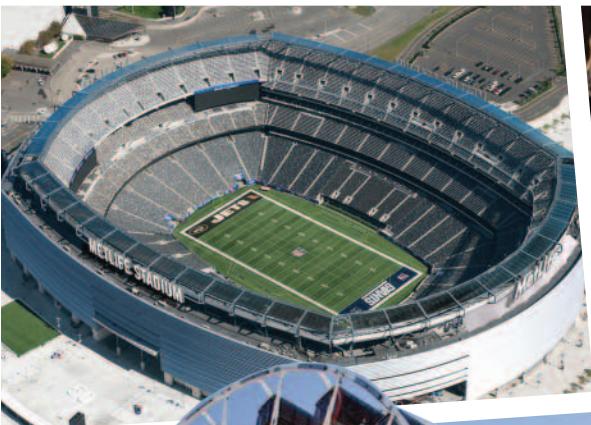


High times in the Meadowlands

Fresh off being named a host venue for the 2026 FIFA World Cup™ at MetLife Stadium - The Meadowlands is in the midst of a busy tourism season for drive-in and regional travelers with the much-anticipated return of live in-person events and attractions and COVID restrictions lifted for the summer of 2022.

Thrill seekers and shoppers are flocking to East Rutherford's *American Dream*. The 3 million-square-foot retail and entertainment complex unveiled a new 300 foot tall *Dream Wheel*, with stunning views of the New York City Skyline. Other must see attractions include the *Nickelodeon Universe* amusement park – the biggest indoor theme park in the western hemisphere. Splash down in the *DreamWorks Water Park*, or hit the slopes at *Big Snow* — North America's first and only indoor ski resort with real snow. Then there's the NHL regulation-sized *The Rink* for ice skating and hockey, the *Legoland Discovery Center*, the *SEA LIFE Aquarium* and more.

Just across the parking lot from American Dream, is *MetLife Stadium*, home field of two NFL teams: New York Jets and the New York Giants and a host venue for the 2026 FIFA World Cup™. NFL preseason games begin August 21st, with the regular season kicking off on September 11th with the Baltimore Ravens taking on the Jets.



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Enjoy Dozens of Local Attractions from Eco-Tourism Nature Walks and Boating to Live Jousting in the Meadowlands.

From Dining at Some of the Best Restaurants Anywhere to World Class Shopping.

Major Sporting Events and Live Concerts at MetLife Stadium, plus the American Dream Retail and Entertainment Complex – 3 Million Square Feet of Amusements, Shopping and More.

Also the world-class Meadowlands Racetrack Featuring Live harness Racing and the FanDuel Sportsbook – the Highest-Grossing Sportsbook on the East Coast. For the Ultimate Educational Experience, Visit the Liberty Science Center for Hands-On Learning Experiences and the Largest Planetarium in the Western Hemisphere.

Contact line: 877-MLCVB-US

Meadowlands *Live!*
Convention and Visitors Bureau

meadowlandslive.com



MLCVB received funding through a grant from the NJ Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism.



Street life in Jersey City

Hanging out in Hudson County

Hudson County, New Jersey offers historic attractions, serene green spaces, cultural immersion and an award-winning culinary scene. Experience scenic parks and ferries to the Statue of Liberty — all in one, easily navigable destination.

Liberty State Park, is a 1,200 acre park in Jersey City where you can catch unparalleled views of the Manhattan skyline along the Liberty Walk promenade or visit the state-of-the-art and interactive Liberty Science Center.

Liberty State Park also offers the fastest, most direct cruises to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, not to mention boating, canoeing, hiking, biking and nature walks in the warmer weather.

Better yet book a stay in one of many waterfront hotels and watch the sun rise over NYC every morning. Need room for the family? A variety of affordable hotels offer suites, pools and shuttles to whisk you to the Big Apple.

The region features a variety of impressive gems, including the *Red Bull Arena*, *Skyway Golf Course* and the celebrated *American Dream*, plus plenty more.

This energetic blend of culture and ethnicity is just a stone's throw from Manhattan, but with the county's vibrant art, music, theater and food scenes, visitors rarely want to leave. Warm, welcoming residents and a growing number of visi-

tors enjoy Hudson County's unique and colorful experiences all year. And you're welcome to share the fun!

Jersey City and Hoboken are ready for an exciting summer. Nightlife ranges from classic dive bars, to chic nightclubs, trendy dance clubs and rooftop cocktail bars overlooking the Manhattan skyline. In addition to some memorable views these sought-after Hudson County hot

BY RENU SAGGAR

spots boast great local scenes that will delight the most dedicated night owls.

Redefining the rooftop bar genre, *RoofTop at Exchange Place* in Jersey City and *NoHu* in Weehawken, are two of the best when it comes to rooftop bars and terraces. The views, the food, the cocktails, the service and the design are "above it all".

In Jersey City, you will find The New Park Tavern and in the beloved Hamilton Park area, the White Star Bar and The Archer, each with their own vibe and style.

Downtown on Restaurant Row, historic White Eagle Hall presents live music (as well as theatre, comedy, dance, film and family shows), while serving food and drinks in restaurants like Cellar 335 and Madame Claude Bis. Along this same row, you can find Skinners Loft, Razza, Porta and so many more!

Up in Hoboken, try favorite bars like Pilsener Haus & Biergarten and The Ale House. For fabulous live music, consider Northern Soul, McSwiggans Pub, The Cuban, Finnegan's Pub, Green Rock Tap & Grill, House of 'Que, Willie McBride's and more! ↗

Go to www.visirthudson.org for more information.



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Liberty State Park

Liberty State Park, in Jersey City, is a 1,200-acre green space with Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty and the Manhattan skyline as a backdrop.

Liberty Science Center is a 300,000 square foot science experience which is ideal for all ages, featuring the western hemisphere's largest IMAX dome planetarium, a 3D theater, 110 species of live animals, hurricane and tornado-force wind simulators, live simulcast surgeries and many travelling museum exhibits.

Statue Cruises ferry service departs daily from Liberty State Park for the Statue of Liberty and the Ellis Island National Immigration Museum. The ferry is located next to the historic Central Terminal building. Ferries depart from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and approximately every hour. Departure area is accessible from Liberty State Park Light Rail Station and there is plenty of visitor parking.

American Dream near the MetLife Stadium complex is at once an attraction, shopping and dining mecca. A colossal Garden State attraction, this 3 million square foot experience center in East Rutherford, is two miles from an array of hotels in Secaucus, and offers an exciting new entertainment and shopping experience.

Stop by our website at www.visithudson.org. See you soon!

American Dream

MetLife Stadium

Statue Cruises



Supported in part by a grant from
the New Jersey Department of State,
Division of Travel and Tourism

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Elizabeth New Jersey will surprise you

Conveniently located alongside Newark Liberty International Airport and minutes from New York City, Elizabeth will surprise you. Known as the "Gateway to New Jersey," getting around is a breeze no matter how you travel. Brand name hotel accommodations will fit any budget.

New Jersey starts here. Travel through time with Elizabeth's rich historic landmarks. The historical birthplace of the state, also played a key role in the American Revolution. *Alexander*

Hamilton lived and went to school here. A self-guided audio walking tour will take you on a journey from Elizabeth's origin in 1664, to the mid 18th century, when Elizabeth was one of America's most prominent cities and into the 19th century, which transformed the city into a major transportation hub.

Elizabeth is home to New Jersey's largest premium outlet shopping mall, *The Mills at Jersey Gardens*, offering designer brand names at discount prices. Oh, and did we mention, there is 0% tax on clothing and shoes! It's a shop-o-holics paradise. Jersey Gardens is home to over 200 stores, such as Michael Kors, Coach, Tommy Hilfiger and Kate Spade to name a few. There's



The Elizabeth Fast Ferry passes the Statue of Liberty

also a large, diverse food court and a 20 screen movie theater to kick back and relax in between the bargains.

Feed your soul with Elizabeth's diverse menu of cultural cuisine options. No need for a passport, when you can experience Thailand, Mexico, Italy, Israel, Cuba, Portugal and more, all in a single visit.

Discover the city's newest attraction, the *Elizabeth Fast Ferry* and enjoy direct ferry service to Downtown New York City in less than 30 minutes.

Relax as you voyage down the waterways, overlooking one of America's most iconic views, connecting New Jersey's gateway to the Big Apple. As you depart the Elizabeth Waterfront Marina, an audio narration will guide you, as you travel past the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Staten Island History, Arthur Kill and Howland Hook and Port Newark and Port Elizabeth. When you disembark on the New York side, you're at South Street Seaport (Pier 15) on Fulton Street, only steps away from Wall Street and the rest of NYC to explore. ☺

Visit www.GoElizabethNJ.com for more information and to book your next stay.

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Find out what's New in New Jersey! Discover NJ's best kept secret... with new direct Ferry Service to downtown New York City in only 30 minutes.

Your perfect Jersey-centric discovery... tax-free outlet shopping and cultural dining destination just outside of New York City. Escape this summer and Experience Elizabeth, She'll Surprise You!

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Get out and enjoy summer in Princeton-Mercer

Music and movies. Nature and the arts. History and sports. With everything going on in the Princeton-Mercer area, you will find something different to do every day of the week without burning money on gas! Spend your summer exploring everything that makes this area wonderful. Here is just a small sampling of summer events to add to your calendar!

With Movie Nights on the Green, the Spring and Summer Concert Series and First Fridays

entertainment, dining and shopping specials, *Palmer Square* in Princeton, offers fun family activities all summer long!

The Arts Council of Princeton has a full slate of events lined up, including the Summer Courtyard Concert Series and Community Stage productions, with jazz, folk, rock and blues from local and regional performers.

The Princeton Symphony Orchestra presents the 2022 Princeton Festival, featuring opera, classical and chamber music, as well as insightful, educational talks.

The Mercer County Park Commission's *Friday Night Concert Series* returns in July and August, including performances by



Palmer Square in Princeton

Morris Day, the Sensational Soul Cruisers and many of the top tribute bands in the music industry.

The Historical Society of Princeton invites you to Princeton *History Walking Tours* through downtown Princeton and the University Campus, while the *Morven Museum and Garden* hosts group and garden tours and educational programs at the former New Jersey Governor's Mansion.

Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton is home to nearly 300 sculptures nestled among breathtaking gardens, flowers and trees across 42 beautifully landscaped acres. You can also go inside to enjoy exhibitions from established and emerging artists and attend lectures, workshops, tours and concerts.

Washington Crossing Audubon Society offers free field trips to the region's top birding hotspots, from the Jersey Shore, to Delaware Bay, to eastern Pennsylvania. *Terhune Orchards* invites you to the annual *Firefly Festival*, where kids can create their own wings and antennas and search for fireflies! 

There's always something to do in the Princeton-Mercer area! Go to VisitPrinceton.org for more information!

Enjoy Summer in Princeton-Mercer

New Jersey visitnj.org
Supported in part by a grant from the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism.

VISIT PRINCETON-MERCER
VISITPRINCETON.ORG



John Newman, *Shibok*, 1998, steel, stone, epoxy, foam, epoxy resin, cable, wood, paint.
240 x 300 x 150 inches. *Grounds for Sculpture*, Gift of The Seymour Johnson Collection.
Artist or Artist's Estate photo: David Michael Haworth Photography

A summer celebration in Jersey City

Summer in Jersey City is packed full of diverse arts, cultural and food festivals like *Midnight Market*, on July 22 with small bites, drinks, music, roller skating and so much more. Jersey City also hosts the largest Independence Day (July 4th) fireworks display celebration in the region with world-class entertainment. It's a free and open to the public.

The *Artist & Maker Market* is an open-air bazaar featuring locally created fine art and premium hand-crafted goods while connecting artists and artisans with the metro NYC community. Founded in 2015, it has grown to over 60 market event dates in 2022 at their Grove St. PATH Plaza location.

There's no party quite like the *Jersey City Caribbean Carnival & Festival* July 23. The island-style bash starts at Christopher Columbus Drive and Brunswick St. and includes music, dancing and everything from goat curry to tropical Caribbean drinks.

A village tradition since 1902, *La Festa Italiana* began as a street festival in honor of Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Rocco. Jersey City's longest running Italian Street Festival runs August 10-14, 2022 in Historic Downtown Jersey City. The



La Festa Italiana is a Jersey City tradition

BY RENU SAGGAR

annual extravaganza attracts people from all over and is a foodie's dream with plenty of old-school Italian eats like Italian sausages, fried rice balls and zeppoles.

The *Jersey City LGBTQ+ Pride Festival* on Saturday, August 27 is a celebration of love and diversity. One of the largest pride festivals in the Northeast, returns to Newark Avenue this year, between Grove Street and Jersey Ave. in the heart of the

historic downtown.

Experience the magic of thousands of lanterns as the soft lights reflect upon the water. Add majestic views of the New York skyline and suddenly you've got the perfect Instagram shot. The *New York/New Jersey Water Lantern Festival* is coming back to Liberty State Park September 24. The Water Lantern Festival allows you to light the water in a way you'll never forget!

October is *Arts Month* in Jersey City. It kicks off with the annual *Arts and Studio Tour*, which spotlights the City's diverse and burgeoning artistic community with an exciting weekend event featuring hundreds of artists from every neighborhood across Jersey City. jcmakeityours.com



A close-up photograph of a woman's face and upper body. She has dark hair pulled back, smoky eye makeup, and pink lips. She is wearing a black tank top. Her right hand holds a clear glass perfume bottle with a pink cap. The bottle is labeled "séxual" and "Paris" in script, with "MICHEL GERMAIN" in smaller letters below. The background is a soft, out-of-focus pink.

séxual Paris

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HUDSON'S BAY



BY RENU SAGGAR

roadside stand and farmers market dotting the county roads throughout Essex County. Head to weheartlocal.ca to find out what is in season each month and download the FREE digital passport to access savings, prizes and a local food guide.

#4: Find Your Happy Place

We all deserve to be happy. And myhappyplace.ca is all about celebrating businesses, places and moments in Windsor Essex that make people happy. You'll find trip inspiration, itineraries, hidden gems and special spots, unique experiences and special deals and offers. They want to know, What's Your Happy Place? Tag #MyHappyPlaceYQG on socials and add their custom GIFs to spread the HAPPY!

#5: They'll do the planning for you!

Discover more to do in Windsor Essex when they help you craft your fully customized day-by-day road trip

Six best ways to explore Windsor Essex

Windsor Essex is Canada's southern hotspot and we've put together the hottest list of can't-miss tours, attractions and plans to make sure you make the most out of your next trip to #YQG in partnership with Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island.

#1: Sip your way through 8 wineries

The Lake Erie North Shore is the hottest wine region in Canada creating bold reds and crisp whites that our Essex Pelee Island Coast (EPIC) Wineries are known for. Check out Canada's most southern wineries at visitwindsoressex.com/wine to purchase your EPIC Wine Pass and for \$50 your tasting pass will guide you through the unique flavours and hospitality of our viticulture area. Savour a flight of four wines from each winery and enjoy exclusive savings and offers throughout the year. Your pass is delivered instantly via text message or email and is valid for 365 days from purchase.

#2: Hop on the Barrels Bottles & Brews Trail

Explore the 12 craft breweries and 2 distilleries throughout Windsor and Essex County featuring Canadian whisky, award winning vodkas, and some of the finest ales, lagers, stouts and more. Explore and Pour with our digital Flight Log at flightlog.ca when you purchase a 1 day, 7 day or 1 year passport. Enjoy a flight of craft beer and small batch ultra premium spirits and stamp your passport along the way.

#3: W.E. Heart Local and you will too!

There's no better taste than local and with one of the most agriculturally productive regions in Canada there is a never-ending variety of farm to table freshness. Take a guided agri-tour or create your own tour by stopping at a family farm, orchard,

itinerary with Tourism Windsor Essex's MyTrip Digital itinerary builder at visitwindsoressex.com/mytrip. They have your shopping, family friendly, or food & drink trips covered --and everything in between. With over 6,000 trips planned, no matter where your interests may be, they will create the perfect itinerary for you!

#6: Discover Windsor Essex, the way we live it

Kick start your trip planning with their 2022 Official Visitor guide which you can read online now at visitwindsoressex.com where you'll find attractions to explore and insider info on the best things to see and do in the region. From culinary delights to artsy finds to on-the-water adventures. Their unique location, weather and hospitality will ensure that one trip is not enough. See you soon! ↗



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WINDSOR ESSEX**



HOME OF CANADIAN WHISKY



GOOD LUCK AND GOOD VIBES



TAKE TO THE POINT



TOURISM
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Good vibes are here:
myhappyplace.ca



Unsung heroes of Windsor & Essex County

Meet the region's unsung heroes of hospitality and fashion

Unsung heroes are those everyday people who do extraordinary things. They're the people who greet you when you walk into their places of business. They offer their expertise, lend a sympathetic ear and strive to ensure your experience is always good one. And when you leave the world suddenly looks brighter than when you walked in. These unsung heroes of Windsor and Essex County hospitality and retail sectors personify the spirit of excellence while giving back to their communities in ways big and small.

Mezzo Ristorante & Lounge

The not-to-be-missed dining experience at Mezzo Ristorante & Lounge goes far beyond the innovative, award-winning cuisine. A cool blend of a contemporary, eclectic atmosphere, extensive wine list, specialty cocktails and live entertainment, are the ingredients for one of Windsor's most appealing destinations.

The owners of Mezzo Ristorante & Lounge are accustomed to accolades. They were voted Windsor's Top Choice Italian Restaurant of 2022. They have been a Top Trip Advisor Eatery Pick, and a Trip Advisor Traveler's Choice.



Filip Rocca & Darcy King of Mezzo

Now they can add another title to their growing list of awards, — Good Samaritans. Following a massive surge in Covid across Southwestern Ontario, Mezzo Ristorante partnered with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) to feed thousands of nourishing meals to hospital workers waging war on the front-lines of the health care crisis.

Mezzo owners *Filip Rocca* and *Darcy King* jumped at the opportunity to pitch in. "These health care workers put their lives on the line to fight this epidemic and protect us all. That's something that needs to be recognized and supported in every way we can," said Rocca.

"People were losing their lives every day," added King, "and hospital staff were working under incredibly difficult circumstances to care for people in need."

"IBEW respects what the men and women are doing in our hospitals," said Karl Lovett, CEO of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, "every person from reception and maintenance, to nurses, doctors and security."

Their partnership delivered individually packaged meals to six health care facilities including Windsor Regional Hospital, Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare, Erie Shores Healthcare in Leamington and Chatham-Kent Health Alliance. Meals were also delivered to hotel rooms where health care workers were quarantined during the pandemic.

While Mezzo staff prepared much of the food, a number of

companies came together to support the project. *Mor Gro Farm* donated tomatoes and cucumbers for the salads, *Champion Packaging* provided individual containers and *Post Packaging* of Windsor donated shipping boxes used to transport the food containers to each location.

It's estimated the partnership fed up to 5,000 frontline health care workers and support staff over a three-week period.

In addition to their work during the Covid crisis, Mezzo also hosts an annual Africa soiree to help people in Ghana build water wells schools, provide clothing and more. In January, 2019 Filip Rocca traveled to Africa on a mission.

Visit them online for their menu and upcoming events at Mezzo.ca.

Riccardo's Italian Restaurant

Delightful aromas drift out of the open kitchen at Riccardo's Italian Restaurant in Amherstburg. This is where renowned *Chef Riccardo Maltese* weaves his culinary magic. Riccardo came to Canada with his parents from his native Sicily. His godfather operated a celebrated pastry shop in Marsala, specializing in small bites and fine Italian pastries. Riccardo's love of food was evident right from childhood and he was trained under the watchful eye of his father who was a renowned chef. It was those early lessons learned in his hometown that inform his culinary philosophy to this day. Combine fresh ingredients with exacting technique to create imaginative dishes with delightful flavors, while maintaining the Italian spirit of simplicity.



Chef Riccardo Maltese

It's that unwavering commitment to quality that connects him to his family heritage. Handmade entrees like Chicken Marsala, Wild Mushroom Agnolotti and Gnocchi are expertly prepared from scratch and served with pride by Riccardo and his team. He tells you that he still feels the invisible hands of his father and grandfather guiding him in the kitchen.

In 1998 he purchased *Rosa's* in Amherstburg and in 2007, Riccardo's was conceived. The ambiance is comfortable allowing patrons to forget their cares and focus on being together. In warmer weather, the waterfront patio is the ideal spot to drink a glass of wine and take in the sights of the river.

Riccardo's passion for food is only surpassed by his passion for people. His staff is treated like his own family and you'll feel like part of their family when you're there.

Enjoy his hospitality at his Amherstburg location at 238 Dalhousie St., near Navy Yard Park, or allow him to cater your next event. Reservations strongly recommended as they don't want you to be disappointed!

Visit them online at www.riccardositalian.com.



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Chef Matthew Johnston of Artisan Grill

The artistry of Artisan Grill

As a young man Matthew Johnston knew he was meant to be a chef. As a child he loved to cook with his mother in their kitchen, helping to feed family and any friends that happen to need a meal.

By the time he entered Villanova High School in LaSalle, he had already begun the process of bringing his dream to fruition. He studied subjects like accounting, entrepreneurship, leadership and culinary management.

While in high school he worked at Essex Golf & Country Club as part of a Co-op placement program. This led to his first culinary job as a Steward at Essex Golf.

After graduating with honors Matthew got his first cooking job at the newly opened *Moxies Classic Grill* at the Devonshire Mall. He rapidly became one of the lead cooks at one of the city's busiest restaurants. Although successful at Moxies, he knew the importance of expanding his horizons. He then joined the world famous *Rim Rock Hotel Resort* in Banff National Park, as a second cook ap-

prentice. While in Banff Matthew refined his culinary technique before moving on to the *Chateau Lake Louise*, to complete his apprenticeship. "Lake Louise was one of the most monumental work experiences of my life," he remembers, "their standards were so high, it really instilled that in me to this day."

After spending time in Alberta learning from the masters, Matthew decided to return to his roots in Essex County. In addition to some very talented culinarians, the region is known for fresh produce and local wineries. Returning to Essex County, Matthew operated a small catering business. Later, he worked as a Sous Chef at *Armando's* and *Spago*, before becoming the Founding Chef and creator of *Seasons Bistro* in Lasalle.

Inspired by his favourite celebrity chef Gordon Ramsey, he became an advocate for eating in season because of the health benefits and positive environmental factors. Following the birth of his son, Matthew found himself back at Moxies, drawn by the offer of a Lead Chef position

BY RENU SAGGAR

at their regional office in London Ontario.

The demands of the new job meant he was only able to get home on weekends and it was hard being away from his wife Shelley, and their new son Joshua. At the same time, he was learning critical management skills and the finer points of running and maintaining a restaurant.

"Moxies was the most influential company in my career. The company held their leaders to a high standard and I learned how important it was to make sure the team you are on is taken care of."

Matthew's second tenure with Moxies lasted almost four years, but his passion for food and need to create his own recipes led him to strike out on his own. He acquired the *Artisan Grill* in Amherstburg, in the summer of 2012.

His dream, now a reality, Matthew was left with the daunting task of building a strong, detailed oriented service and culinary team. "My goal is to treat my team, guests and suppliers with all the same level of integrity."

While shoring up his Amherstburg location during the Covid 19 shut down, he noticed his former training ground became available to lease.

After extensive planning and negotiations he was able to seal the deal on his second location in the former Moxies space.

Now operating Artisan Grill from two locations, Matthew definitely feels very blessed and happy to have the opportunity to serve his guests.

"We're proud to be creating good paying jobs where people can learn and prosper together. It's important during their time at Artisan Grill, that they learn the value of setting goals and team work."

"This is my passion," he says. It's not what I do ...it's who I am. My dream was to treat people with the utmost respect and offer custom made quality food sourced locally whenever possible. We work with our local partners to provide the best."

Matthew's love for food and the restaurant business has evolved, but one thing that has not changed is his passion for people and the rewarding feeling when providing a great meal, craft cocktails in a clean and welcoming environment. ↗

Visit them online at artisangrill.ca.



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ArtisanGrill.ca



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Devonshire Mall, Windsor
519.962.5555

It's fashion with a passion at A La Mode

A La Mode has been a beautifully curated boutique, and independently run retailer for nearly three decades. Natalia Bezzoubki and her husband Pavel came to Canada from Tadzhikistan as immigrants in 1992. They left the country against the backdrop of 1992-97 Tajikistan Civil War, which eventually claimed 20,000 lives, displaced 600,000 people and devastated the economy.

In 1993, Pavel opened a tailoring and alteration business in Amherstburg. A year later a second location opened in Emeryville. A highly skilled craftsman in men's formal clothing Pavel specialized in exclusive custom tailoring for men. In 2000, Natalia an entrepreneur by nature, opened *A La Mode* bringing top brand fashion lines for women into the region. A third location opened in Belle River, which later closed. After 12 years of business they reluctantly gave up their second location in Windsor due to the aftermath of Covid 19.

Currently the husband and wife team are operating from the Amherstburg location at 52 Richmond Street, servicing the fashion world for women with top name brands from Europe, Canada and the US. Pavel's Tailor Shop is located on the top floor of the store and Pavel will do on spot alterations for you.



Pavel and Natalia welcome customers to A La Mode

Their new arrivals from *Cream* scream summer! Shop the beautiful sunflower collection with stylish new arrivals that exude Scandinavian bohemian luxury. It's easy to wear and easy to love.

They carry a lot of amazing jewelry brands at A La Mode, but *Suzie Blue* is one of the most popular! These pieces are light weight and made in Bali, and they have an amazing boho vibe.

Which *Bueno* sandal is your favourite? *Bueno* is a brand based in Turkey. They combine beautiful colors with a delicate balance of style and comfort. This balance is achieved with hand-worked buttery leathers, soft supple linings, and artistic silhouettes.

In 2022 they will be celebrating 30 years of offering great fashion advice, exclusive designer brands and some of the best customer service in the community. Join them on Facebook every Thursday at 5 p.m. for live stream fashion shows hosted by Natalia and featuring fun outfits and ensemble inspirations! Visit A La Mode for these and many other designer lines, for a look that's all you.

A La Mode is located at 52 Richmond St. in Amherstburg or visit their website at www.alamodefashions.ca.

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by

Joseph Ribkoff

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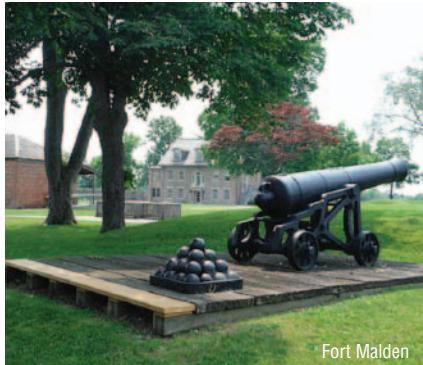
Fashion Shows: Thursday 5pm on [facebook](#)

Enjoy Amherstburg's Open Air Weekends

One of the prettiest and oldest towns in Southwest Ontario, Amherstburg is a place you'll want to discover! Amherstburg is the gateway to award winning wineries, microbreweries and a world class, local distillery. Nestled along the mouth of Lake Erie and the Detroit River, the charming 1800's style architecture is the perfect backdrop to the many outdoor patios, historic sites and stunning gardens.

Every weekend during the summer months, *Amherstburg Open Air* features outdoor patio dining, shopping, live music, themed festivals and cultural events.

King's Navy Yard Park



Fort Malden

There's so much to see and do, like their famous *Art by the River* on August 27/29, the *Amherstburg Uncommon Festival* on Sept. 16 to 18 and the *Festival of Hawks* on September 17.

Enjoy Open Air Weekends by strolling through the *King's Navy Yard Park* along the shoreline of the Detroit River. The gardens are an oasis of calm with winding pathways, a ship's anchor, manicured flowerbeds, historic cannons and a lighthouse beacon. Take a stroll along the waterfront and watch the lake freighters pass by. The photo ops are amazing!

Explore the shops and boutiques, or grab a bite at an outdoor patio. From burgers and fries, to lobster thermador, craft beer and ice cream, satisfy your appetite at your favourite Amherstburg eateries.

Being walkable is what makes Amherstburg unique. Explore historic sites from the War of 1812 and the Underground Railroad. Shop along Dalhousie Alley and downtown, then check out the Amherstburg Farmers market for fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables, baked goods and arts and crafts by local artisans.

The *Amherstburg Freedom Museum* tells the story of African-Canadians, many of whose ancestors entered Canada as refugees from slavery in America.

Fort Malden was built in 1795 at the mouth of the Detroit River and played a pivotal role in the War of 1812.

The *Gibson Gallery* is located in a former 1896 Michigan Central Railroad Station, features exhibits by local artists and traveling exhibits. ↗

For a schedule of events and times visit www.visitamherstburg.ca or follow them on Facebook at *VisitAmherstburg*.

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The Corpus Clock

It's all academic at Cambridge

Cambridge is brimming with history, tradition and scholarly charm. One of Britain's most beautiful and historic towns, the elegant core is framed by architectural triumphs, surrounded by green spaces and is home to the University of Cambridge's 31 colleges.

Located about 50 minutes north east of London by train, the cobbled streets are filled with the whir of bicycles, and packed with students, restaurants, a thriving market and proper British pubs. The compact urban core is perfect for exploring ancient colleges, winding streets and the picturesque "Backs" (of the colleges), alongside the River Cam.

Cambridge was founded in 1209, making it the world's fourth-oldest surviving university. Visitors can follow in the footsteps of famous alumni like Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Professor Stephen Hawking, to name but a few. Poets, philosophers, scientists, medics, engineers, prime ministers and Nobel Peace Prize winners have all left their

mark here. Since 1904 a staggering 121 affiliates of the University of Cambridge have been awarded the Nobel Prize.

BY RENU SAGGAR

A visit to King's College Chapel is an inspirational experience. Marvel at the incredible medieval stained-glass windows and the largest fan-vaulted ceiling in the world. The finest and most spectacular of Cambridge college chapels, it took over a century to build. If you have a chance to hear the sublime Choir of King's College, you will be in for a treat. Choral Evensong is sung here most days during classes, and is free and open to everyone.

King Henry VI founded King's College. His queen Margaret of Anjou went on to find the equally beautiful Queen's College, one of the oldest and largest at Cambridge. Trinity College was designed by Sir Christopher Wren (of St. Paul's Cathedral fame) and boasts the incredible Wren Library.

The Cambridge University Botanic Garden is a treasure trove of over 8,000 plant species, over 40 acres, including a delightful arboretum. Created in 1831, by Professor John Stevens Henslow (Charles Darwin's mentor) it's a restful way to spend a quiet afternoon.

Visitors can book stay in Cambridge's



The Bridge of Sighs

hallowed halls outside of term time too – so you experience a taste of university life. Dine in the 1590 Graham Storey Room and stroll around the ageless campus. It's the complete student experience without hitting the books!

The River Cam runs through the heart of Cambridge enabling you to enjoy fantastic views of the idyllic Cambridge College "Backs" from the comfort of a traditional Cambridge Punt (flat-bottomed boat). King's College Chapel, The Wren Library at Trinity College, the Mathematical Bridge and the Bridge of Sighs, are just some of the famous Cambridge landmarks you can expect to see. The Gothic Revival *Bridge of Sighs* was built in 1831 and crosses the River Cam between the college's Third Court and New Court.

Local legend has it that the *Mathematical Bridge* was designed and built by Sir Isaac Newton without the use of nuts or bolts. The unusual wooden footbridge was actually constructed in 1749, 22 years after Newton's demise.

The free-admission *Fitzwilliam Museum*, houses world-class collections of art and antiquities spanning centuries and civilizations. *Kettle's Yard*'s peerless collection of 20th century and contemporary art, is

one of the country's finest galleries. Take a journey through 4.5 billion years of earth's existence at the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences.

An imposing lamppost in the centre of Parker's Piece, bears the words *Reality Checkpoint* – believed to be in reference to the end of the university "bubble" and the beginning of the real world, aka the rest of the city.

Grab a pint at the *Eagle Pub*, the birthplace of the discovery of DNA and a haven for WW2 airmen. Watch time go by at the *Corpus Clock*, at the corner of Bene't and Trumpington Streets. Unlike most clocks, this one is at street level so it's easy to appreciate the clock's 24-carat gold face. Then there's the *Chronophage*, a mechanical grasshopper whose name is Ancient Greek for "time eater." As each minute passes, his jaw opens and he gobbles it down.

Fitzbillies on Trumpington Street, has been tempting taste buds for over 100 years. A must-try is the legendary Chelsea Bun: syrupy, deliciously spiced and completely addictive.

Theatre lovers will delight in a variety of performances ranging from student theatre to touring and West End shows.

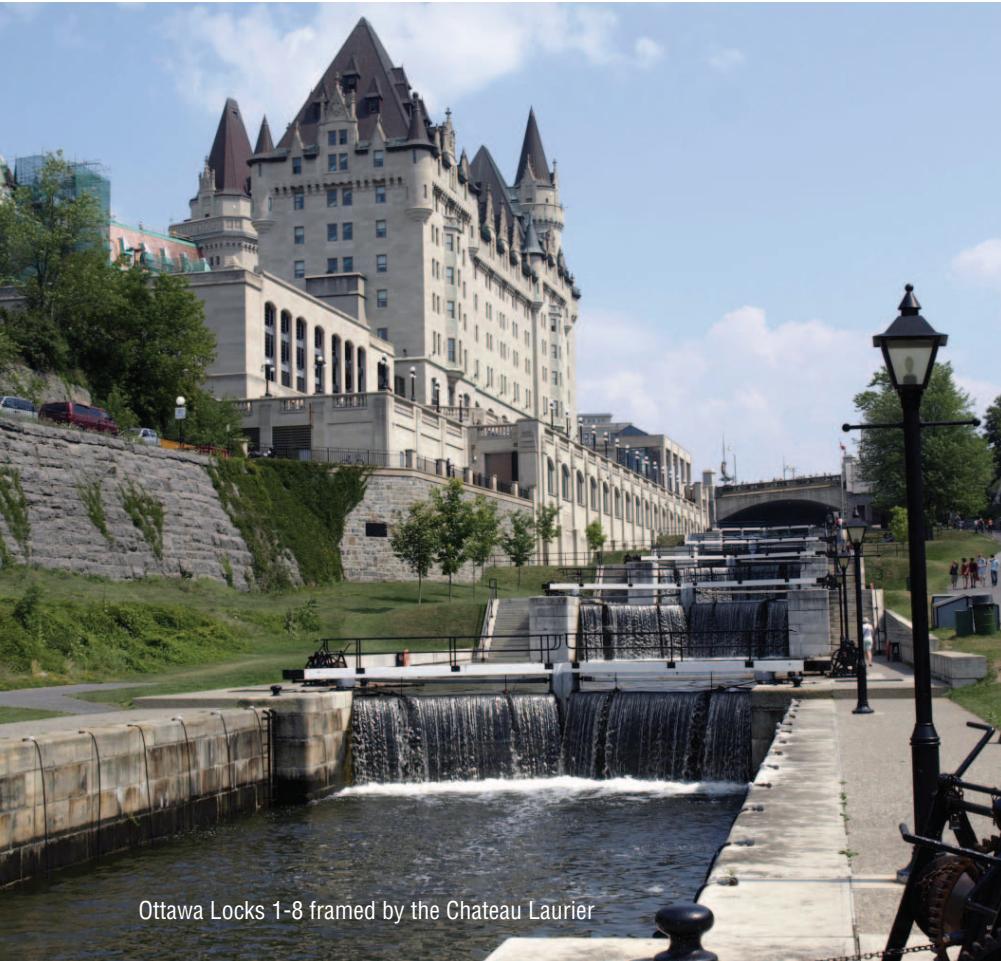
The celebrated Cambridge Footlights comedy troupe has spawned stars like John Cleese and Emma Thompson and can be seen performing at the ADC Theatre. In the summer, Cambridge buzzes with al fresco musical performances in the parks and green spaces as part of the annual *Summer in the City* program of events.

Once you've seen the famous colleges and visited the city's museums, there are plenty more area gems to discover in Cambridgeshire. Fans of the popular PBS television series *Grantchester*, will be happy to know that the picturesque English village actually exists. Approximately two miles from Cambridge, it's an easy walk from the city core, or you can take a punt all the way to Grantchester Meadows from the Mill Lane punt station.

The timeless village features a magnificent medieval church, quaint thatched cottages and a pool where Lord Byron used to swim. Cows wander across riverside paths without a care in the world. The Grantchester Tour is a unique walking tour that visits 15 filming locations featured in the show, including the church, the meadows, pubs, High Street and homes.

Kings College overlooking the River Cam





Ottawa Locks 1-8 framed by the Chateau Laurier

Ottawa is a capital affair

Ottawa is home to some of Canada's most historical and iconic sites, must-see national museums, a thriving culinary scene and an abundance of bucket list activities waiting to be checked off. Best of all, most attractions are within a 20-minute walk from each other in the downtown area, making it a breeze to get around. Here are just some of the many places of interest you don't want to miss on your next trip.

The most iconic site in Canada's capital, Parliament Hill, sits on a scenic perch overlooking the Ottawa River. Admire the three neo-Gothic-style federal government buildings, which were built between 1859 and 1927. Guided tours of Parliament, which were suspended due to Covid 19, resumed on May 20, 2022. The grounds are open for the public to explore and hold special free events year-round including yoga, the Changing of the Guard ceremony and multimedia shows.

While the Centre Block's interior undergoes a decade-long rehabilitation,

you can take free guided tours of two sites temporarily housing Parliamentary Chambers: the House of Commons in

the newly renovated West Block, and *The Senate* in the Senate of Canada Building just one block away. This Beaux-Arts-style structure was built in 1912 and was originally Ottawa's train station.

Each season offers different ways to experience the beautiful Rideau Canal – Ontario's only UNESCO World Heritage Site. During warmer months, stroll or cycle along the canal's scenic pathways, or take a relaxing eco-friendly cruise on its waters. You can also explore the water on your own by renting a kayak, canoe, stand up paddleboard or paddleboat.

During the winter months, the frozen waterway becomes the world's largest skating rink – the Rideau Canal Skateway. This unique skating experience is free, open day and night (weather permitting), and stretches 7.8 kilometres (4.8 miles) through downtown Ottawa.

Ottawa is a mecca for culture vultures, and home to seven of nine national museums. Canada's capital provides unparalleled access to the country's historical and cultural treasures. The *Canadian Museum of History* is Canada's most visited museum for good reason – it's home to the world's largest indoor collection of totem poles.



The *National Gallery of Canada* houses the most comprehensive collection of Canadian art, including the Group of Seven and excellent collections of Indigenous, Asian and International works. The giant spider sculpture in the courtyard is popular spot for selfies.

The castle-like *Canadian Museum of Nature* is not just a cool-looking historic building, but inside you'll find dinosaur fossils, whale skeletons, an Arctic gallery, mammals, minerals, birds, insects and flora.

The *Canada Science and Technology Museum*, which reopened in 2017, after extensive renovations, combines interactive and hands-on elements with cutting-edge technologies like augmented reality. It's never been more fun to celebrate Canada's long history of scientific and technological achievements!

Journey into Canada's world of air and space at the *Canada Aviation and Space Museum*. The expansive, hangar-like building is home to the most extensive aviation collection in the country covering everything from the humble beginnings of flight, to the sophisticated aerospace industry we know today.

The *ByWard Market* is one of the oldest

and largest farmers' markets in Canada – and takes its name from *Bytown*, Ottawa's original name. The eclectic neighbourhood's four square blocks are packed with fresh food, maple syrup and craft vendors, as well as unique eateries, pubs, galleries, bistros, coffee shops and boutiques.

By day, nibble on a tasty *Beaver Tail* at its original stand located on George Street. Don't worry, no beavers are harmed making them. These hand-made pastries are served up with a variety of toppings at the permanent kiosk in the ByWard Market, or at special events throughout the year. In the evening sip a craft cocktail or local craft beer on a rooftop patio while taking in the view. You'll also find fun souvenirs and gifts as well as Canadian fashion, jewellery and housewares in the many shops. Don't forget to pose for a selfie with the giant OTTAWA letters on the York Street Plaza near Sussex Drive.

The city is full of green spaces where visitors can admire the changing flora spring through fall—and most are free! *Major's Hill Park* is located between the historic Fairmont Château Laurier hotel and the National Gallery of Canada. You'll find some beautiful views of Parliament Hill, the Rideau Canal locks and the O-

tawa River. A stroll along the pathways takes you past mature trees, lush flower gardens, historic statues and interpretation panels.

The majestic Ottawa River is one of the city's most photographed sites and arguably one of the best places to capture stunning sunset views year-round. Walk, bike, or drive across the bridges which link Ottawa, Ontario to Gatineau, Quebec or explore the multi-use pathways that run along each bank and lead to beautiful sites like city beaches and balanced rock sculptures. You can also ride the electric Aqua-Taxi, or partake in a variety of sightseeing cruises. Whichever way you choose to experience the Ottawa River, you are in for some stellar scenery.

The river is also an international mecca for water sports. Enjoy epic whitewater adventures like an urban rafting excursion, or head just over an hour's drive west from downtown Ottawa, for some of the world's best whitewater rafting, including Class V rapids. Whitewater kayaking is also available in the city and in the countryside. For some flat water fun, stand up paddleboard or canoe in the shadow of Parliament Hill, Rideau Falls and the Ottawa Locks! 

Parliament Hill overlooking the Ottawa River





BY RENU SAGGAR

beach that established Cancun's reputation as a resort, while Playa Las Perlas is a favorite with boogie boarders. Playa Tortugas is a popular public beach and a departure point to sleepy Isla Mujeres or Island of Women.

One of the most idyllic spots in the Caribbean, the tiny island is home to a turtle sanctuary and the remains of a notorious pirate's lair. The Cave of the Sleeping Sharks, is one of nature's most bizarre underwater encounters. Fierce Tiger sharks lie motionless 65-feet below the surface, a phenomenon caused by the cave's oxygen rich water, which acts like a narcotic on the soporific sharks.

Cancun's waters are legendary for their clarity with dazzling schools of blue neons hovering among the rocks and piers. The otherworldly *Underwater Museum*, opened in 2010, and features more than 500 life-size figures displayed in less than 10 feet of water.

Diners will find everything from fresh seafood to traditional Mayan cuisine with dishes like Cochinita Pibil, suckling pig baked in banana leaves with a rich annatto sauce. El Centro or downtown is where the locals live and the best place for local cuisine. Savor spicy Mexican food in the street stands, food courts and restaurants in Palapas Park, where guests can quaff

Cancun is your place in the sun

Cancun might best be described as a beach with an island in the middle. Centuries ago, Mayan emperors traveled here to get some R&R. Today, this cosmopolitan resort perched on the limestone shelf on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula is among the premier vacation spots on the planet.

Luxury hotels line the *Hotel Zone*, a seahorse-shaped oasis connected by two causeways and flanked by the tranquil Nichupte Lagoon and the restless Caribbean Sea. People watchers can take a stroll on a palm-fringed promenade hugging the shoreline.

Cancun's twelve miles of beach are celebrated for their turquoise waters and powdery white sand. All are open to the public and anyone with the inclination can walk from one end to the other. You can either hike along the northern shore by the calm waters of Bahia de Mujeres, or follow the Caribbean Sea on the eastern shore. The sand here is as fine as talcum powder and surprisingly cool thanks to

a limestone composition that doesn't retain the heat from the sun.

Playa Ballenas is the magnificent white



Agua de Jamaica (hibiscus flower juice) and authentic Yucatán cuisine.

Shoppers can bargain for authentic Mexican handicrafts, silver, Maya-inspired art, colorful blankets and clothing. The majority of open-air markets are located in El Centro, the downtown area. The Mercados on Tulum Avenue are a great places to practice your bargaining skills.

The Hotel Zone is where you'll find most of the large all-inclusive and luxury hotels. Resting on one of the most beautiful white sand beaches in the Caribbean, the Sunset Royal's privileged location provides close and easy access to the best of Cancun's entertainment, nightclubs, restaurants and shopping.

Hacienda Tres Ríos Resort Spa & Nature Park is an environmentally responsible luxury resort that offers exclusive access to the *Tres Ríos Nature Park* in the Riviera Maya, with its comprehensive all-inclusive plan. Members and guests can tour mangrove forests, swim, snorkel, or kayak along winding rivers or simply unwind on the resort's tranquil beaches.

The northern part of Hotel Zone is called Punta Cancun and is party central with plenty of clubs, late-night eats and

tourist bars. Party animals will want to take full advantage of Cancun's legendary nightlife at hot spots like *Coco Bongo*, a multilevel madhouse full of mammoth video screens, brilliantly costumed dancers, Cirque du Soleil style acrobats, celebrity impersonators, conga lines, confetti canons and balloons.

The *Ballet Folklorico de Cancun* weaves history with dazzling choreography in a heady rush of clicking heels, dazzling costumes and fiery rhythms. This dinner show is performed nightly at the Cancun Convention Center and features music and dance from every corner of Mexico.

The Maya are a metaphor for all the magic said to reside inside the green margins of the Yucatan jungle. While Europe still slumbered in the Dark Ages, the People of the Jaguar mastered mathematics and astronomy.

It's easy to appreciate the extraordinary civilization that flourished on the Yucatan Peninsula more than 1,000 years ago. Cancun is close to several Mayan archeological sites including El Ray, once an important ancient Maya trade route, located right in the resort area. The Maya Museum located in Cancun Center, houses 350 artifacts, mostly from in and around

Cancun. Tulum is located about 80-miles south of the city. Considered by many to be the most beautiful of all Mayan sites, *Tulum* is the only Mayan city built next to the sea, which provides a spectacular backdrop to its well-preserved ruins.

A modern day wonder in Tulum, is Daniel Popper's "Ven a la Luz" or *Come To The Light*, an imposing thirty-three foot tall sculpture made of steel, wood, rope and greenery.

Halfway between Cancun and Tulum is *Xcaret*, an eco-archeological theme park. This 150-acre facility is home to Mayan ruins, an underground river and cenotes — limestone grottoes filled with limpid pools filled with cool, clear groundwater. Xcaret also boasts a botanical garden and a Museum of Mayan Culture. The park offers a unique marine mammal area where visitors can swim with dolphins or mingle with sting rays.

Chichen-Itza, about 120-miles southwest of the city, covers about six square miles and is dominated by the iconic, 75-foot tall Kulkulkan step pyramid, which functions as a giant solar calendar. During the equinox, the sunlight sends an image of a serpent undulating down the temple walls. 

The Mayan city of Tulum



BY ADELINA IRVINE



Historic Downtown Wooster

Wayne County is Ohio's Amish Country

Interested in a Picnic Basket Tour of Ohio's Amish Country? The Wayne County Convention & Visitors Bureau suggests your first stop should be at their office, conveniently located at 428 W. Liberty Street in Downtown Wooster. They will be happy to furnish you with maps and information on the area.

While in Downtown Wooster stop by *Local Roots Market and Café*, a year-round indoor local food co-op featuring baked goods, meats, pierogies, eggs, produce, coffee, arts and crafts and seasonal ready-to-go salads, wraps, hummus and soups. Try *Boo Bear's Brew*, a coffee shop within Local Roots, for a pour over or cold brew.

Downtown Wooster is home to the JAFB Wooster Brewery, a local craft brewery, whose specialty is brewing artisanal handmade beer. JAFB invites you to bring your picnic lunch and enjoy it in their tap room while sampling their beer offerings. They only make one thing at JAFB...beer, and they do it right. Just a short walk from the brewery you'll find the *Minglewood Distilling Company*, a small batch micro distillery whose hand crafted spirits are made from locally sourced ingredients.

Traveling rural Wayne County is, at its heart, a way of connecting more authentically with the world. Whether you are on a two, three, or four wheeled you can

fully unwind and enjoy the ride.

Wayne County boasts many award-winning wineries: *Troutman Vineyards & Winery* and *Lincoln Way Vineyards* and *Blue Barn Winery* in Wooster, *Silver Run Vineyard & Winery* and *Bent Ladder Cider & Wine*, both in Doylestown. These establishments offer tasting rooms with scenic views of the rural Wayne County countryside, outdoor concerts, food trucks and events throughout the season.

If you'd like to fill your cooler with locally butchered meats or cheeses you'll find the *Marshallville Packing Company* in Marshallville, *Whitefeather Meats* in

Creston and *Cannon Center Meats* in Wooster. *Shisler's Cheese Shop* on Route 30 between Orrville and Kidron offers local cheeses, meats, chocolates, Amish baked goods and snack mixes.

Don't miss *Lehman's Hardware* in Kidron, offering creative solutions for a simpler life. Browse the authentic, non-electrical appliances and equipment used by the Amish and in period movies.

Visit an *Old Fashioned Hardware Store* in the village of Shreve, for that hard to find item. Next door, you'll find the *Des Dutch Essenhaus Restaurant, Quilt Shop, & Bakery*, stocked with their famous cinnamon rolls and other treats.

Another beautiful place to enjoy your picnic would be the *Secrest Arboretum & Gardens* on The Ohio State University's Agricultural College campus in Wooster. This 110-acre arboretum is open daily from dawn to dusk offering scenic walking and biking paths, children's areas and the opportunity to explore the diverse landscape and theme gardens.

Information on all of the above businesses, events and attractions, as well as accommodations in the Wayne County area can be found on their website at wccvb.com.

Come experience all that Wayne County has to offer along their backroads featuring quaint villages and towns, stunning vistas and rural country farmland at its best. ☺

See why they say, "You deserve a Get-A-Wayne!"

Visit them online at www.wccvb.com for a complete listing of accommodations, restaurants, shops and maps of the area.

Wayne County Backroad



Wayne County Ohio

THE BLACK CYCLONE Trail

Follow the story of Charles W. Follis

The First African American Professional Football Player

- ① **Wooster, Ohio**, 304 N. Market St, Wooster (Wayne Co. Public Library Admin. Bldg.) - *Charles' hometown, approx. 1882-1902*
- ② **Follis Home**, 818 Spink St, Wooster (diagonally across from Weber House, The College of Wooster) - *His neighborhood growing up*
- ③ **Wayne County Historical Society**, 546 Bowman St, Wooster (Spink St entrance) *Permanent tribute to Charles on display*
- ④ **Cornerstone Elementary Playground**, 101 Bowman St, Wooster *Site of the original football field where Charles played*
- ⑤ **The College of Wooster's Original Baseball Field**, North of Ebert Art Center, 1220 Beall Ave, Wooster - *Charles excelled in baseball here*
- ⑥ **Wooster High School Follis Field**, 515 Oldman Rd, Wooster - *Named for Charles Follis*
- ⑦ **Second Baptist Church**, 245 S. Grant St, Wooster - *Charles and his family attended here as devout members*
- ⑧ **Wooster Cemetery**, 983 Madison Ave, Wooster Section 16 - *Follis Family burial site*
- ⑨ **Oakland/Most Pure Heart of Mary Cemetery**, 166 S Gamble St, Shelby - *Frank and Julia Schiffer headstone at south entrance*
- ⑩ **Charles Follis Way at Shelby Stadium**, Skiles Field off of S. Gamble St, Shelby - *Street renamed for Charles in 2020*
- ⑪ **Original Football Field of Shelby Athletic Club**, South Dr, sign at top of Reservoir Rd ramp. *Block inside Park & Mack Ave, looking NW*
- ⑫ **Weber's Bar and Grill**, 51 West Main St, Shelby *Bar where Shelby Blues football team gathered to celebrate a win*

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